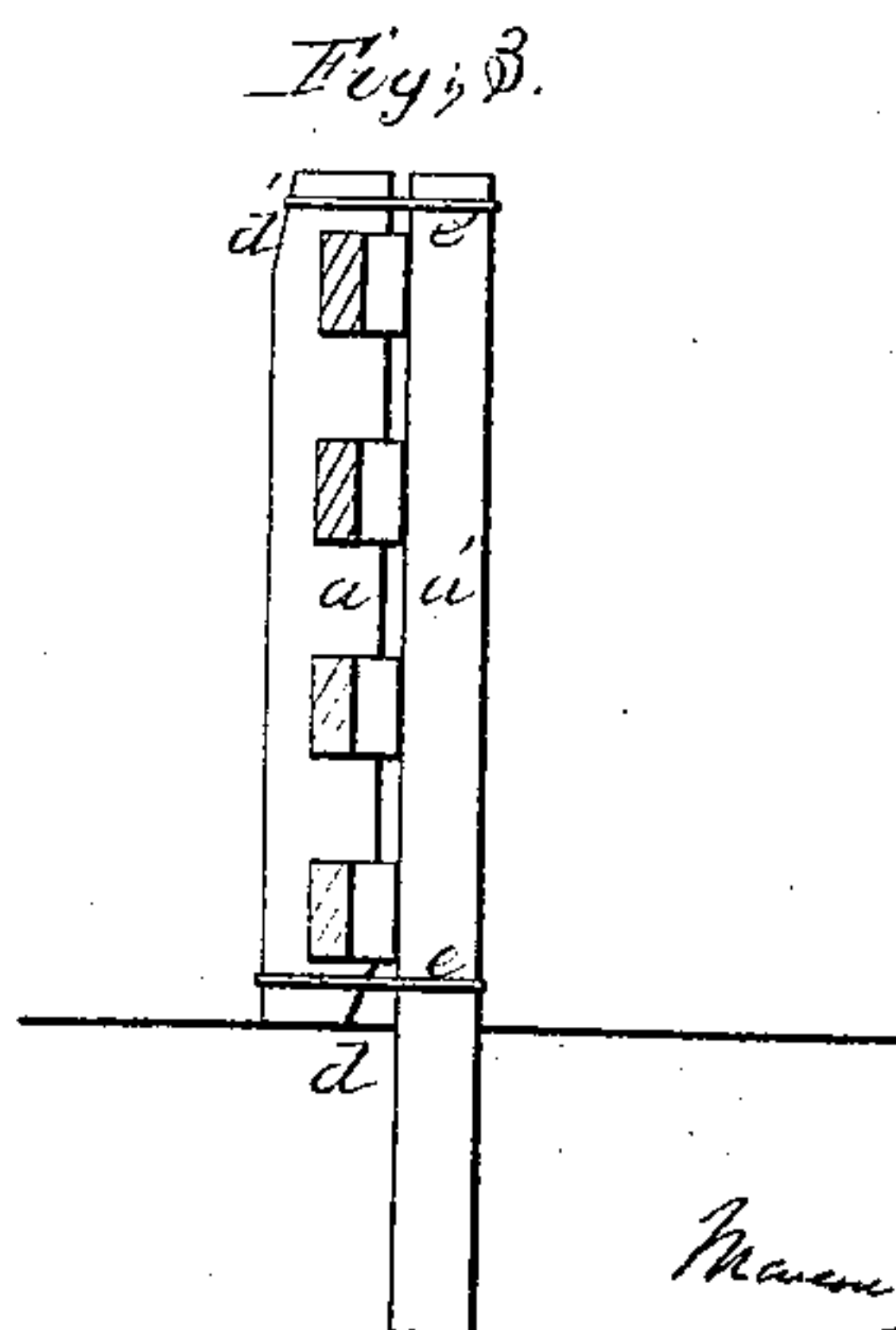
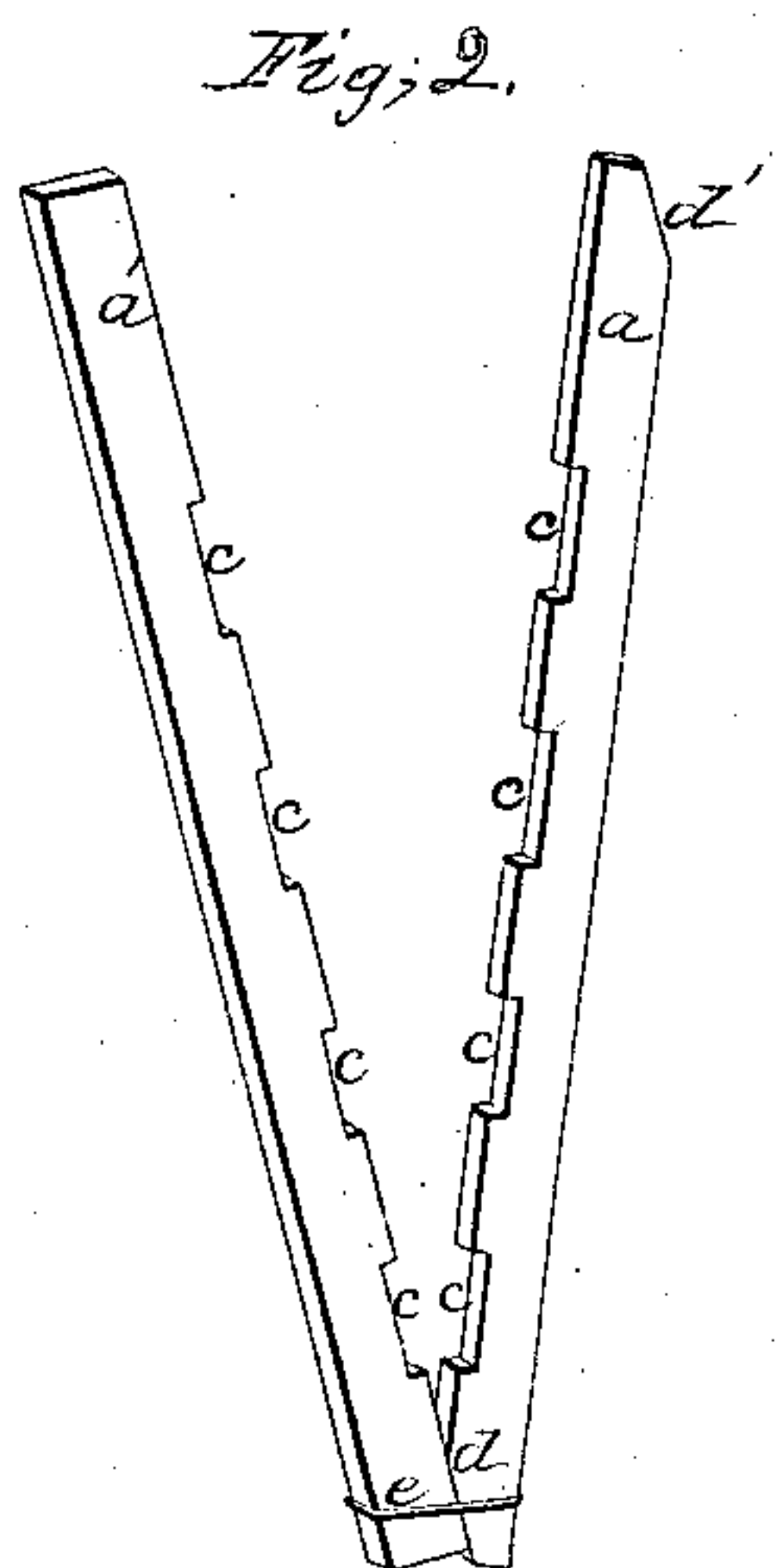
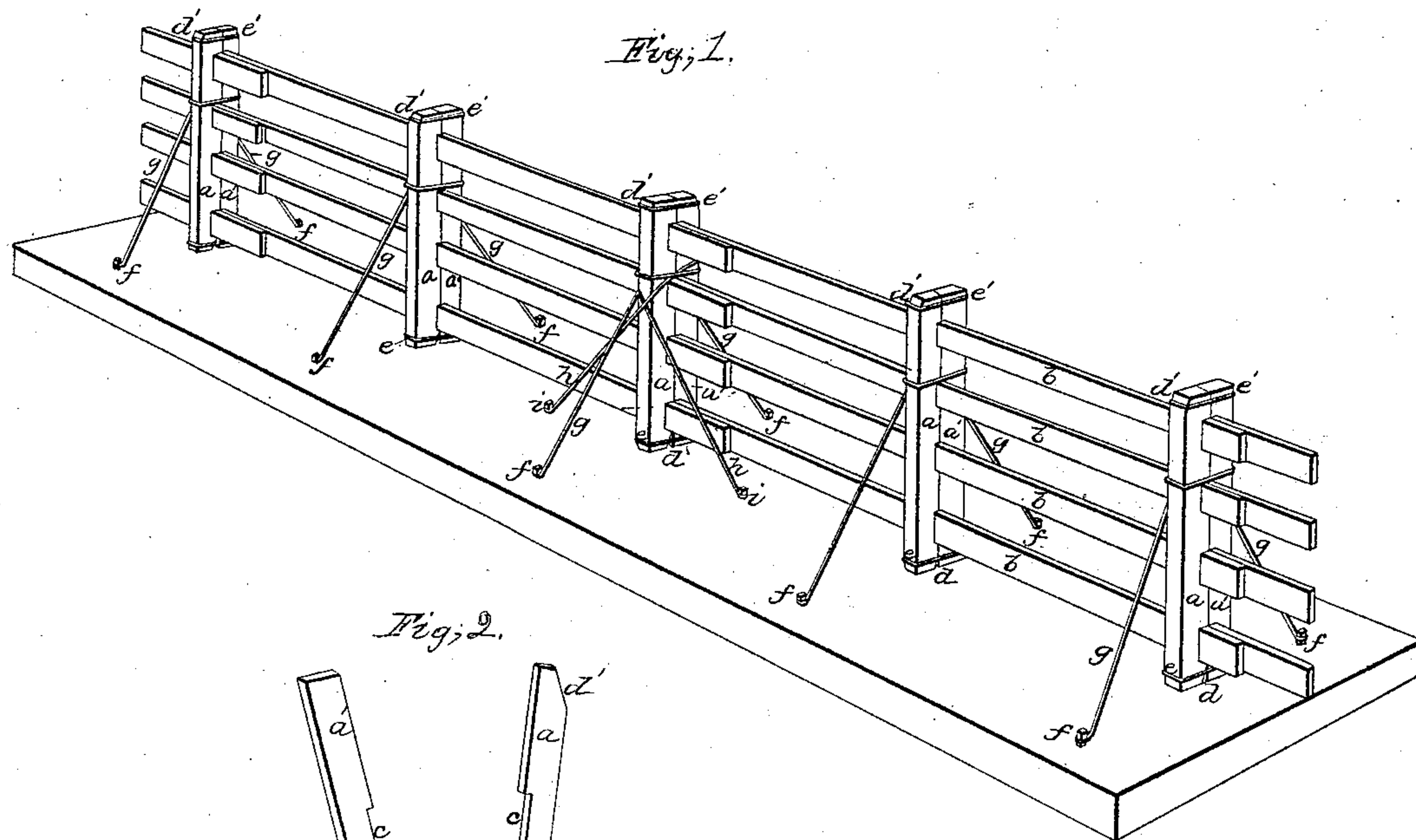


Brown & Shannon,

Wood Fence,

N^o 46,541.

Patented Feb. 28, 1865.



Witnesses;
R. T. Campbell
C. Schaefer

Inventor;
Mason Brown & Co. d. Shannon
by their Attys
Mason, Fenwick & Brown & Co.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARCUS BROWN, OF FOND DU LAC, AND OSCAR J. SHANNON, OF FAIR-WATER, WISCONSIN.

IMPROVED FENCE.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 46,541, dated February 28, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, MARCUS BROWN, of Ladoga, Fond du Lac county, and State of Wisconsin, and OSCAR J. SHANNON, of Fairwater, in said county and State, have invented a new and Improved Portable Fence; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The object of our invention in that class of fences designated as "portable fences" is to provide a cheap and durable fence, and one which shall be rigid when placed in position, but which can readily be "taken down" or "put up" when such operations become necessary, for the purpose of transportation or otherwise, as the case may be.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use our invention, we will proceed to describe the same with reference to the annexed drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of our improved fence; Fig. 2, a view showing the peculiar formation of the posts; and Fig. 3, a view in section, slightly different in construction, but the same in principle as in Fig. 1.

As indicated in the figures, *a a'* are posts, which inclose, or between which are clasped, the lapped ends of the panel-boards *b*, and the distance between these posts *a a'* constitute a panel of the fence. Central of the length of each panel auxiliary posts are secured for the purpose of giving firmness and rigidity to the whole structure when in position, as represented in Fig. 1. On the inner and abutting faces of the posts *a a'* mortises, as at *c*, are cut of a depth and length to correspond with the width and thickness of the panel-boards, so that when the latter are in place within the former, as indicated in the drawings, the inner faces of the posts will adjoin or abut, or nearly so. One of these posts in general form and outline is made rectangular throughout, while its fellow at its lower extremity, as at *d*, is beveled off on its inner face, and, as at *d'*, at its upper extremity on its outer face. None of the posts named are intended to enter the ground, but are made with their lower ends square, for the purpose of assisting in the maintenance of their vertical position upon the ground when the fence is

put up. In the erection of the fence the ends of the panel-boards may be so arranged within the mortises *c* that the ends of every alternate panel shall be within the field inclosed; or, as shown in Fig. 1, they may be so arranged that one end of a panel may be upon the inside of the fence, while its opposite end is upon the outside. We prefer the latter arrangement, in view of rigidity when the fence is once erected; but the former arrangement admits of the erection of the fence in somewhat less time.

For binding the posts *a a'* together securely, metallic bands *e e*, usually made of strong wire, are provided, and within which the bottom of the posts *a a'* are inserted when in the act of erecting the fence. These bands *e* are only large enough to inclose the bottom of the posts when the latter are inserted therein, as shown in Fig. 2, in which position the beveled portion *d* fits snugly against the inner face, or a portion thereof, of the post *a'*. Having thus inserted the posts *a a'* within the band *e*, they are then forced together into the position shown in Fig. 1, and secured together by dropping over their upper ends the holding-band *e'*, the beveled part *d'* at the top of the posts *a* readily admitting of the proper application of the holding-band.

It will thus be seen that by the act of drawing the posts together after their insertion within the band *e* a leverage-power is exerted to cause the lower ends of the posts to be firmly set within the band *e*, and which will cause this band to seat itself in the wood of the post, thereby holding the posts together with great security, and at the same time preventing any liability of the slipping off of the band *e* from the bottom of the posts.

To provide against the action of the winds, stakes, as at *f*, are driven in the ground on both sides of the fence, to which stay-wires are secured, as at *g*, the same being passed around the posts *a a'*, as indicated in Fig. 1; and to provide against the "racking" of the fence in a longitudinal direction, stay-wires, as at *h*, and stakes, as at *i*, are combined with the posts *a a'* at such intermediate distances as may be deemed necessary for its security.

In Fig. 3 we have shown the post *a* with mortises of sufficient depth cut therein to embrace nearly the thickness of the overlapped

ends of the panel-boards, thereby rendering it unnecessary to cut any mortises in the post *a'*. As shown in lines in this figure, the post *a'* is set in the ground; but the binding of the posts together by the band *e* is the same as heretofore described.

We would here state that we do not mean to confine ourselves to the application of the bevels *d* and *d'* to either one of the posts *a a'*, since, whether applied to the one or the other of said posts the leverage and binding effect is the same.

The advantages of this mode of constructing fences are obvious: First, the size, length, and hence the cost, of the posts is less than the ordinary board fence; second, the building is less than half the trouble; third, the decay of posts when placed in the ground is avoided; fourth, the breaking of nails, cost of same, and splitting of the boards in driving nails is avoided. The fence at any time may be made "taut" simply by driving down the stakes, or by laying a stone or other weight upon the stay-wires; sixth, if any portion of a panel becomes broken it can be replaced without disturbing an adjoining portion; seventh, any one of the lengths or panels can be removed and a gap or gateway made without disturbing other parts or injuring the mate-

rials; and, finally, any of the boards may be employed for other purposes without damage from cutting or nailing after having been used as a fence.

To take the fence down, the wire bands upon the tops of the posts are slipped off and the stakes loosened, whereupon the whole structure will fall apart.

Having thus described our improved fence, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. Constructing a fence with posts having bevels *d d'*, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The bands *e*, or their equivalent in combination with beveled posts *a a'*, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

Witness our hands in matter of our application for a patent for improved fence.

OSCAR J. SHANNON.
MARCUS BROWN.

Witnesses to signature of Oscar J. Shannon:

R. T. CAMPBELL,
E. SCHAFER.

Witnesses to signature of Marcus Brown:
GEORGE GATES,
F. CHITTENDEN.