

A. R. Tewksbury. Life Boat.

N^o 9949

Patented Aug. 16, 1853.

Fig: 1:

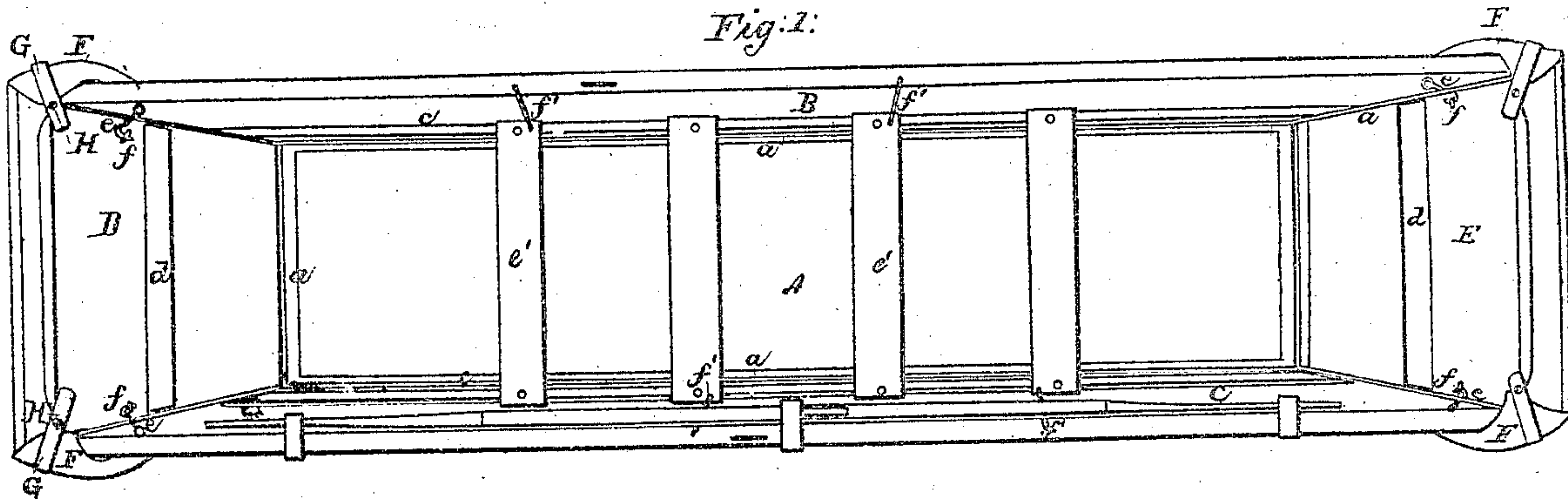


Fig: 2:

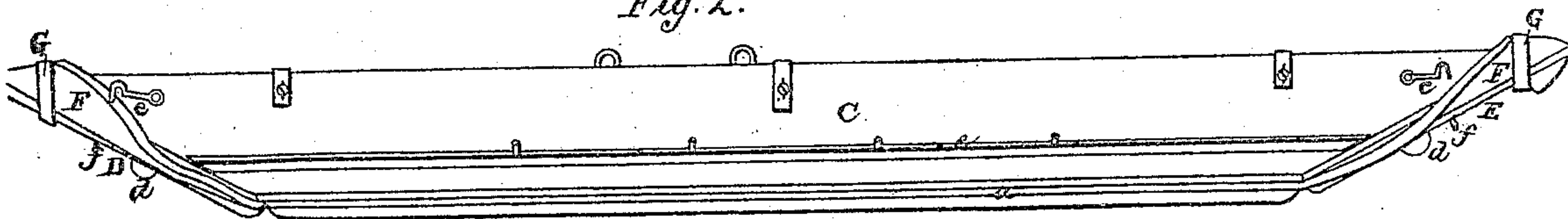


Fig: 3:

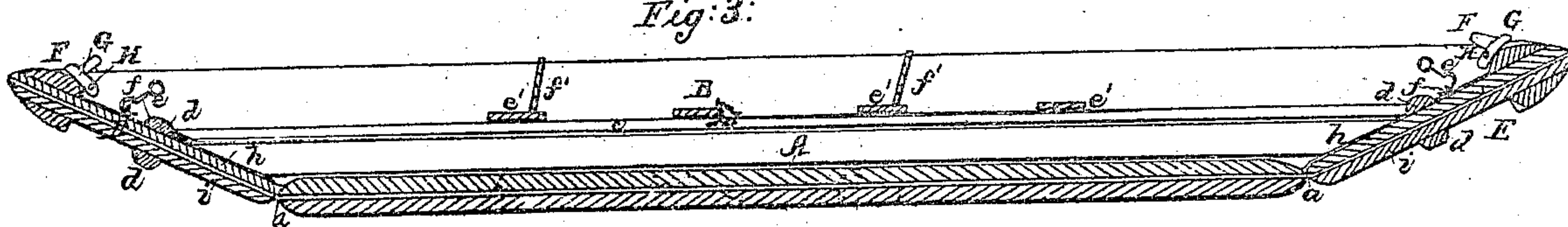


Fig: 4:

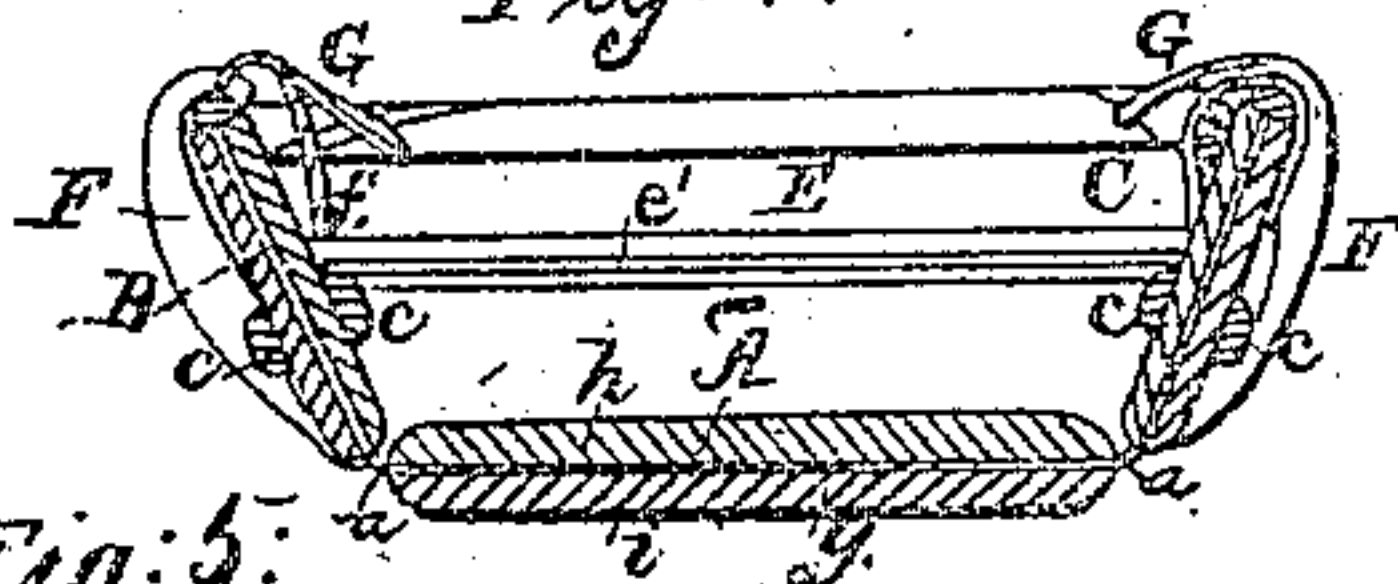
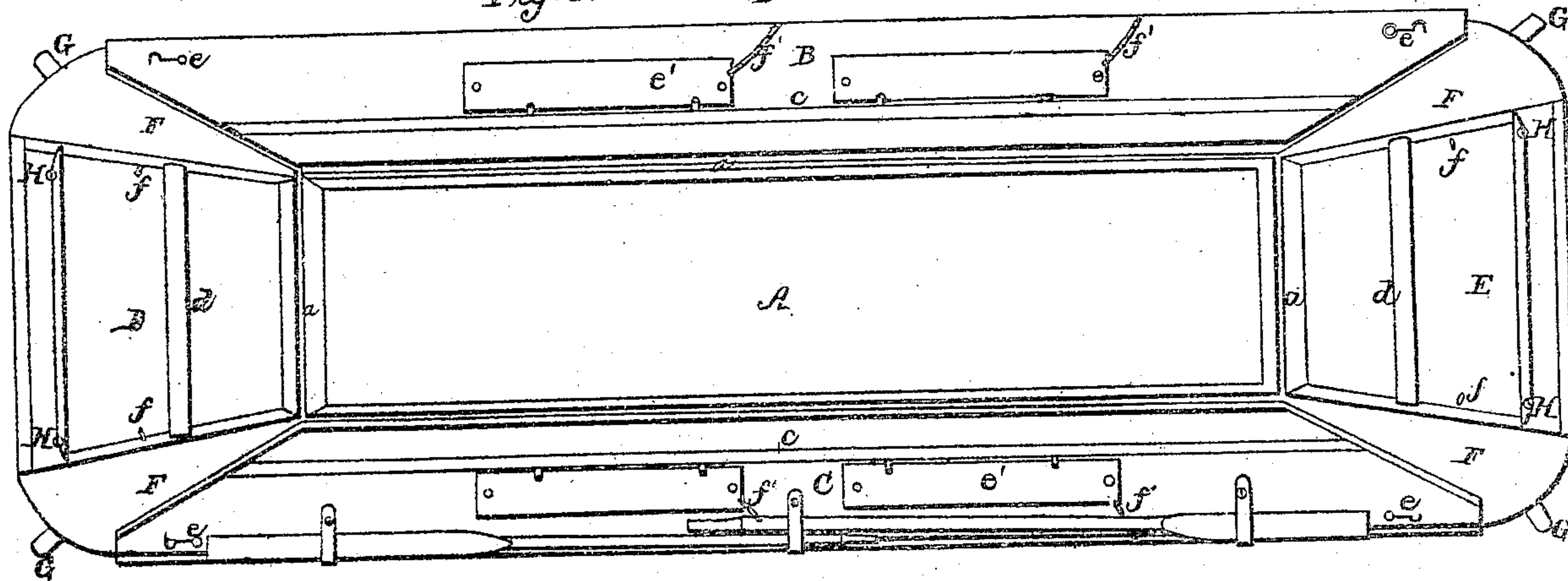


Fig: 5:



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ABIJAH R. TEWKSBURY, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

BOAT OR SCOW.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 9,949, dated August 16, 1853.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ABIJAH R. TEWKSBURY, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented
5 a new and useful Improvement in Boats or Scows by which the Same may be Rendered Very Portable and Easily Packed in a Little Space; and I do hereby declare that the same is fully described and represented in
10 the following specification and in the accompanying drawings, letters, figures, and references thereof.

Of the said drawings, Figure 1, denotes a top view. Fig. 2 is a side elevation. Fig.
15 3, a central, longitudinal and vertical section, and Fig. 4 a transverse and vertical section of one of my improved boats. Fig. 5 exhibits it, as it appears when its sides and ends or prow and stern are turned down
20 into the same plane with the bottom.

The bottom A, of the boat is made flat. The sides B, and C, and the prow and stern or the two ends D, and E, are also made flat, and the whole is to be composed of
25 wood iron or other suitable material. Each of the sides and ends is formed trapezoidal in shape, and is hinged or connected to the bottom, by means of a flexible water tight hinge or substance *a*, which will permit the
30 side or end to be turned down into the same plane with the bottom, or turned up from such plane into such an angle with the bottom, as will bring the side edges of such side or end into contact or nearly so with
35 the two immediately adjacent side edges of the two adjacent sides or two ends, as the case may be. Those edges of either side and the two adjacent are to be connected by water tight flexible gores, F, F, made of india
40 rubber or other flexible water tight material or materials. Each of which gores is to be made of such size as will allow the end and side to which it is connected to be turned down into the same plane with the bottom,
45 as seen in Fig. 5.

Suitable hooks and staples (as seen at *e*, *f*,) or other proper contrivances may be applied to the sides and ends to secure them in contact, when they are turned up against
50 one another and at angles with the bottom.

A strap, G, may be applied to the upper corners of each of the ends, and turned over the upper part of the adjacent gore and buttoned upon a button or stud, H. Both
55 of the sides as well as both of the ends may be provided with ledges *c*, *c*, or *d*, *d*, on

their inner surfaces, which ledges may be used to support the seats or thwarts *e'*, *e'*, &c., for the rowers or passengers, which seats or thwarts in order that they may not
60 be lost may be attached to one of the sides by short ropes, *f'*, *f'*.

In the manufacture of these boats an entire sheet of caoutchouc, cloth, leather or other suitable material impervious to water
65 may be used, and may be made to extend entirely between two plates, or forming each of the two sides, two ends or bottom of the boat. This mode of construction is illustrated in the figures, where *g*, may be supposed to indicate this water proof sheet
70 placed between plates *h*, *i*, and made large enough also to form the flexible gores.

A boat constructed in the above manner when unfolded takes up but very little space
75 in comparison to what it occupies in a folded state, it generally requiring several of them piled one on top of the other, to make a pile the cubical contents of which would be equal to the space usually required
80 for the boat when folded.

Boats so made will be found of great advantage on board of steamboats, or other vessels such as usually carry large numbers of passengers, as on account of the little
85 room they take up many of these may be carried by any such vessel, and in case of accident, they may be used to great advantage in saving lives or property. Beside this, they will be found very useful to an
90 army in the transportation of the material and personnel of the same across rivers and streams, and may often be used to advantage in the same manner as pontoons, and may be easily packed on or in wagons.
95

When the boat is manufactured from an entire sheet of india rubber, or flexible and water tight material, lined both outside and inside with plates or boards, cut in the shape of the ends and sides of the boat;
100 should the boat be thrown violently against an object, and so as to break or stave the outer covering or plate of a side or end, it will most generally be the case, that the water tight and elastic rubber sheet will
105 prevent leakage into the boat through such broken part.

I claim as my invention—

The above described improved method of constructing a boat, viz., by attaching its
110 sides and ends to its bottom, by water tight hinges, in combination with connecting the

edges of the sides and ends by water tight
flexible gores, substantially as described,
and so that the boat may be unfolded or
the sides and ends be turned down into the
5 plane of the bottom thereof as hereinbefore
explained.

In testimony whereof I have hereto set

my signature this twenty-first day of Feb-
ruary 1853.-

ABIJAH R. TEWKSBURY.

Witnesses:

R. H. EDDY,

F. P. HALE, Jr.