

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK WHEATON, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

FIBER DISINTEGRATED FROM COTTON-STALKS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 254,746, dated March 7, 1882.

Application filed January 26, 1882. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK WHEATON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Brooklyn, the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fiber Disintegrated from Cotton-Stalks and prepared as set forth; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

There are several fibrous parts of the cotton-plant, such as the fiber of the cotton itself, that of the bark of the stalk, and also that of the root, besides others, each of which has its own qualities. Practically these fibers, except that of cotton, have been disposed of as rubbish or waste by the planters, and any inherent value of either has been unknown.

Patents have been sought for making paper from the leaves, pith, wood, root, and bark, and also for various combinations and processes, but none for the staple formed out of the disintegrated stalks of the cotton-plant.

This is my discovery, and by means of it I can, as hereinafter more fully stated, produce an article of worth, serviceable in many and various ways, cheap, strong, durable, and handsome, and which will prove of great value and importance to those who have hitherto been unable to utilize this fiber to advantage, and have therefore regarded it solely as an expensive incumbrance and waste.

My invention consists of a method of disintegrating cotton-stalks, whereby I produce, when properly prepared, a long, strong, and valuable staple, light, durable, and soft and silky in its nature, readily yielding to and preserving an inexpensive bleaching.

In carrying out my invention I proceed as follows: I take the stalks and branches in their green state, or after maturity, either with the roots or cutting off the stalks near the ground, and strip the leaves therefrom immediately thereafter; and so soon as possible the stalks and branches are passed through rollers in order to crush them; or they may be retted in any of the ordinary ways of retting flax, hemp, or jute, so that the bark can easily be separated from the pith and woody or ligneous portions of the stalk. I then take the bark in a dry state—i. e., after drying it in the sun two or three hours, or in a house or inclosure for one day or more—and pass it through corrugated rollers in order to scutch or break the outer covering from its fibrous parts. Then by carding or hackling I get the fiber or staple.

Having thus stated my discovery, I claim as new—

1. Staple formed of disintegrated cotton-stalks having the fiber separated therefrom, preserved, and prepared substantially as set forth.

2. The method of disintegrating cotton-stalks, consisting in separating the fiber from the stalk by passing through rollers, or by retting, then drying, then scutching or breaking, and then carding or hackling the same, thus producing a staple of the fiber alone, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

FRANK WHEATON.

Witnesses:

WALDO HUTCHINS,
AUG. S. HUTCHINS.