UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AARON J. SHRIVER, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, ASSIGNOR TO SARAH M. SHRIVER, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN PROCESSES OF RESTORING CRAPE, LACES, &c.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **179,361**, dated June 27, 1876; application filed April 27, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AARON JOSEPH SHRIVER, of Baltimore city, State of Maryland, have invented a new and Improved Process of Restoring Crape and Laces; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

My invention relates to a novel process of cleaning and restoring rumpled and faded crape, lace, and other similar thin material. It consists in immersing the fabric in a specially-prepared solution, consisting of alcohols, a suitable dye-stuff, and shellac, and afterwards subjecting the material to the action of steam, which brings out the color of the dye, drives off the alcohol, and crimps the fiber, the shellac serving to hold the fiber in its crimped form, so as to present the original texture of the fabric when new.

In carrying out my invention for restoring black crape or black laces, I take one pint of alcohol, and add to the same one package of British ink-powder, containing usually about one and one-quarter ounce, and composed of about three parts, by weight, of red-oak bark, two parts of sulphate of iron, and two of gum-arabic. This mixture is allowed to stand for about ten hours, being frequently stirred to effect the extraction and solution of the dye principle, which gradually imparts to the liquid a dark, and, finally, a blackish color. The solution is then allowed to stand and settle, and is either decanted or strained. To the clear liquid I then add about one-eighth of an ounce of shellac, and after it is thoroughly dissolved the solution is ready for use. In making use of the same, the rusty and rumpled crape or lace is immersed for a few moments in the solution, until it is thoroughly saturated with the same, and then exposed to a jet of hot steam, the material being passed through the steam until every portion of the fabric has been subjected to the action of the same. For ordinary purposes the steam issuing from the spout of a kettle of boiling water will be sufficient; but when the process is employed upon a larger scale specially-constructed generators will be employed.

The action of the steam is to bring out freshly and clearly the color of the dye, and to crimp the fiber, so as to impart to the fabric the peculiar texture that it possesses when new. The shellac, being insoluble in water, is left in a dried condition upon the fabric as crimped by the steam, and serves to hold it in this condition, which the steam imparts to it, the alcohol being evaporated in consequence of its more volatile character.

In using my solution in connection with the steam process, I do not confine myself to the British ink-powder; but I may use other dye-stuffs, according to the color and shade of the material to be restored. I use British ink-powder, however, as a cheap and good dye for restoring to materials their original black color.

I do not confine myself either to the use of shellac alone, but may use gum sandarac, mastic, or any other gum for imparting stiffness which is soluble in alcohol, and not soluble in water.

My process, as thus described, completely restores the texture, as well as the color, of crape, laces, and all other fine fabric, at a small cost, thus utilizing old material, and investing them with nearly the same appearance and value as when new.

I am aware of the fact that a solution composed of ultramarine, shellac, and alchohol has been used for stiffening hat-bodies; but this could not be used for the purpose of restoring crapes and laces, for the reason that ultramarine not being a dye-stuff, but a powdered mineral forming a pigment, it operates mechanically, and would so obstruct the meshes of the fabric as to interfere with and prevent the subsequent operation of crimping. I therefore fully disclaim the said solution, and confine my invention to the terms of the claim.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new is—

The herein-described process of restoring the color and texture of crape, laces, &c., by first immersing them in a solution consisting of alcohol, a dye-stuff, and a stiffening-gum, in about the proportions specified, and then subjecting them to the action of steam, substantially as and for the purpose described.

A. J. SHRIVER.

Witnesses:
EDWD. W. BYRN,
CHAS. A. PETTIT.