

W. HOWELL, J. C. FINN & C. A. DUY.
FLOOR COVERING.

No. 82,119.

Patented Sept. 15, 1868.

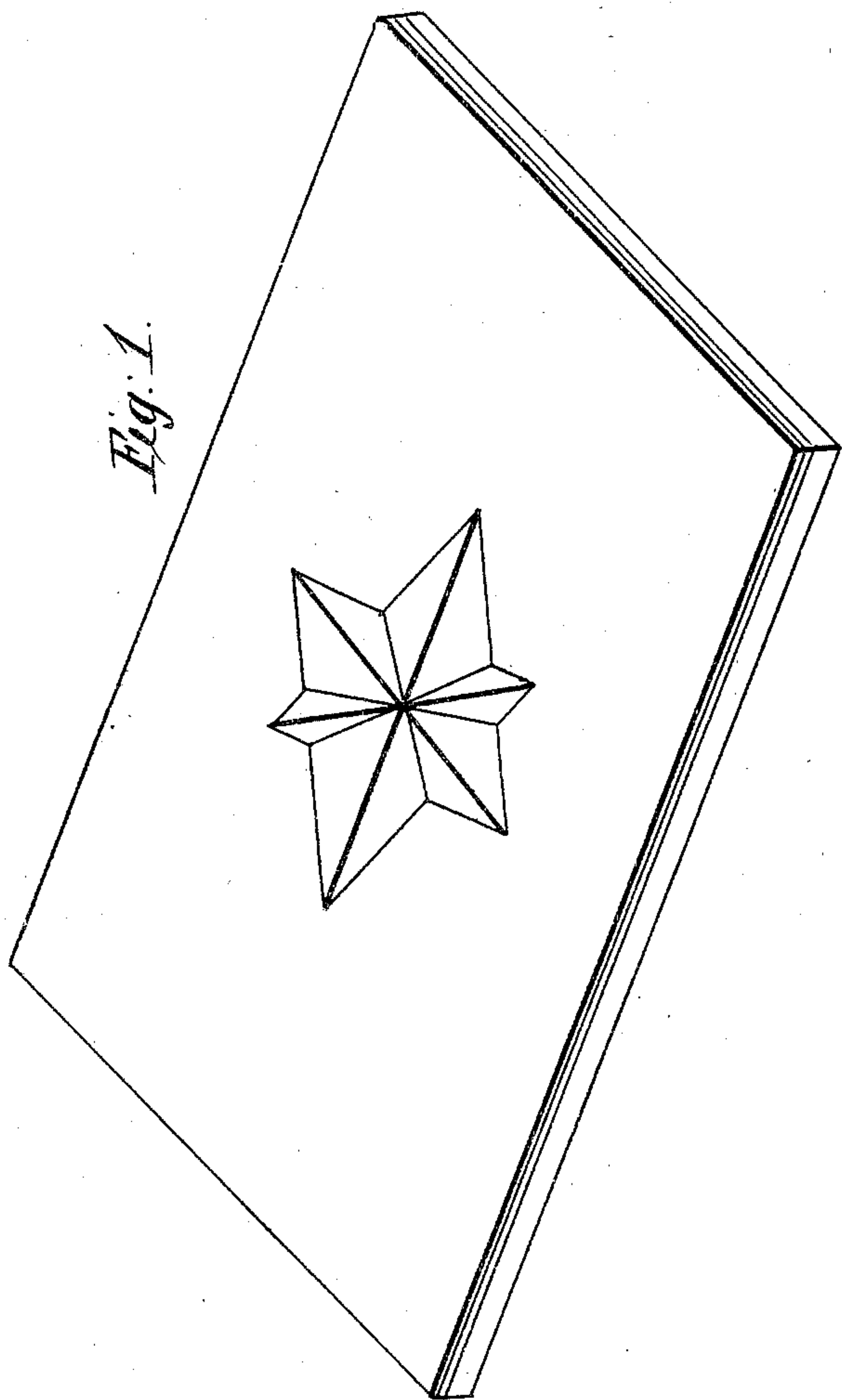


Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM HOWELL, JAMES C. FINN, AND CHARLES A. DUY, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN FLOOR-COVERINGS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 82,119, dated September 15, 1868.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WILLIAM HOWELL, JAMES C. FINN, and CHARLES A. DUY, of the city and county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and Improved Material wherewith to Cover Floors; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The nature of our invention and improvement consists of a covering for the floors of halls, rooms, &c., constructed of veneers of wood pasted or cemented on cotton, woolen, jute, or other cheap textile fabric, and paper.

We usually put on two layers of thin veneers, so as to prevent warping, having the layers to cross each other. The upper layer we make of handsomely-grained wood, of any desirable pattern, which we usually varnish or oil, so as to improve the appearance and increase the durability of the covering. We thus make a covering which may be laid down on floors, like oil-cloth, and of much more durable character, and at a very cheap rate.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is an isometrical view of a piece of the improved covering laid down on a floor. Fig. 2 is an edge view of a piece having a cloth foundation, and a layer of paper between it and the first layer of veneers. Fig. 3 is a similar view, with the exception of the cloth foundation.

Like letters in all the figures indicate the same parts.

We will proceed to describe our mode of manufacturing the covering: We sew together muslin or other cheap fabric, to make a piece of any desirable length and breadth. This we stretch on a frame, in the usual manner of stretching cloth adapted for other purposes. We then paste or cement to this foundation paper over its whole surface that is to be covered with veneers of wood, and, after the cement has become dry, we paste or cement a thin layer of veneers, with the grain of the wood running all one way. Afterward we unite in the same manner a second layer of veneers, of handsomely-grained wood, laying the pieces with their grain crossing the grain of the first layer, so as to give strength and firmness to the covering. We either put the second layer on in straight pieces, or cut

them of any desirable form and pattern to give ornamentation to the covering. When the cementing becomes thoroughly dry, we finish the face by oiling or varnishing, in the usual manner of varnishing woods, thus producing a covering that may be readily put down in the manner of oil-cloths, and of great beauty, while its durability far exceeds that of the latter.

When desired, plain woods, of different colors, may be cut and arranged for the second layer, to represent tiles, and for a tithe of the expense of the latter.

We prepare the covering for transportation by cutting it in breadths about two feet, or other desirable width, and cover their edges with paste or cement, which, when moistened and laid tight together on the floor, are firmly united, and do not show the joints.

We sometimes make the covering direct on the floor, as represented in Fig. 1; but, for transportation, it has to be made in the manner described, and it is better to leave the foundation or cloth on. Yet, when cheapness is an object, the cloth may be removed, to be used over again.

When we intend removing the cloth, we usually use a thicker paper than when it is to remain on.

In Fig. 2 an edge view of the covering is represented, in which the cloth foundation or groundwork is retained. Fig. 3 represents a piece with the cloth removed from the paper layer.

We sometimes make the pattern with a third layer of wood.

We wish it to be understood that we do not desire to claim, broadly, a compound fabric composed of veneer and paper; but

We claim as our invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

As a new manufacture, a covering for floors, &c., consisting of layers of cloth, paper, and wood, combined as set forth.

In testimony that the above is our invention we have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals this 18th day of February, 1868.

WILLIAM HOWELL. [L. S.]
JAMES C. FINN. [L. S.]
CHAS. A. DUY. [L. S.]

Witnesses:
STEPHEN USTICK,
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