

(No Model.)

W. COMEY.  
Manufacture of Hats and Bonnets.

No. 234,852.

Patented Nov. 30, 1880.

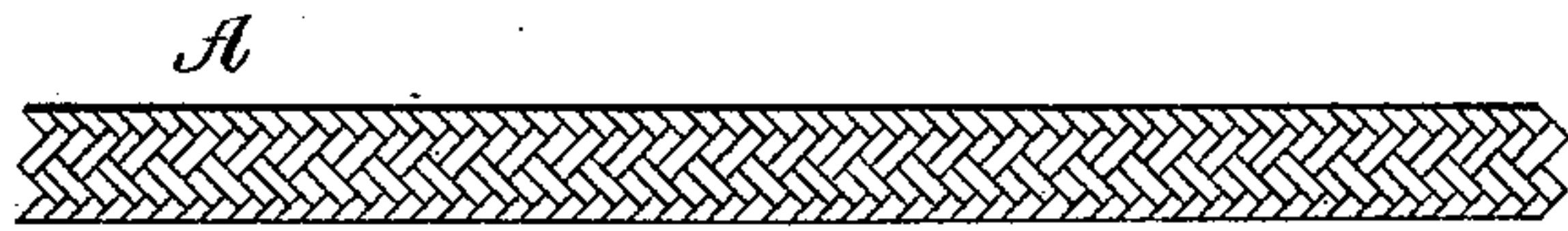


Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

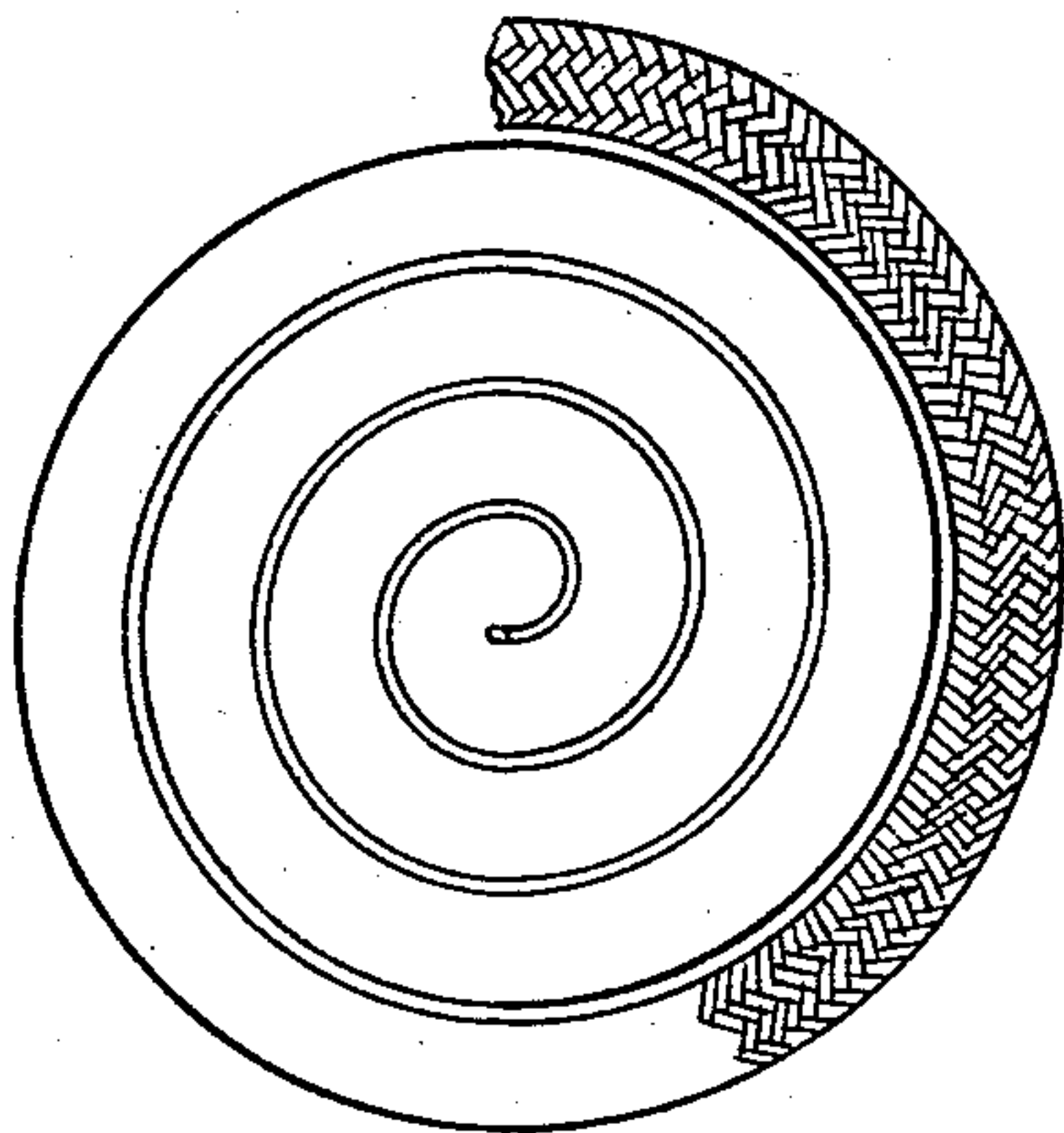


Fig. 3.

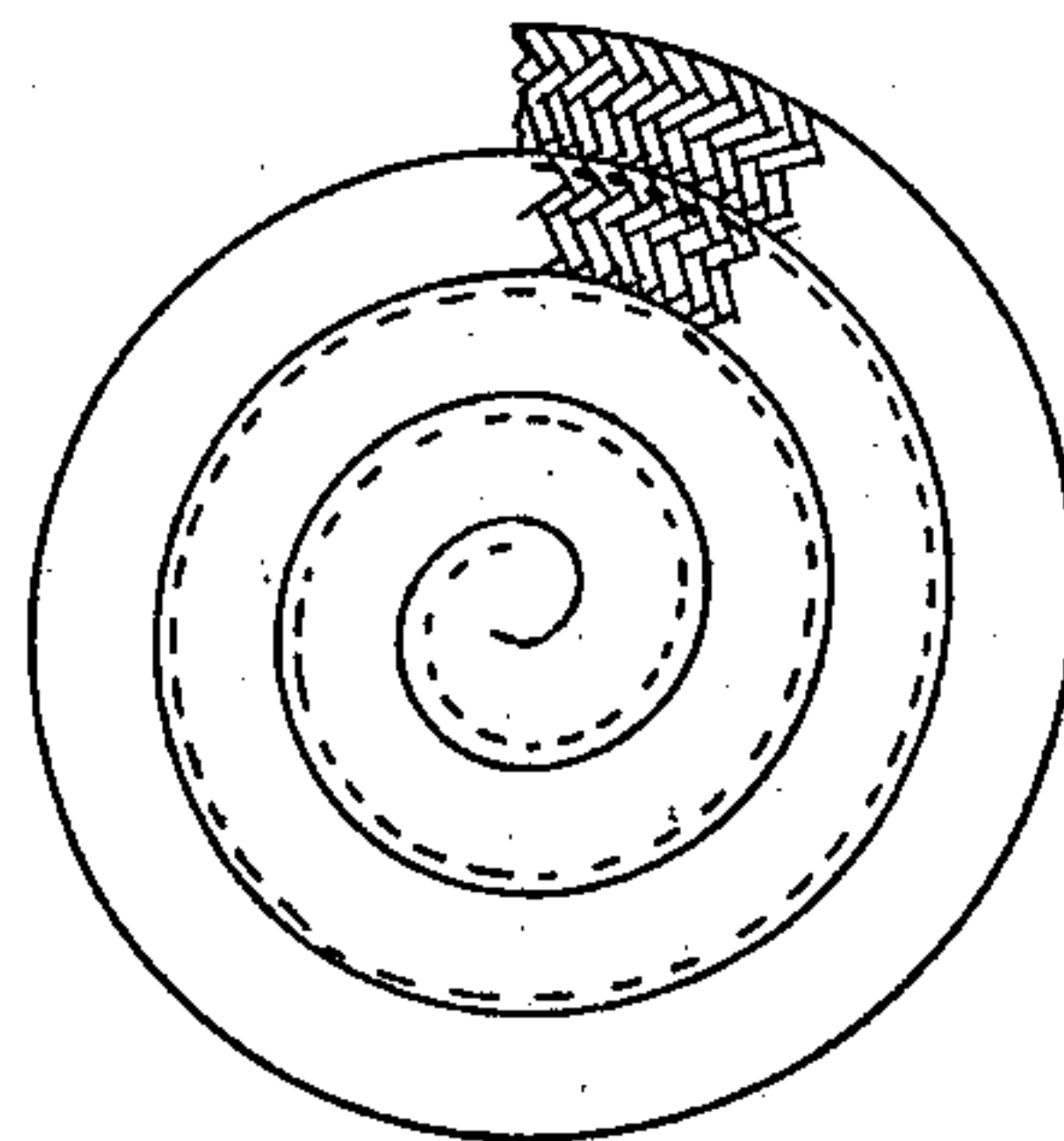


Fig. 4.

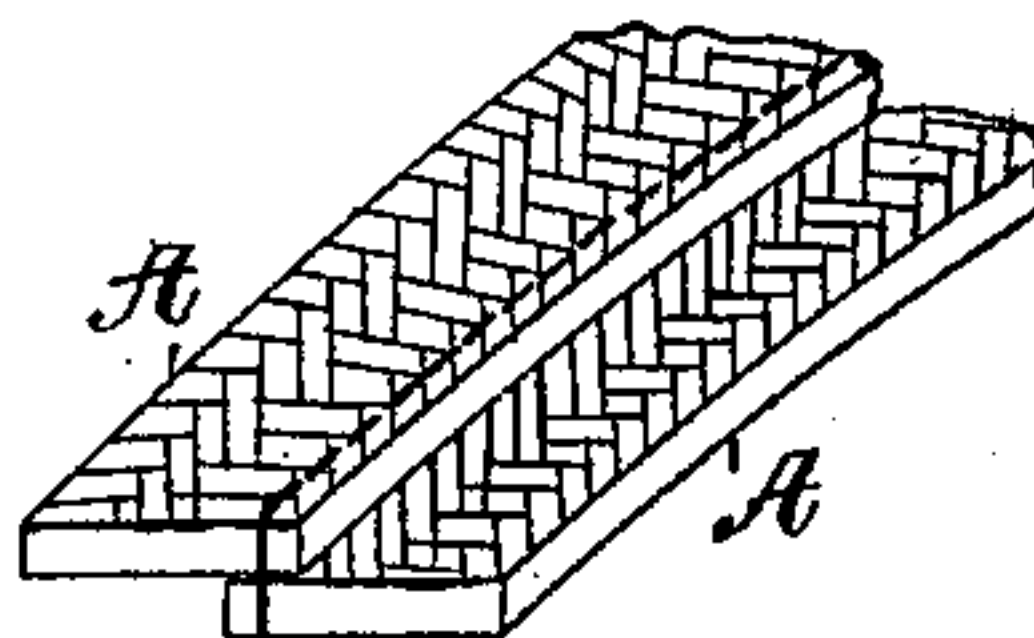


Fig. 5.

WITNESSES

Adolph J. Dettinger.  
F. H. McClintock.

INVENTOR

Willard Comey  
by his attys  
Clarke & Raymond.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLARD COMEY, OF WESTBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS.

## MANUFACTURE OF HATS AND BONNETS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 234,852, dated November 30, 1880.

Application filed May 21, 1880. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLARD COMEY, of Westborough, in the county of Worcester and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in the Manufacture of Hats and Bonnets, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has for its object an improvement in the manufacture of hats and bonnets; and it consists in the employment, in lieu of straw or other braid, of a strip of flexible and elastic material, which has molded upon it an impression in imitation of straw or other braid, or any suitable design, and which is of any desirable width, and which is united and shaped in the manufacture of hats and bonnets much as the ordinary straw braid is made and shaped—that is, by sewing and blocking.

I am aware that hats and bonnets have been made having, in whole or in part, an impressed surface in imitation of straw braid, as described in Patent No. 33,978, granted S. A. Blake, December 24, 1861; No. 2,587, regranted the Modena Hat Company, April 30, 1867; No. 86,841, granted Kendall and Trested February 9, 1869; also in English patent to Alexander Damnos, dated February 4, 1829, and also in French patent to Roger and Ledoin, dated September 15, 1860; but in each of these patents the body or carcass of the hat or bonnet is built in a special way before the straw braid impression is stamped or molded thereon, and in no instance is the hat or bonnet frame formed by sewing from a long strip of material in the manner that straw braid is sewed and formed.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a plan of a strip of my improved material. Fig. 2 is a cross-section of a modification hereinafter described. Figs. 3 and 4 represent the strip arranged in coils. Fig. 5 is a perspective.

A represents a strip of my improved material, and it may consist of a strip of cloth or other fibrous material coated with a thoroughly-mixed compound made of two parts zinc-white and one part of boiled starch, to which is added a mixture of glue and glycerine (consisting of about twenty parts of dissolved glue to one part of glycerine) equal to one-half of the quantity of starch used, to which is added a hundredth part of dammar dissolved in benzine. This composition is ap-

plied to the cloth or fibrous material in any suitable manner. The mixture may have paper-pulp or flock incorporated with it, and it is colored by any of the aniline or other dyes.

Another material which may be used for the body of the strip is a composition of paper-pulp, glue, and glycerine, dyed by aniline or other colors, in the proportion of about twenty-five to forty parts paper-pulp and forty to eighty parts of glue and five to twenty parts of glycerine; but I do not confine myself to these proportions.

In lieu of paper-pulp any suitable filling of a flexible nature may be employed. A suitable water-proof composition may be added to the composition, or to the surface of the material thus formed, either before or after the impression is made in its surface. Any other suitable material that shall possess the requisite strength, flexibility, and elasticity may be employed.

The design in imitation of straw braid or not, as preferred, may be impressed upon one or both surfaces of the material while it is in large sheets or after it has been cut into narrow strips; or the material may be first molded in narrow strips and then be impressed with the design. The width of the strip must be sufficient to enable it to be turned or curved readily in sewing, and for the center or crown of the hat a strip of the width of the ordinary braid could only be used, while for the outer part of the crown and for the body a strip three or four times the width of the straw braid can be employed, and the impression can represent parts overlapped and united by stitching, if desired, as shown in Fig. 2.

In some instances it will be possible to partially prepare the strip by forming it into a coil, as represented in Fig. 4, either by cutting it from a flat piece of the material of the proper size or by molding it. The strip thus impressed is then sewed and formed in the manufacture as straw or other braid is sewed and formed.

Of course the bonnet or hat may be made of a strip formed in either of the ways herein set forth, but having no design; or the design may be impressed in the strip after the formation of the body. It is obvious that this strip can be tinted to any desired shade, and that it



will possess a uniformity of color that it is impossible to give to straw goods; also, that it can be made somewhat cheaper than straw.

The advantages of this strip over straw braid are, first, a greater durability; second, uniformity in color and a brilliancy in tint impossible to obtain in straw goods; third, cheapness in manufacture.

Having thus fully described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

1. As a new article of manufacture, a strip of flexible, elastic, and moldable material adapted for use in the manufacture of bonnets and hats, as herein described.

2. A strip of flexible, elastic, and moldable material adapted for use in the manufacture of bonnets and hats having impressed upon one or both surfaces a design in imitation of

straw or other braid or other figure, substantially as and for the purposes described.

3. A hat or bonnet made of an elastic, flexible, and moldable material formed in strips and sewed, substantially as described.

4. A hat or bonnet made of an elastic and flexible moldable material formed in strips and sewed, having impressed upon the strip or strips a design in imitation of straw or other braid or other suitable figure, substantially as described.

5. A coil of flexible elastic material adapted for use in the manufacture of bonnets and hats, as herein described.

WILLARD COMEY.

Witnesses:

F. F. RAYMOND, 2d,  
A. J. OETTINGER.