

B. A. DAVIS.  
Curing Tobacco.

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

No. 70,420.

Patented Nov. 5, 1867.

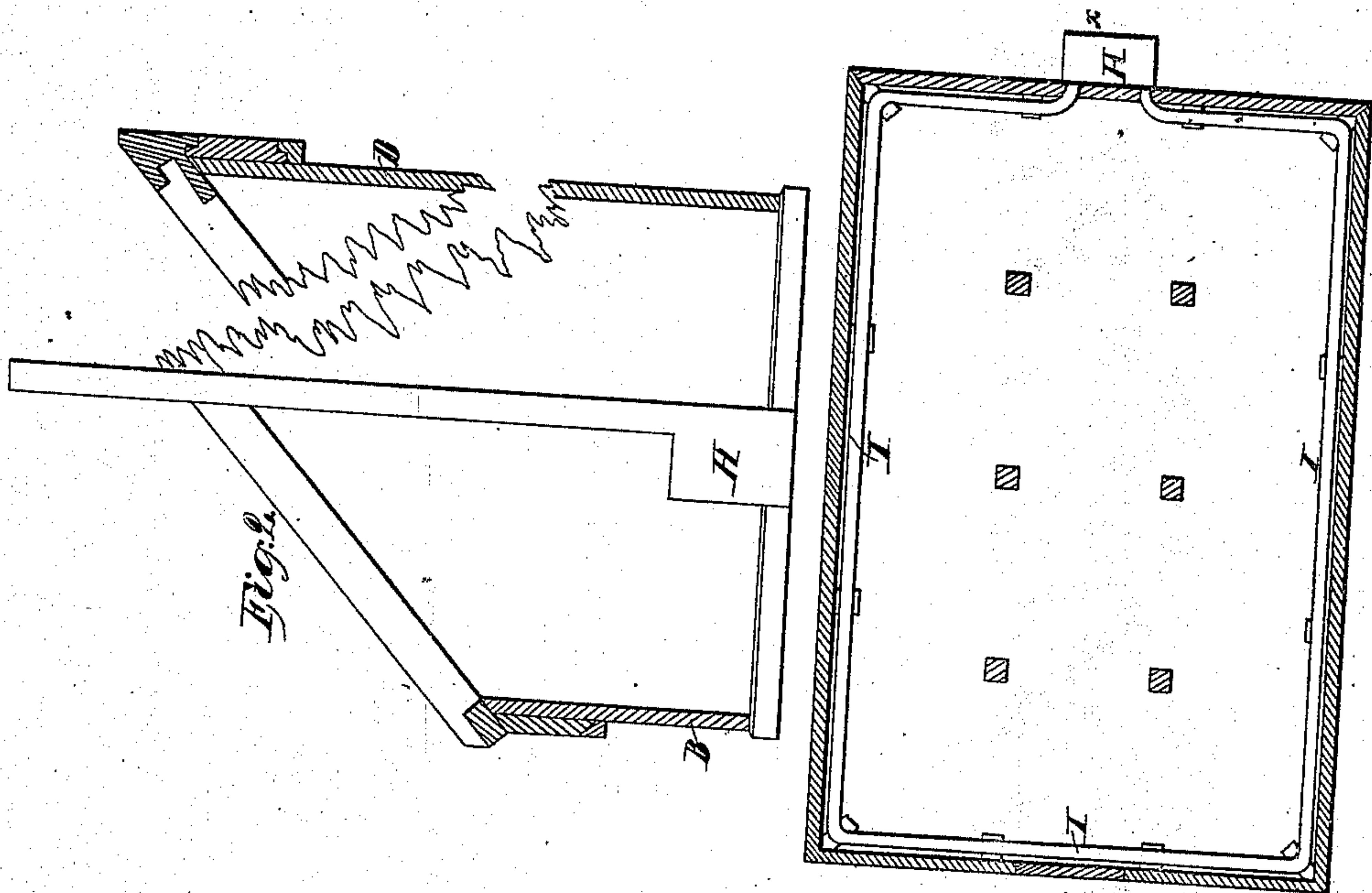


Fig. 1.

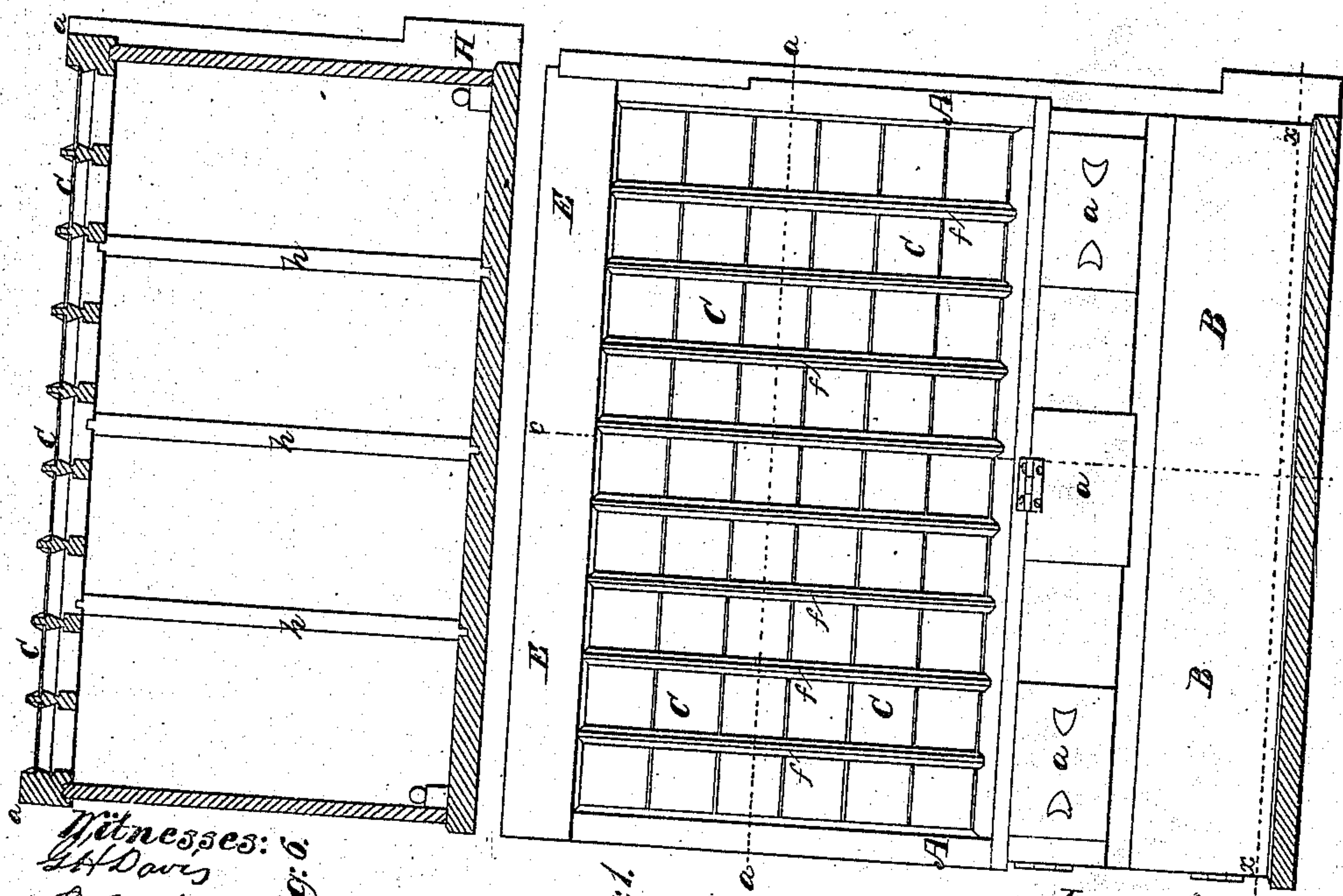


Fig. 3.

Witnesses:  
J. C. Davis  
J. C. Davis

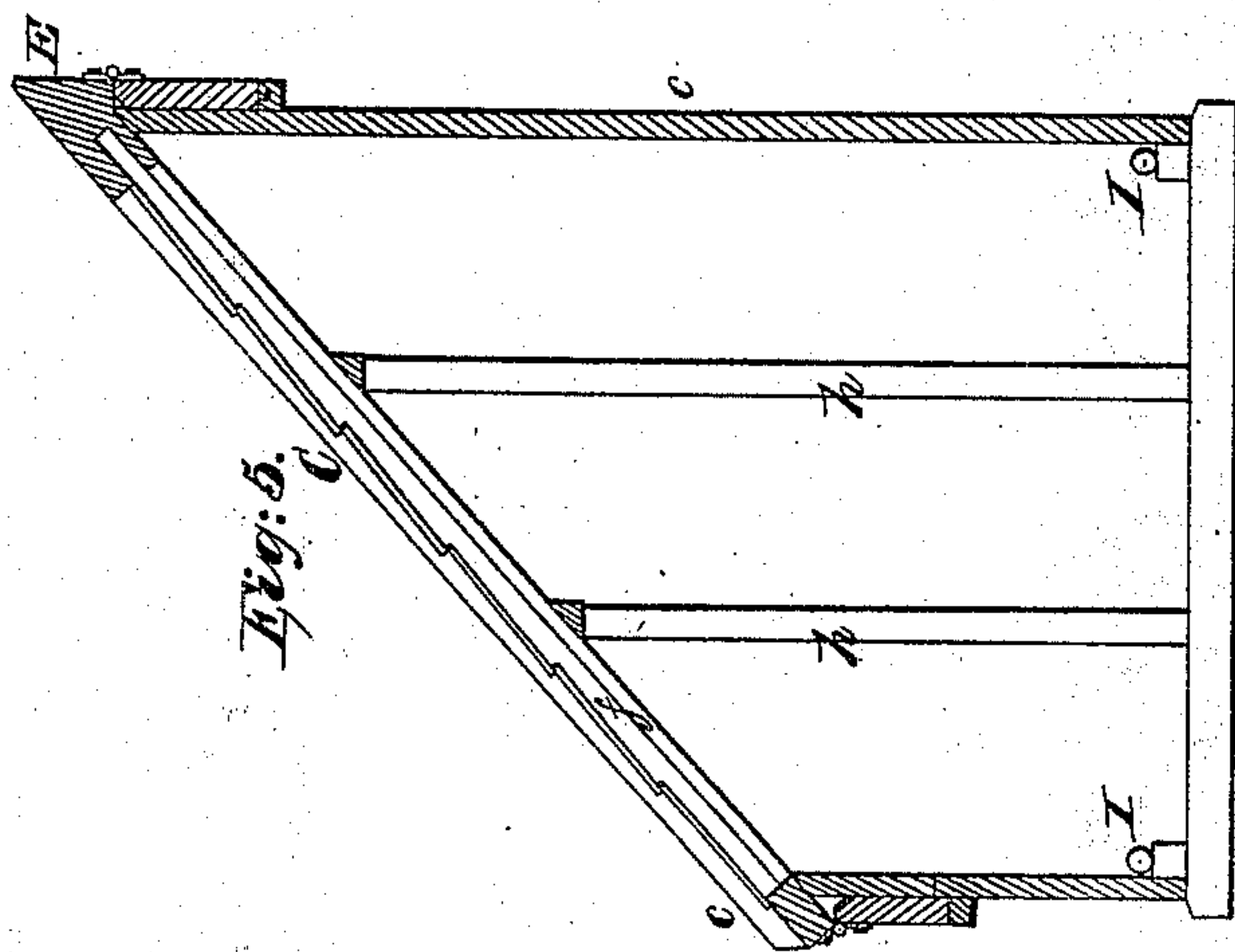
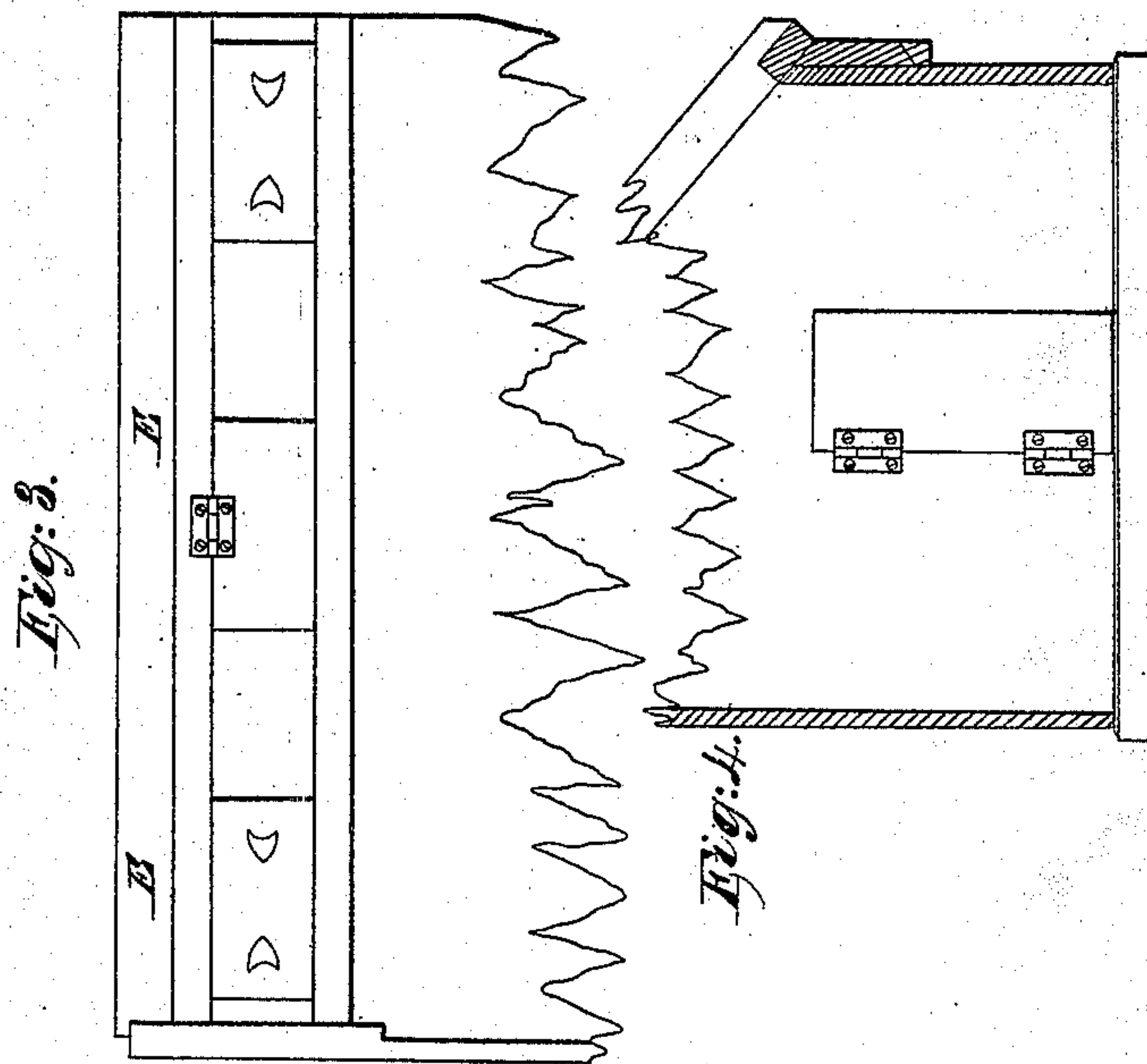
Inventor:  
B. A. Davis

B. A. DAVIS,  
Curing Tobacco.

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

No. 70,420.

Patented Nov. 5, 1867.



Witnesses:  
B. A. Davis  
J. C. Drake

Inventor:  
B. A. Davis



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN A. DAVIS, OF PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA.

## IMPROVEMENT IN CURING TOBACCO.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 70,420, dated November 5, 1867.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN A. DAVIS, of the city of Petersburg, in the county of Dinwiddie, State of Virginia, have invented a new and useful Mode of Curing Tobacco; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of the specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a front elevation, showing the inclined glass roof, with the lower slide or hinged doors for admitting air to the interior of the building. Fig. 2 shows an end view of the structure. Fig. 3 shows a broken-off view of the upper portion of the rear elevation, with the slide or hinged doors for ventilating. Fig. 4 shows a broken-off view of the end and entrance to the drying-room. Fig. 5 shows a cross-section through the interior of the drying-room. Fig. 6 shows a longitudinal section through the same. Fig. 7 is a plan of the ground floor, showing the heating-pipes and furnace.

The object of my invention is to facilitate the process of curing tobacco by the sun's rays without having to handle it and take it in when exposed and liable to be wet by the rain or heavy dew.

My invention consists in drying tobacco under a glass roof placed on an angle of about forty-five degrees, facing the south, so as to get as much of the sun's rays as possible, and providing the room with openings and shutters, both front and rear, near to the glass roof, so that a current of air may pass through to ventilate the room and carry off the moisture which evaporates from the green tobacco when in the process of curing.

To enable others to construct my improved barn or drying-house and to cure tobacco by my new process, I will describe it more in detail, referring to the drawings and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The same letters indicate the same parts in all of the figures.

The barn or drying-house A A may be built in form to the ordinary green-house. The front or south side, B B, may be low, in order to place the glass covering C C C on an inclination of about forty-five degrees. Under the

eaves I have a series of openings, with sliding or hinged shutters *a a a*, for the purpose of admitting air from the outside to the tobacco when necessary. In a similar position to the roof, on the rear side, D, I have also a corresponding series of openings, with shutters or doors *d d d*, for the purpose of ventilating and carrying off the moisture evaporated from the tobacco. The building may be of any required dimensions, and the roof or glass covering may be supported by timbers *e e*, placed longitudinally under the rafters *f f f*, or timbers, in which the glass is set, they being suitably grooved for that purpose, the timbers *e e* being held up in their place by a series of vertical posts, *h h h*, which also form supports for the necessary apparatus to hang the tobacco for curing.

The advantages of my improved method of curing tobacco by the rays of the sun will be readily seen and easily understood, the heat under glass being much more intense, and is retained long after the sun has gone down, and even for days when the sun is not shining. The doors can be closed to keep out the damp atmosphere in rainy weather, and the process completed generally without artificial heat, the process above described being so much more expeditious than other modes known and practiced that the first cuttings can be hung up and cured in time for the second cuttings to be hung up, so that more than double the quantity can be cured in the same space in a given time and in a much superior manner, and the article so cured is much more valuable than when cured by artificial heat; but in order to provide for all contingencies and to save any risks by a long rainy season and damp spells, I have provided a furnace, H, outside, on one end of the building, with heater-pipes I I I extending round the area of the floor K K of the building, so that at such times the curing process can be kept up by artificial means and no time lost in getting the crop ready for the market.

It is desirable to have the buildings for the process of curing tobacco in the manner above described constructed of brick, with a brick floor, as it receives and retains the heat from artificial means or the sun's rays much better, and longer than when made of wood. The up-



per portion of the roof E E may be covered with wood—any desired portion of it—as the sun's rays will not produce any beneficial effect in the extreme upper portion of the room, where it is designed to be opened for ventilation.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The openings, with their covers, close under the roof, both front and rear, for the pur-

pose of admitting air, ventilating, and carrying off the evaporation from tobacco while in the process of curing, as herein described.

2. The process of drying or curing tobacco under a glass roof, substantially in the manner herein described.

B. A. DAVIS.

Witnesses:

T. H. THOMPSON,  
O. P. BRITTON.