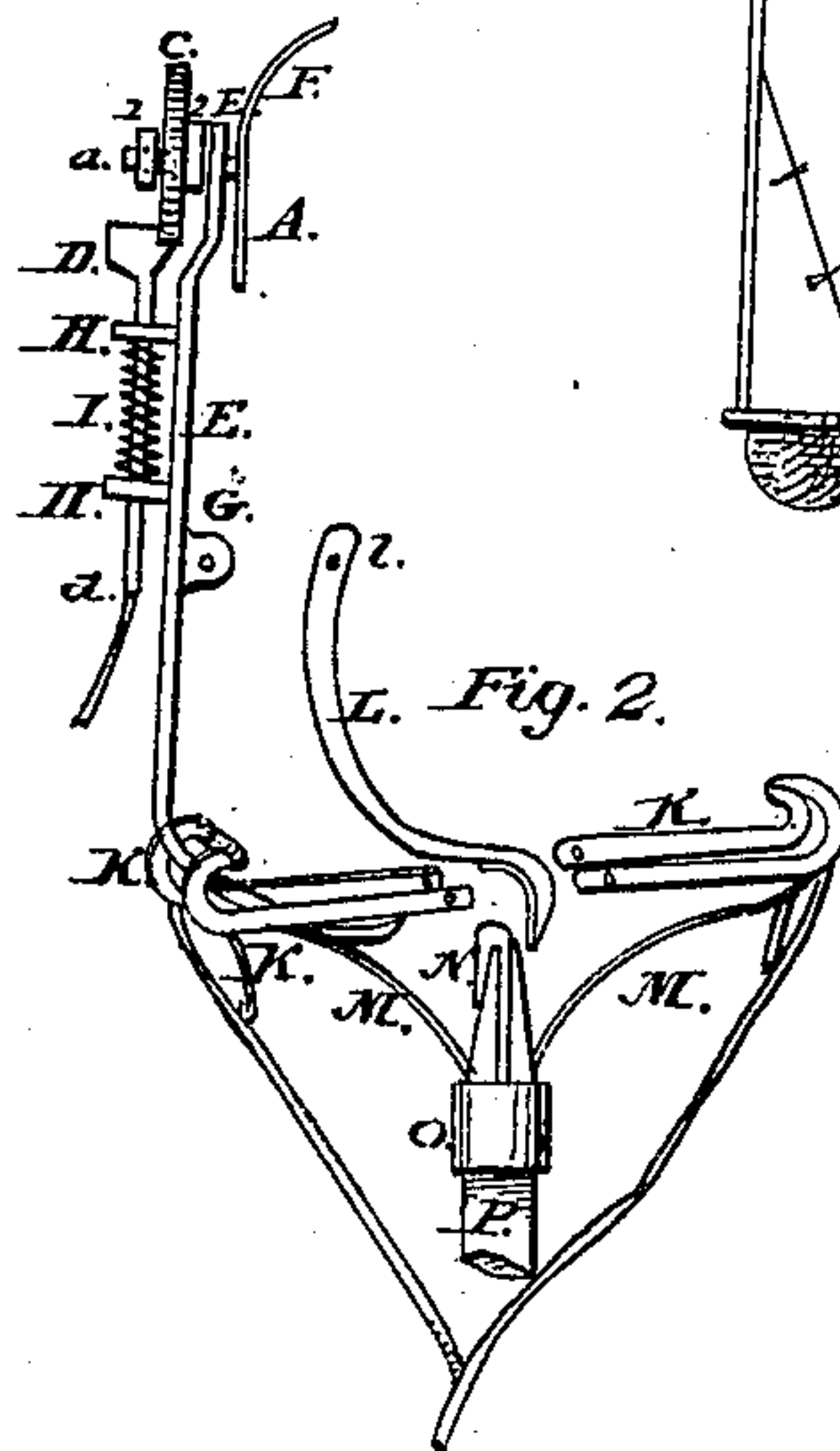
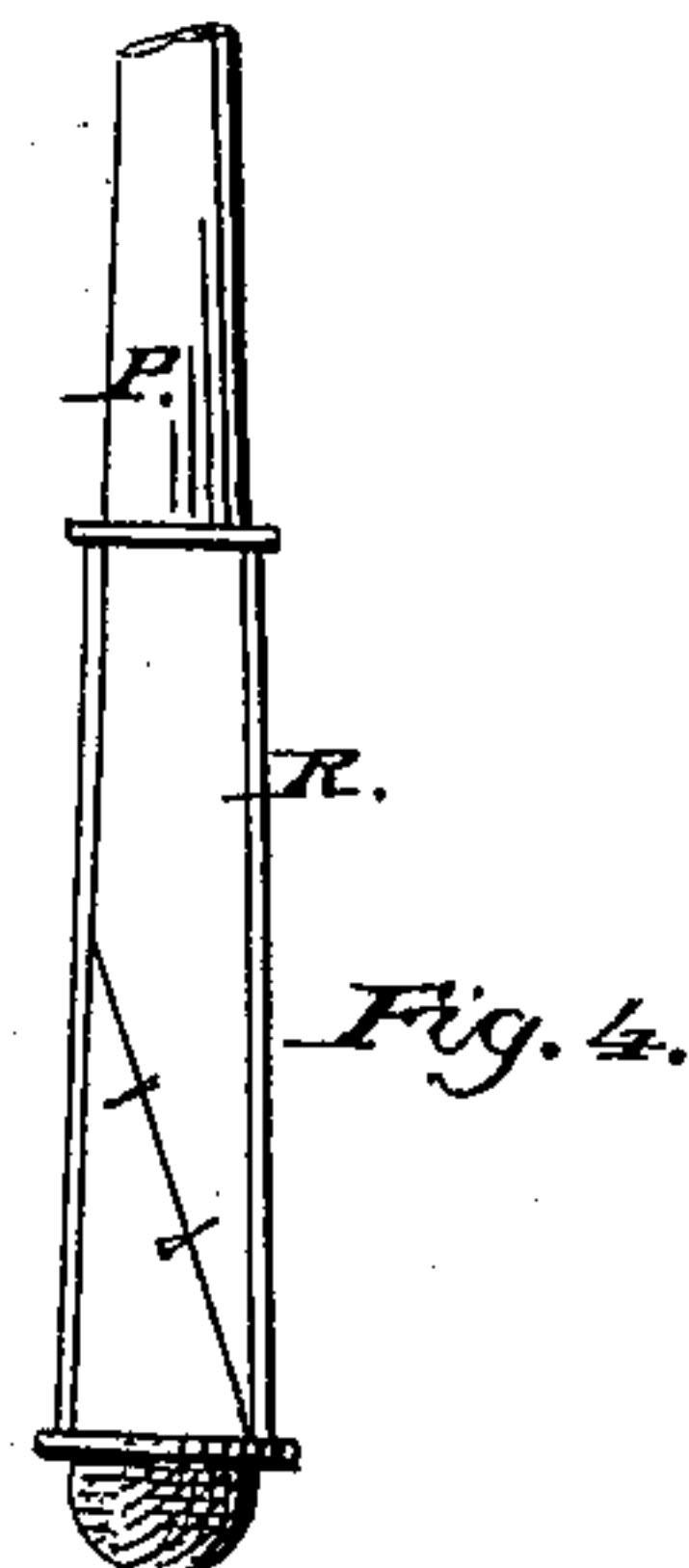
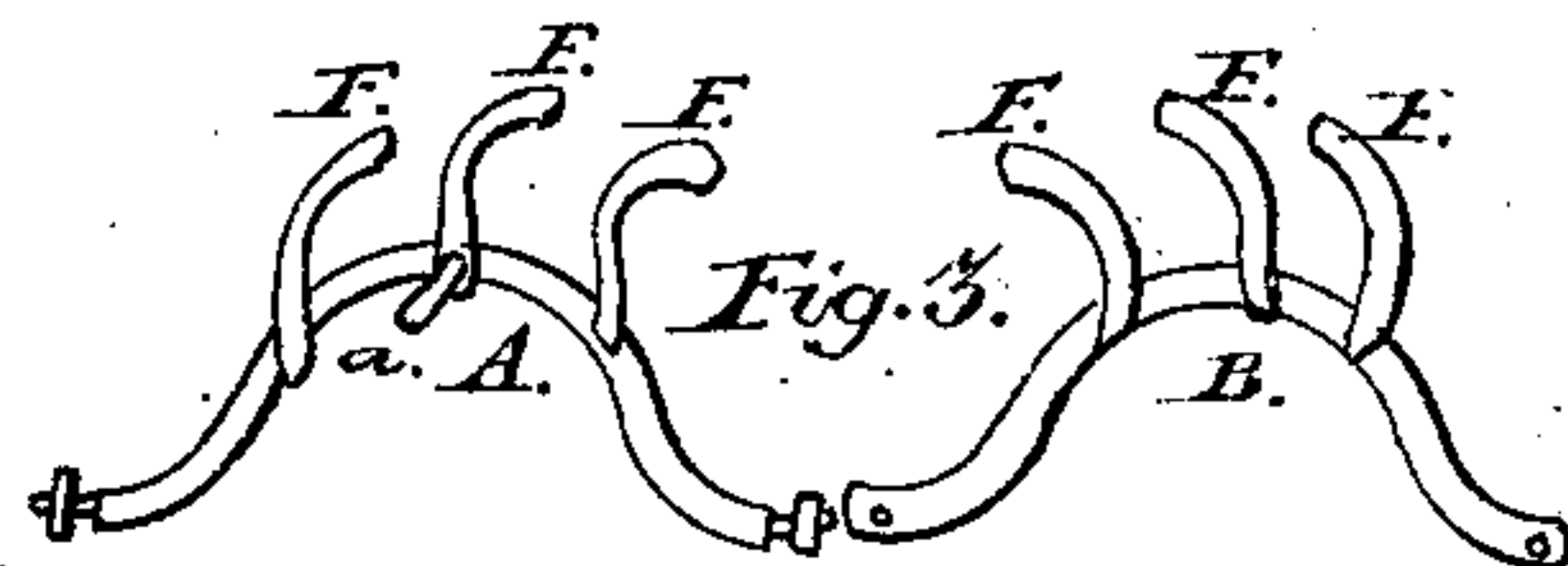
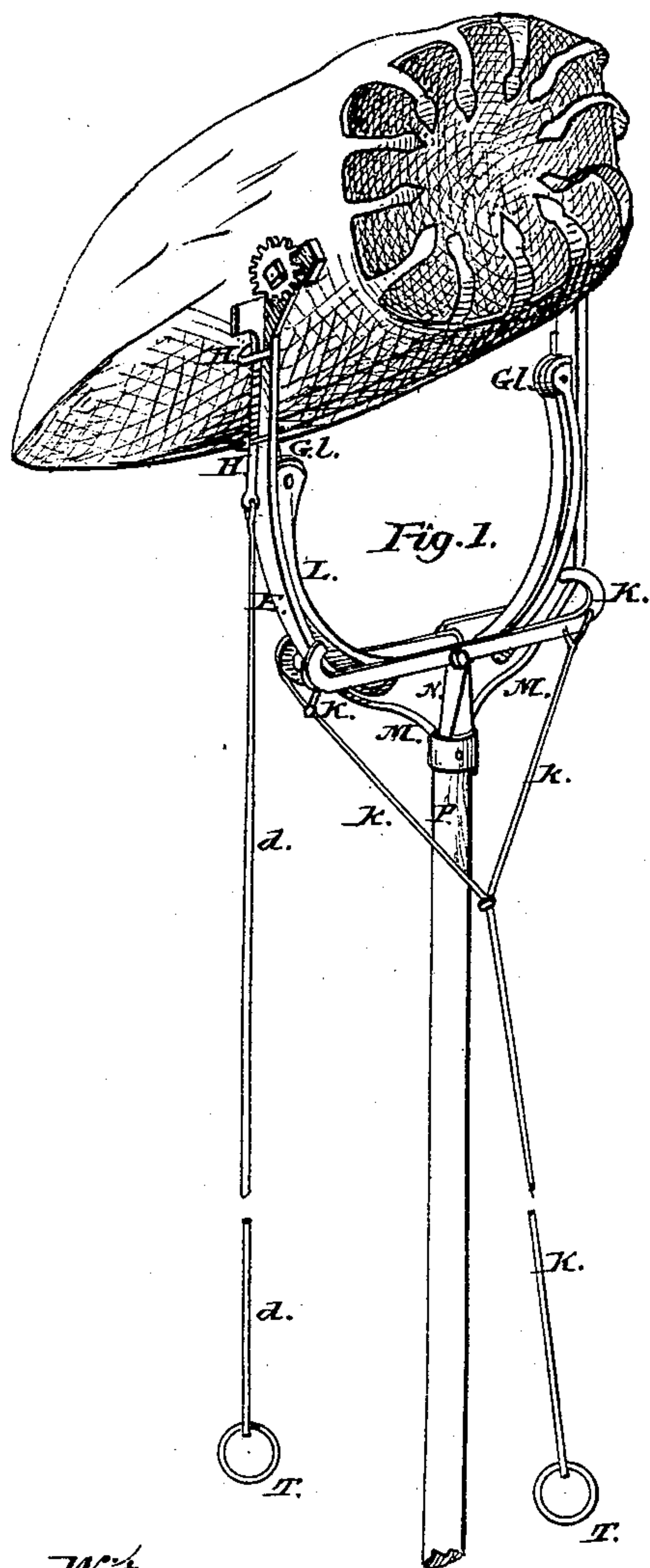


L. Fleckenstine.

Fruit Gatherer.

N^o 67,279.

Patented Jul. 30, 1867.



Witnesses:
Wm B. Miller
Jacob Stauffer

Inventor:
Leonard Fleckenstine

United States Patent Office.

LEONARD FLECKENSTINE, OF MANOR TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND PETER F. BINKLEY, OF THE SAME PLACE.

Letters Patent No. 67,279, dated July 30, 1867.

IMPROVEMENT IN FRUIT-GATHERER.

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, LEONARD FLECKENSTINE, of Manor township, in the county of Lancaster, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new Combination and Arrangement in a Fruit-Gatherer; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view.

Figure 2, detached portions of the same with letters of reference.

Figure 3 illustrates two of the four-finger plates.

Figure 4 the common handle-splice and ring shown.

The nature of my invention consists in providing a leather cap and sack with fingers, that can be operated from two opposite sides, so as to close up or grip an apple or other fruit, when necessary, and so also that will allow the fingers to be turned to any desired angle, or upside down, if required; thereby adapting it so that a fruit can be approached from any side or from any position occupied by the gatherer, and consequently it is not necessary to change from one place to another, continually, while gathering.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

The finger-supports consist of four pieces, two of which, A, have pivot ends with a screw-thread for a nut. The other two, B, being stationary, have holes for the reception of the pivot ends, in which the side pieces A have their motion, being connected with the jaws or side supports by a pin, *a*, which forms pivots upon which the cap revolves. The skeleton framework and fingers of the cap are shown by fig. 3 in part. A and B consist of flat strips of iron curved centrally, with the ends turned out, by which they are hinged, at right angles to each other, as shown. Each has three curved fingers F riveted to it, *i. e.*, to A A and B B, all of which are covered with leather forming the cap and finger-supports in fig. 1. This cap is supported and revolves in a spring-bar or jaw E on each side on the pivots *a* of the cap. This jaw E extends downwards and passes between the double lever-bars K, and is curved inwards below the cheek-plate L. This cheek-plate is hinged to a lug, G, on the jaw E, and curved downwards, with the lower ends firmly connected with the top of the pole or handle P, and supports the spring-bars or jaws E. The lower ends of the latter are also held in place by a spring, M. The double lever-bars K, which operate the jaws E, are connected by a staple, N, over the top of the pole P, as a common centre or pivot. A cord, *k*, passes through the curved angles of the lever-bars K on each side. These cords are connected above, and are terminated by a ring, T, for operating the jaws E and fingers F on the two side plates A of the cap. There is also a ratchet-wheel, C, on one side of the cap affixed to the pivot. A click-rod and plate, D, act between the ratchet-teeth, and prevent the turning of the cap by means of a coiled spring, I, between the lugs H, that also acts as a bearing for the click-rod, which latter has an eye below for a cord, *d*, to operate the click and ratchet. The lugs H being affixed to the jaws E, I use a common handle, Q, fig. 4, cut obliquely, with pins and a metal ring or band, R, by which means I connect a long or short handle, at pleasure, with my fingered cap and fixings.

The operation is readily understood, and in practice perfectly simple. The ring and cords are only now and then brought into requisition, as when you have gathered the fruit from one side, and without changing the ladder or position, you simply draw the cord *d*, which releases the click D from the ratchet-wheel C and allows the cap to swing round to the desired position, where it will be held by releasing the cord, when the click will spring in place. It sometimes happens that the fruit is so firmly attached that the simple action of the fingers will not answer, in which case the fingers can be drawn together so as to grip the fruit firmly and pull it off, by pulling the cord *k*. The double levers K, by the union of their ends across the jaws E, press them inwards above, and the two side series of fingers A, connected with the staple *a*, are drawn together. On slackening the cord *k* the springs M restore the jaws to their place. It will be seen that the jaws move on the pivot through the lugs G connecting them with the stationary cheeks L. The bag connected with the cap may be varied in length or depth, but for picking-choice fruit it is better to pick but a few at a time; they will be less likely to bruise. This implement is better adapted for passing between the branches than muslin sacks or

sleeves, so easily entangled and difficult to manange from the trunk of the tree outward, overhead, and all around among the branches. I prefer a leather cap and small sack. I am not aware that leather has heretofore been used for lining fruit-gatherers, but it is evidently the best material. I am aware that movable jaws have been used, but differing substantially from my arrangement of the jaws, ratchet, click, and cheek connections; and the revolving cap and sack combined form severally new arrangements in the parts employed.

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

1. The arrangement of the hinged finger-supports A with the pin or pivot *a*, in combination with the hinged jaws E for operating them in the manner and for the purpose described.
2. In combination with the jaws E, I claim the ratchet-wheel *c*, click D, spring I, between the supporting lugs H, arranged in the manner and for the purpose set forth.
3. I claim the united double levers K for operating the jaws E by means of cords *k*, in the manner specified.
4. I claim the arrangement of the cheek-pieces L, hinged above to the jaws E and attached to the pole, in the manner and for the purpose set forth.
5. I also claim the leather cap and sack, revolving on its pivots *a*, and provided with fixed and rigid fingers F on their respective supports A B, arranged and operated in the manner specified.

LEONARD FLECKENSTINE.

Witnesses:

WM. B. WILEY,
JACOB STAUFFER.