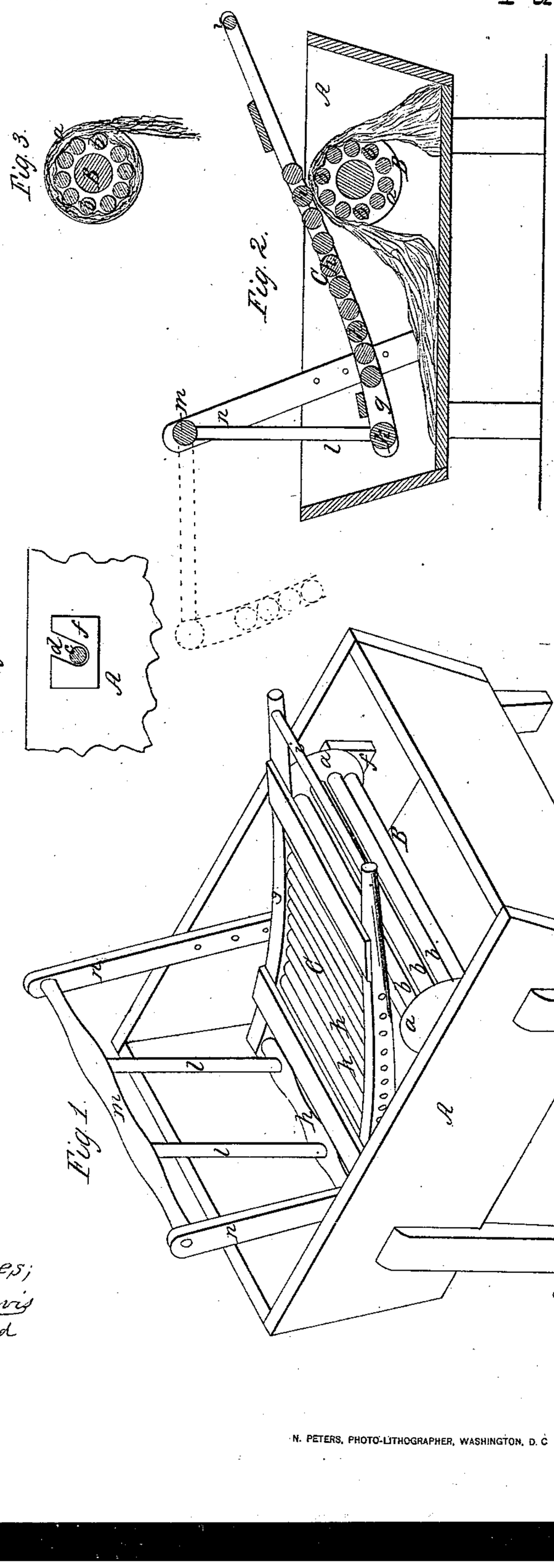
L. C. Wright,

Washing Machine,

No. 61,647. Patented Jan. 29, 1867.



Witnesses;
J. A. Davis
R. F. Osgood

Inventor;
L. C. Wright,
By J. Fraser & Co.
Attys.

United States Patent Office.

L. C. WRIGHT, OF LOCKPORT, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 61,647, *dated January* 29, 1867.

IMPROVED WASHING MACHINE.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, L. C. WRIGHT, of Lockport, in the county of Niagara, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful improvement in Washing Machines; 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 is a perspective view of my improved machine.

Figure 2, a vertical section of the same.

Figure 3, a cross-section of the roller detached, and with a sheet wound around it in the position for washing.

Figure 4, a diagram, showing the method of inserting and removing the roller.

Like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

My invention consists in the employment of a roller made up of rounds or slats, in combination with a reciprocating rubber arranged in such a manner that the article being washed can be fed through, from end to end, or reversed, and still remain under the control of the operator; or in case of a large article, such, for instance, as a sheet, the same can be wound around the roller and be indefinitely subjected to action, as hereinafter set forth.

As represented in the drawings, A is a box or receptacle of suitable form resting on legs, or otherwise, as may be desired. In this, near one end, is mounted a roller, B, made up of heads *a a*, and rounds or slats, *b b*, situated at suitabled istances apart, as shown, so as to allow the water a free passage through them. The journals *e* of the roller rest in open slots *d* of bearings *f*, as shown in fig. 4, so that the roller can be easily removed from place. Over this roller rests a reciprocating rubber, C, preferably made somewhat convex, as shown. It consists of side pieces *g g*, with connecting rounds *h h*, and a handle, *i*, at the outer end, by which it is operated. At the opposite end is a bearing, *k*, connecting with hangers *l*, attached to a rock-shaft, *m*, resting in standards *n*. By this arrangement it will be seen that the rubber may be operated back and forth, or turned over away from the box, as indicated by red lines, fig. 2. The clothes to be washed are placed upon the roller, and then subjected to action by the rubber. The friction of the rubber gives motion to the roller, and the article being washed is carried through to the extent of the sweep of the former. Thus it will be seen that the action is a pressing, rather than a rubbing one, as where a stationary bed is employed. The effect is somewhat similar to that where a travelling roller passes over an extended bed, but with the advantage that the clothes are under the control of the operator, as they can be fed forward or back at pleasure. In this respect, the action is very similar to washing by hand, which cannot be attained in the use of a travelling roller. In my arrangement I also secure the advantage of great compactness and economy of space, for the use of the stationary roller with the reciprocating rubber requires hardly more than the length of the latter, whereas if a roller is used over a stationary bed, the latter must be of comparatively great length to give any effect to the roller in washing. In a word, I am enabled to manipulate the clothes with a facility almost equal to rubbing by hand, while at the same time I place the apparatus in the most compact and simple form. In addition to the above, I can wash large articles, such, for instance, as sheets, with great facility by simply winding the same around the roller, as indicated in fig. 3, and then actuating the roller under the rubber only in one direction, which keeps the article constantly wound up. In this case, the water coming in contact with the under side keeps the cloth constantly soaked. I am aware of no other arrangement in which this effect can be produced. The convex form of the rubber gives the best effect to the rubbing action, and also better preserves the contact with the roller. At the same time the great flexibility of the rubber, produced by the construction explained, enables the parts to be kept together.

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

The combination and arrangement of the stationary revolving roller B, with the reciprocating rubber C, operating in the manner and for the purpose herein set forth.

L. C. WRIGHT.

Witnesses:

ALEX. FRASER,

J. E. SEAVER.