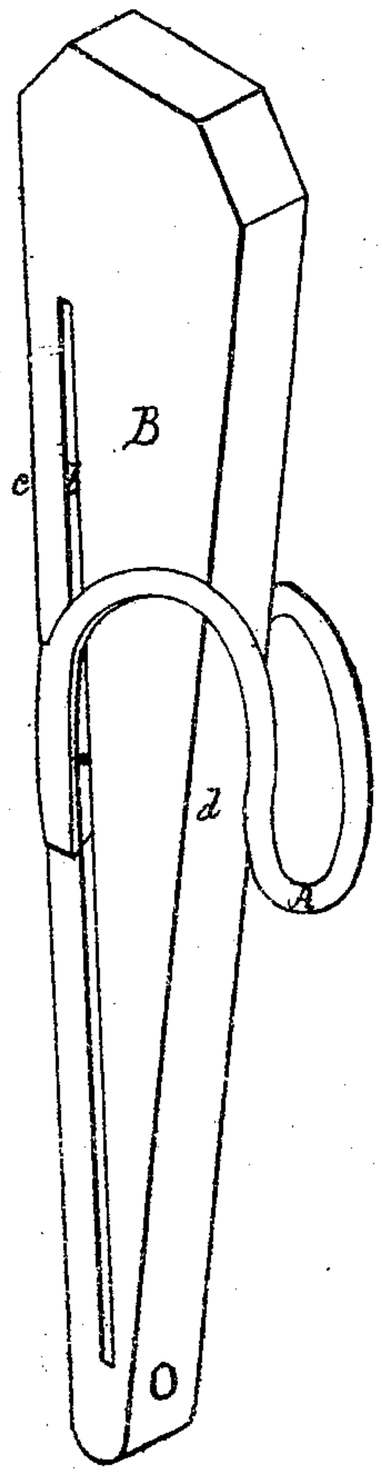
W. M. Doty.

Clothes-Pin.

No 72823 Patented Dec. 31, 1867.

Fig. 1.



Witnesses

Wm Daly

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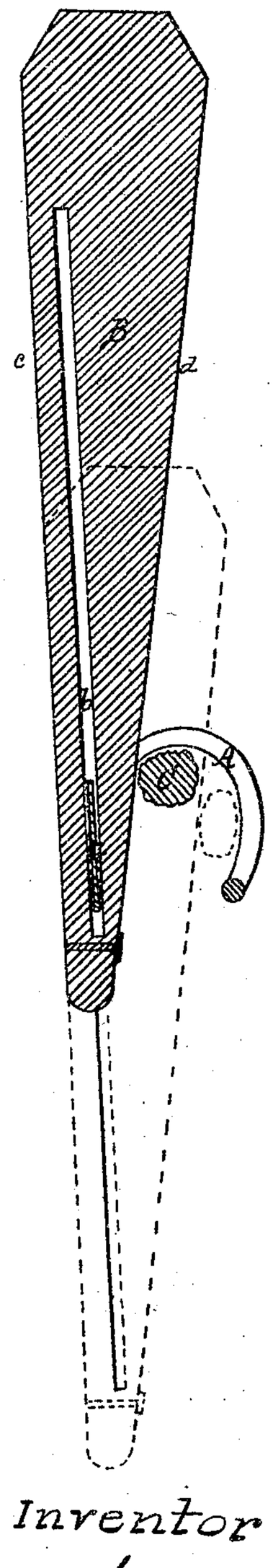
Fig. 2



Inventor

Wm M. Doty

by

J. Polock

his Atty

United States Patent Office.

WILLIAM M. DOTY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO R. C. BROWNING, OF SAME PLACE.

Letters Patent No. 72,823, *dated December* 31, 1867.

IMPROVED CLOTHES-PIN.

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 M. DOTY, of New York, in the county and State of New York, have invented a certain new and improved Clothes-Pin; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved clothes-pin, and

Figure 2 is a longitudinal vertical section of the same, showing the pin in two positions upon a clothes-line.

My invention, which essentially differs from ordinary forked clothes-pins, as well as those formed of hinged jaws, forced together by means of springs, consists of a clothes-pin, composed of a hook, or equivalent device, for fitting or catching upon the clothes-line, combined with a wedge or tapering block, to which it is attached by a sliding connection, under such an arrangement that, by forcing the wedge towards the line upon which the hook is placed, the said line shall be held or compressed between the hook and inclined face of the said wedge, in the manner hereinafter set forth.

The combined hook and wedge or tapering block upon which the hook slides may be constructed in various ways, without departing from the principle of my invention. I prefer, however, the construction and arrangement of parts shown in the drawings, to which I will now refer, in order to describe more particularly the manner in which my invention is or may be carried into effect.

The hook A is formed of a single piece of wire, made of galvanized iron, or other material not liable to become rusted or corroded, or otherwise injuriously affected, by exposure to wet. The wire is bent in the shape shown in fig. 1, so as to form a skeleton hook, and the ends of the wire which form the shank of the hook straddle a wedge or tapering block, B, and are secured together by means of a metal plate or strap, *a*, which passes through a slot, *b*, in the wedge. The slot extends throughout the greater part of the length of the wedge, in a direction parallel to the straight side *c* of the wedge. That portion of the hook which catches upon the line projects a suitable distance in advance of the inclined face *d* of the wedge; and as the plate or strap *a*, which holds the hook in position upon the wedge, is capable of sliding freely in the longitudinal slot *b*, the said wedge may be raised or lowered, so as to contract or enlarge the space included between the hook and the inclined face *d*. This is shown more clearly in fig. 2, where the wedge is shown in two positions.

When the wedge is raised, so as to remove the inclined face *d* to its greatest distance from the hook, the latter can be placed over the line, C, or clothes hung upon such line, without trouble. The wedge is then forced down, the gradual swell or increase in the size of the wedge contracting the space included between it and the hook, until, by the time it has reached the position indicated in red lines, the line, C, will be compressed and held tightly between the hook and inclined face of the wedge. If at any time it is desired to release the line, or clothes suspended upon it, the wedge can be raised, and the whole device removed from the line with perfect facility, as will be understood without further explanation.

The wedge or tapering block may be made of wood or other suitable material. The hook A should be made, preferably, of galvanized iron, and may be of any suitable form desired. The method, however, of forming a wire skeleton hook, is productive of considerable advantage. Ordinary clothes-pins are apt to freeze tightly in cold weather to the clothes, and oftentimes cannot be removed therefrom without great difficulty. But no such trouble can arise from the use of my improved clothes-pin, for the open or skeleton frame of which the hook is composed offers but little surface to which the clothes can adhere, and the wedge, besides, can be operated with such facility as to enable the hook at any time to be removed from the line.

As above indicated, the construction of the clothes-pin which I have shown may be variously modified, without departing from the principle of my invention. I do not limit myself, therefore, to the precise details of construction herein specified; but having described my invention,

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

1. A clothes-pin, composed of a combined hook and wedge, arranged for operation substantially as herein described, so that, by forcing down the wedge, the rope or line upon which the hook is placed will be jammed and held tightly between the said wedge and the hook, as and for the purposes set forth.

2. The combination, with the slotted wedge, of the skeleton wire hook, having the ends which straddle the wedge united by a strip or plate, fitting and capable of sliding within the slot in the said wedge, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification before two subscribing witnesses.

WM. M. DOTY.

Witnesses:

A. POLLOK,

M. BAILEY.