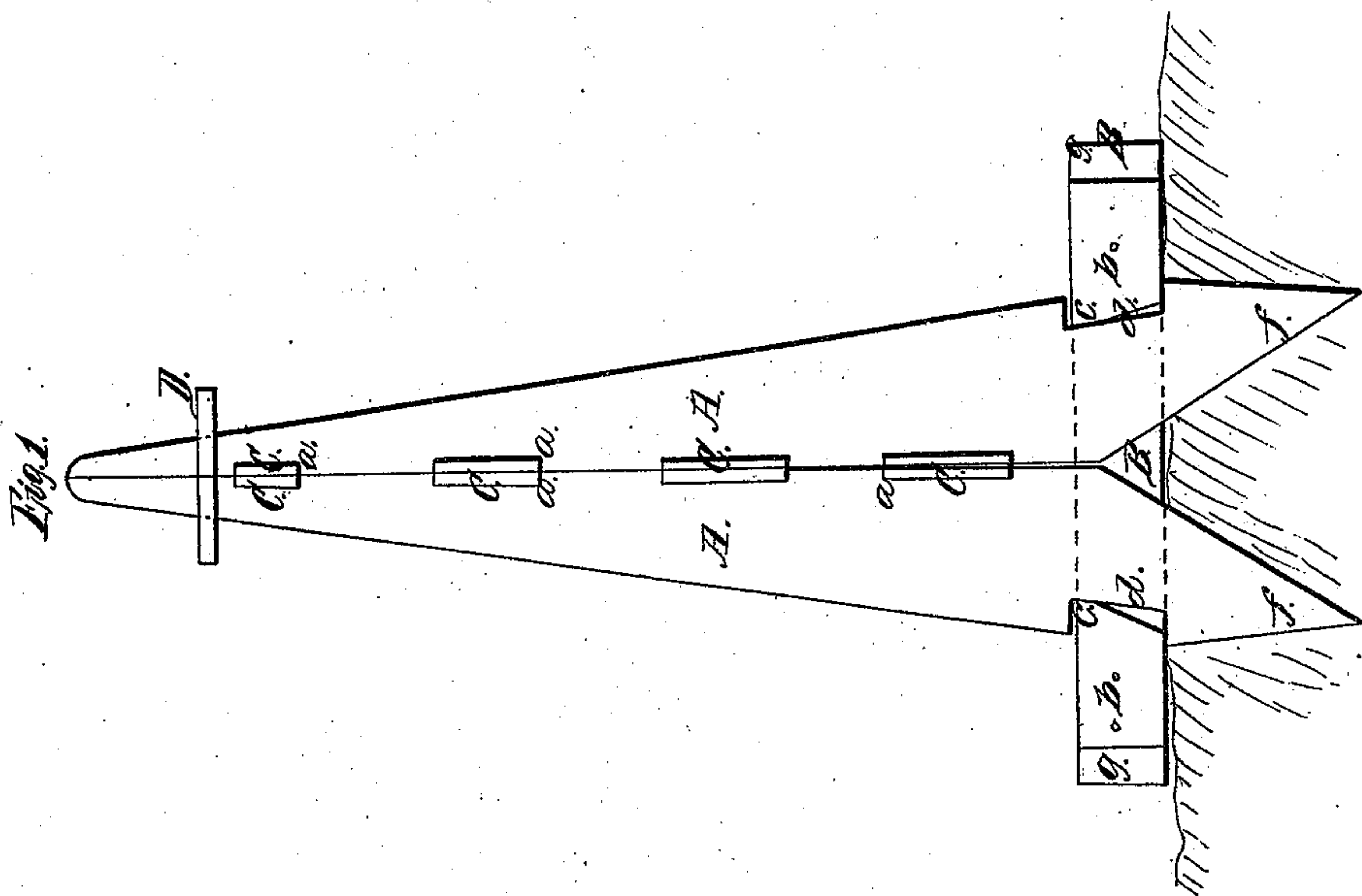
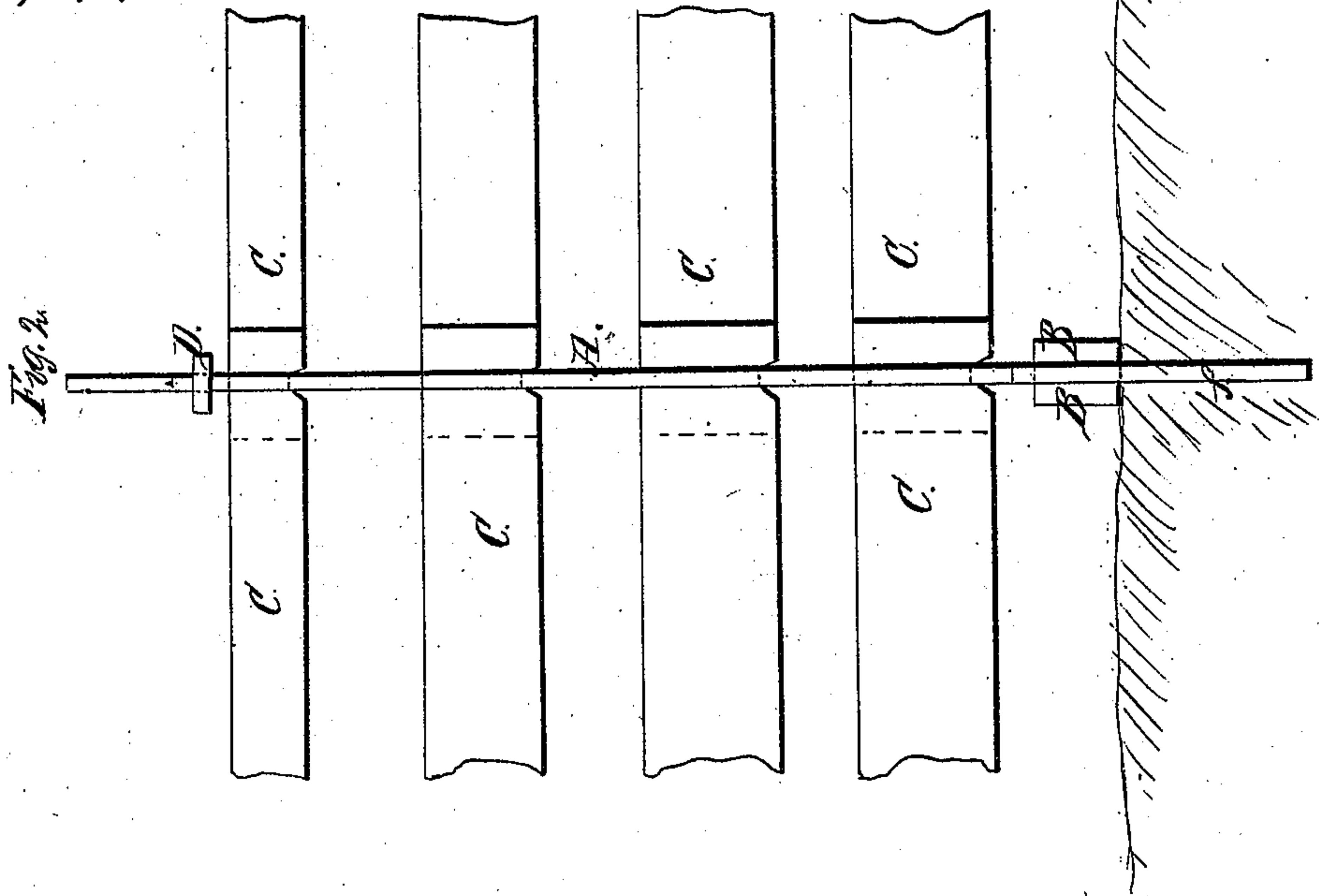


B. Gabriel,

Portable Fence,

No 19,990,

Patented Apr. 20, 1858.





# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENEDICT GABRIEL, OF ELMIRA, NEW YORK.

## FIELD-FENCE.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 19,990, dated April 20, 1858.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, BENEDICT GABRIEL, of Elmira, in the county of Chemung and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Mode of Constructing Portable Field-Fences; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, Figure 1 being a cross-section of the fence close to the side of one of the posts; Fig. 2, a side elevation of a portion of the fence, showing one of the posts and a portion of two sections of rails connected therewith.

Like letters designate corresponding parts in both figures.

The special objects of my invention are, to produce a fence which may be made wholly of one kind of stuff, as ordinary inch boards, economically; and one which is readily made, transported and set up; and which shall be strong and durable.

To form the posts, I take a rectangular piece of board, (say an inch in thickness,) of the desired length, and of sufficient width; and divide it into halves diagonally, bringing one end of each half nearly to a point. The narrow ends of the halves are then put together, and the original outer edges, in contact, thus forming a symmetrical post with a broad base, as shown in Fig. 1. Notches *a, a*, are made in the adjacent edges, opposite to each other, at proper intervals, as shown, for the reception of the rails *C, C*. A portion *f*, of the lower end of each post half, is to be driven into the ground; and for that purpose, it is pointed, as represented in Fig. 1, the kerf being principally or wholly on the inner edge. And the height to which the inner kerf extends is nearly to the upper edge of a step, or sill, *B*, with which each post is provided, as necessary to its complete construction. This step is constructed, and connected with the post, in the following manner:—Two rectangular pieces of board *B, B*, long enough to furnish a sufficiently broad base for the fence, and say 3 or 4 inches in width, are placed side by side, and nailed strongly to two small blocks, or pieces of board, *b, b*, situated between said strips *B, B*, leaving a space in the middle for the reception of the post halves. The inner ends of the blocks *b, b*, are cut obliquely, so that their inner, upper corners *c, c*, will project toward each other, as shown in Fig. 1; and notches

*d, d*, are cut in the outer edges of the post-halves *A, A*, long enough to embrace the inner ends of said blocks *b, b*, and of such a depth that the width of the post between them, will just fill the space between the corners, or points, *c, c*, as represented in the same figure. Thus constructed, before each post is set in the ground, its halves, above the step, may be opened or separated like the blades of shears, sufficient to readily receive the rails *C, C*; then by placing the points *f, f*, upon the ground in the right position, and driving the post downward into the ground until the step rests upon the surface thereof, the wedging action of the points *f, f*, against the earth, will tend to separate said points, with considerable force, and consequently will firmly close the upper parts of the post halves, and thus closely bind and hold the rails *C, C*. In planting the posts and inserting the rails, a convenient and proper order to be observed will be, to first slightly insert the points *f, f*, the halves being somewhat separated above the step; then insert the lower rails *C, C*, into their notches; then drive the post downward a little farther; and thus continue inserting the rails in the upward order of their positions and securing them successively by driving down the post, till all are held in place, and the post is driven entirely home. If the points *f, f*, are sufficiently long, and the ground has considerable tenacity, nothing further need be added, to make the fence firm and secure. But to render the fence more firm and secure, short stakes, or pins, with projecting heads, may be driven down into the ground, between the ends *B, B*, of the steps, which may project beyond the blocks *b, b*, sufficiently to furnish notches *g, g*, for the purpose. Or, if preferred, a wooden clamp, or yoke *D*, may be driven down over the upper end of the post, as represented.

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

Constructing the post halves *A, A*, with points *f, f*, having their inner edges wedging so as to force said points farther apart in the act of driving the post into the ground, arranged in combination with the step *B B*, substantially in the manner and for the purpose herein specified.

BENEDICT GABRIEL.

Witnesses:

J. FRASER,  
S. J. ALLIS.