

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE L. WASHINGTON, OF MATANZAS, CUBA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF
TO JACOB D. WOLF, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

FIBER FOR CORDAGE, TEXTILE FABRICS, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 272,361, dated February 13, 1883.

Application filed December 15, 1882. (Specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE L. WASHINGTON, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Matanzas, Island of Cuba, have invented an Improved Fiber for Cordage, Textile Fabrics, &c., of which the following is a specification.

I have discovered that valuable fibers permeate the leaves of the plant known by the botanical name of *Sansevieria* or *Sansevieria Africana*, and that the fibers can be extracted and made available for the manufacture of cordage, textile fabrics, &c. There are two or three plants of the species, all indigenous in the Island of Cuba and other West India Islands, and, doubtless, in other tropical countries, and they can be cultivated in the southern part of Florida. The leaves of this plant are from four to six feet long, and from two and a half to five inches across at the widest part. Each leaf is composed, mainly, of a mass of fibers extending from end to end of the leaf. In order to separate the fibers, I have hitherto subjected masses of the leaves in a green state to the action of steam, and while the leaves are saturated with moisture I have scraped them,

so as to expose the fibers and separate the same from gummy and other foreign matters, the fibers being afterward washed, when they are ready for use. This is the hand process which I have hitherto practiced; but I propose to use machinery for separating the fibers more economically. The fibers admit of minute subdivisions, and, being of great length, are especially well adapted to the manufacture of cordage, rope, &c., and, being of a silky texture, they may be applied, either alone or in connection with other fibers, to the manufacture of textile fabrics.

I claim as my invention—

As a new article of manufacture, fibrous strands suitable for the making of cordage, textile fabrics, &c., produced by separating the fibrous portions of the leaves of the plant *Sansevieria*, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

GEO. L. WASHINGTON.

Witnesses:

JOS. H. WASHINGTON,
JOSÉ MANUEL LOVIE.