

# United States Patent Office.

FREDERICK A. HOLCOMB, OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, ASSIGNOR TO  
HIMSELF AND SAMUEL B. JENKS.

Letters Patent No. 110,465, dated December 27, 1870.

## IMPROVEMENT IN THE MANUFACTURE OF LEATHER.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

*To all whom it may concern :*

Be it known that I, FREDERICK A. HOLCOMB, of the city of Grand Rapids, in the county of Kent and State of Michigan, have invented a new and improved Mode of Manufacturing Leather; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description of the same.

The nature of my invention consists in the use upon the surface of skins while they are in a wet condition, after coming from the tanning solution, a mixture of plaster of Paris and water, or of other substances having a similar nature or effect, for the purpose of preventing to some extent the tendency of the fibers of the skins to contract and become hard and horny.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

I take plaster of Paris and mix it with water to such a consistency that it can be readily applied to the surface of skins and at the same time will penetrate as much as possible into the skins; and I also take other substances of a similar nature and effect,

and apply either the plaster of Paris and water or the other similar substances to the skins while they are in a wet condition after coming from the tanning solution, and then allow the skins to dry. Thus I am enabled to effect a great saving in the quantity of tanning material to be used in the manufacture of leather, and at the same time to secure in this mode of manufacture leather possessed of some very desirable qualities.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The use upon the surface of skins while they are in a wet condition, after coming from the tanning solution, a mixture of plaster of Paris and water, or of other substances having a similar nature or effect, in order thus to prevent the skins from drying so hard that they cannot be readily softened, especially such skins as have not been in strong tanning solutions.

FREDERICK A. HOLCOMB.

Witnesses:

E. J. SHINKMAN,

WM. WESTERHOUSE.