

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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LEATHER-FACED FABRIC FOR USE IN BOOKBINDING, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 251,065, dated December 20, 1881.

Application filed July 27, 1881. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM PYLE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Wilmington, in the county of New Castle and State of Delaware, have invented a new and useful Fabric for use in Binding Books and other purposes, of which the following is a specification.

The nature of this invention will fully appear from the following description.

It is well known to leather manufacturers, particularly to manufacturers of patent leather, that the outer or grain side of hide-leather has been shaved off by means of the currier's knife; but that within a few years past the splitting or skiving machines have been so improved that this outer grain is accurately split off in a continuous thin sheet, and this is known in the trade as 'buffing.' It possesses, however, comparatively little strength, and has but limited use or demand in bookbinding, or for similar purposes.

The object of my invention is to extend the use of such buffing by combining and manipulating the same as hereinafter described. To this end I take the piece or sheet of thin buffing as it comes from the splitting-machine and cement to the cut side thereof a sheet of cotton cloth by means of a flexible adhesive paste—such, for example, as india-rubber cement. Any other cheap material sufficiently pliable and otherwise adapted for the purpose in view may be employed in lieu of cotton cloth, and it may be of any desired quality or thickness. This, as well as the cement, to some extent, lends strength and body to the buffing. The cement having been applied between the contiguous surfaces of cloth and buffing, I compress the united sheets between rollers, or otherwise, so as to cause as close and perfect adhesion as possible. I prefer to use india-rubber cement, for the reason that, while it is soft and pliable, it is at the same time water-proof, thus preventing the separation of the buffing from the cloth, which would otherwise be apt to occur to a greater or less extent when the fabric is applied with glue or paste containing water to the back of the book or other article in process of binding.

It is usually desirable to produce a grained or

pebbled appearance of the buffing, and it is also sometimes important to have as large or prominent a pebbling as may be. This I attain in the usual way, or by rolling the fabric upon itself after the sheets have been firmly joined together and the cement has set; for if the pebbling were done before, the rolling or other pressure to which the stuff is subjected in order to cause the sheets the better to adhere together would more or less smooth out and injure the appearance of the pebbling. Besides, it is obvious to those skilled in the art that a much more pronounced or larger graining results (because of the greater body or thickness of the combined fabric as compared with the buffing) than would be the case if the buffing be separately pebbled by rolling it upon itself. The material being thus prepared, it is supplied to the trade and the consumer in sheets of suitable size, ready to be cut up and applied as an outer covering in bookbinding or other purpose by pasting it on in the usual way. The fabric has the quality and appearance of good leather, and is much more economical.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. As a new article of manufacture, a fabric constructed of a sheet of buffing and a sheet of cotton cloth, or its equivalent, cemented together, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a fabric composed of leather buffing and cloth, or its equivalent, united by a flexible water-proof cement, substantially as and for the purpose described.

3. As a new and improved article of manufacture, the pebbled fabric made as and for the purpose hereinbefore specified.

4. The described method of making fabrics for use in binding books, which consists in cementing together a sheet of leather buffing and a sheet of cotton cloth, or its equivalent, and subsequently pebbling the buffing, as and for the purpose set forth.

WILLIAM PYLE.

Witnesses:

JOSHUA E. SMITH,
R. P. GIBBONS.