J. C. House,

Bedstead,

No. 13,263. Patented July 17, 1855

Fig. 1

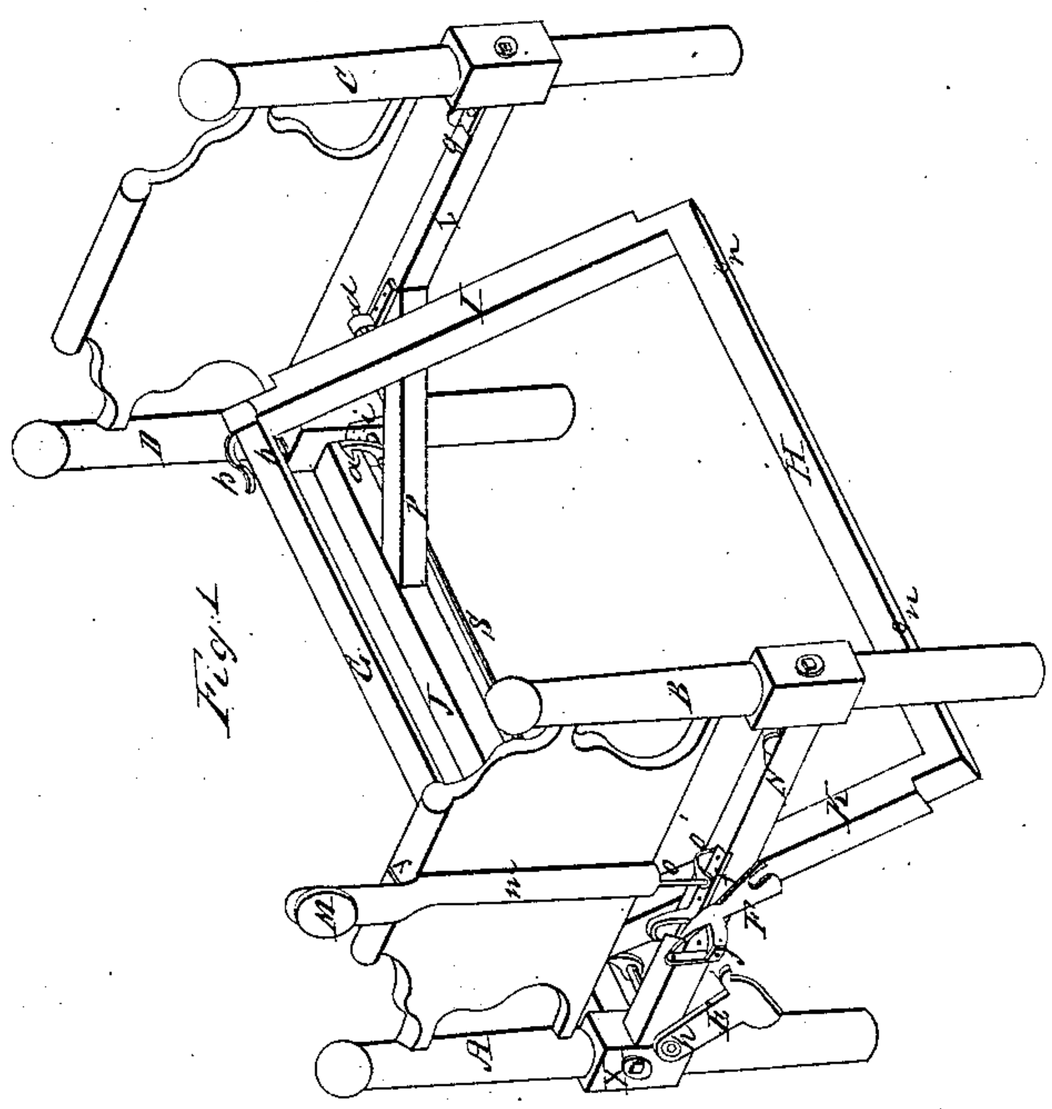

Fig. 2

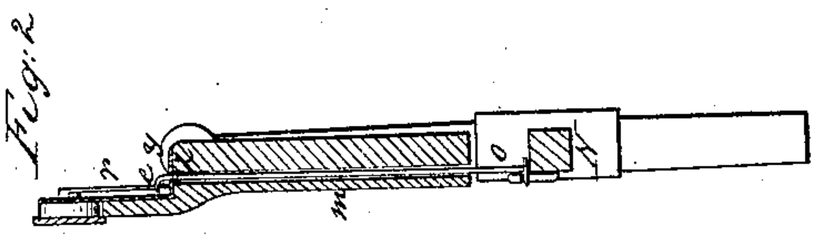

Fig. 3

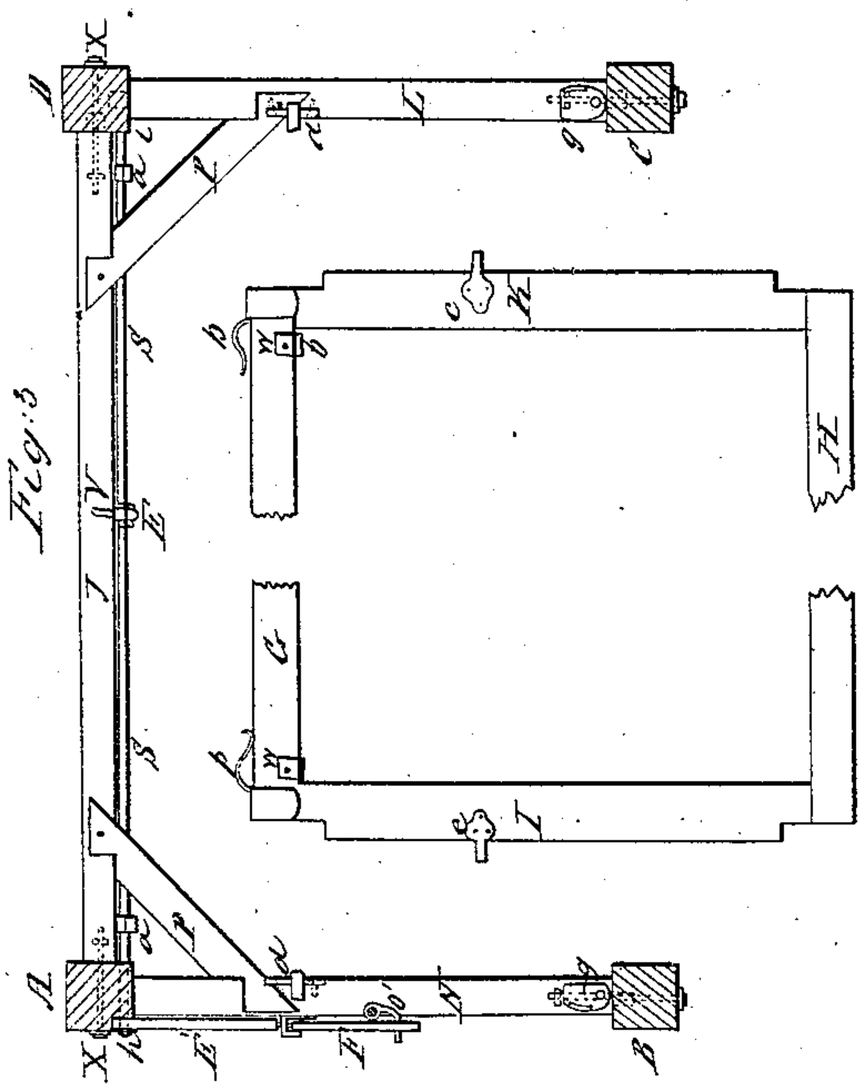

Fig. 5

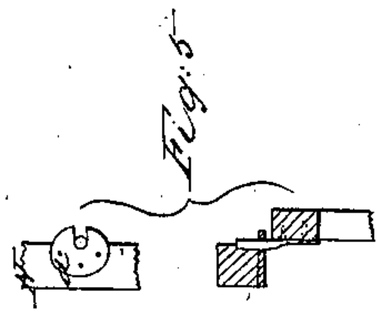

Fig. 4

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

J. CARROLL HOUSE, OF LOWVILLE, NEW YORK.

ALARM-BEDSTEAD.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 13,263, dated July 17, 1855.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, J. CARROLL HOUSE, of the town of Lowville, county of Lewis, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in the Construction of Alarm-Bedsteads; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, and to the letters marked thereon for reference, in which—

Figure 1 is an outline perspective view with the tilting frame inclined. Fig. 2, is a section taken through the clock head board and rail. Fig. 3, is a plan of the bedstead with the central portions of the side rails removed from the tilting frame. Fig. 4, is a section of the back rails of the bedstead and tilting frame showing the manner in which the hook and catch lock into each other and the manner of fastening the hook to the shaft by keys. Fig. 5, is a section of the end rails of the bedstead and tilting frame showing the bearings of the frame and their boxes, like letters having reference to like parts.

To enable any person accustomed to the use of tools to construct and use my invention. I will now proceed to describe its construction and operation.

I construct my bedstead of any of the known styles of the same, with this exception. I leave out one of the side rails, and to have the remaining parts of the same retain their relative position each to the other, I permanently glue together the different parts of the head that is posts, headboard and rail, and in like manner the parts of the foot. I then put in my side rail J and fasten it in a firm manner with the binding screws X X. I then fasten in my corner braces P P by dovetailing the same to the side rail J and the end rails N, L, and fasten them with $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch screws. We have now the bedstead proper in its details constructed.

S, S, is a half inch round iron bar or shaft, having its bearing at one end in the metal plate *i* in the post, D, and the other end passing through a hole in the post A which hole also serves as a bearing for the same shaft. To retain the shaft in its proper place I solder collars onto the shaft at the place marked E, between which I place a stirrup hasp which is fastened to the side rail J by the screws V, V. This hasp admits of a rolling motion in the shaft S, S, but not of an endwise motion. At the points *a a* are fastened the iron hooks whose forms are shown in Fig. 4. These hooks are retained in their place by keys fitting into seats filed in the hooks and upon the surface of the shaft S, S. Upon the outer end of shaft S, S, is a square shoulder upon which fits the weighted lever E′ which is retained firm upon the shaft by the nut, *h*.

F, is a lever, pawl or catch having its fulcrum at the screw *j* and by the manner of its construction it is so arranged that whenever the support at the opposite end is withdrawn it will turn upon this screw and drop to the position delineated in Fig. 1.

m is a beveled strip grooved upon its inner surface and screwed or glued to the back of the head board. To this strip is fastened the shelf *y*. This shelf has an aperture in it immediately over the groove in the strip *m*.

O, is a $\frac{1}{8}$ inch wire shaft passing down through this hole and likewise the groove and has its point of rotation in the metal shoe *f*, and is retained in its place by a thin plate screwed on the upper surface of the shaft *y*, beneath which is the washer or shoulder Z on the shaft O.

o′ is an arm of the shaft O soldered to the same near its lower end and curved horizontally in the form of an arc. At the upper end of O, is also a second arm, *l*, which is somewhat shorter than the arm *o′* and straight, and stands in such a relative position to the arm *o′* that when it (the arm) *l*, is at right angles to the head board, the arm *o′*, will project a short distance beyond the edge of the rail N.

M is an alarm clock of any of the usual styles of construction, which is fastened to the shelf *y*, by means of screws driven from the underside of the same into the bottom of the clock, thus securing it in a firm and substantial manner. The door to the clock is removed and also the minute hand, as the hand would in its revolutions come in contact with the arm, *l*. The height of the arm *l*, is determined by the clock, it being necessary that it should stand opposite the figure six of the clock dial.

H, G, I; K, is a square frame constructed of some hard wood $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in thickness and the side rails 3 inches wide, the end pieces 4 inches in width. The whole width

of the frame being the same as that of the bedstead, and in length such that it freely plays between the end rails L, N. It is mortised and tenoned at the corners and either glued or pinned substantially together. Upon the under side of the end rails K, I, are screwed the iron bearings, *c*, *c*. These are placed about two thirds the width of the frame from front to back (mind the distinction). These bearings work in the metal boxes *d*, *d*, in the end rails of the bedstead. Said boxes being simply pieces of thick banding iron cut out in the shape as represented in Fig. 5, and screwed to the end rail of the bedstead. Upon the back strip G, of the frame near to each end and on the inner side of the same are placed the catches *b*, *b*, which are fastened to the same by the screw bolts W, W. The catches *b*, *b*, correspond in their position to the hooks *a*, *a*, upon the shaft *s*, *s*. This frame can be corded, slatted or upholstered in the usual manner of upholstering bedsteads with springs and ticking. If cords or slats are used the bedding is kept in its place from sliding off from the same by pieces of 1½ inch webbing fastened to the bottoms *n*, *n* at each end of the frame.

p, *p*, are cloth fasteners, or springs for retaining the bed clothes in their place, when the frame assumes an inclined position.

The buttons *g g* fastened to the rails L, and N, near the posts B and C may be turned or slid under the vibrating frame when it is raised to a horizontal position to hold it there.

When any of the styles of bedsteads are desired in which the wide side pieces are used such as the sofa, cottage, and others of like construction, I place the braces P, P, on the under side of the back rail and end rails, and fasten the front board to the rail H.

Operation: The frame G, H, is raised to a horizontal position and the buttons *g*, *g*, slide under the front of the same. The bed is now made up as usual, the clothes at the foot tucked under the bedding and drawn beneath the clothes spring. The under sheet at the head is tucked beneath the tick and upper and under sheets and bed clothes secured under the other spring. Now raise the weighted lever E to a horizontal position. By so doing we shall produce a slight rotation of the shaft S, S, which rotation will cause the hooks *a a* to hook into the catches *b*, *b*, bring up the pawl F under the lip of the lever E, and turn the upright shaft O, so that the curved arm, *o'*, shall slide beneath the other end of the pawl. This turning of the shaft O will bring the upper arm *l* at right angles to the face of the clock, and set it to running. Set the clock so that at the hour you wish to arise, the hour hand *r* will have arrived at six. Say for instance we retire at 10 o'clock and wish to arise at 4½ the next morning. We shall therefore have to set our clock at half past eleven as 6—4½=1½ which added to 10=11½ and thus for any other hour or time. By simple substraction or addition we can easily arrive at the hour. Now wind up the alarm and set it so as to have it ring just as the hour hand *r* shall come in contact with the arm *l*. We will now withdraw the buttons *g*, *g* and as the hooks *a a* still retain the frame in a horizontal position, we will dispose ourselves for sleep. Time with the hour hand moves on. At the appointed time the alarm sounds the warning, and we can arise, and sliding the buttons *g*, *g*, underneath the frame, dress ourselves and be about our business, but should we delay to arise and not immediately obey the warning, what ensues? The hour hand *r* moves on and coming in contact with the arm *l*, causes the shaft O to rotate a small distance thus withdrawing the arm *o'* from beneath pawl F, which of its own gravity drops, and by so doing relieves the lever E of its support, and this in turn descends, which descent rotates the shaft S, S, unlocking the hooks *a a* from the catches *b*, *b*, and thus relieving the frame G H, of its retention, which immediately assumes an inclined position, and whatever is movable upon the same rolls out upon the floor, thus we shall find ourselves ten minutes after the alarm is sounded deposited upon the carpet, permitted to arise and dress ourselves for the business of the day.

Having thus described the construction and operation of my invention, not confining myself to any particular style or pattern of bedstead proper, as such may be varied, what I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

The employment of the tilting frame or bed bottom in combination with a suitable catch or series of catches, connecting it with a clock in such a manner as to be tilted at any required hour by the action of the cloth, the whole constructed and arranged substantially as herein set forth and described.

J. CARROLL HOUSE.

Witnesses:
JOHN BENEDICT,
N. DUAM BAKER.