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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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H. A. S. PARK AND J. H. VAN PELT, OF CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND.

IMPROVED WASHING-COMPOUND.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **71,526**, dated November 26, 1867.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, H. A. S. PARK and J. H. VAN PELT, of Cumberland, in the county of Allegheny and State of Maryland, have invented an Improved Detergent Compound, which we term the "Dirt-Lifter," for washing and cleansing clothes, oil-cloths, &c.; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

Our invention consists in forming a detergent compound of equal parts of bicarbonate of soda and hyposulphite or the hyposulphate of soda. We prefer the former, but either will do.

It has long been considered a great desideratum to obtain a compound or fluid that would successfully cleanse clothes, whether the same were made of cotton or woolen fabrics, silks, oil-cloths, &c., without the use of soap. For, notwithstanding the universal use of soap for such purposes, the same is objectionable, for you cannot obtain a soap that is free from grease, one or more of the oil-acids being necessarily used in all the compounds from which the same are made. Our compound most effectively does the work without the use of soap, and therefore all grease is avoided.

The articles to be washed are placed in a tub or vessel containing pure water, with a portion of our "dirt-lifter" added. There they remain for a few hours, when they are removed, being perfectly impregnated with the solution; no labor being required save only the arranging the articles in the vessel and their subsequent withdrawal therefrom. After the clothes have been permitted to remain in the solution a sufficient time, they are removed and washed in pure water until the articles are entirely freed from the solution.

One of the great advantages connected with our compound is, that it matters not whether the water is hard or soft, heated or not, the result is precisely the same, and for all woolen goods, flannels, silks, &c., it cannot be equaled.

Our compound is peculiarly adapted for washing clothes of the finer textures, and the more delicate colors, as almost all the friction caused by rubbing the articles between the hands or against the wash-board is dispensed with, the compound doing the work so thoroughly that the same is unnecessary; and there is nothing in our compound to cause the colors to run, which fact will be readily admitted by all who are in any degree familiar with the chemical properties of the ingredients used. Any article whose color is not affected by pure water will not be injured after our compound is added to the same. And again, our compound is cheaper than any soap that can be used for a general wash. The proportions that we have found most advantageous are as follows: Take one pound of hyposulphite of soda and one pound of bicarbonate of soda, and mix the same with three gallons of water. When more than three gallons of water are used, of course additional quantities of the soda are required, the same ratio of proportions being observed.

Having thus fully described our invention, what we claim therein as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A detergent compound, of which the hyposulphite or hyposulphate of soda is an ingredient.

2. The combination of the hyposulphite or hyposulphate of soda with the bicarbonate of soda, in equal quantities, so as to form a detergent compound, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof we have signed our names to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

H. A. S. PARK.
J. H. VAN PELT.

Witnesses:

A. S. TOPPER,
D. DONOVAN.