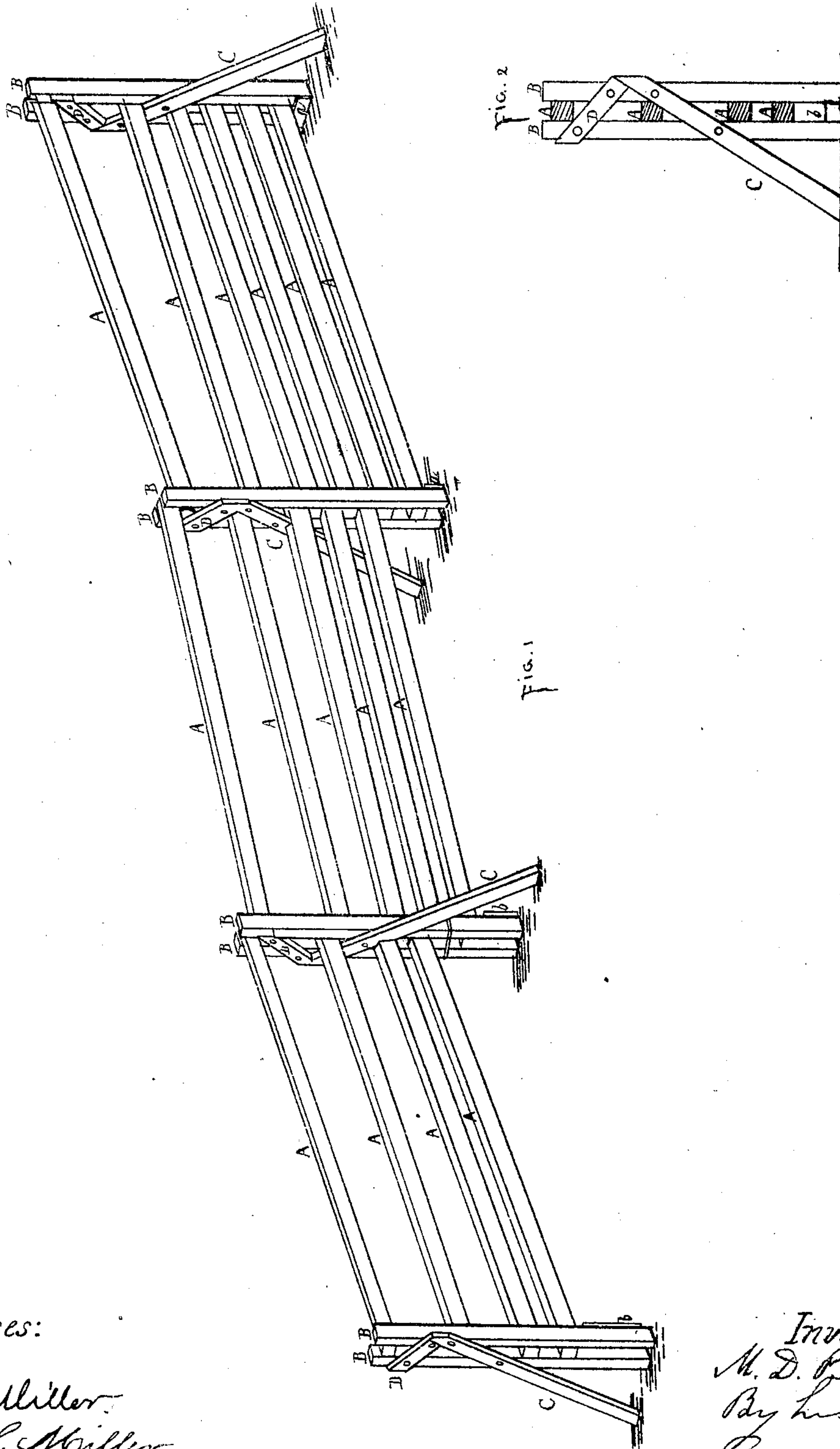


M. D. Pratt.

Fence.

N<sup>o</sup> 73260

Patented Jan. 14, 1868.



Witnesses:

D L Miller  
Geo H. Miller

Inventor:  
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By his atty.  
Thos. H. Dodge

# United States Patent Office.

M. D. PRATT, OF COPLEY, OHIO.

*Letters Patent No. 73,260, dated January 14, 1868.*

## IMPROVEMENT IN FENCE.

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

### KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That I, M. D. PRATT, of Copley, in the county of Summit, and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fences, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of three sections of my improved fence, and

Figure 2 represents an end view of one section of the fence.

To enable those skilled in the art to which my invention belongs to make and use the same, I will proceed to describe it more in detail.

In the drawings, the rails are marked A, the posts B B, stakes C, and braces D. The rails A may be the ordinary ones, found or used upon the farm. The posts B B are driven into the ground so as to give a worm or angle to the sections of the fence of, say, three feet to rails of eleven feet in length, and in the same proportion with rails longer or shorter. This is a saving of about two-fifths of the worm found in the common rail-fence. Then, again, when the common worm-fence is ridged and staked, the stakes increase the width of the fence some three feet more, thus showing an increase of fence-row of some five feet over my improved fence. The ends of the rails A overlap each other between the posts B B. The bottom rail may be laid close down to the ground, as shown in the right-hand section, or it may be started higher up, as shown in the other two sections. The bottom rail, when laid as represented in the right-hand section, may be supported upon stones or blocks *a a*, and when elevated as indicated in the other two sections the ends may be supported by strips, *b b*, of boards nailed or fastened to the posts B B. When, however, the fence is designed for simply turning horses and cattle, and the bottom rail is to be elevated considerably above the ground, I prefer to wind wire around the posts B B to support the ends of the rail, as shown at *c*. The wire coil *c* serves to hold the posts B B securely together, while at the same time affording a good support for the ends of the rail. Stakes C are driven into the ground in each inner angle or worm of the fence, and are thus brought alternately on each side of the fence, as fully indicated in the drawings. The ends of the rails upon which the stakes rest, where they pass through the fence, may be notched or cut out, as shown at *d*, to make a more secure connection of the parts. The upper ends of the stakes C are fastened to the posts B B, while the lower ends of short braces D rest against the tops of said stakes, and extend back through the fence at right angles to the stakes C, and are, in turn, fastened to both of the posts B B, all as clearly indicated in the drawings. A top rail may be placed over the short braces D. The ends of the rails may be nailed or fastened to the posts and to each other, if preferred. The brace-stakes C being set an angle, and fastened to both posts, in combination with the short braces D, arranged at right angles to the former, and also fastened to both the posts, render the fence strong and prevent shocks, or much, if any, give to the fence until the fence is raised up or the stakes and posts broken off, one of which must take place before the fence can be thrown over. It will be further observed that the stakes C are all in the hollows of the angles alternating from side to side, thus leaving the fence-line straight, so that the corners are not liable to injury from whiffle-trees or harrows—a consideration of no small importance, as every farmer can bear testimony.

Having described my improved fence, what I claim as new and of my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination and relative arrangement of the stake-braces C and short braces D with the rails A and posts B B, in the manner herein shown and specified, the said stake-braces being placed in the hollow of the angles of the fence, and alternating from side to side, as and for the purposes described.

M. D. PRATT.

Witnesses:

X. V. BINN,

C. A. BALDWIN.