

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELKANAH W. DICKERSON, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN TOBACCO-STAINS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **172,095**, dated January 11, 1876; application filed September 21, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ELKANAH WHITTIER DICKERSON, of Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a certain new and useful Stain and Tan for Leaf-Tobacco; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use it.

The object of my invention is to provide a leaf-tobacco "stain and tan" that will deepen the color and kill white veins in the leaf, and by which I can produce shades, varying from a pinkish yellow to black.

A further object of my invention is to provide means for dissolving the gum in unsweated leaf-tobacco, and to cause leaf, that would not otherwise do so, "hold the fire."

My invention consists of a powder compounded as follows: One ounce, or part, of black liquorice; two ounces, or parts, of gum catechu; two ounces, or parts, of extract of log wood; to be varied for shade by white-oak bark.

The foregoing ingredients are taken in a solid form and reduced to a coarse powder by grinding.

Directions for applying the powder: First, prepare this stain and tan one day before using it, as it gains strength by contact with the air. Second, take two ounces of this powder to each gallon of soft water, tie it in a loose cotton bag, put both in a wooden or earthen vessel, and stir the solution occasionally. Third, dip each "hand" (as many at once as is convenient) from a quarter of an hour to half an hour in the liquid; and then lay it on inclined boards, or hang it up to drip and "draw" and color, from one to three

hours. Fourth, next rinse out in cold water all the liquid not absorbed, then shake open the hands and dry at once, (if it be thin leaf,) and then prepare it for repacking or stripping. Fifth, a light second dripping is sometimes required. Sixth, often passing a damp sponge or a soft brush over the surface of the leaf, just before it is stripped, improves its color very much.

In drying weather it takes from three to five days before the leaf is ready for use. This preparation is not injurious, but decidedly healthful. It will sweeten bitter leaf, and will make any leaf burn a white ash. It improves the color and burning qualities of leaf-tobacco. It is intended not only for repacking leaf, but to be used, instead of water, in the casing of leaf by the manufacturers.

Light thin leaf needs one treatment, good-bodied leaf a different one, and dry or yellow leaf still another.

The strength of the solution, and the length of time for the leaf to remain in it, increase in the order named above.

The color may be deepened and set by alum in the proportion of—say, half an ounce to ten gallons of the liquid in which the powder has been dissolved.

What I claim as my invention is as follows:

As a stain or tan for leaf-tobacco, a compound extract of black liquorice, gum catechu, and logwood, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of September, 1875.

ELKANAH W. DICKERSON.

Witnesses:

GEO. C. SHELMEERDINE,
M. DANL. CONNOLLY.