

E. Douglass,
Washing Machine,
N^o. 48263. Patented June 20, 1865.

Fig. 1.

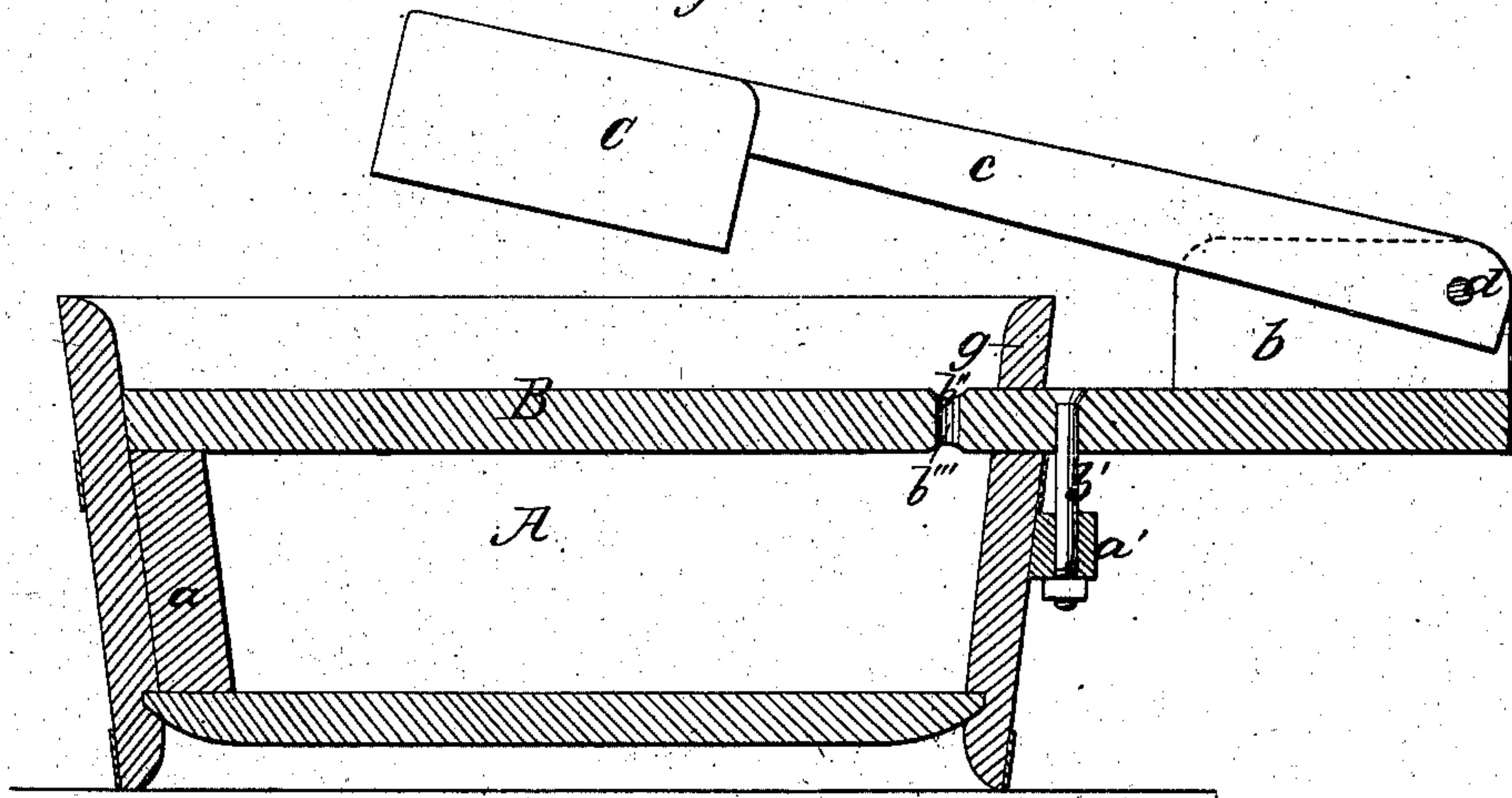
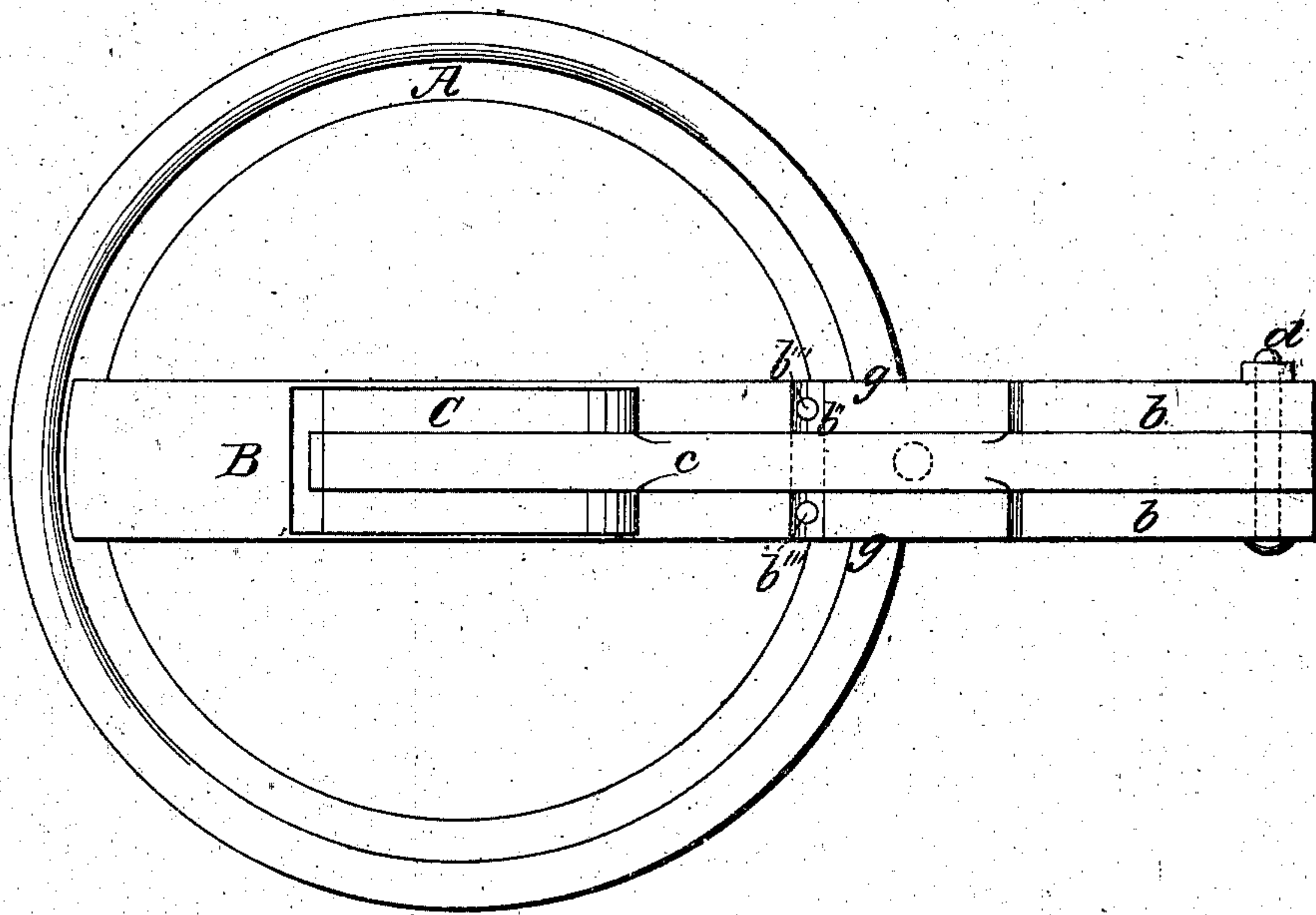


Fig. 2.



Witnesses;
Henry T. Brown
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ERASTUS DOUGLASS, OF LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVED WASHING-MACHINE.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 48,263, dated June 20, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ERASTUS DOUGLASS, of Lowell, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and Improved Washing-Machine; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal vertical section of the machine. Fig. 2 is a plan of the same.

Similar letters indicate corresponding parts in both figures.

The object of my invention has been to obtain a washing-machine of simple and cheap construction, applicable to an ordinary wash-tub, to take the place of the rubbing-board, which is so destructive to clothing; and to this end it consists in the combination of a wooden cross-piece or block and a beater, the cross-piece or block being constructed to be placed across the interior of the tub and secured thereto, and the beater being hinged to said cross-piece or block outside of the tub in such manner as to strike upon it in or over the middle of the tub.

To enable others skilled in the art to construct a washing-machine according to my invention, I will proceed to describe it with reference to the drawings.

A is a common wash-tub, across which the wooden cross-piece or block B is rigidly fastened some distance from its top. This cross-piece or block extends out beyond the wash-tub on one side, and the so extended portion is furnished with iron brackets *b*, between which the arm *c* of the beater C is securely pivoted by a screw-bolt or pin, *d*. The said cross-piece or block is of suitable width to form a bearing for the clothes to be washed while the beater is brought into operation upon them.

a and *a'* are supports for the cross-piece B: *a* is a wooden block attached to the inside of the tub, and *a'* is screwed to the outside of the tub to receive a screw-bolt, *b'*, holding the cross-piece or block B securely in its place. A

transverse groove, *b''*, is cut in the upper surface of the cross-piece or block, near one side of the tub, and holes *b'''* in the bottom of said groove allow the water beaten out of the clothes to run back into the tub again, thereby obviating the splashing of water on the floor.

The beater C is a block of wood, of oblong shape and suitable size, attached to an arm, *c*, which forms the handle by which it is operated, the said arm working freely on the pin or bolt *d*.

The manner of attaching the beater to the cross-piece or block B may be varied, and so may the mode of attaching the said cross-piece or block to the tub. The drawings represent the block or cross-piece passing through an opening, *g*, in the side of the tub, but it may be made of such form as to pass over the edge without such an opening.

The operation is as follows: The clothes to be washed are first soaked in tepid water for some time, then placed into the wash-tub with water warm enough for the purpose. As many pieces as convenient are then placed upon the cross-piece, right under the beater. Some soap is put on them and a slight twist is given to them to keep them from spreading out too thin. The handle of the beater is then taken hold of and the beater worked up and down rapidly on the clothes on the cross-piece or block until the dirt is all beaten out, and all that is afterward necessary is to rinse them.

The advantage of this machine in washing is that it brings no strain on the hems or bindings, nor any twist to distort the shape of the clothes, and it does not wear out the stuff so quickly as the rubbing process.

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

The combination of the cross-piece or block B, the tub A, and the beater C, as and for the purpose herein specified.

ERASTUS DOUGLASS.

Witnesses:

HENRY T. BROWN,
GEO. W. REED.