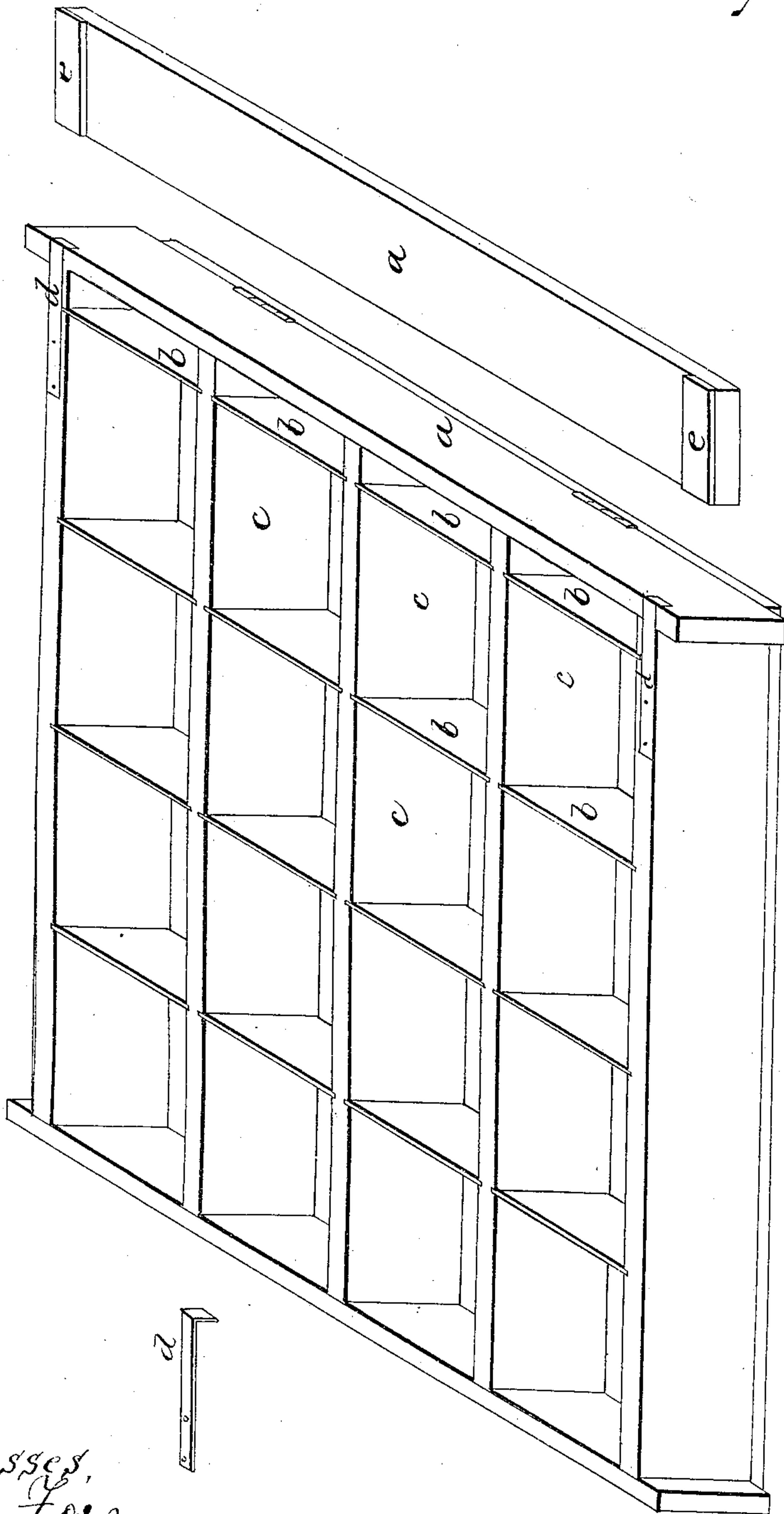


H.C. Freeman,

Fruit Box,

Nº 68,620,

Patented Sept. 10, 1867.



Witnesses,
J. A. Foreman
W. F. Christian

Inventor,
Henry C. Freeman

United States Patent Office.

HENRY C. FREEMAN, OF SOUTH PASS, ILLINOIS.

Letters Patent No. 68,620, dated September 10, 1867; antedated August 27, 1867.

IMPROVEMENT IN BOX FOR TRANSPORTING STRAWBERRIES.

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

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, HENRY C. FREEMAN, of South Pass, in the county of Union, and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Drawer for containing Strawberries and other small fruits while in transit to market; 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 annexed drawings, making a part of this specification.

The drawing represents a drawer with subdivisions for containing the fruit. These subdivisions are formed by the string-pieces C C attached to the bottom and to one end, and said string-pieces are grooved to admit the thin sliding-pieces b b, which are made to be movable in these grooves. The two side pieces of the drawer are also grooved on the inner side for admitting the sliding-pieces. At one end of the drawer is a gate, a, attached by hinges and secured by a spring-catch, d.

The construction of the drawer is by nailing the bottom to the two sides and one end, the grooved string-pieces being also nailed to the bottom and the same end. The gate, or other end of the drawer, is formed by attaching it to the bottom with hinges of any form suitable, or to the sides. In the latter case the bottom would not extend over the sides. This gate is secured close to the sides of the drawer when closed by a spring-catch, d. To make the gate complete a small projection, e, is made at each end by fastening a small strip to the gate. This is for the purpose of giving greater firmness and solidity to the drawer when the gate is closed, by preventing any tendency to lateral spreading.

The operation is as follows: Any number of the divisions being filled with fruit, to empty them the gate is first opened and a slide drawn out next to the first subdivision. This emptied, the next behind it may be emptied by drawing another slide, and so on until all are emptied.

The object of the invention is to secure delicate small fruits, like the strawberry and raspberry, from injury during transportation and in handling in large packages; also, to relieve the retailer of the necessity of re-measuring the fruit when emptying the drawer to divide it among different purchasers, the subdivisions being made equal in size, and usually of a quart or pint capacity.

In transporting to market, one, two, or more drawers may be sent in one package, but one cover being required for whatever number is sent in the package. The projecting corners are for securing the drawer in a frame when more than one is sent in a package.

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

1. The subdivisions of the drawer, as formed and described in the specification.
2. The mode of opening each subdivision by a movable slide, b.
3. The gate, as formed and described in the specification; also the mode of securing it by a spring-catch, d.
4. The whole in combination, as above described and claimed in its parts.

HENRY C. FREEMAN.

Witnesses:

J. A. FORSMAN,
R. F. CHRISTIAN.