

T. G. Clinton,

Mattress.

N^o 8883.

Patented Apr. 20, 1852.

Fig. 1.

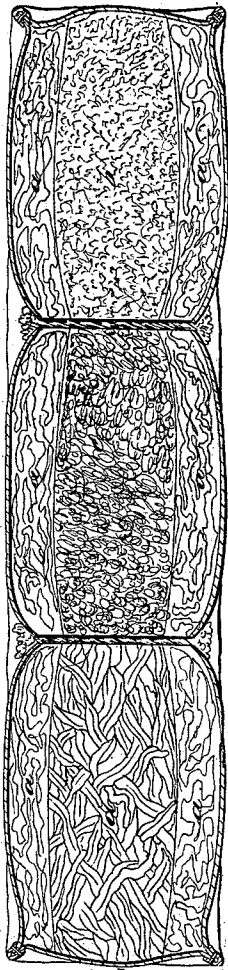


Fig. 2.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS G. CLINTON, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN MATTRESSES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 8,883, dated April 30, 1852.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS G. CLINTON, of Cincinnati, Hamilton county, Ohio, have invented or discovered a new and useful Improvement in the Manufacture of Mattresses, Cushions for Sleeping-Sofas, &c., the stuffing of which is made to consist of animal matter—such as cattle's hair, wool, or feathers—treated after the manner of or steeped with hides of cattle in the lime-vats of a tan-yard or other suitable place, or of animal matter—such as the articles mentioned—and vegetable matter—such as moss, corn-shucks, hemp, hay, flax, straw, &c.—subjected to an analogous process, conjointly or separately, and manufactured into mattresses, conjointly or separately, or forming with such vegetable or other animal matter (other than the hair of the hides of cattle, as described) a mattress or bed or cushion by interposing them between layers of such hair in a felted condition, or commingling the whole together, such hair not being in a felted condition, of which the following is a specification.

Hair as stripped from the hides of cattle in the lime-vats of a tan-yard, gathered, beaten, and mingled with moss or other vegetable matter, whether felted into sheets with the moss between the layers of felted hair, or the moss only filling up interstices, or wool inserted in the same way as the moss, or the whole mixed together in one conglomerate mass (the hair of the hides of cattle not being felted, but only gathered and whipped) will make a mattress upon which a chinch or bedbug will not come nor willingly stay.

Having applied the hair of the hides of cattle taken from the lime-vats of a tan-yard crudely felted, so as to have it somewhat regular in thickness and smooth in surface, and filled up the uneven places with wool and moss, and covered it with ticking so as to constitute the whole what is usually called a "mattress," I have possessed myself of satisfactory evidence by actual use of the same for several years that a harmless antidote to that troublesome nuisance a chinch or bedbug had at last dawned upon the world. The article looks, smells, and wears like any other mattress, and renders poisonous mixtures as applied to beds and bedsteads a needless danger.

The hair of the tails of cattle has been baked

to increase its curl and elasticity and used in the manufacture of mattresses; but it is well known that bedbugs infest such mattresses.

I am not aware (and I have made diligent inquiry) that the hair stripped from the hides of cattle after and during liming has ever been used otherwise than for admixture with plaster for closing or ceiling in the apartments of houses and other building purposes, and in a felted condition for covering in steam-boilers as a non-conductor. I have discovered that this substance, felted or unfelted and mixed or unmixed with known upholstering materials, produces in the particular articles I am illustrating a new and useful result, and this I aver after an experimental trial of several years to the satisfaction of myself and other disinterested parties. It is obvious that the upholsterer can apply this discovery throughout the whole of this branch of his trade—viz., to sleeping-sofas, ottomans, cushions, and other analogous articles.

The manufacture of felt made of the hair of cattle, as described, since the date of my discovery has been carried to great perfection for the purpose of covering boilers for steam machinery, &c., so that it can now readily be obtained of suitable length and width and at a reasonable price.

Two figures in the drawings annexed to and made part of this specification represent each a vertical section of a mattress or bed or cushion. In Figure 1 the hair of the hides of cattle is shown as in a felted condition and placed a layer above and a layer below the various vegetable interposing substances made to constitute the body of the article. *a a* is the felted hair. *b* is a stuffing of cotton. *c* is a stuffing of moss, and *d* a stuffing of split corn-shucks, the whole covered in with ticking in the usual way. In Fig. 2 the conglomerate style of manufacturing such articles is illustrated, the hair, moss, cotton, and shucks being intimately commingled.

Having thus complied with the patent laws of the United States in the matter of my discovery treated at length in the specification of description and in the drawings annexed thereto and made part of the same, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The use of the hair of hides of cattle treated

after the manner of or steeped with the hides of cattle in the lime-vats of a tan-yard or other suitable place, as described, with or without other animal or vegetable matter treated or not treated conjointly therewith or separately in the same way, and the use of other animal or vegetable matter under like treatment and circumstances, as described, whether used conglomerately, conjointly, or separately, or their equivalents, when such animal or vegetable matter is of the kinds used for upholstering or sleeping purposes in the articles of mattresses, ottomans, cushions, sleeping-sofas,

sacking bottoms, or analogous articles, whereby a new result is attained—viz., an article obnoxious to bedbugs without the necessity of any temporary application of poisonous mixtures thereto, thus furnishing the world with a harmless antidote to a great nuisance and abolishing the necessity for a great peril to human life in the domestic circle.

THOS. G. CLINTON.

Attest:

B. K. MORSELL,
JOHN SETON JOHNS.