

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY G. PIFFARD, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## PHOTOGENIC POWDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 384,927, dated June 19, 1888.

Application filed January 21, 1888. Serial No. 261,523. (No specimens.)

### *To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HENRY G. PIFFARD, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improved Photogenic Powder, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to produce a cheap, safe, and effective photogenic powder, suitable for use in producing light for photographic and other purposes.

My invention consists in a powder composed of an intimate mixture of magnesium powder and "wood powder," or any similar nitro lignin equivalent, consisting of nitrated wood fiber or nitro-cellulose compound, prepared after the manner described in the residue patent of Dittmar, No. 6,645, or in any other suitable manner.

In carrying out my invention I ordinarily prefer to use two parts, by weight, of magnesium powder with one part of the easily-ignitable powder, as specified, the mixture of the two powders being produced in any desired way. I do not confine myself to this proportion, however, as the purpose of the invention can be carried out with the specified ingredi-

ents mixed in relative proportions different from those above mentioned. It is essential, however, that the wood powder or equivalent should be in sufficient proportion to produce combustion of the magnesium.

My improved powder may be used by placing a small quantity loosely on an incombustible support and applying a lighted match, taper, fuse, or other source of heat sufficient to inflame the wood powder or specified equivalent. The ignition of the wood powder or equivalent excites rapid combustion of magnesium with the production of a brilliant light of momentary duration.

What I claim as my invention is—

As a new article of manufacture, an improved photogenic powder consisting of magnesium powder intimately mixed with wood powder or any similar nitro-lignin equivalent, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

Signed at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, this 18th day of January, A. D. 1888.

HENRY G. PIFFARD.

Witnesses:

WM. H. CAPEL,  
HUGO KOELKER.