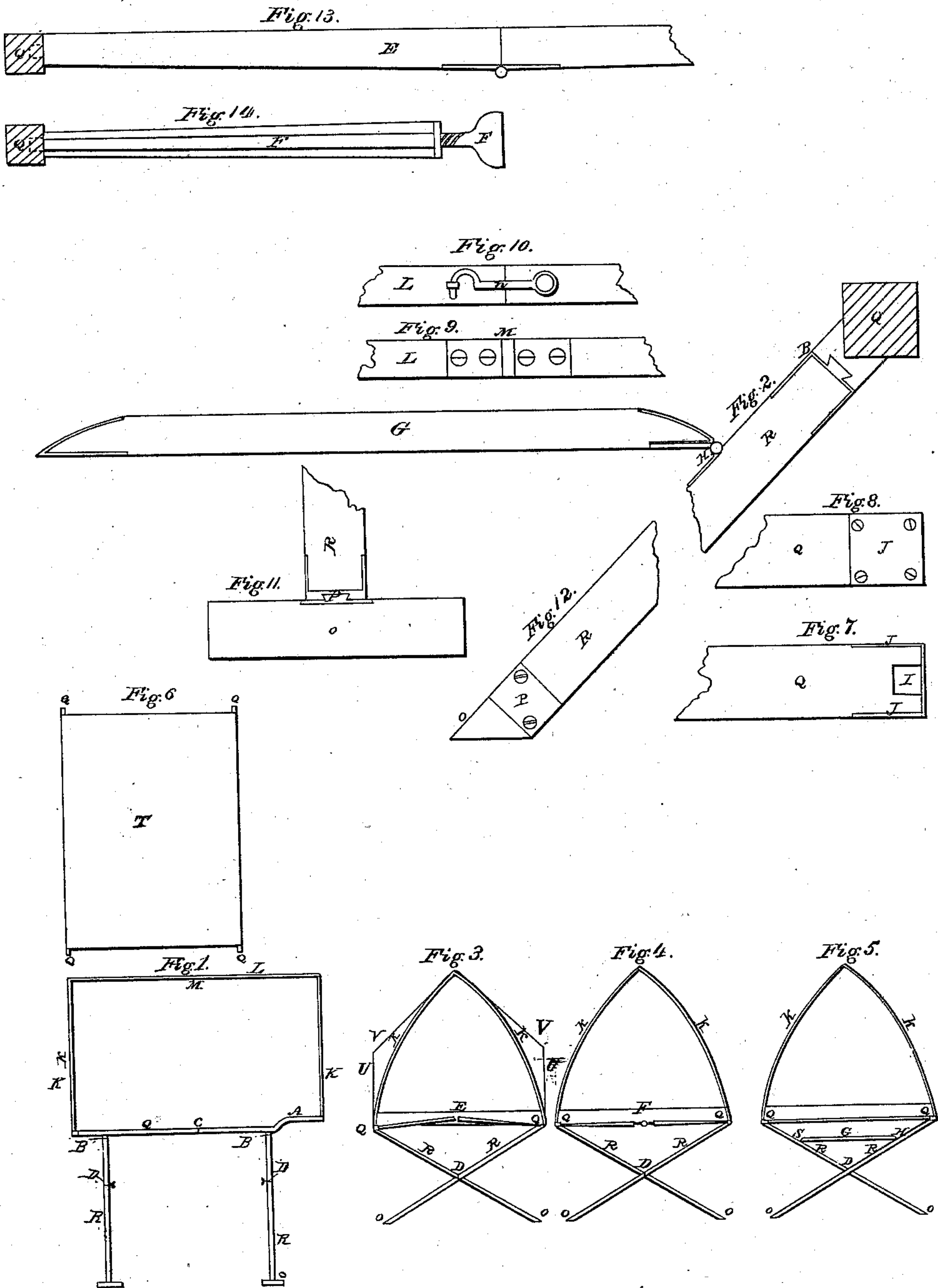


W.C. Betts,

Tent,

No 8,934,

Patented May 11, 1852.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WM. C. BETTS, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

PORTABLE COT-BEDSTEAD.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 8,934, dated May 11, 1852.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM C. BETTS, of the city of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Portable Cot; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description.

I construct my cots with side rails and legs, either of wood or iron, in the main, like those of ordinary cots; but in order to dispense with and form a substitute for pillows, I raise the ends at the head as shown in Figure 1 at A in the accompanying drawings. This elevation is made to conform to the depression in the neck from the shoulders to the head, thus allowing persons to recline in an easy and natural position.

I also improve the cot, by the mode of connecting the legs to the side rails. This I do by means of dovetails, of a wedge shape, so made and applied that, that attached to each leg, keeps that attached to its fellow, the opposite one, in place; and yet, they can be easily separated, by drawing the side rails a little in proximity, and giving a slight jar to the legs. Thus we have a stronger joint, and at the same time one that can be easily disconnected, by which it is rendered conveniently portable. It may be observed, that two enter from within out, and two from without in. Thus the whole becomes locked in place.

I still further improve the cot, by making and applying to the legs at their crossings, to connect each pair together, a right hand screw to one, and a left hand screw to the other pair. The screws and nuts I so apply and adjust, that when the cot is being spread out, they serve to tighten each pair of legs together, and when it is being drawn up they loosen.

I again improve the cot still further, by constructing and using tense bars, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, letters F and S. These serve to prevent the bed from settling in the center, thus making the cot bed comfortable for two persons to sleep on, which I believe has never before been effected. That shown at F, Fig. 4, of which Fig. 14 is an enlarged view, can be accommodated to the stretch of the bed bottom, to an indefinite extent, it being composed of a right and left screw combined in one piece, which passes through nuts made fast to the inner ends of two bars, and entering the bars by a suitable opening, corresponding with the screw.

This is applied, between the side rails, the outer ends, being in some way made fast to the inner sides of the side rails near the ends. To add strength to this, or still further to serve the same purpose, I use another apparatus as shown at *g* Fig. 5, which is fastened to one leg by a hinge as seen at H, and operated by a notched plate *s* to the opposite leg.

The side-rails may be hinged in or near the center. By placing the hinges on the inside in combination with the tense bars, which, acting at right angles to the downward pressure or weight on the cot, neutralizes to a great extent the strain on the hinges, a great portion of the burden on the cot being thrown on the tense bars.

I have still further improved the cot by identifying all that ordinarily goes to form that on which we lie, thus dispensing with the ordinary beds or means used for that purpose. The advantages of this arrangement are the great saving of material for filling, just sufficient being required to accommodate itself to the inequalities of the person or body; also its being so conveniently portable.

In order to adapt the cot to field purposes, I have still further improved it, by constructing and connecting to it, a frame for the support of a tent like covering, as shown in Figs. 1, 4, and 5, letters L and K. It is connected together by hinges, in such a way, as to fold together in one piece in a small space. In order to support the joint at the center of the connecting piece forming the apex of the frame, I have invented a thumb slide, with a depression suited to a catch, which is on the opposite side of the joint, under which rests a spring, throwing the slide in the catch, thus rendering it substantial. It can be removed by depressing with the thumb the slide and at the same time drawing it.

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

1. The elevation in the side rails as a substitute for the pillow, as described.

2. I also claim the dovetails as used, for attaching and detaching, the legs to, and from, the side rails, that is to say, the dovetails entering their mortises from opposite ends of the cot frame, so that they cannot readily loosen by use.

3. I also claim the arrangement of the right and left hand screws, which unite the

opposite legs at their crossings in such a manner, that, the screws shall tend to tighten the joint, as the legs separate, from each other, or loosen the same, as they approximate.

4. I claim the combination of the tense bars F, having right and left screws, with

the side rails Q Q, of a cot bed, for the purpose of keeping the sacking bottom tense.

WILLIAM C. BETTS.

Witnesses:

WM. H. SMITH,
JOHN H. FROST.