

W. Morse,

Clothes-Line Fastener.

N^o 68,304.

Patented Aug. 27, 1867.

Fig. 2.

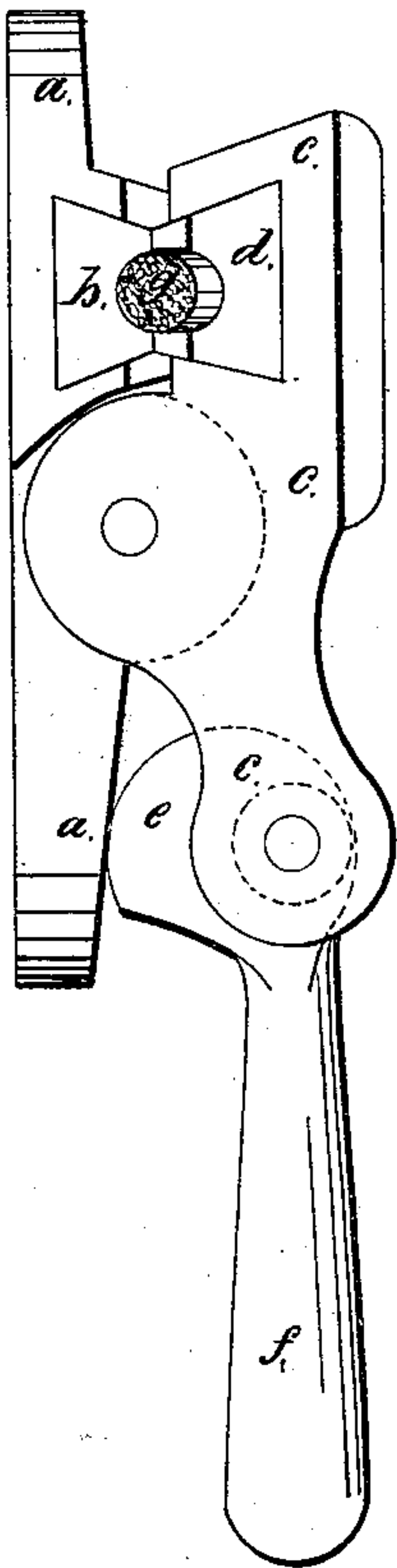


Fig. 1.

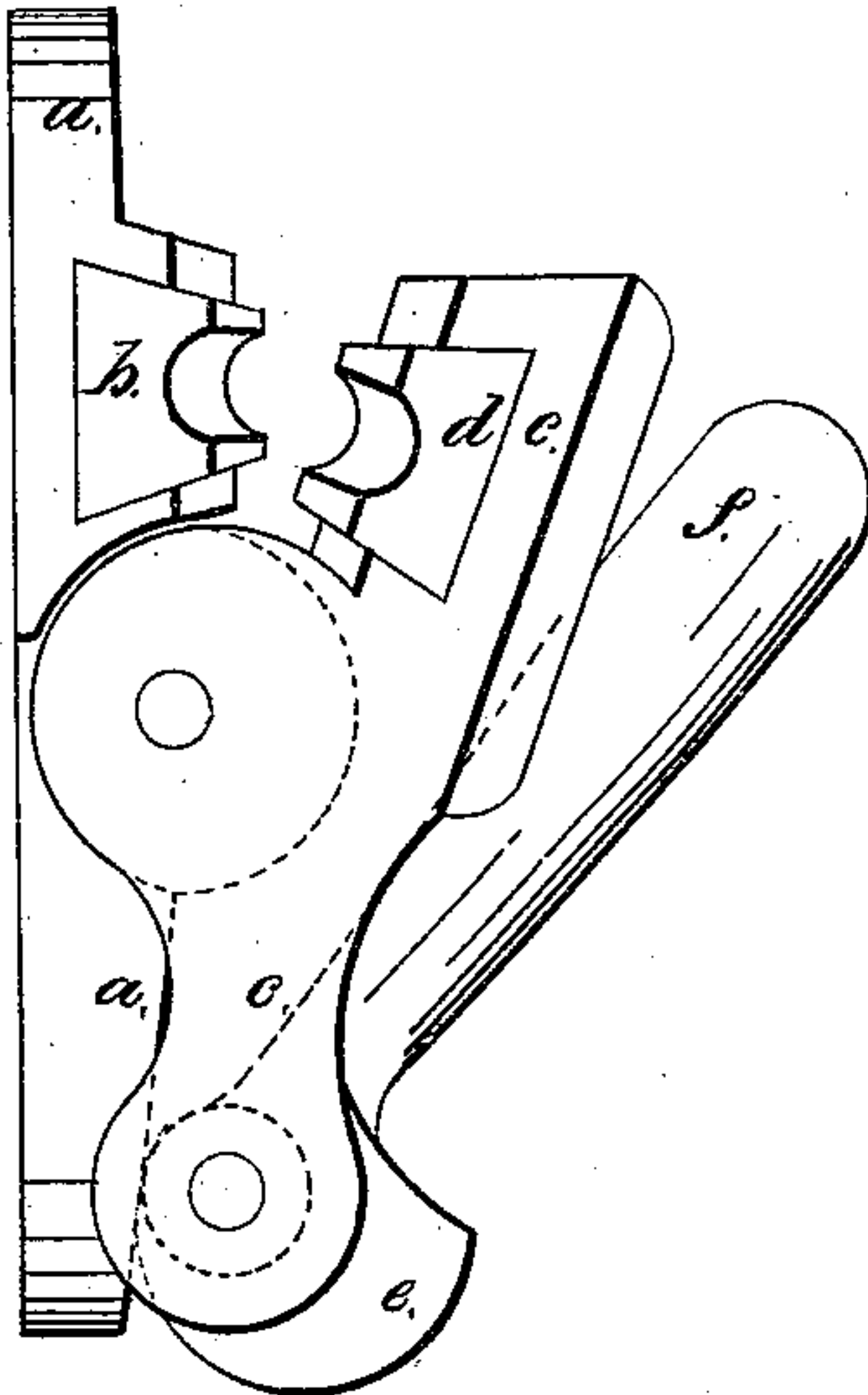


Fig. 3.

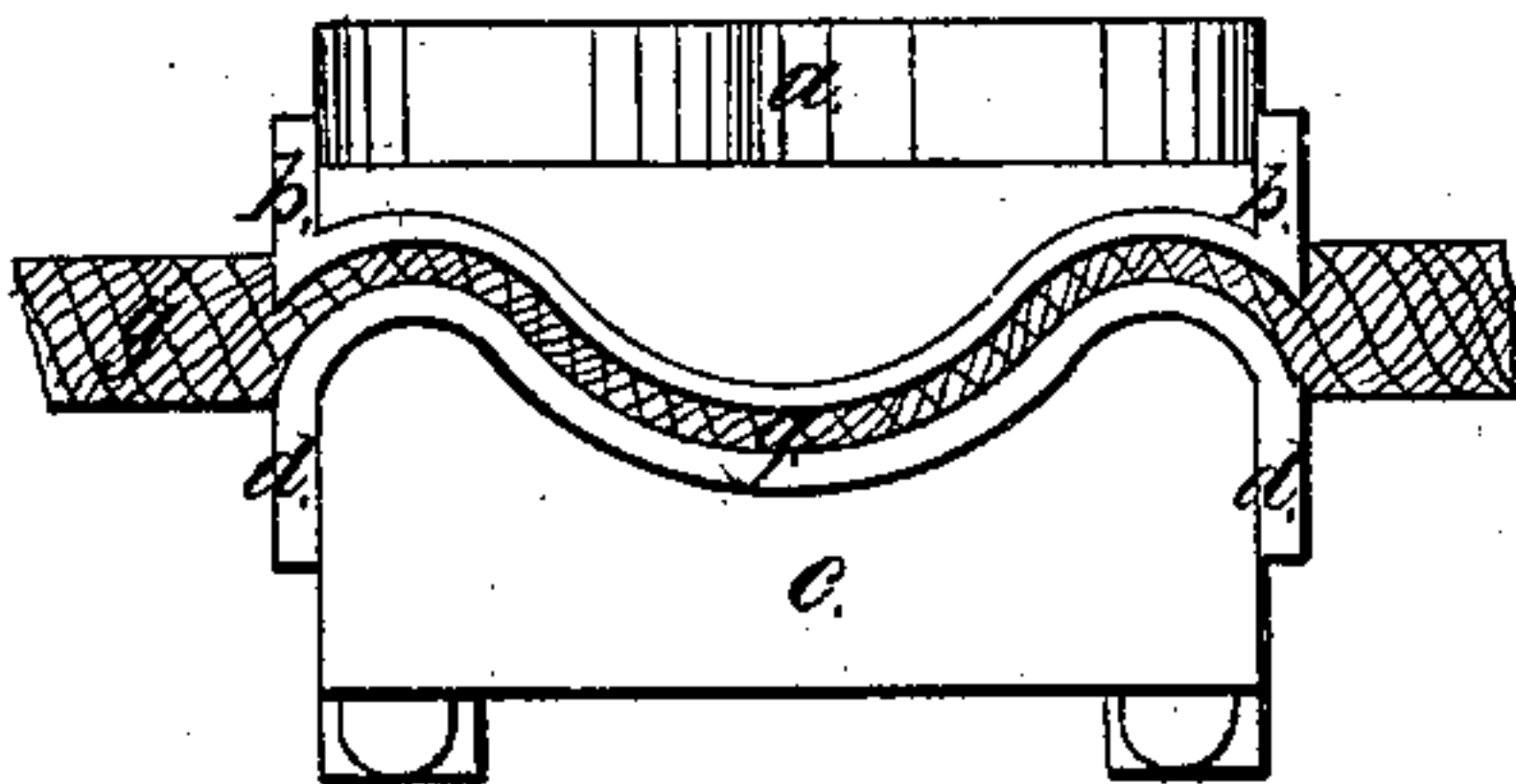
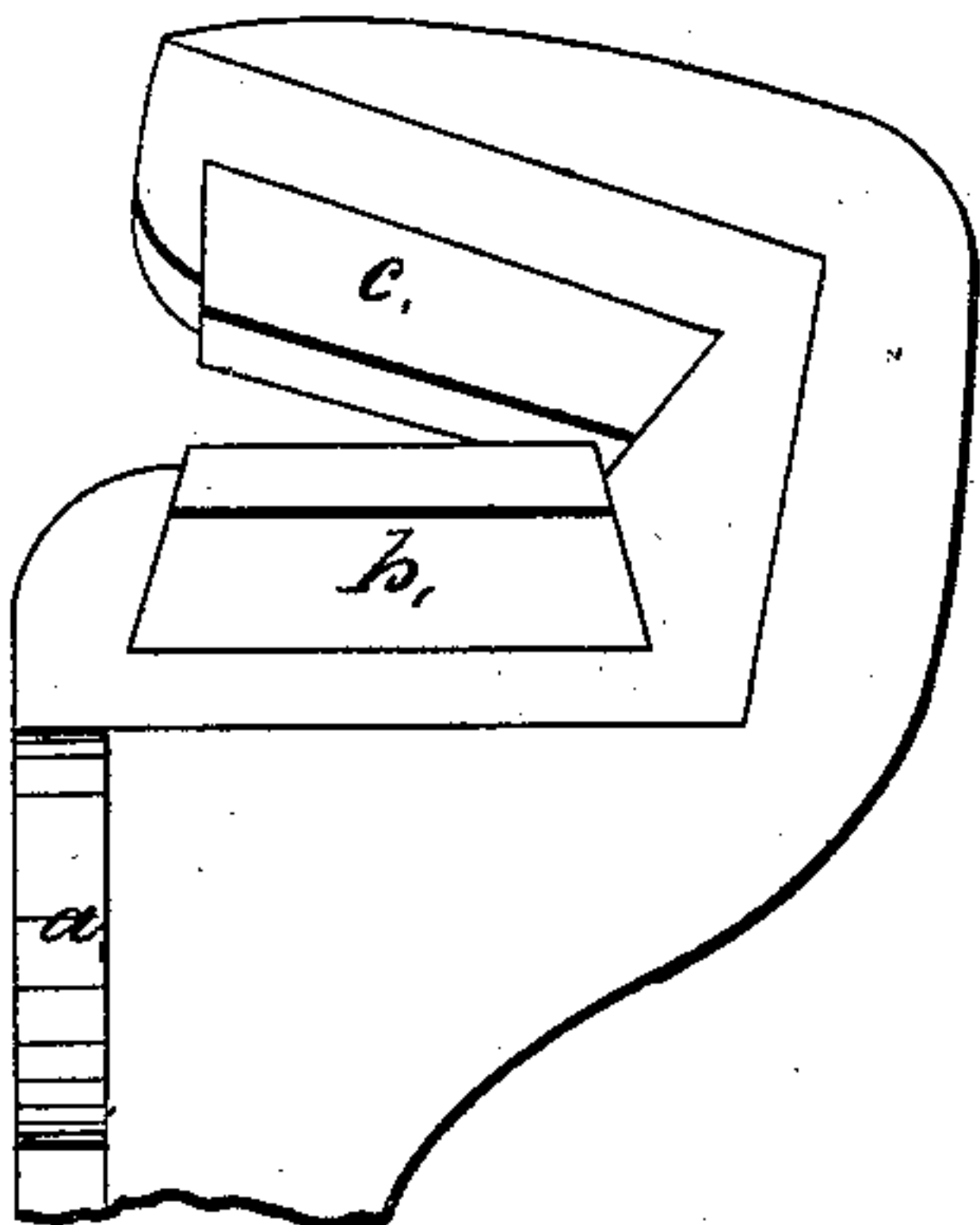


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:

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by

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WILLIAM MORSE, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

Letters Patent No. 68,304, dated August 27, 1867.

IMPROVED LINE-HOLDER.

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, WILLIAM MORSE, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk, and State of Massachusetts, have invented an improved Line-Holder; and I do hereby declare that the following, taken in connection with the drawings which accompany and form part of this specification, is a description of my invention sufficient to enable those skilled in the art to practise it.

This invention is designed chiefly for the domestic purpose of holding clothes-lines; though it is of course applicable for holding the bights and ends of lines for other purposes. Clothes-lines of considerable length are usually put up in place for use by persons of little skill, who find it difficult to keep each part of a line taut even after the requisite strain has been brought upon it for that purpose, the tautness of the line being often lost while the requisite turns or knots are being made at each fastening place.

My invention is designed to obviate this difficulty, rendering it easy to secure each part of the line when hauled taut, and also easy to disengage it from its hold-fasts. The drawing illustrates in four views embodiments of my invention—

Figure 1 being a side elevation of one form of my holder in an open position ready to receive the line.

Figure 2 being a similar view, with the parts shown as closed upon the line and fastening it, while

Figure 3 is a plan with the parts in the position in which they are represented in fig. 2.

a is a casting, arranged to be fastened to a wall, fence, or post, having jaws which receive a piece, *b*, preferably made of wood, in which is a groove fitted to the circumference of the line, the piece *b* being of sufficient length to admit of a serpentine formation of the groove, as best seen in fig. 3. Provision is also made in piece *a* for pivoting thereunto a piece, *c*, having jaws similar to those in piece *a*, which jaws are provided with a piece, *d*, similar to piece *b*, the arrangement of piece *c* being such as to permit the movement of the piece *d* toward and from the piece *b*, this movement being effected by a device applied to the lower end of *c*, considered as a pivoted lever. The device shown for that purpose is a cam, *e*, pivoted to the lower end of *c*, and provided with a handle, *f*. It will be obvious, on inspection of the drawings, that when the handle *f* is brought from the position seen in fig. 1 to the position shown in fig. 2, the piece *d* will clamp the line *g* between it and piece *b*, and that the groove formed by both pieces *b* & *d* being corrugated or serpentine, and fitting closely upon the line, will prevent it from rendering or slipping. Instead of employing the cam and its handle a screw tapped through the lower end of lever *c*, with its end abutting against *a*, would produce the same result of clamping the line in the serpentine groove. The end of the line being clamped in one holder or tied to any holder, may be passed to the holder described, and the bight of the line being put over the piece *d* in the groove therein and hauled taut, the pieces *b* and *d* are brought together, as described, and one part of the line is made taut and fast, and the described operation may be repeated with the remainder of the line and the other holders provided. To loosen and take in the line, commence with either end and draw back the piece *d* of each holder in regular order.

A cheaper form, embodying the employment of the corrugated or serpentine holder, is illustrated in side view in Figure 4. In this figure the pieces *b* and *d* are both held in jaws made in the piece *a*, and the movable piece *c*, and mechanism for actuating it, are dispensed with. One end of the line being made fast, the bight of the cord is placed between the pieces *b* and *d*, and by hauling in a direction nearly at right angles to that part of the line being made taut, the requisite tension is obtained, which is then preserved by pulling on the free end of the rope in a direction nearly parallel with the taut portion, this causing the line to wedge into the space between the pieces *b* and *d* which are inclined to each other as well as made serpentine or corrugated. Tautness of one part of the line having been thus obtained, the remaining part of the line may be put out by a repetition of the described operation in connection with similar holders. Should the line break between any two of these holders the next adjacent parts will not render through said holders and cause slackness of the whole or a part of the line as is the case where a line is merely passed round hooks or pins, or is not firmly secured thereunto. When the holder is so made that one of the corrugated pieces *b* & *d* can be moved with reference to the other, it is obvious that the mechanism employed for effecting such movement may be varied from that shown without departure from the gist of my invention. I sometimes make one of the gripping-pieces *b* & *d* of rubber or other elastic material, and both pieces may be so made if deemed desirable.

I claim, in combination with the piece *a*, serpentine or corrugated holding-pieces *b* & *d*, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

Also, in combination with such holding-pieces and with the piece *a*, a movable device arranged to operate substantially as described.

WM. MORSE.

Witnesses:

J. B. CROSBY,

FRANCIS GOULD.