

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM W. THOMPSON, OF SMITHVILLE, GEORGIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN CLEANING WATCHES AND CLOCKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 122,681, dated January 9, 1872.

Specification describing a certain Improvement in Process for Cleaning Watches and Clocks, invented by WILLIAM W. THOMPSON, of Smithville, in the county of Lee and State of Georgia.

The object of this invention is to provide means for cleaning watches and clocks without taking them to pieces; and it consists in immersing the "movements" of such time-pieces in naphtha or equivalent volatile liquid, and exposing them to heated air, thereby saving much time and expense.

In carrying out my invention and discovery I, in the first place, take the "movement" of the watch or the clock from its case; and in case the watch has a "dust-proof cap" that also is removed, so that the liquid will have a free circulation through the works. I now hold the movement with a pair of pliers or other instrument, and immerse it in pure naphtha or other pure volatile liquid of a similar nature. While the movement is immersed it is moved about or twirled in the liquid, so that all parts will be exposed to its action, and so that the liquid will pass rapidly through the works, and wash the dust and clean away the old oil. This operation is completed in a few minutes, after which the movement is exposed to air heated to a temperature a little above that of the surrounding atmosphere.

The evaporation of the naphtha or other volatile liquid is so rapid, after the movement is

taken from it, that, unless it is exposed to artificial heat, the moisture of the common atmosphere will be condensed upon it, giving it the appearance of "sweating." From this higher temperature the movement is cooled down gradually to that of the surrounding atmosphere. The pivots or frictional points are touched with lubricating oil, and the work is done.

The whole process necessarily occupies not more than six or eight minutes of time. The result is satisfactory in every particular, as frequent experiments have proved, while the actual cost is almost nothing when compared with the price ordinarily charged for cleaning watches and clocks. No taking to pieces and brushing can make the parts more perfectly clean and bright than my process.

I do not confine myself to any particular kind of volatile liquid, nor to any particular mode of applying it, as it may, perhaps, be done with a syringe; nor to any particular mode of exposing the "movement" to heated air.

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

The process, above described, for cleaning watches and clocks, substantially as specified.

WILLIAM W. THOMPSON.

Witnesses:

JAMES L. JAY,

GEORGE C. EDWARDS.

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