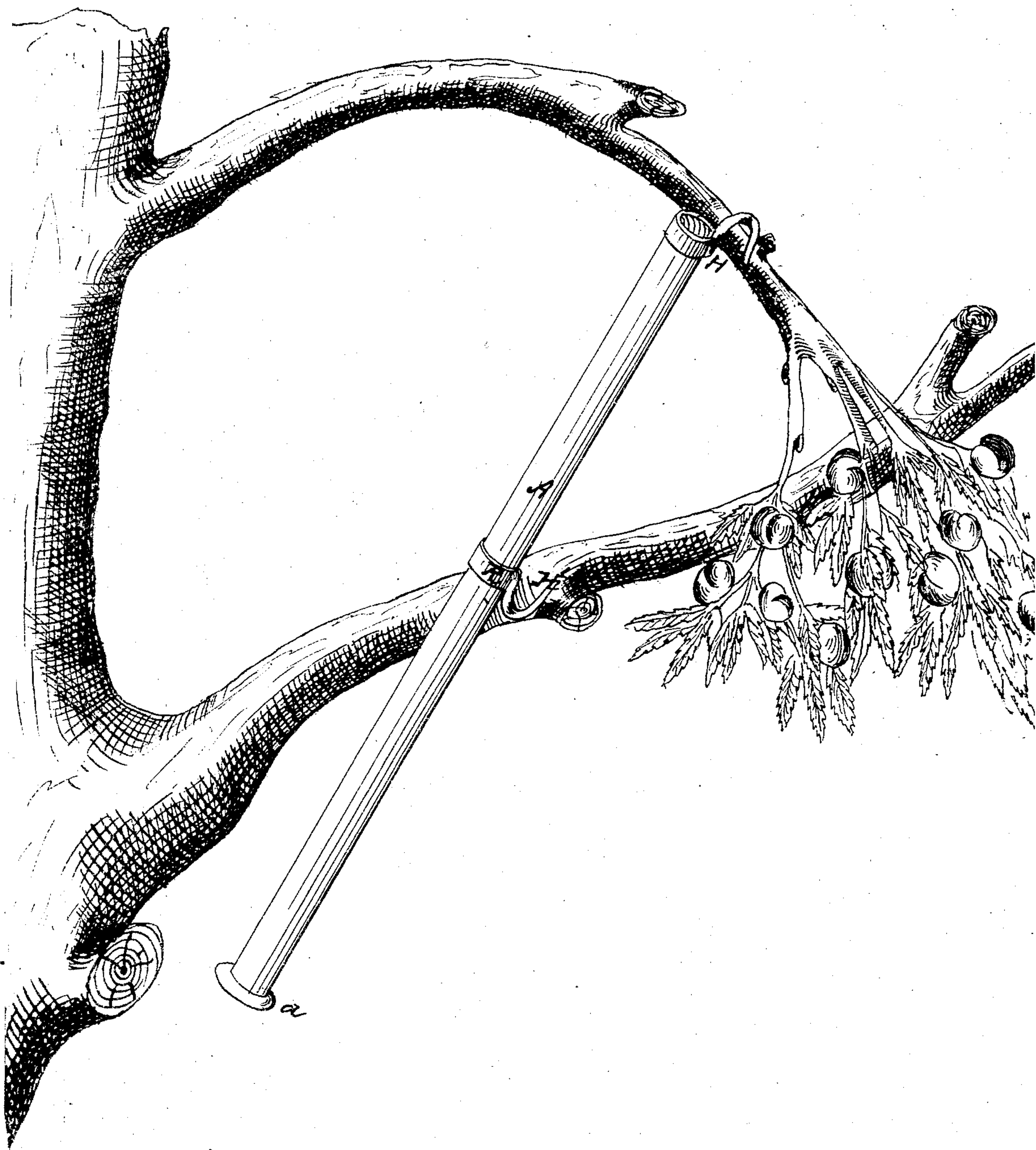


W. Richardson.

Limb & Basket-Holder

N^o 76248

Patented Mar. 31, 1868.



Witnesses.

S. C. Kewen
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WILLIAM RICHARDSON, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

Letters Patent No. 76,248, dated March 31, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN LIMB AND BASKET-HOLDER.

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 RICHARDSON, of Baltimore, in the county of Baltimore, and State of Maryland, have invented a new and improved Limb and Basket-Holder; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification.

The drawing represents a perspective view of my invention.

This device is a cheap and convenient instrument, by which the fruit-gatherer can draw a distant limb near to him, and confine it in that position till he has secured its fruit. When not thus in use, it can be employed to hold the fruit-basket.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the drawing.

In the drawing, A represents a round staff, several feet in length, terminating at one end in a knob, *a*, and at the other in a fixed hook, H, the point of which projects downward towards the knob *a*. A flat, sharp-edged ring, R, of iron or other suitable material, slides loosely along the staff, between the knob *a* and the hook H. Fixed to the ring R, and sliding up and down with it, is another hook, H', bent in the opposite direction. This constitutes the whole instrument.

To operate this instrument, the harvester takes hold of the knob *a*, and, hooking the hook H over the distant limb whose fruit is sought, draws that limb conveniently near to himself, where he fastens it by sliding the other hook, H', along on the staff to the proper point, and catching it over some stout limb. No fastening is required, as the loose ring R clamps itself firmly to the staff whenever force is applied to the hooks in opposite directions; and the spring of the bent limb supplies such force. The instrument can be detached from the limb even more easily than it is attached.

This instrument can be used equally as well for holding the fruit-basket. It is only necessary to hang it to some limb by means of the hook H, and hang the basket upon the sliding hook H', which can be adjusted to any height, and on any side of the staff, and can be shifted from one height to another in the progress of the work. The instrument itself can be shifted from one limb to another without removing the basket.

The whole device is extremely simple, cheap, and useful, enabling the operator to gather his fruit without much changing of his position, and to use both hands for picking the fruit, where he would otherwise be confined to one. It thus decreases the risk of falling, and breaking and injuring of the tree by venturing on the weak limbs, while it enables the workman to gather his fruit much more rapidly than he could without it.

I do not intend to confine myself to a round staff alone, but may use a four-sided or polyhedral staff if it proves to be cheaper. I may also use a fixed hook, like the hook H', at any point on the staff. I do not show such hook in my drawing, for the reason that the sliding hook H', when resting upon the knob *a*, becomes, to all intents and purposes, a fixed hook, such as I refer to, and supersedes the necessity of any other. But if another should prove convenient in practice, I wish to reserve the right to add it at any point on the staff.

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

The instrument above described, consisting of the staff A, fixed hook H, sliding hook H', and the knob *a*, or its equivalent, all the parts being constructed and arranged substantially in the manner and for the purpose specified.

To the above specification of my improvement I have signed my hand, this third day of September, 1867.

WM. RICHARDSON.

Witnesses:

JAMES H. GRIDLEY,
CHARLES A. PETTIT.