

*N. Lamson,
Scythe.*

No 8003

Patented Mar. 25, 1851.

Fig. 1.

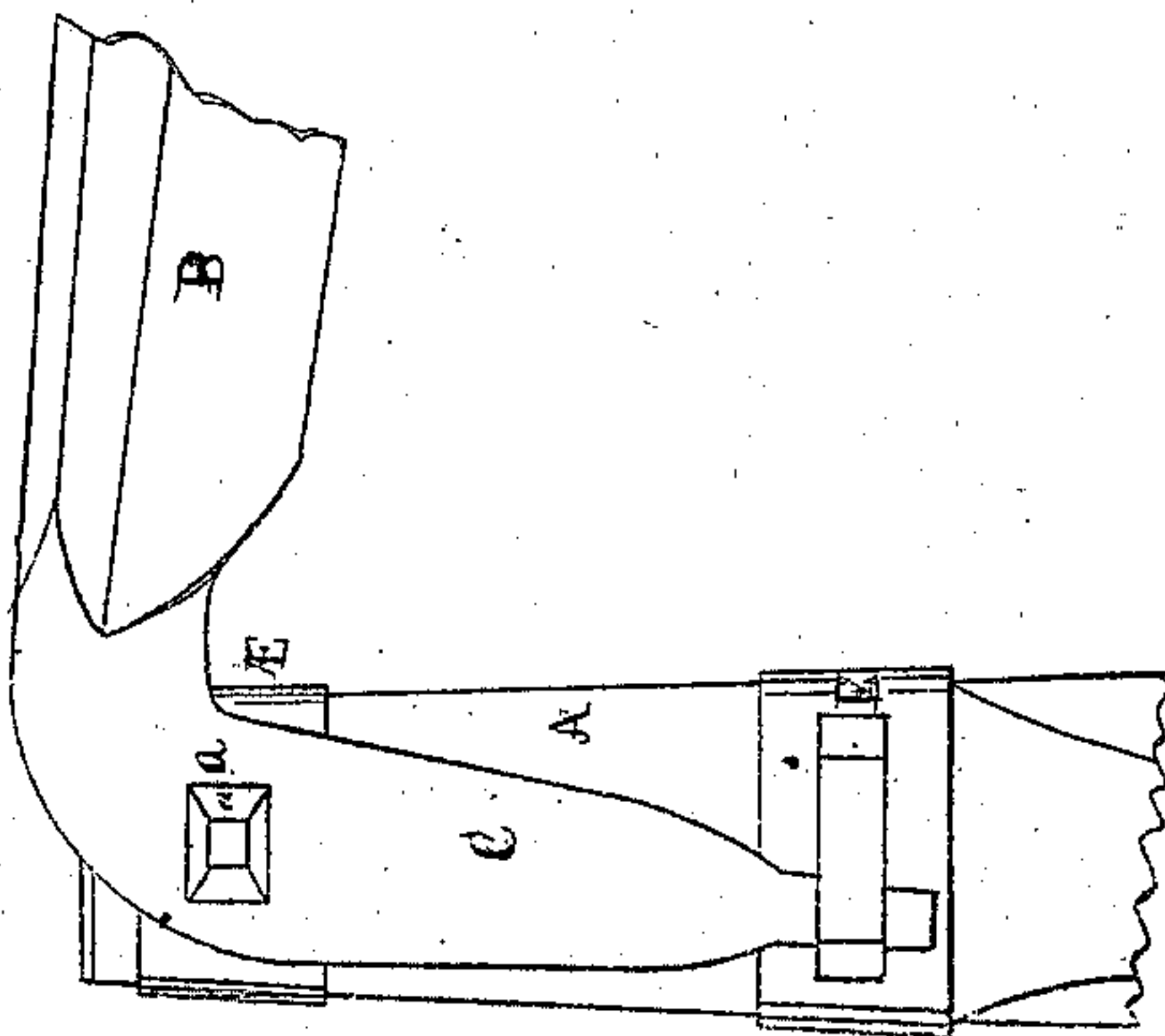


Fig. 2.

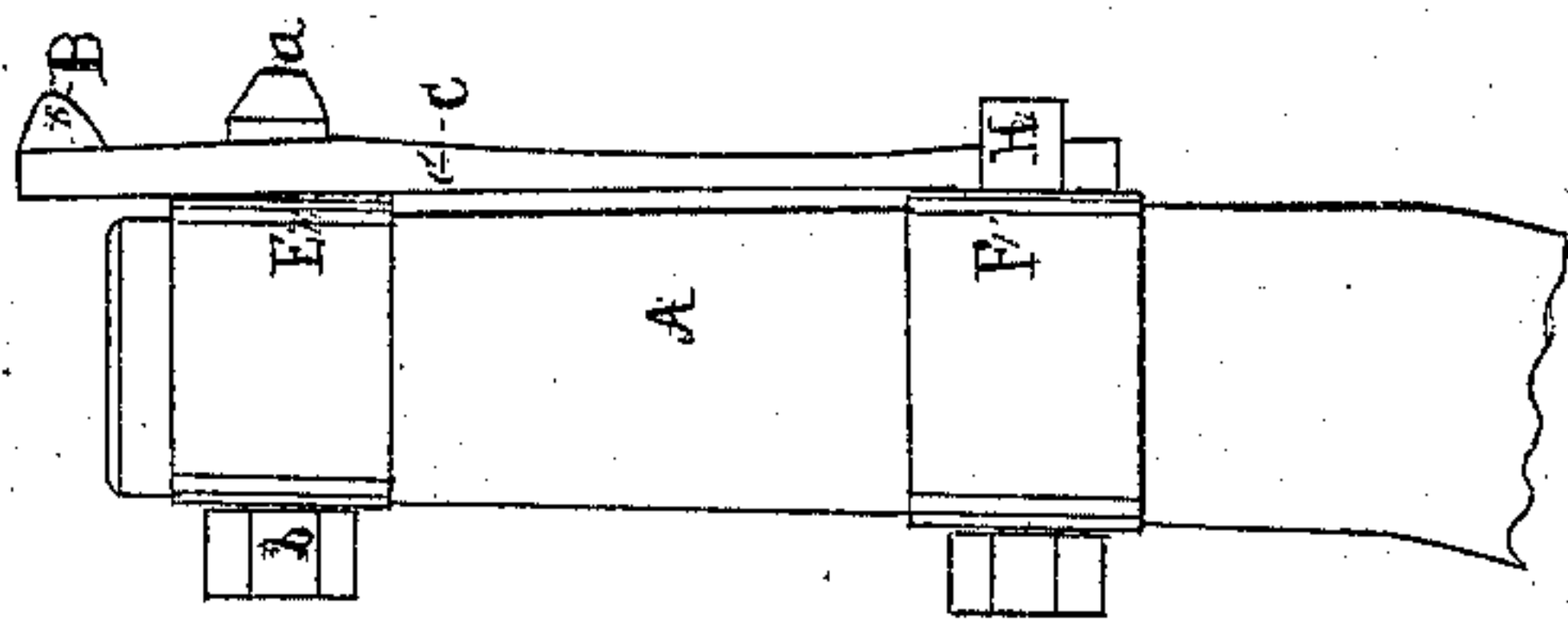


Fig. 3.

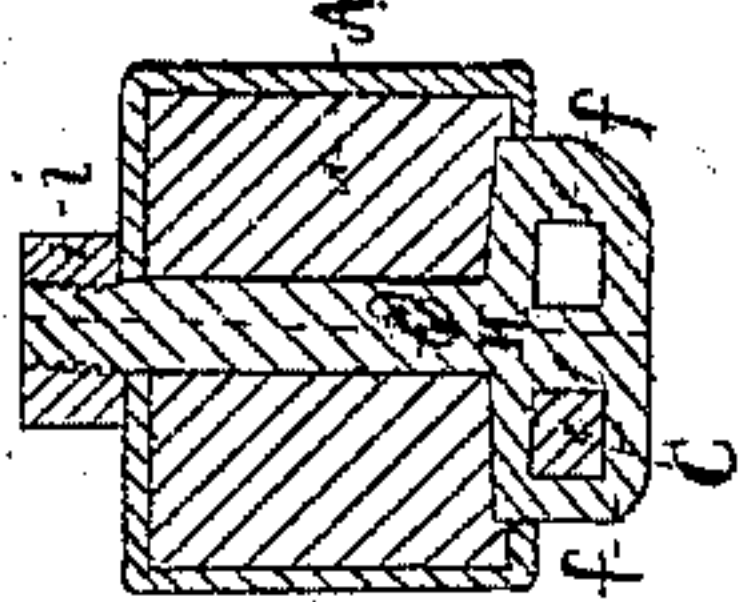


Fig. 4.

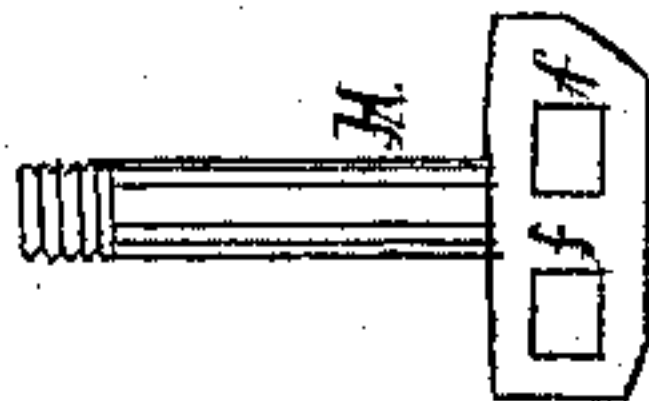


Fig. 5.

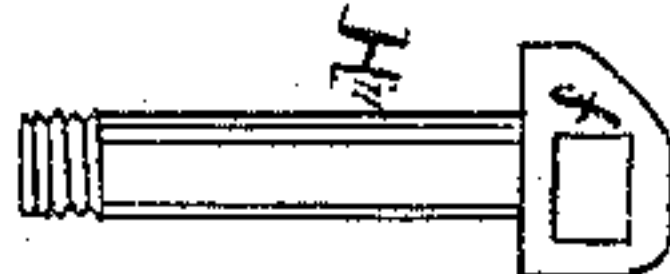


Fig. 6.

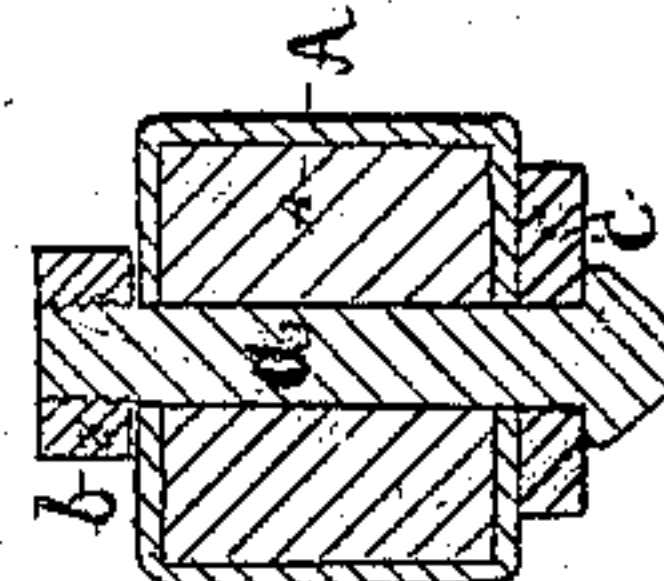


Fig. 7.

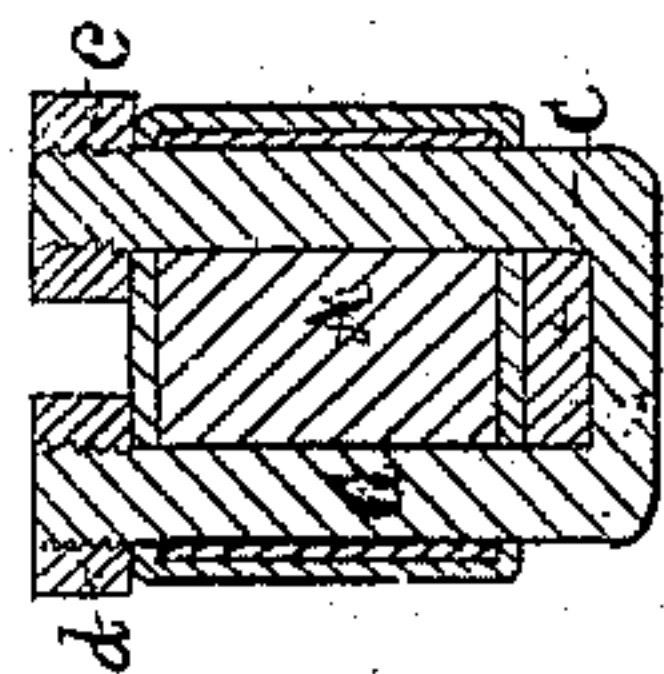


Fig. 8.

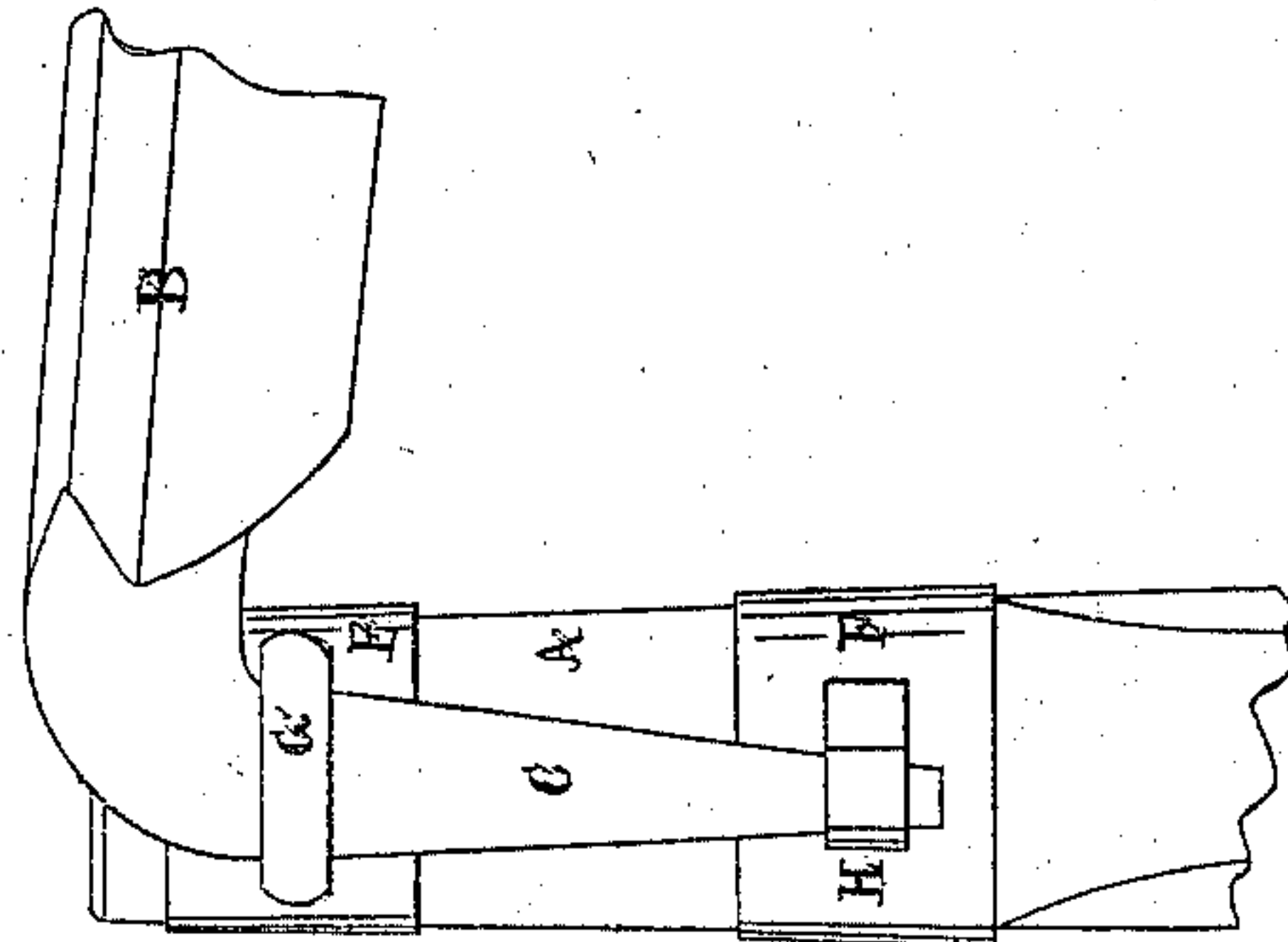
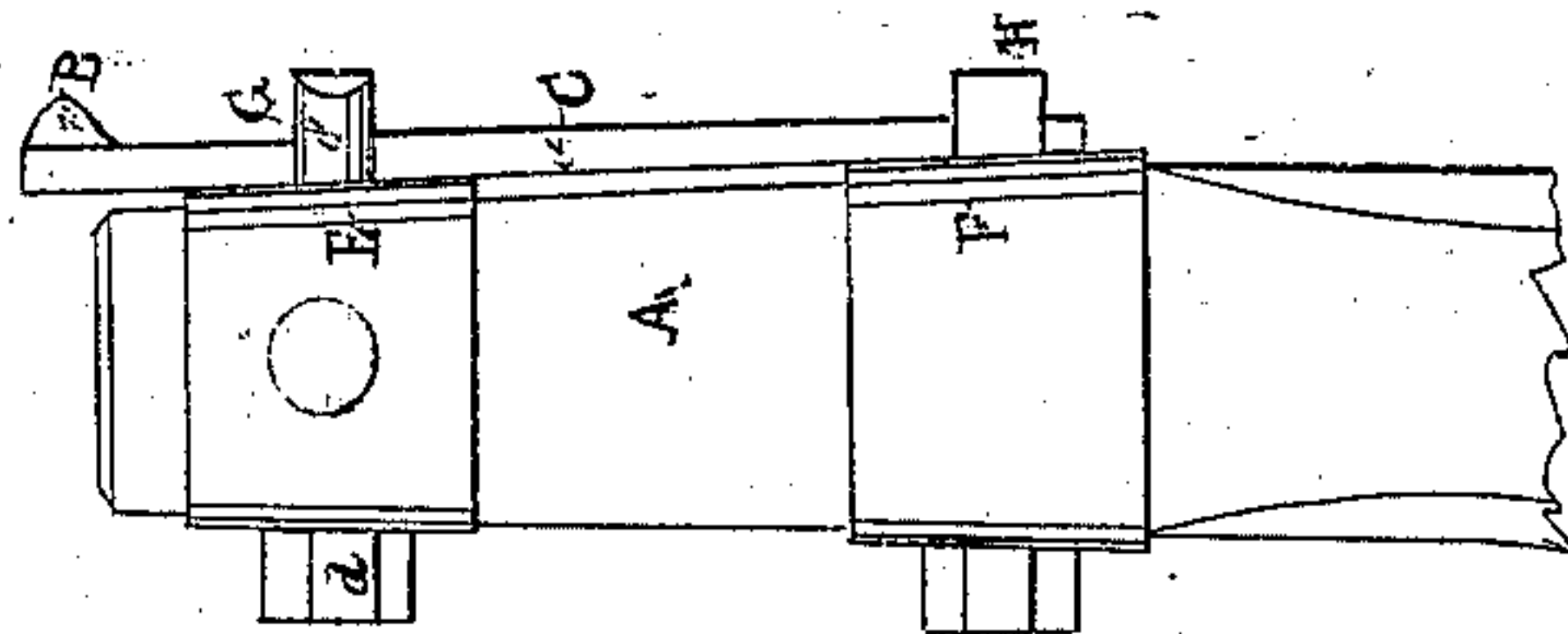


Fig. 9.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NATH. LAMSON, OF SHELBURNE FALLS, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN SCYTHE-FASTENINGS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 8,003, dated March 25, 1851.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NATHANIEL LAMSON, Shelburne Falls, in the county of Franklin and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new or Improved Mode of Connecting a Scythe-Blade to a Snath; and I do hereby declare that the same is fully described and represented in the following specification and accompanying drawings, letters, figures, and references thereof.

Of the said drawings, Figure 1 represents a top view of a portion of a scythe-snath and the scythe-blade as connected thereto. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a cross-section taken through the middle part of the contrivance which confines the extreme part of the shank of a scythe to the snath. Fig. 4 is a side view of the eyebolt used for confining such part of the shank to the snath. Fig. 5 is a top view of a portion of the scythe-blade and the snath, exhibiting similar means of confining them together, although under a somewhat different form or construction, as will be hereinafter described. Fig. 6 is a side view of that which is represented by Fig. 5. Fig. 7 is a side view of the eyebolt represented in the last figures. Fig. 8 is a cross-section of the scythe-snath and confining contrivance at the lower end of the snath, as exhibited in Fig. 5. Fig. 9 is a cross-section of the scythe-snath and confining contrivance at the lower end of the snath, as exhibited in Fig. 1.

In said figures A represents the snath, B the blade of a scythe, and C the shank of said blade.

The common method of making the shank is to form it with a square or other proper shaped projection at its end, which projection is made to stand at right angles from the shank, and when the shank is confined to the snath such projection is made to enter a recess made to receive it in the snath, which recess is usually formed either in the wood itself or in a piece of metal let into the wood, which piece of metal or recess is sometimes provided with one or more slides, by means of which the shank may be varied in its position. Such method of constructing and fastening the extreme end of the shank is well known and in common use, and is generally termed "Clapp's" method.

Although advantageous in some respects, the use of a projection from the shank, as

above described, is generally attended with a serious inconvenience and loss to the owner of a scythe, as in consequence of the great strain which is constantly brought to bear upon the said projection during the operation of mowing the projection is caused to either split or seriously endanger the wood or snath, and this is not prevented to any great extent when a metallic socket or recess screwed or let into the wood is used to receive said projection.

As scythe-blades are generally made by persons who are not engaged in the manufacture of the woods or snaths, it has been customary to manufacture all or most of them with the projection on their shanks. In consequence thereof such scythe-blades being universally in the market, the scythe-snath makers have been compelled to adopt a mode of securing the blade such as would be adaptable to its peculiar shank and projection thereof. I propose, however, to make the shank of the scythe-blades somewhat different in construction, and to make and apply to the snath the contrivance or contrivances for holding the shank in position in a manner different from what they have heretofore been made. In the first place, I make the lower end of the snath square, rectangular, or polygonal in its cross-section, (preferring always the square form,) and I make such snath tapering for about five inches from its lower end, the smallest part being at the lower end, the same being as represented in the drawings. On the said tapering part of the snath I place and closely fit two metallic collars, E F, the latter one, F, being made so much larger in size than the former one, E, as to be capable of being slipped or passed over it, and either fitted to its place on the snath or removed therefrom after the smaller collar has been fixed in place upon the snath, it being understood that the taper of the snath should be sufficient to adapt it to the collars under such circumstances. In placing these collars upon the snath, it is customary to do so immediately after the process of kiln-drying has been effected, and this in order that they may not be loosened by subsequent shrinkage of the wood. Both collars should be formed with flat surfaces or beds for the shanks to rest upon. The method of confining the shank down upon the collar at the heel of the shank may be either by a screw-bolt, *a*, and nut *b* passing through it and the collar and snath,

as seen in Fig. 9, or by means of a staple, G, and screw-nuts *d e*, as seen at Fig. 8, the said staple being made to extend or clasp around the shank near the heel and pass through its metallic collar and the wood of the snath.

The extreme part of the shank, or that part which rests directly upon the collar F or flat surface of said collar, is a square or other proper shaped elongation, the square form being generally considered the best, and it is made so as to be capable of being passed into or through any one of the holes *f* of an eyebolt, H, which eyebolt is constructed, and has its eye or eyes, hole or holes, *f*, arranged with respect to the axis of the bolt as seen in Fig. 3—that is to say, one of said holes is disposed not directly in the line of the axis *g* of the eyebolt, but is placed aside of it a short distance. The next hole, or that on the opposite side of the axis, is arranged at double that distance from the axis, or is at a greater distance therefrom, as seen in the drawings. By turning the head of the eyebolt around one hundred and eighty degrees we reverse the positions of the holes—that is to say, that hole which was previously on the right of the axis will be brought on the left of it, while that which is on the left will be brought on the right of it. Therefore, by such arrangement of the two holes, we are enabled to secure four different positions for the shank of the scythe, so that according to the position of the head of the eyebolt and the holes of the same through which we pass the shank we may vary or change the angle of position of the block to the snath. The head of the eyebolt is let down into its collar E, which is cut out to receive it, and in such manner as to allow the upper surface of the eye of the eyebolt to be drawn closely down upon the shank and to press said shank upon its seat on the collar, when-

ever the screw-nut *i* on the lower end of the eyebolt is sufficiently screwed upon the bolt, and against the lower side of the collar.

In Figs. 5, 6, and 7 the eyebolt is represented as having but one hole in it for the reception of the shank, which hole is placed or arranged aside of the axis of the bolt so as to secure a second position for the shank when said bolt or its head is turned around one hundred and eighty degrees. The collar E incloses and firmly clasps the wood and prevents it from being split.

As the head of the eyebolt, as well as the shank thereof, rests in and against the metallic collar, the strain on the shank during the operation of mowing is not brought to bear directly upon the wood, as it is by the ordinary construction and application of the shank, as herein first described, but is received directly through the bolt-head, and upon and counteracted by the metallic collar inclosing the wood. In the above it will be seen that the metallic collar serves in a great measure to support the end of the shank.

I claim—

The arrangement of the hole or holes *fff* of the head of the confining-clasp in such manner with respect to the axis *g* of the screw H that when the said screw is turned one hundred and eighty degrees the position or positions of the same—i. e., the hole or holes—may be changed in such a manner as to secure one or more new and different positions for the shank, the same being for the purpose as specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereto set my signature this 12th day of October, A. D. 1850.

NATHANIEL LAMSON.

Witnesses:

FRANCIS GOULD,
R. H. EDDY.