

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN BRAY, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO CHARLES H. LONGLEY, OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

PAPER FABRIC OR MATTING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 280,286, dated June 26, 1883.

Application filed November 1, 1881. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN BRAY, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of Washington and District of Columbia, have
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mattings or Carpets for Floor-Coverings, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention has for its object to provide
10 a novel, efficient, durable, and less expensive matting or carpet for covering floors; and to these ends my invention consists, essentially, in a floor-covering composed of a fabric woven or knit from strands or threads of paper in
15 such manner that when laid upon a floor it will serve all the purposes of ordinary straw matting or textile carpets, and can be cleansed by washing when such becomes necessary or desirable.

In carrying my invention into effect I use
20 any kind of strong paper, and cut or form it into strips of the required or suitable size, and then twist or spin the strips into strands or threads. If a fine texture is desired, the strips
25 are made smaller than where a coarse texture is preferred; but in either event the twisted or spun strands or threads are woven or knit into a fabric by any of the well-known methods practiced in weaving or knitting textile
30 material. Before or after the paper strands or threads are woven or knit into the matting or carpet the paper may be rendered waterproof by saturation or impregnation with any known waterproofing material; or it may be
35 otherwise chemically treated in order to strengthen it and permit the use of water or other cleansing fluid in washing the floor-covering when desired to cleanse the same and free it from dirt or stains, and it may also be
40 treated with carbolic acid or other material to prevent the ravages of insects.

While I prefer to waterproof the paper, I do not desire to confine myself thereto, as in practice I find that if the strips of paper are
45 properly and tightly twisted or spun into strands or threads and closely woven or knit the fabric can be subjected to a moderate amount of washing without liability of injuring the same. The strips of paper may be
50 formed very narrow and spun or twisted with

strands of yarn; or the twisted paper strands may be woven or knit with some suitable animal or vegetable matter, the strips of twisted paper forming the warp or the woof and the animal or vegetable matter forming the warp
55 or the woof, as desired. I also use paper strands or threads produced from differently-colored paper, and produce a variety of designs in the fabric during the process of weaving or knitting, as well as the various designs that are
60 produced in ordinary tapestry; and I also weave or knit the fabric into any determined dimensions to be fitted to the floor of an apartment, so that the floor-covering will be in a
65 single piece.

I prefer to use paper which is produced from what is known as the "palmetto-leaf," as such is strong and durable; but it is obvious that paper produced from other substances can be
70 used.

By my invention I produce a matting or carpet for covering the floors of apartments which is strong, durable, and much cheaper of production than the ordinary matting now
75 imported in such vast quantities, and the wearing qualities of which are such that it is seldom used more than one season.

I am aware that a coarse open-meshed fabric for roofing purposes has been made of paper strands, the meshes being open to receive
80 and retain an outer covering or layer of cement; but such is not my invention, and is not claimed by me.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—
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1. A matting or carpet for covering floors, composed of a woven or knit fabric made from strands or threads of paper, substantially as and for the purposes described.

2. A matting or carpet for covering floors, 90 composed of a woven or knit fabric in which the warp or the woof is made of twisted strands of paper and the warp or the woof of animal or vegetable fiber, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in 95 presence of two witnesses.

JOHN BRAY.

Witnesses:

JOHN C. COX,
J. W. ROGERS.