

(No Model.)

J. BRAY, Jr.

FLAG OR RUSH MATTING AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME.

No. 381,209.

Patented Apr. 17, 1888.

Fig. 1.

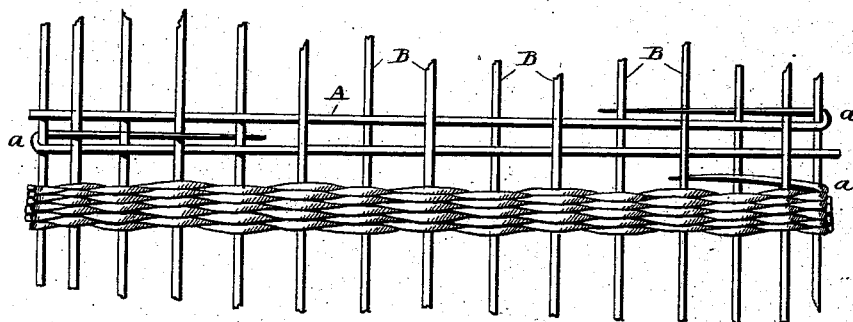


Fig. 2.

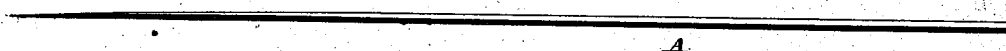
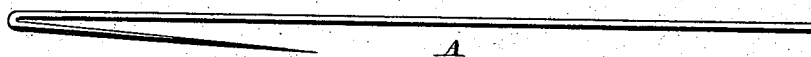


Fig. 3.



Witnesses,

Edwin L. Jewell,

W. J. S. S. S. S.

Inventor,

John Bray, Jr.

By his Attorney

W. J. S. S. S.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN BRAY, JR., OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

FLAG OR RUSH MATTING AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 381,209, dated April 17, 1888.

Application filed August 4, 1886. Serial No. 209,967. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN BRAY, JR., a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Flag or Rush Matting and Method of Making the Same; 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 appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to improvements in the manufacture of matting or floor-coverings.

The object of my invention is to provide a cheap and durable matting or floor-covering from river flags, rushes, or other like material.

My invention consists in the method of weaving a matting from river flags, rushes, or other similar material, and in the matting thereby produced, as hereinafter set forth and claimed.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a top or plan view of a portion of the fabric, showing the manner in which the filling is inserted. Fig. 2 is a plan view of one of the filling-pieces. Fig. 3 is also a top or plan view of one of the filling-pieces with the end bent back upon the main body.

In carrying out my invention I take river flags of the genus *Iris* or *Acorus* and rushes of the genus *Juncus*, the length of which will not allow or admit of its being woven twice across the warp of the material, and while they are green or freshly cut I split them from the bottom to the top into as many pieces or into as small strips as may be desired, so that when they are dried they will curl up in a round or practically round body, which, owing to the difference in the thickness of the rushes between the bottom and the top, will produce strands thicker at one end than at the other. These pieces or strands of rushes when properly prepared are woven into the fabric as the weft, as indicated at A, while the strands or cords of twine or other suitable material form the warp B.

In weaving, the rushes forming the weft are laid into the warp so the small end will project over the side about one-third the width of the fabric, and after this strand is woven

the thin projecting end is folded back onto the body of the rush and around the outer strand of the warp, so as to form a perfect selvage, as shown at *a*. The next strand of rush is then placed in the warp, the large end being reversed, so as to lie on the folded end of the previous strand, and its smaller end folded back into the warp, as in the former instance, thus producing a body of uniform thickness and density, and thus preventing one side of the matting from being fuller than the other.

The river flags and rushes which are so abundant in the marshes and banks of our rivers are well adapted for making the matting or floor-covering. They grow of sufficient length to serve as the weft of matting of ordinary width and allow one end to be turned back one-third or one-half the width of the fabric, and besides this, the rushes are tough and strong and enable me to make a cheap, strong, and durable covering for floors and other uses.

The rushes or strands forming the weft may be colored or stained in any suitable manner, or with any desired shade or color, and woven regularly in stripes or indiscriminately, as may suit the taste.

It will be noticed that the ends of the strands forming the weft form the selvage for holding the outer warp in position, as already stated, and that the usual practice of tying the ends of the wefts is obviated.

I may use the narrow-leaved palm, commonly called "palmetto," or shredded wood in the manufacture of the matting, and these substances I consider as coming within the spirit of my invention.

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

1. The method herein described of weaving a fabric from tapering strands of flags or rushes, the same consisting in arranging the strands alternately with their thicker ends in opposite directions as a weft, and folding over and interweaving the smaller ends with the warp at each edge of the fabric, so as to form a selvage therefor at each side of uniform thickness, substantially as specified.

2. A matting composed of strands of flags

or rushes woven as a weft with a suitable warp, the thick ends of the strands being placed in opposite directions alternately, and the thin ends turned in and interwoven with
5 the fabric, so as to form a uniform selvage on both edges of the fabric, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN BRAY, JR.

Witnesses:

SCHUYLER DURYEE,
J. E. ROCKWELL.