

J. S. Jennings,

Knife and Fork.

N^o 57,918.

Patented Sep. 11, 1866.

Fig. 1

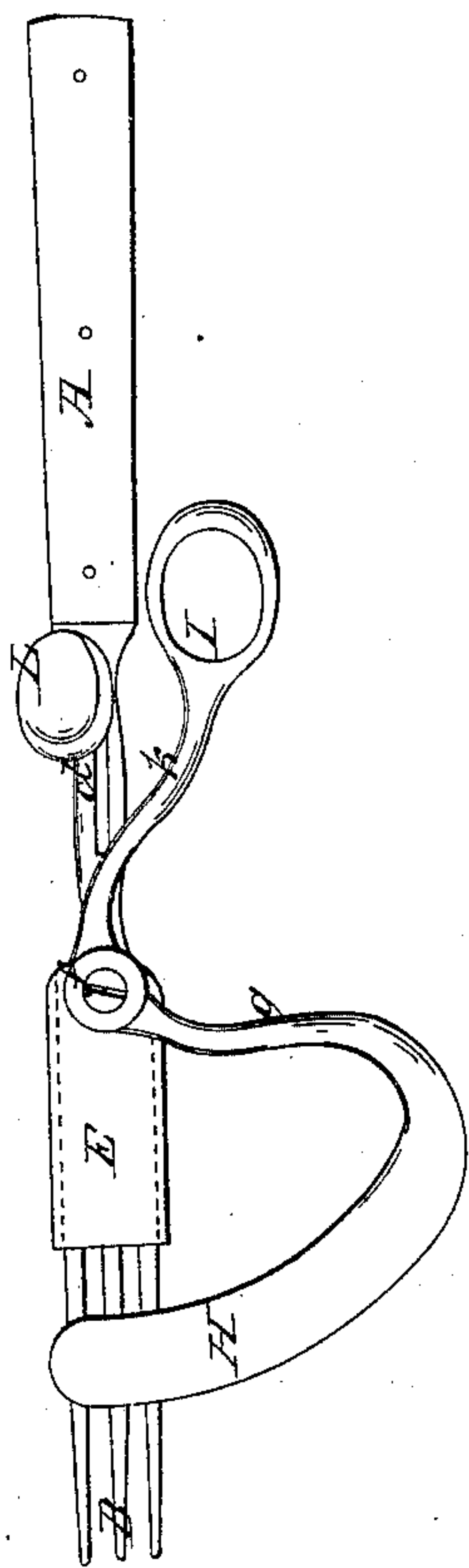


Fig. 2

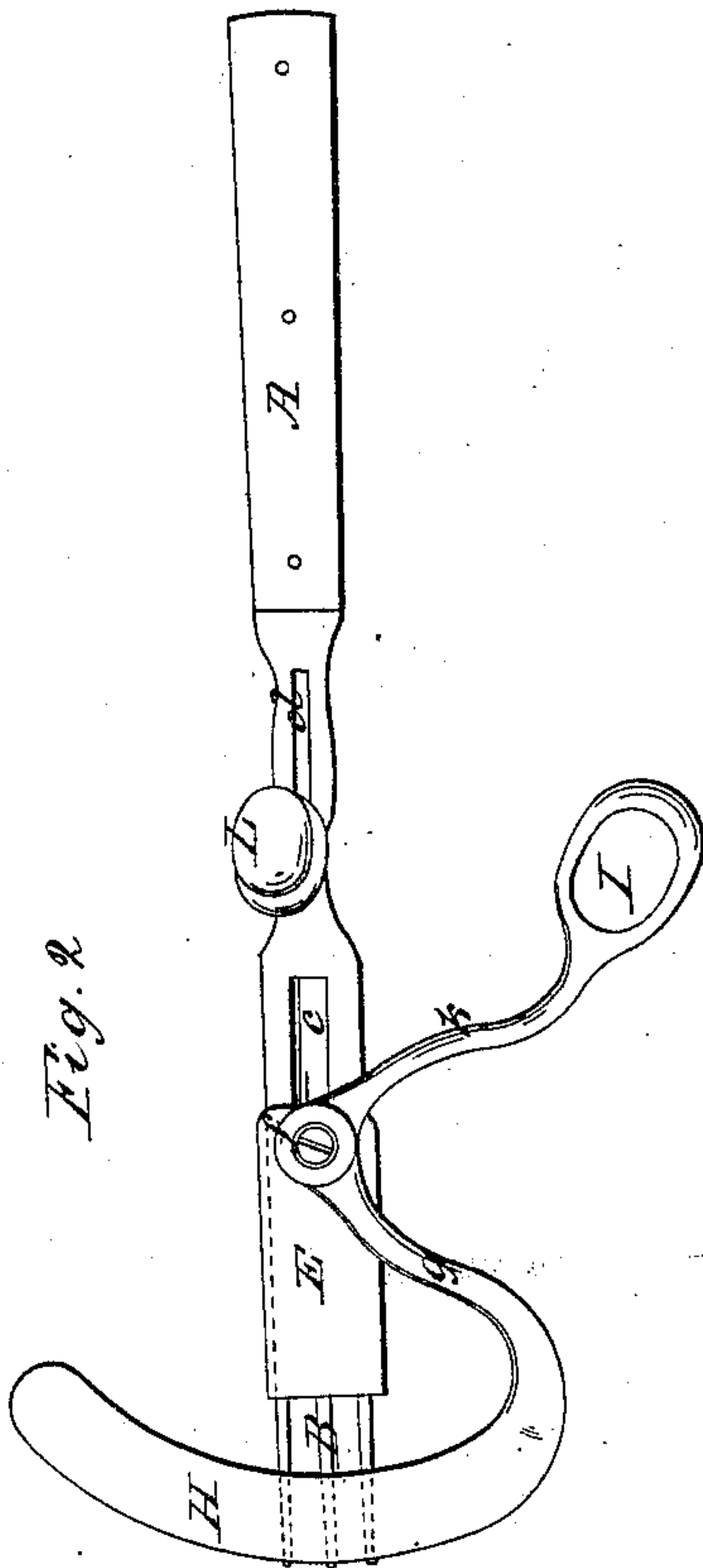
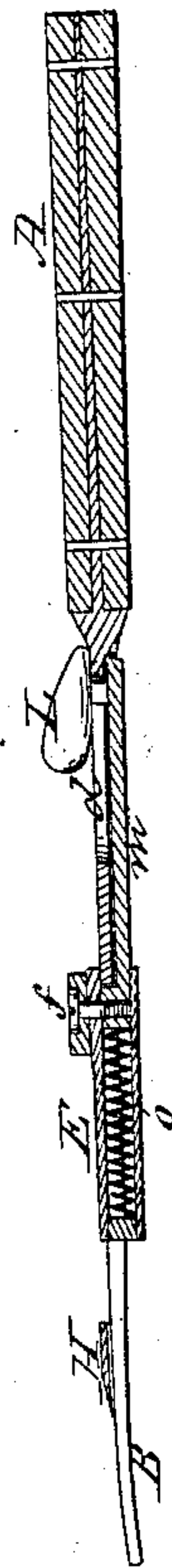


Fig. 3



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN S. JENNINGS, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

IMPROVED COMBINED KNIFE AND FORK.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 57,918, dated September 11, 1866.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN S. JENNINGS, of the city of Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved One-Handed Knife and Fork; 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, in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of the same. Fig. 2 is a similar view, representing the knife in the position for cutting. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section.

Like letters designate corresponding parts in all the figures.

It is the object of my invention to provide for those who have the use of but one hand an instrument which will perform the functions both of a fork and knife, and thus, in eating, repair to a great extent the inconvenience arising from the want of both hands; and the invention consists in combining a cutting-blade, which is pivoted to a case or sleeve sliding upon the shank or tines of a fork, and provided with a thumb or finger piece, serving as a handle, whereby a reciprocating motion may be given to the blade for cutting by the use of one finger, while the handle of the fork is firmly held in the hand; and, also, in the employment of a socket or other suitable bearing, whereby the thumb may be employed to give the requisite pressure on the blade and leave the finger entirely free to perform the reciprocating strokes for cutting.

As represented in the drawings, A is the handle, and B the tines, of the fork. The latter, as well as the shank, is preferably made straight, or nearly so, and are provided with the slots *e* and *d*, for a purpose that will be explained. A sleeve or case, E, is fitted to slide easily over the tines, and pivoted to this by means of the screw *f*, or other suitable device, is the curved shank *g* of the blade or knife H. An arm, *k*, extends from this pivot upward and is bent outwardly, and provided with a loop or finger-hole, I. The blade forms a segment of a circle, of which the pivot *f* is the center, and when the fork-handle is grasped by the hand the forefinger in the loop I is capable of giving a range of motion sufficient to carry the entire cutting-edge of the blade backward and forward by the side of the fork-tines.

The pivot-screw *f* enters a spur or boss on one end of a plate, *m*, (most clearly shown in

Fig. 3,) which boss fits in the slot *c* of the fork so as to move easily therein. The opposite end of the plate *m* has a spur or pin, which projects through the slot *d* in the shank of the fork, and has riveted or otherwise secured to its end the socket or thumb piece L. Inserted in the slot *c*, below the spur of *m*, which moves therein, and bearing against it, is a spiral spring, *o*, which is completely inclosed and concealed by the sleeve E. Its office is to keep the knife raised, as in Fig. 1, so that it will not interfere with the fork when that is required to be used alone. The projections on the ends of the plate *m*, passing through the two slots *c* and *d*, form a guide to the motion of the knife when moving up and down on the fork, and secure its steady action.

It is obvious that the pressure necessary to overcome the spring *o* may be imparted by the finger while working the knife in cutting, and the thumb-piece L thereby dispensed with; but I prefer to employ this appendage, so that that the thumb may be employed to press the knife as it cuts into the food, which will frequently prove of great convenience, especially to those in a feeble condition.

As represented in the drawings, the instrument constitutes a combined knife and fork for the left hand. To adapt it to the right hand it is only necessary to place the knife on the opposite side of the fork—a change easily accomplished.

A little practice will enable those who have had the misfortune to lose a hand to acquire the use of this implement, and overcome, to a great extent, that helplessness incident to their loss.

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

1. A combined one-handed knife and fork, consisting of the blade H, pivoted to the sleeve E, with spring *o*, or its equivalent, and finger-lever I *k*, in combination with a fork, operating substantially as set forth.

2. In combination with the above-described parts, the thumb bearing or socket L, operating in the manner and for the purpose described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN S. JENNINGS.

Witnesses:

JAY HYATT,

ALBERT HAIGHT.