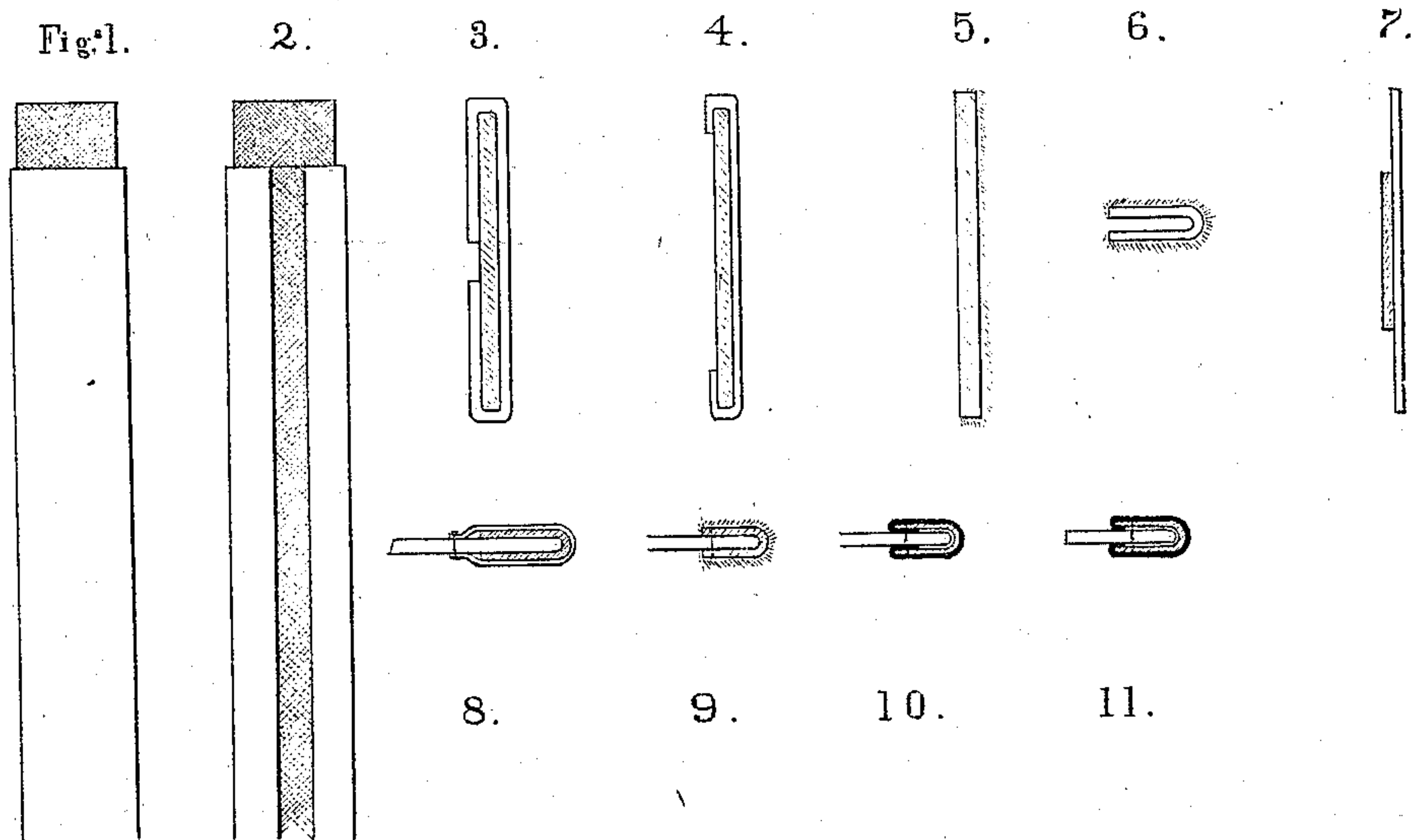


J. W. Carey,

Hat.

No. 111,178.

Patented Jan. 24, 1871.



Witnesses.

J. Whitehead
Henry J. Hill

Inventor.

James W. Carey

United States Patent Office.

JAMES W. COREY, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

Letters Patent No. 111,178, dated January 24, 1871.

IMPROVEMENT IN HATS.

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

To whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES W. COREY, of Newark, State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hats; of which the following is a specification.

Specification.

In the accompanying drawing is illustrated, in Figure 1, a face view of a finished binding; Figure 2, a rear view of the same; Figure 3, a sectional view on line *x x* of fig. 2, Figure 4, a similar view; Figure 5, a sectional view of a binding finished with a flocked face; Figure 6, the same curved for application to the hat-brim; Figure 7, a sectional view of a binding having its foundation attached to an ornamental fabric, whose edges project to furnish a means for securing the same to the hat-brim; Figure 8, a sectional view of a hat-brim showing the manner of applying the binding illustrated by fig. 7; Figure 9, a similar view showing the flocked binding of figs. 5 and 6, as applied; Figure 10, a similar view showing the binding of fig. 3, as applied to the brim; and Figure 11, a similar view showing the binding of fig. 4, as applied to the brim.

Nature of the Invention.

My invention relates to hats which have a flexible or unstiffened brim, and consists of a binding or edge-covering provided with any suitable stiffening material which has the quality of being curved, shaped, or set, under the heat or pressure of the hatters' iron, heated dies, steam, or atmospheric evaporation.

Felt or stuff hats are of two kinds, viz., stiff and soft. The first class of these hats is stiffened by a suitable sizing or stiffening material, which is so incorporated with the body as to set or stiffen the same throughout its whole area. Such hats readily yield under treatment of the hatters' iron, and may be formed or shaped on the block to suit the demands of fancy or fashion, and may be shaped with more or less curl of brim and curve or front and rear droop, while those of the second class, from their pliable yielding nature, being unstiffened, are capable of yielding in all directions, and are generally made with flat brims, which are curled but little, and readily lose their shape with wear and exposure.

It is desirable that the brims of low and high-crown hats shall be provided with the curl or overhang and boat form, or front and rear droop, common to beaver, silk, or high crown and other stiff-bodied hats. Heretofore this has been accomplished by stiffening the whole body, as is the foundation of silk hats,

whereby, like them, they become susceptible of a change of form and shape. Also, by providing, in various ways, a wire-stiffening or hoop in the periphery of the brim, the shape of which, however, cannot be altered except by changing the dimension of the hoop, and then not materially. And lastly, by means of a strip of fibrous or textile material stiffened by a suitable preparation, and applied to the outer surface-edge of the brim, and there secured by turning the brim over it, or by covering it in that position with the binding, as more fully described in Letters Patent No. 108,884, to me, dated November 1, 1870, upon which my present invention is an improvement.

In carrying out my invention I apply to a felt or stuff hat, or one composed of textile material, which is soft and pliable throughout its entire body, or to one partially stiffened, a binding or edge-covering which in itself possesses the quality of being shaped or formed as are the brims of stiff hats, which binding is prepared as follows:

I take a strip, of suitable width, of felt, stuff, or any fibrous material, cloth, or other textile material, or long-fibered paper, and saturate its body, coat its surface on one or both sides, impregnate or incorporate it or its fibers or threads with shellac or any preparation thereof, or any suitable stiffening gum or material which will impart to it the quality of being susceptible of a change in shape or position under the treatment of the hatters' iron, heated dies, steam, or atmospheric evaporation, and, when dry, apply it to the outer edge of the brim in the form of a binding, which binding may be secured by sewing, or be made to adhere by its own adhesive quality, or be attached by any suitable cement.

This binding may in turn be coated, either before or after its application to the hat, with any suitable colored flock or powder or other composition, enamel, japan, or paint, or it may be covered with a cloth, silk, satin, leather, or felt covering. It may also be enveloped within a covering of textile fabric before its application as a binding, as shown in figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, and 11, which show the edges turned down and secured to the rear surface to form a neat finish when thus prepared.

I prefer to stitch this compound binding to the hat-brim as ordinary bindings are attached, as shown in fig. 8, though the same may be so covered as to expose most of the inner surface of its foundation, as shown in figs. 4 and 5, in which case the stiffening compound will furnish a sufficient adhesive quality and area to secure the same to the brim.

When this binding is formed as shown in fig. 7, the projecting edges of the face or finishing material will form or furnish sufficient fabric by which to stretch the same to the brim, as shown in fig. 8.

The flocked binding is applied in a similar manner.

I design to prepare the different forms of this binding in a manner similar to that in which skirt-loops or steels are coated with flock or enveloped with a longitudinal covering.

Having thus described my invention,

What I claim is—

1. A felt or other soft or pliable hat, the brim of which is shaped, set, curled, or stiffened by means of a binding, the foundation of which is shellac or equivalent preparation stitched or cemented thereto.
2. As an article of manufacture, the within-de-

scribed binding for flexible hats, consisting of a fabric stiffened with shellac or equivalent material, and covered with an independent or ornamental fabric or finish, substantially as herein described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 26th day of December, 1870.

JAMES W. COREY.

Witnesses:

JAMES H. STEWART,
ABEL N. WATERS.