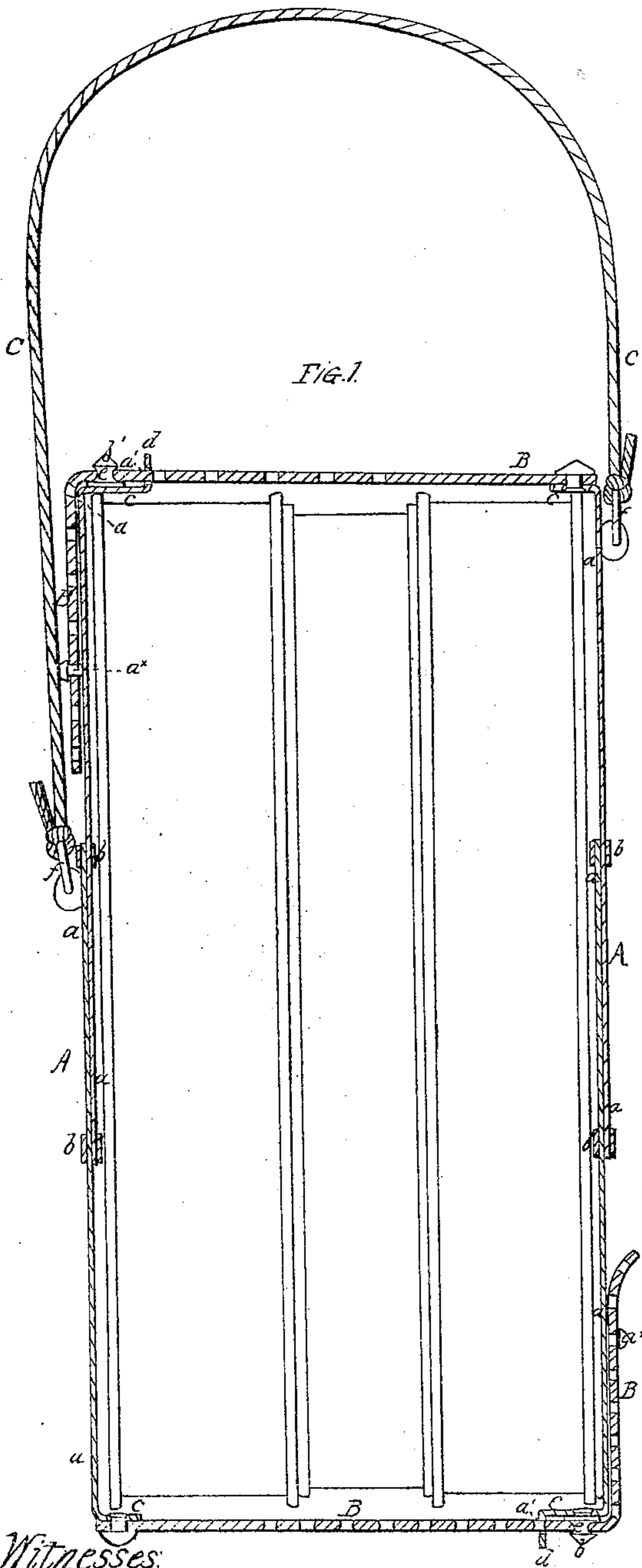


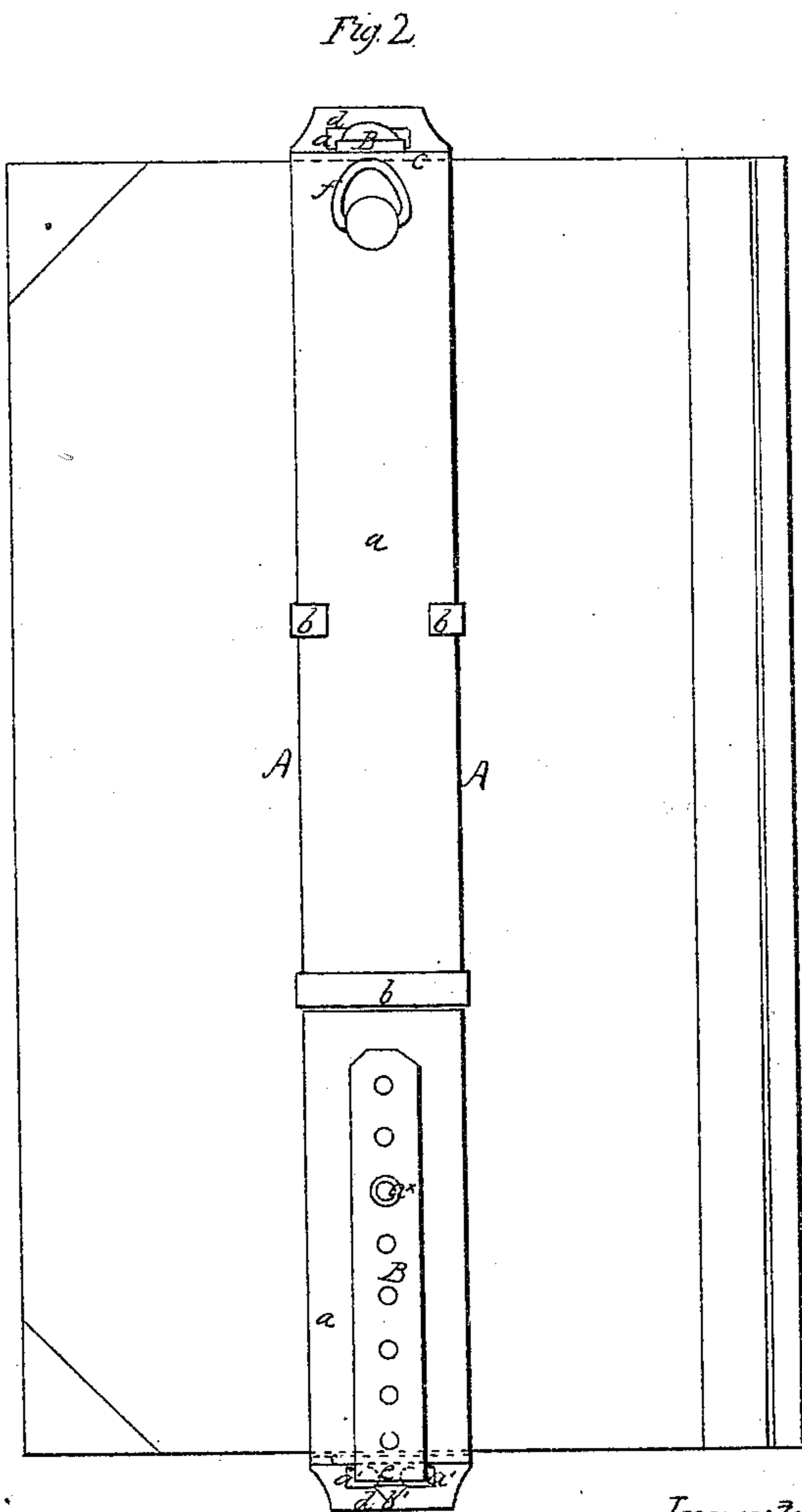
*J. W. McKee.*  
*Book Support.*

*N<sup>o</sup> 69,234.*

*Patented Sept. 24, 1867.*



*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*

*Witnesses:*

*J. Mooney*  
*G. W. Reed*

*Inventor:*

*James W. McKee*

# United States Patent Office.

JAMES W. McKEE, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 69,234, dated September 24, 1867

## CLAMP-STRAP FOR SCHOOL-BOOKS.

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, JAMES W. McKEE, of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clamps for School-Books; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a portion of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a vertical transverse section of a clamp constructed according to my invention.

Figure 2 is a side view of the same, taken at right angles to fig. 1.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in both figures.

The object of this invention is to secure a device by which children may conveniently carry their school-books, and which may be readily applied to any desired number of books, and also to those of different sizes, without that liability to injure the edges of the books which exists when the common strap is used.

The invention consists in two longitudinally adjustable side pieces in combination with suitable straps, whereby the desired object is accomplished. The invention further consists in the combination of a suspending cord with the aforesaid side pieces and straps, whereby the facility with which the apparatus may be carried when in use is materially increased. The invention further consists in a novel means whereby the straps hereinafore mentioned may be very readily and securely tightened and adjusted in placing the device upon the books, and whereby the accidental displacement of the books from the clamp is especially provided against.

To enable others to understand the nature and construction of my invention, I will proceed to describe it with reference to the drawings.

The side pieces of the clamp are shown at A, and are each composed of two narrow and somewhat elastic plates or strips *a*, of steel or other suitable metal, connected by bands or overlapping ears *b*, in such manner as to slide longitudinally one upon the other, in order that the said side pieces may be elongated or shortened, as circumstances may require, and as hereinafter fully set forth. The two opposite ends of these plates or strips are turned into a position at right angles to their main length, thus forming lugs *c* at the extremities of the side piece formed by the said plates, the lug *c* of one of the said plates having one end of a suitably perforated strap, B, attached thereto in any suitable manner, while projecting outward from the innermost end of the same plate is a supplemental knob, *a*\*, the office of which will be hereinafter fully set forth. The lug of the other plate of each side piece is furnished with a lip, *d*, which extends outward at right angles thereto, and is formed with a transverse slot, *a'*, the said lug being furthermore provided with a stem, *e*, having an enlarged outer end, *b'*, as represented more fully in fig. 1. In using the clamp the two side pieces A thereof are placed upon opposite sides of the book or books which in the drawings are indicated in red outline, the said pieces being first adjusted to the length of such books by moving the plates or strips *a*, of which they are composed, in or out, to lengthen or shorten the said side pieces, as may be required. The strap B of each of the side pieces is then passed through the slotted lip *d* of the lug *c* of the other side piece, and both straps being drawn tight, the stems *e* are forced through the holes *c'* in the straps, as shown more fully in fig. 1, the side pieces being by these means drawn snugly against the sides of the books, which are consequently securely clamped and held in place between the said side pieces. The outer end portions of the straps are then brought into a position parallel with the side pieces, and the supplemental knobs *a*\* are forced through suitable holes therein, as represented more fully in fig. 1, and by preventing the two plates of each side piece from moving longitudinally upon each other prevent the elongation of the clamp, and consequently the loosening and displacement of the books, which would otherwise be likely to occur in the event of jarring or swinging the same while they are being carried as hereinafore set forth. The stems *e* and slotted ears *d* enable the clamp to be thus fastened around the books with much greater ease and convenience than would be practicable if an ordinary buckle were employed in their places, and furthermore allow the said clamp to be much more easily detached from the books, inasmuch as either of the straps may be loosened by simply pulling it outward over and from the head or enlarged outer end *b'* of the stem *e* and the knob *a*\*. Inasmuch as the lugs *c* are situated at right angles to the side pieces A, it follows that the edges of the books, when held in the clamp, are not indented or injured, as is found to be the case when an ordinary strap is employed to hold the books together. Attached to one of the plates of each side piece A is a ring or staple, *f*, to which is attached one end of a suspending cord, C, by means of which the

clamp, with the books held therein, may be suspended from the arm of the person carrying the same, or the said cord may be grasped in the hand to carry the said clamp and books if desired.

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

1. The two longitudinally adjustable side pieces A, in combination with the straps B, substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.

2. The combination of the suspending cord C with the longitudinally adjustable side pieces A and straps B, substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.

3. The stems *e*, in combination with the slotted lips *d* of the side pieces A and the straps B, substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.

4. The supplemental knobs *a*\*, in combination with the longitudinally adjustable side pieces A and the straps B, substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.

JAMES W. McKEE.

Witnesses:

J. W. COOMBS,

G. W. REED.