

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY B. FARWELL, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

## IMPROVED METHOD OF TREATING LEATHER SCRAPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 53,800, dated April 10, 1866.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HENRY B. FARWELL, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have made a new and useful invention having reference to the Treatment of "Whitenings," or Waste Portions or Scraps of Leather, in order to extract and purify the oleaginous matters with which they have been impregnated; and I do hereby declare the same to be fully set forth in the following description.

It is a fact well known to those conversant with the tanning and carrying of hides and skins that a great amount of valuable fatty matters is yearly lost in the whitening and scraps of leather, which are usually either burned or thrown away. To recover the tallow or oleaginous matters from such is the main object of my invention.

In carrying out my invention I provide a vat or vessel of any desirable capacity and furnish the same with a cover. Into this vessel I put as large a quantity as may be desirable of the scraps or waste portions of leather to be acted on. Next I put into the said vessel a sufficient quantity of water to cover the said portions. Next, by means of steam introduced into the vessel, I raise the water thereof to a boiling temperature and maintain the same in a state of ebullition for about two hours, or until the fat or oil may have been expelled from the leather. I would remark that a large kettle or metallic boiler might be employed and the water heated by

the application of fire underneath such vessel or boiler; but this latter mode I do not consider so good in many respects as the former.

The tallow or fatty matters, owing to their lighter specific gravity, will rise to the surface of the water, and may be either skimmed therefrom into another vessel or may be suffered to remain until they may have become cooled, when the concrete mass may be removed.

In order to free the tallow from any foreign matter with which it may be impregnated, I put into the mass, when it has been sufficiently boiled, a small quantity of the oil of vitriol—that is to say, one pound of the vitriol to three hundred gallons of water. This I have found has the effect of freeing in a great measure the tallow from the impurities with which it was combined.

By my improvement I am enabled to recover and utilize a large percentage of valuable fatty matter which has heretofore been usually wasted.

I claim—

1. Recovering the tallow or fatty matters from whitenings or scraps of leather in the manner as set forth.
2. In combination with the same, the employment of oil of vitriol, as and for the purpose set forth.

HENRY B. FARWELL.

Witnesses:

OLIVER WOOD,  
SAML. JONES.