

A. Couturier

Fiber to Imitate Hair

N^o 89,855.

Patented May 11, 1869.

Fig. 1.

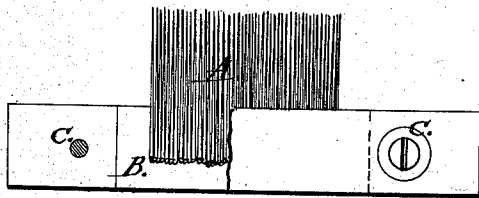
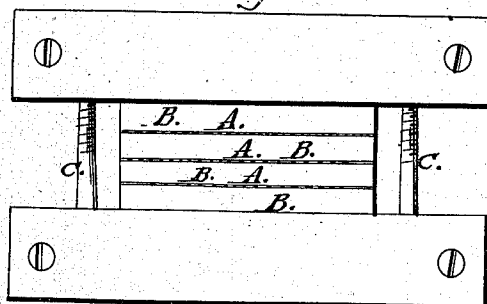


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANDRÉ COUTURIER, OF TRINIDAD, CUBA.

IMPROVED VEGETABLE FIBER TO IMITATE HAIR.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 89,855, dated May 11, 1869.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANDRÉ COUTURIER, of Trinidad, Cuba, have discovered a new and useful Vegetable Fiber for Woven Fabrics and for Imitation Hair, and improved process for preparing the same; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation, partly in section, of my improved apparatus for treating the fiber. Fig. 2 is a plan or top view of the same.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

This invention consists in producing, as a new article of manufacture, a fiber from the pita or leaf of the Corojo palm, which grows in the West Indian Islands, which fiber I have discovered to possess superior qualities for the manufacture of those articles for which animal or vegetable fiber is now employed. This fiber I have found to be of unequalled strength, and which, on account of its great length, can be spun to produce the very strongest thread. The fiber alone appears similar to human hair, and can, when colored, be used as imitation hair.

The fiber is produced from the natural leaf of the aforesaid plant, which leaf has previously been torn into fine longitudinal strips. These strips or the leaves are, preparatory to hatcheling, soaked in a solution of carbonate of potassium and water, whereby the fibers are softened and separated from the fleshy parts of the leaves.

The strips are hackled by combs or cards of different kinds, a coarse one being first employed, then a finer one, and finally one

with very fine teeth, set close together. This last comb is that illustrated in the drawing. It is composed of a series of ordinary sewing needles, A A, set close together in rows and clamped between strips B B of wood or other material, a series of such rows being arranged parallel to each other, as shown in Fig. 2, between a series of strips. The strips are all clamped together by means of screws C C, as shown. In this fine comb the fibers are finally hackled, when they will be quite fine. The degree of fineness can be further regulated by using finer or coarser needles.

When the fibers have been thus passed through the hatchel they are ready to be spun like flax or other known fibrous material. They may, however, be bleached previous to spinning.

When used for imitation hair they need only be colored, after having been hatcheled, to be ready for the market.

The fiber may be used for making all articles and materials for which animal or vegetable fiber is now employed.

I am aware of a patent granted to Werner Stanfen, September 1, 1868; but as this bears no relation to my invention, I claim nothing therein shown or described.

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

As a new article of manufacture, the fiber produced from the leaf of the Corojo palm by the process and means herein described.

The above specification of my invention signed by me this 12th day of August, 1868.

A. COUTURIER.

Witnesses:

FRANK BLICKLEY,
ALEX. F. ROBERTS.