

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM WILSON, OF EDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY.

WALL-PAPER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 326,190, dated September 15, 1885.

Application filed June 27, 1885. (Specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM WILSON, of Edgewater, in the county of Burlington and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Wall-Paper; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

My invention consists in a new and improved wall-paper having a prepared backing or back coating.

The object of the invention is to produce a most durable and substantial fabric, giving to the back or under surface an improved appearance, especially in certain lower-grade papers, and to remedy certain defects in the manufacture of wall-paper which have long existed, but have heretofore remained uncorrected for the want of such a device or invention as would obviate the difficulties heretofore experienced.

One difficulty which has been met with in the manufacture of certain varieties of wall-paper is, that the raw back of the paper, after having been rolled into rolls for the purposes of the trade, comes into immediate contact while in the roll with the decorated surface, and, as the paper remains in this condition often for considerable lengths of time, the chemicals employed in the manufacture, which remain in the paper, though are supposed to have been completely washed out, but practically are not, being thus exposed on the raw, unprepared back or under surface of the paper, act upon the coloring-matter of the decorated surface by this immediate contact with it, and thus frequently materially discolor and disfigure the surface of the paper. This is especially true as regards bronzed papers when the raw back of the paper in the roll comes in contact with the bronzed surface, and may so act on papers ornamented with most any colors if the paper is at all moist when rolled into the rolls.

My invention prevents any such above-described action by the back coating or composition intervening and preventing the raw surface of the paper from coming into immediate contact with the decorated surface, and thus relieving it from the liability to the action of any chemical matter which might remain in the paper.

It is well known that in many wall-papers

the paste necessarily employed to hang the paper produces, by reason of its moisture soaking through the fabric, such an action upon the coloring-matter employed in the production of the figures, patterns, &c., upon the surface of the paper as to frequently blur the figure, and to consequently injure materially the general appearance of the hanging.

My invention of coating the back of the paper with a suitable composition prevents the paste from injuring the surface of the paper, by preventing, by means of the body of the composition, the paste from thus soaking and saturating the fabric. It is also a well-known fact that the gum-arabic contained in the aniline colors used in coating the surface and in producing the patterns on wall-papers absorbs the moisture out of the paste, in addition to the natural tendency of the paper itself to absorb it, and thus produces an additional tendency toward the disfiguration of the paper by the blurring of the surface figures in certain varieties of hangings. All this my invention obviates in the manner above described.

In addition to these particular merits which I claim for my invention, the improved appearance of the paper by reason of the coating applied to the back should not be passed over without mention. Heretofore wall-papers have been coated on but one side—the outer surface. It is, however, of material advantage to the appearance of many varieties of papers used in wall-paper manufacturing to thus coat the back or under surface, as, in the case of papers naturally darker than the surface as decorated, the back may be made to conform more nearly to the surface, which improves very materially the appearance of the paper. In some varieties of paper, especially those of a thin quality, when hung to the wall, imperfections, spots, stains, &c., which may be on the surface of the wall show through the paper more or less distinctly. My invention prevents this, and any thin paper with the composition applied to the back may be safely hung on a spotted or stained wall or over other paper without the imperfections showing through. Paper thus coated adheres more readily to freshly-plastered walls, and to some degree prevents dampness from striking through.

The composition which I employ in carrying out my invention is any ordinary body composition other than of a sticky or adhesive nature. The use of a sticky or adhesive composition is apt to injure or deface the decorated surface of the paper while in the rolls as put up for the trade by the adhesive surface coming into immediate contact with the decorated surface and occasioning small particles from the decorated surface to adhere to the adhesive composition. This would occur especially when the paper has been put into rolls insufficiently dried or when left in the rolls any length of time in a damp atmosphere. The composition which I employ is of such a consistency or body as to prevent spots, imperfections, stains, &c., on the wall from showing through the paper, as is the case when a thin paper is employed without the application of the composition, and as also for the purposes as hereinbefore set forth.

I am aware that wall-paper has heretofore been coated on the back or under surface with a dry sizing as a substitute for the paste used ordinarily in the hanging of the paper, and for which said invention Letters Patent of the United States have been granted. My invention, however, is other and substantially different from this said invention, and for purposes, as hereinbefore set forth, other and very substantially different and unable to be

accomplished by said sizing invention. Nor is my invention for the purpose nor can it accomplish that result which is the invention claimed in the said sizing patent—to wit, the hanging of the paper by the moistening of the sizing applied to the back of the paper. I disclaim any such merit for my invention, but rest my claim upon the merits hereinbefore particularly described and set forth.

A suitable composition is one of an ordinary baking-clay mixed in proper proportions of glue and water; but I do not limit myself to this or any other particular composition.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

As a new article of manufacture, a wall-paper having the back or under surface coated or covered with a composition or material consisting of clay mixed in proper proportions of glue and water, or any other suitable composition or material, as and for the purposes hereinbefore set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 26th day of June, A. D. 1885.

W. WILSON.

Witnesses:

WALTER B. DICK,
HORACE PETTIT.