

United States Patent Office.

JOHN L. DUFFEE, OF WASHINGTON CITY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Letters Patent No. 78,195, dated May 26, 1868.

METHOD OF MOUNTING PHOTOGRAPHS AND ENGRAVINGS.

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, JOHN L. DUFFEE, of Washington, District of Columbia, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Mounting Photographs, Engravings, or other Pictures; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

My invention relates to an improvement in the mode of mounting photographs or other pictures produced on paper, whereby a beautiful tone and effect are given to them, not attainable by any known process, and which, it is believed, will preserve the picture or engraving so treated for any length of time.

This mode of mounting pictures is particularly applicable to photographs, is very simple, easily performed by any operator in the photographic art, and is a great saving of time and money in the putting up of the pictures.

By my invention, also, a great economy in the cost of the pictures is effected, as it requires no expensive material, like porcelain or ivory, but, on the contrary, the cheapest and coarsest materials may be used, and the same effect be produced as with porcelain, china, or ivory plates, in or upon almost any substance capable of receiving and retaining an opaque coating.

In order that others may understand the nature of my improvements, which, when applied to photographic pictures, produce what I call the "Parian photograph," and be able to use the same, I will proceed to particularly describe it.

I take any substance that affords a plain and even surface, and can be enamelled or painted white, whether it be paper, glass, china, or any form of earthenware, wood, stone, or metal, and having made the surface white and smooth, by enamelling, painting, or other process, I cover it with a mixture of clarified beeswax, balsam of fir, and spirits of turpentine, mixed, in about equal parts, softened by heat to such consistency that it will readily flow over and off the surface, leaving a thin film remaining. The picture to be mounted, which may be an ordinary photograph, taken and finished in the usual manner, or an engraving, is then rendered translucent, by the application of wax, varnish, or other suitable substance. Before the film of beeswax, balsam, and spirits of turpentine hardens, the picture is placed upon the surface of the film, and pressed gently upon it, or, should it have hardened, it is softened by the heat of a spirit-lamp, and, when sufficiently soft, the picture laid upon it, and by the application of an even and gentle pressure it soon becomes fixed. The picture, after being thus mounted, is revarnished, and is then ready for coloring, which is done in any of the ordinary methods.

I do not wish to confine myself to the use of wax, balsam of fir, and spirits of turpentine, as the backing-material, as other substances may be substituted for some or all of these, and produce similar effects in appearance, but I name those materials as producing, in my opinion, the best effects.

My invention consisting in the mounting of pictures by setting them upon an opaque backing, by means of a substance which renders the picture translucent or semi-translucent, it is evident that the tint or color of the background will influence the appearance and tone of the picture, and therefore affords a means of cheaply producing a wide range of artistic and beautiful effects.

Having thus described the nature and object of my invention, together with the mode of operation, what I claim is—

The mode of mounting photographic or other pictures produced upon paper, substantially as herein described.

JOHN L. DUFFEE.

Witnesses:

D. B. VENTRE.

R. D. O. SMITH.