

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN C. MERRIAM, OF OLNEYVILLE, RHODE ISLAND.

IMPROVEMENT IN PACKING PISTONS OF STEAM-ENGINES, &c.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **113,547**, dated April 11, 1871.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN C. MERRIAM, of Olneyville, in the county of Providence and State of Rhode Island, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Piston-Packing; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same.

My invention has for its object to furnish an improved packing for steam-engines, pumps, &c., which shall be so formed that the argillaceous clay or other powdered mineral cannot be blown off by the steam; and it consists in preparing the packing by covering the fibrous core or roving while wet with a solution of argillaceous clay, as hereinafter more fully described.

In preparing my improved packing a roving or core of jute, wool, cotton, or other suitable material is saturated, soaked, or wet in a solution of argillaceous clay, free from all grit. The cover is then braided upon the core or roving direct from the bath or while still wet.

By this mode of preparation the clay solu-

tion permeates the entire mass of the core or roving, so that the clay cannot be blown off by the steam, as is the case when the fibers are loosely coated with the dry powder, in the ordinary manner.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. The mode of preparing piston-packing herein set forth and described—that is to say, by covering the core or roving of the packing while saturated or wet with a solution of argillaceous clay or other mineral.

2. An improved packing formed by braiding a cover upon a core or roving while said core or roving is saturated or wet with a solution of argillaceous clay, substantially as herein shown and described, and for the purpose set forth.

The above specification of my invention signed by me this 3d day of March, 1871.

JOHN C. MERRIAM.

Witnesses:

JAMES T. GRAHAM,
T. B. MOSHER.