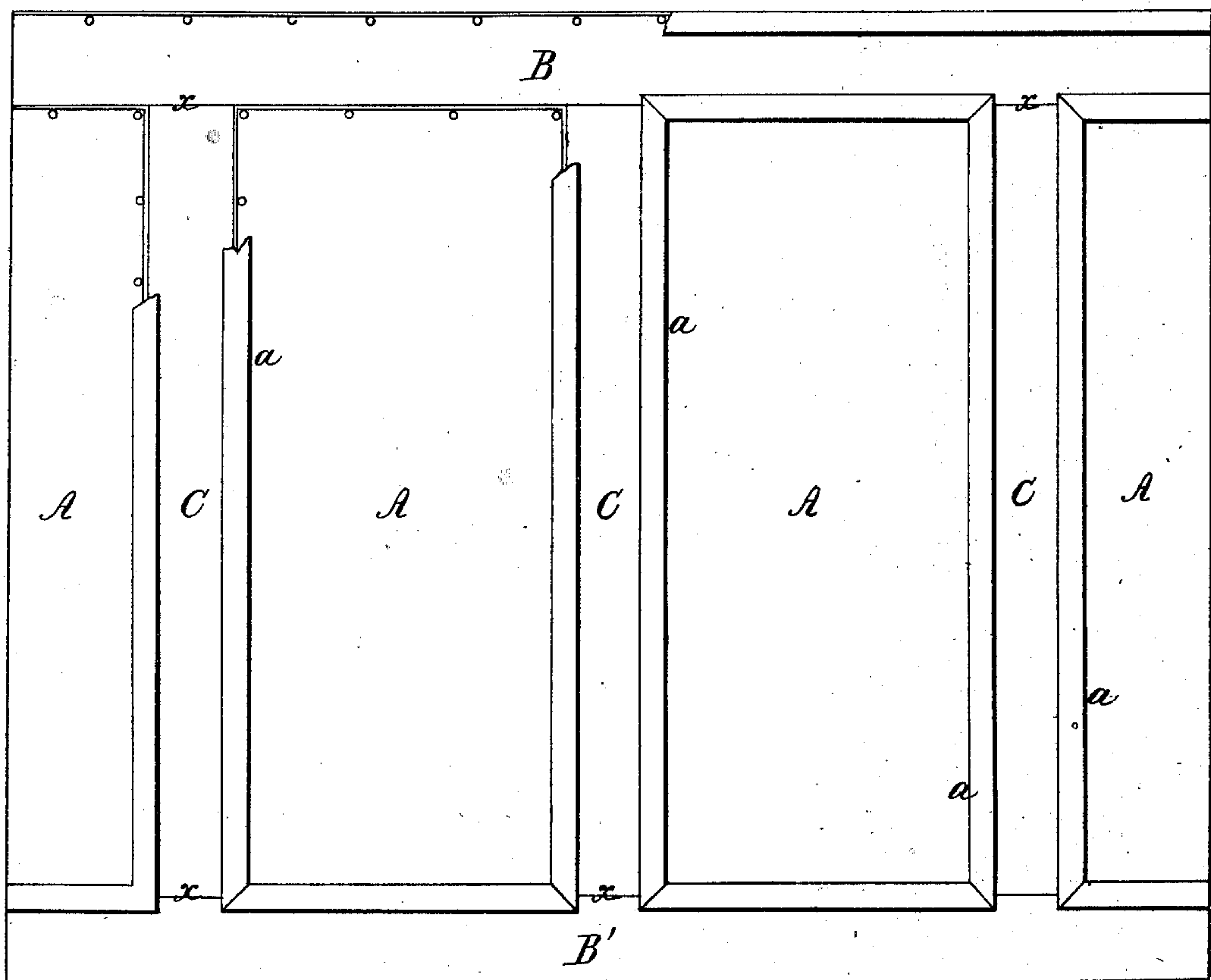


J. C. Finn,

Decorating Walls,

No 77,876.

Patented May 12, 1868.



Witnesses
Wm A Steel
John Parker

Inventor
J. C. Finn
By his Atty
H. Howson

United States Patent Office.

JAMES C. FINN, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF, WILLIAM HOWELL, AND CHARLES A. DUY, OF SAME PLACE.

Letters Patent No. 77,876, dated May 12, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN DECORATING WALLS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, JAMES C. FINN, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented an Improvement in Decorating Walls; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

My invention consists in decorating the walls of rooms with a material composed of veneers or ornamental papers, mounted on muslin or stiff paper, the said material being secured to the walls in strips, panels, and other figures, by tacking the pieces, at the edges only, to the walls, and covering the joints between the pieces with mouldings, which form part of the decorations, all as described hereafter.

The main object of my invention has been to dispense with the usual process of paper-hanging, and to establish a system of decoration which can be carried out by an ordinary carpenter.

I will now proceed to describe the mode of carrying my invention into effect, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, which forms a part of this specification, and in which the figure represents part of the wall of a room decorated according to my improvement.

The material of which the decorations are composed consists of stiff paper, to the face of which are cemented veneers of ornamental wood, or the veneers may be mounted on muslin, or, in place of veneers, ornamental wall-papers of the better class may be mounted on muslin or pasted to comparatively stiff paper.

The material thus prepared may be varnished in front, and coated at the back with any suitable waterproof paint, when the material is laid aside for use, not in rolls, as with ordinary wall-paper, but in flat sheets.

Supposing it be desired to decorate the walls of a room in the manner illustrated in the drawing, and supposing it has been determined to have panels of maple, and horizontal strips B B' and vertical strips C of walnut, panels of the desired size are cut from the sheets of decorating-material, with maple veneer, and are attached to the walls in their proper relative position by lightly tacking them at their edges only, all other parts of each panel being separate from the wall. The upper and lower strips B B', and vertical strips C of the material, with walnut veneer, are then lightly tacked to the wall in a similar manner, the edges of the strips meeting or nearly meeting the edges of the panels, the upper strip, B, extending to the lower edge of the cornice of the ceiling, and the lower edge of the lower strip to the washboard.

Gilt, or plain, or ornamental mouldings, *a*, of wood, are then nailed to the wall in such a manner as to enclose the panels, and cover the tacks and the joints between the panels, and the vertical and horizontal strips, these mouldings thus aiding the tacks in securing the decorating-material to the wall, and effectually concealing imperfect joints.

In like manner a gilt or other moulding, *b*, may be so secured to the wall at the lower edge of the cornice as to overlap the horizontal strip B, conceal the tacks, and aid in securing the said strip, and, if desired, a similar moulding may be secured to the wall at the washboard.

The wall is now entirely decorated without the aid of any paste or cement other than what may be necessary to effect a junction, at *x*, between the vertical and horizontal strips B B' and C, and at these points the horizontal strips may be made to slightly overlap the ends of the vertical strips, and the overlapping portions cemented together without bringing the cementing-material into contact with the wall.

It will be evident that in practising this mode of decorating walls, the greatest variety of both simple and elaborate ornamentation may be resorted to, panels of many different forms may be adopted, and the surface of the decorating-material may be elaborately printed in colors or gilt, or may be of veneers of any ornamental wood.

Independently of its applicability to the ornamentation of walls, my invention possesses the following advantages over ordinary wall-paper decorations:

First, the dimensions of the wall, the pattern of the material, and style of panelling being given to the manufacturer, panels and strips of the desired dimensions can be prepared at the manufactory, transported to the desired destination, and then applied by any ordinary carpenter, the necessity of resorting to the more costly, tedious, and dirty process of paper-hanging being thus obviated.

Second, as no part of the decorating-material is pasted to the walls, the back of the material may be made water-proof, in which case the outer surface of the material will remain unaffected by damp walls.

Third, repairs, and even alterations, can be readily made, all that is necessary being the removal of the mouldings, the detaching of a panel or strip, and the replacing of the same with a new one of the same character as or differing from the first.

I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The decorating of walls with a material composed of veneers or ornamental papers, mounted on muslin, stiff paper, or other fabric, when the said material is tacked at the edges only to the walls, and when the joints between the pieces are covered by mouldings or beadings forming part of the decoration, all substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JAMES C. FINN.

Witnesses:

JOHN WHITE,
C. B. PRICE.