

J. A. Ellis,

Grain Basket,

N^o 16,970.

Patented Apr. 7, 1857.

Fig. 2.

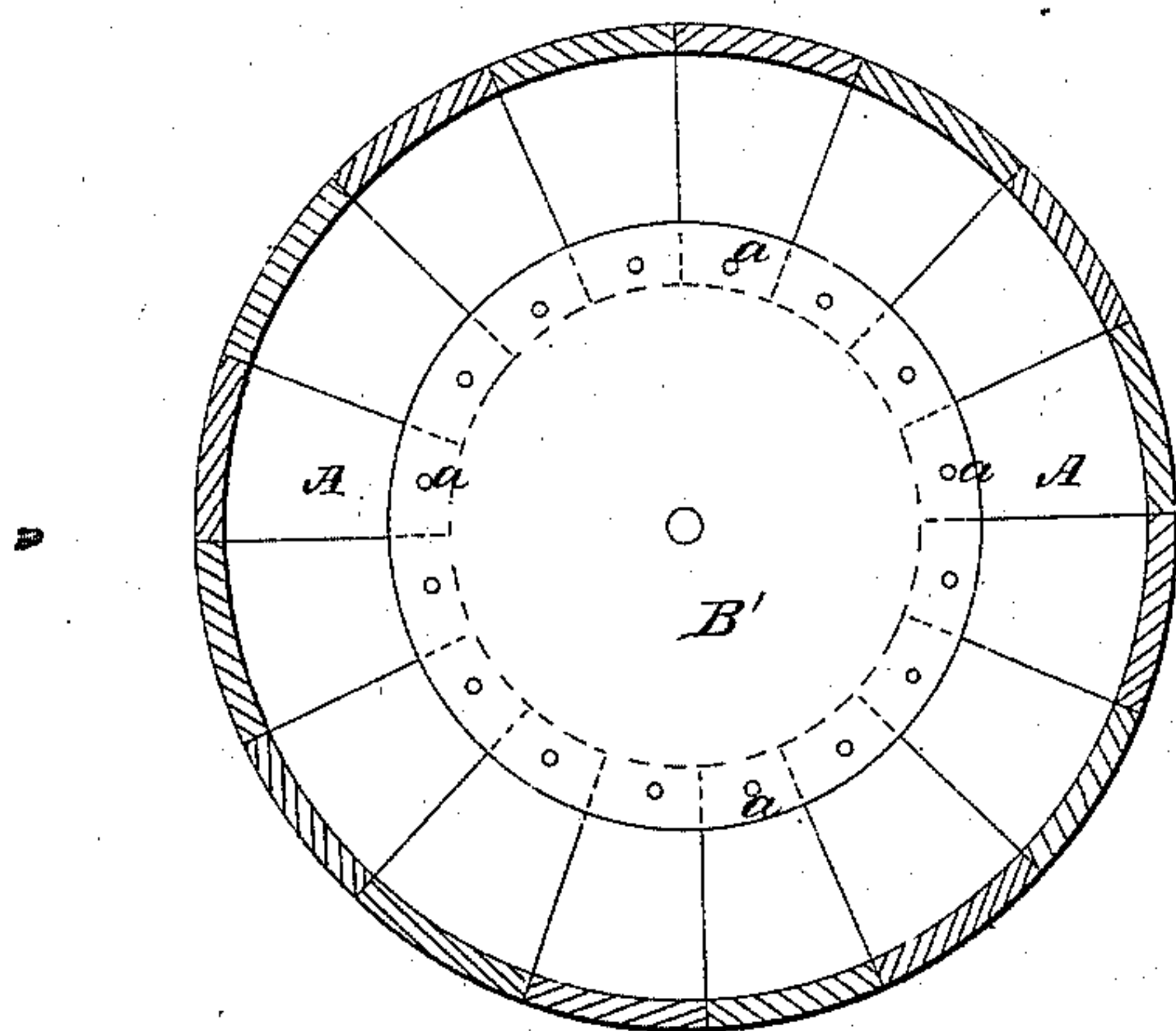


Fig. 4.

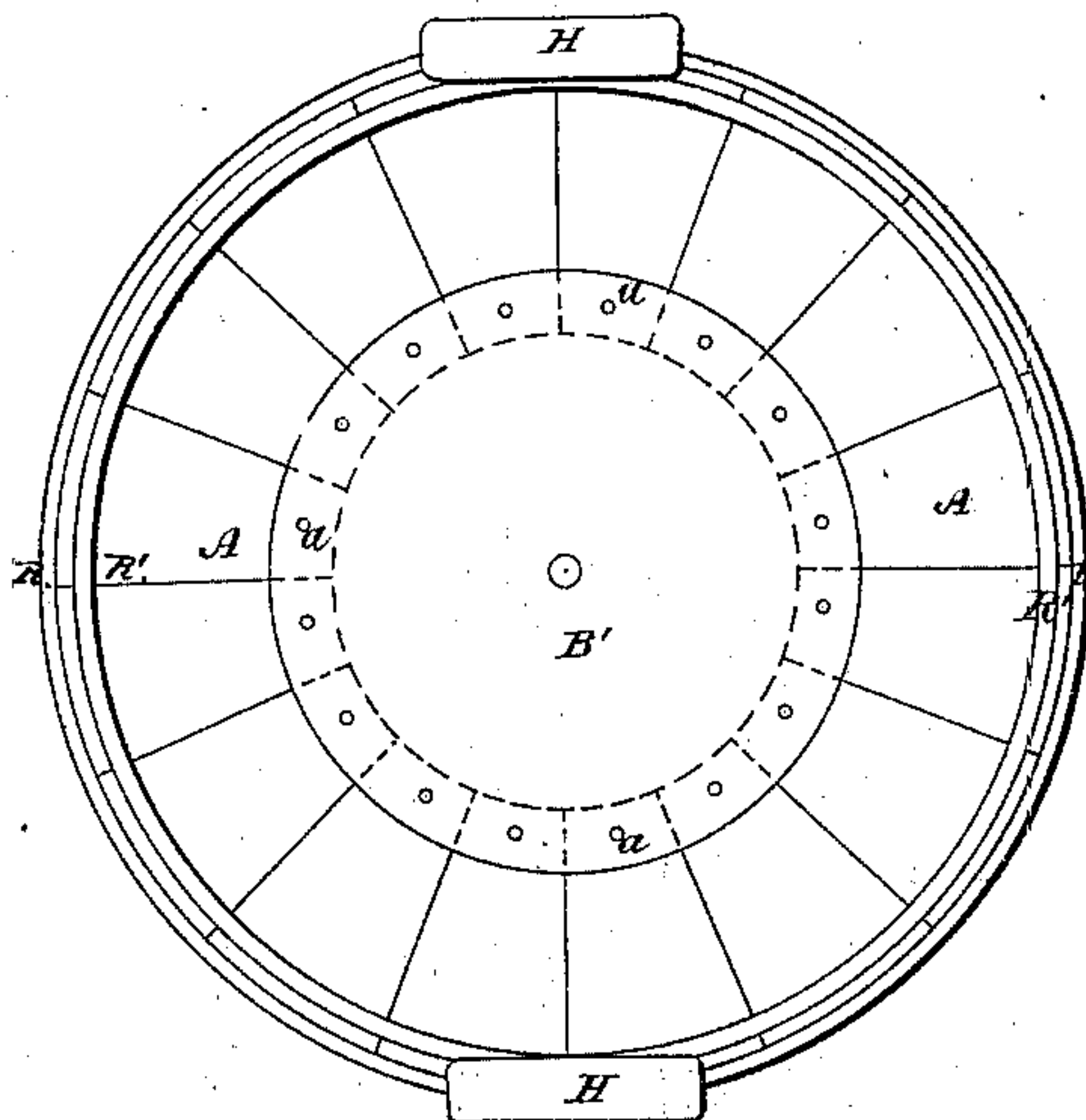


Fig. 3.

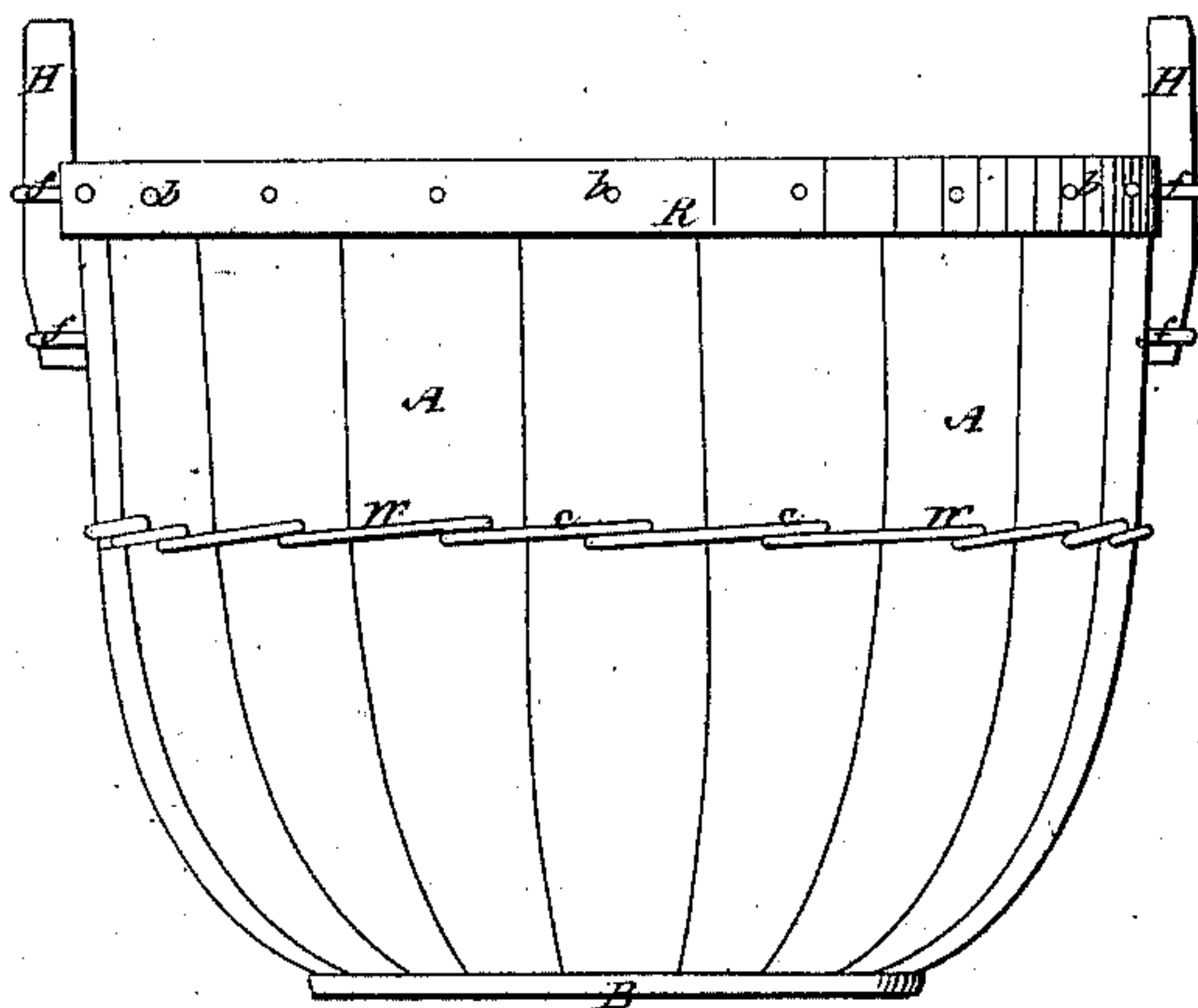
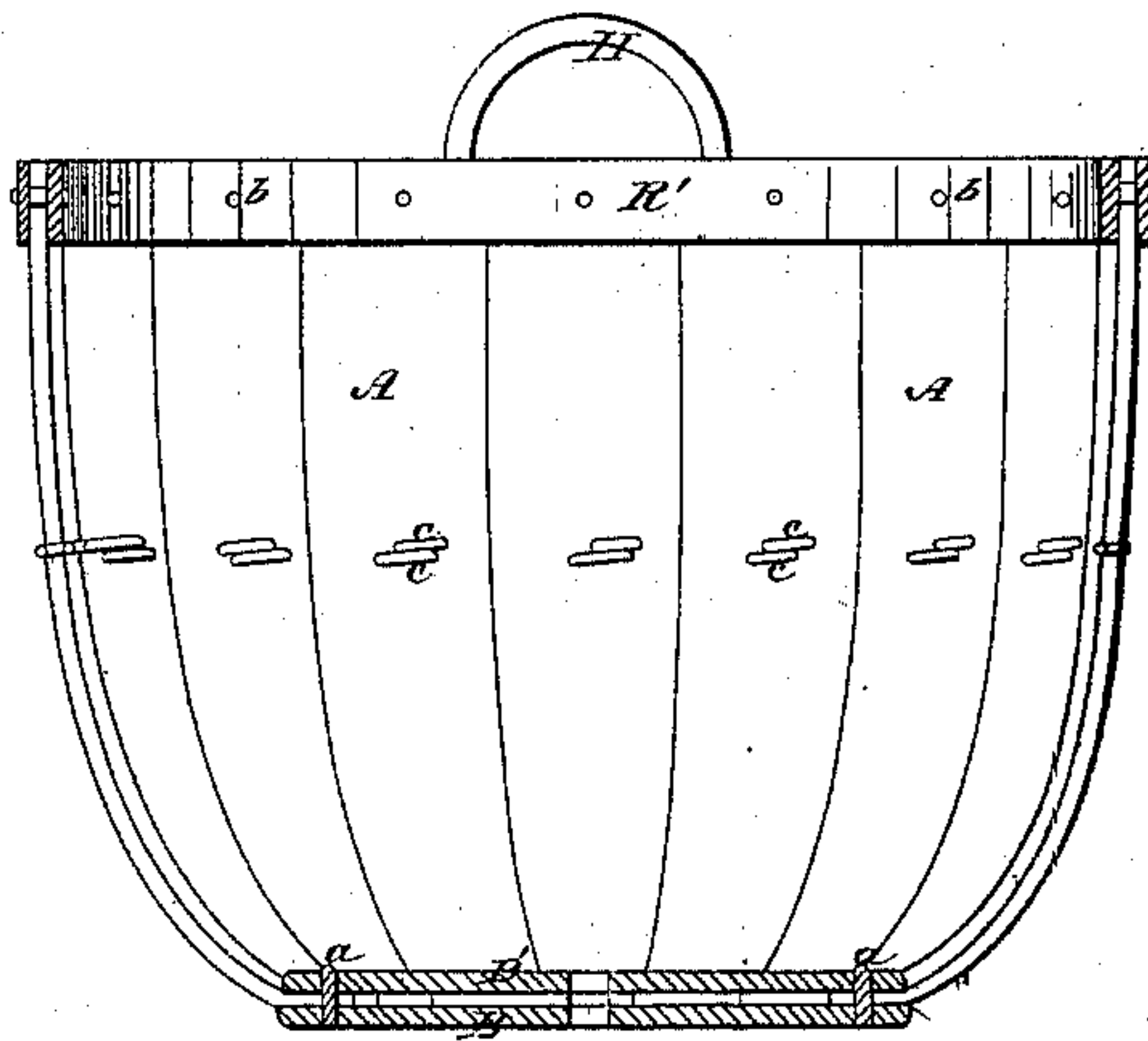


Fig. 1.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOEL A. H. ELLIS, OF SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT, ASSIGNOR TO JOEL WOODBURY, TRUSTEE.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF BASKETS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 16,970, dated April 7, 1857.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOEL A. H. ELLIS, of Springfield, in the county of Windsor and State of Vermont, have invented a new and useful or Improved Basket; and I do hereby declare that the same is fully described and represented in the following specification and the accompanying drawings, of which—

Figure 1 is a vertical section of one of said articles; Fig. 2, a horizontal section of it; Fig. 3, a side elevation of it; Fig. 4, a plan or top view of it.

The same letters refer to like parts in the different figures.

The object I have had in view in the invention of my improved basket has been to make one which would not only be strong, durable, light, and cheap, but such as could be depended on for correctly measuring grain, coal, and many other articles usually sold by measure.

As my basket is made on a form or mold, all constructed on such mold must be of like capacity, and consequently more liable to afford correct measure than woven baskets made in the usual way.

In the drawings, A A A is a series of thin and wide wooden slats, staves, or splints, of which the body of the basket is formed. Each is tapered and bent at its lower end, so as to form a section of an arch, and for an ordinary-shaped basket they are placed in a circle, so as to nearly or quite touch each other on their edges, like the staves of a tub.

B B' are two thin pieces of board reduced to a circular, oval, or such other form as may be required. They should be placed one above the other in such manner that the grain of each may cross that of the other, and usually at or about at right angles. The lower ends of the several splints A A are inserted between these two pieces and confined there by means of wrought or annealed nails, a a a, which should pass through both bottom pieces and each splint, and be clinched on the inner side of the inner bottom piece.

R R' are two wooden hoops, one of which is placed inside of the other, and with the upper ends of the several splints extending upward between them. These hoops are confined together and to the splints, which they hold in place by means of a series of wrought nails,

b b b, driven through them and the splints, and clinched on the inside of the inner hoop in such a manner that each splint may have one or more nails passing through it.

W W is a flexible wire connection passing around the basket near the middle of it, and so constructed as to be firmly attached to each splint and so as to connect it to that next adjacent to it, thereby connecting all of them together in such manner that when a heavy pressure is received, either on the inner or outer side of any splint, such splint that receives the pressure may spring and yield to it until a sufficient number of the splints shall receive a portion of the pressure and afford sufficient resistance. The yielding of the splints, however, should be such that no opening whereby the contents of the basket could escape may be made in the joints between the splints.

In constructing and applying the flexible band or wire connection, it may be formed of a series of wire hooks or staples, c c c, each being put through the splints in such manner that one fork of the staple shall pass through one splint, while the other fork thereof passes through the next adjacent splint, as shown in the drawings. Thus two forks of two separate staples pass through each splint, each staple being made to lap the two next adjacent to it. Each of these staples should be of sufficient length between its forks so as to nearly reach from the outer edge of one splint to the outer edge of the next adjoining splint and lap by the two adjacent staples. Thus, when pressure or strain is exerted on this hoop or series of staples, the tendency of the strain is to draw together the fibers of the timber of each splint rather than to pull them apart and split the splint. These staples are secured in their places and firmly attached to the splints by having their forks clinched inward toward each other on the inside of the basket.

H H are the handles of the basket, made of wood or metal, bent in the form of a bow, and attached to it by means of four or any other suitable number of staples, f f, embracing the legs of the handles and driven through the splints and clinched on the inside of the basket.

The mold on which these baskets are to be

formed should be constructed of a proper form and with suitable appliances or means for confining the bottom boards, staves, and hoops of a basket in place, while they are being applied and secured together, as specified.

I claim—

1. The above-described new or improved manufacture of basket, as made of vertical splints, two bottom boards, top hoops, and staple connections, or their equivalents, the whole being arranged and secured together, substantially as specified.

2. The arrangement of the staple-connections, viz., so that each one shall lap on the two next adjacent it, the same causing the fibers of the wood of the splint to be drawn together by the strain of the load of the basket.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my signature.

JOEL A. H. ELLIS.

Witnesses:

JOHN WARD,
WM. H. ALLEN.