

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HUGH MEARNS, OF NORTH FORK, KENTUCKY.

## IMPROVEMENT IN BLEACHING TOBACCO.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **108,808**, dated November 1, 1870.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HUGH MEARNS, of North Fork, in the county of Mason and State of Kentucky, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Bleaching Tobacco; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same.

This invention relates to a new and improved process for the treatment of tobacco for bleaching it, and consists in the following: First, sprinkling the tobacco until moist; second, hanging it up in a tight room; and third, subjecting it immediately, while damp, to the action of sulphurous-acid gas, generated in any approved way and admitted to the said room.

This operation bleaches the tobacco from the black or dark-brown color to any required degree of light brown, according to the time it is exposed to the action of the gas. It also removes the green tinges common to the tobacco-leaves.

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

The herein-described improved process for bleaching tobacco, substantially as specified.

HUGH MEARNS.

Witnesses:

S. L. MARSHALL,  
THOMAS BERRY.