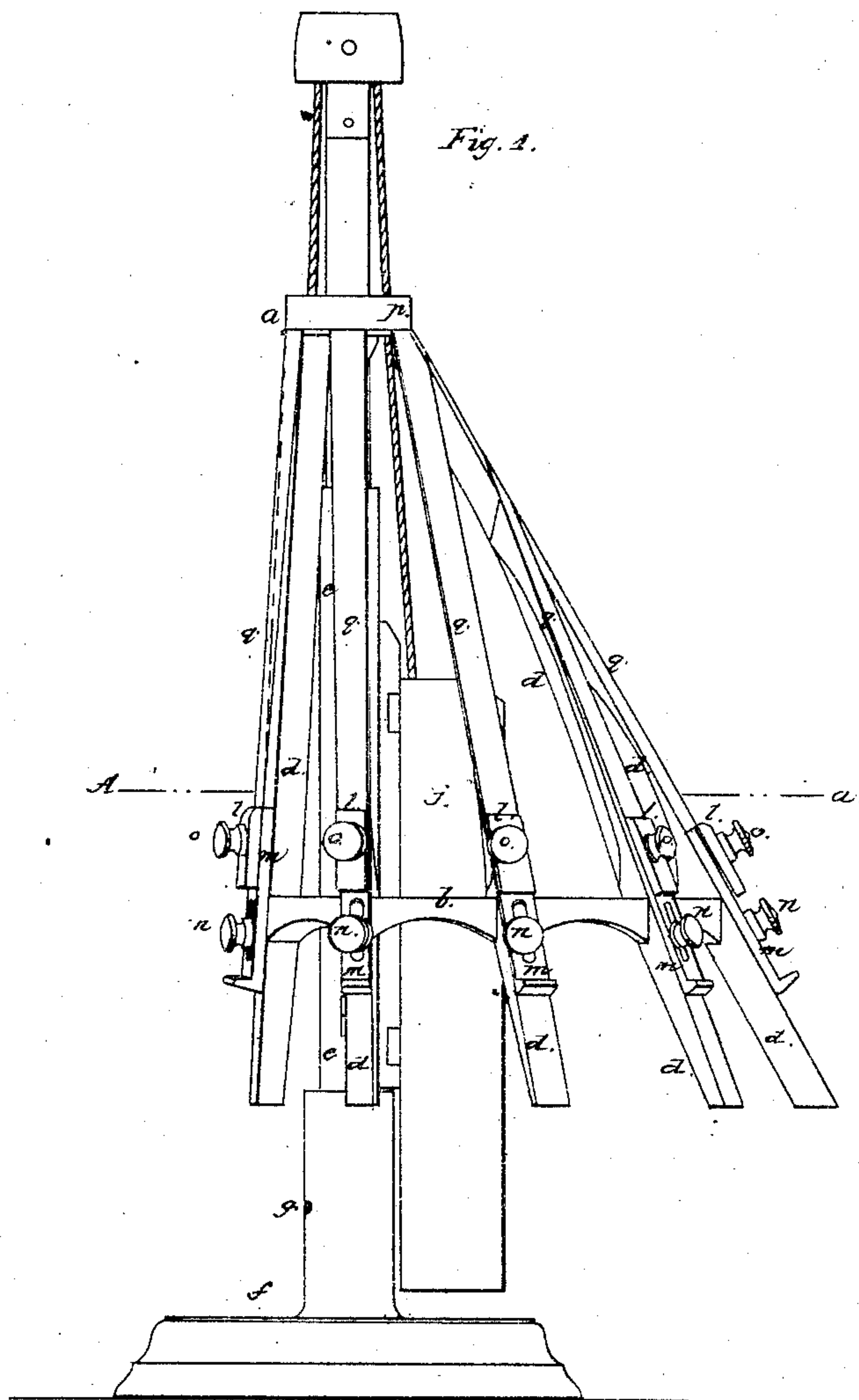


A. R. Stanley.

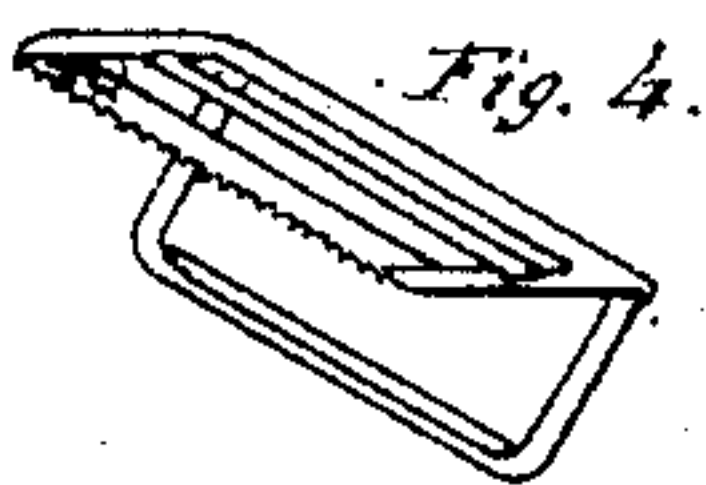
Forming Hoop-Skirts.

N<sup>o</sup> 76263

Patented Mar. 31, 1868



Attest:  
Andrew de Lacy.  
W. H. Brown }



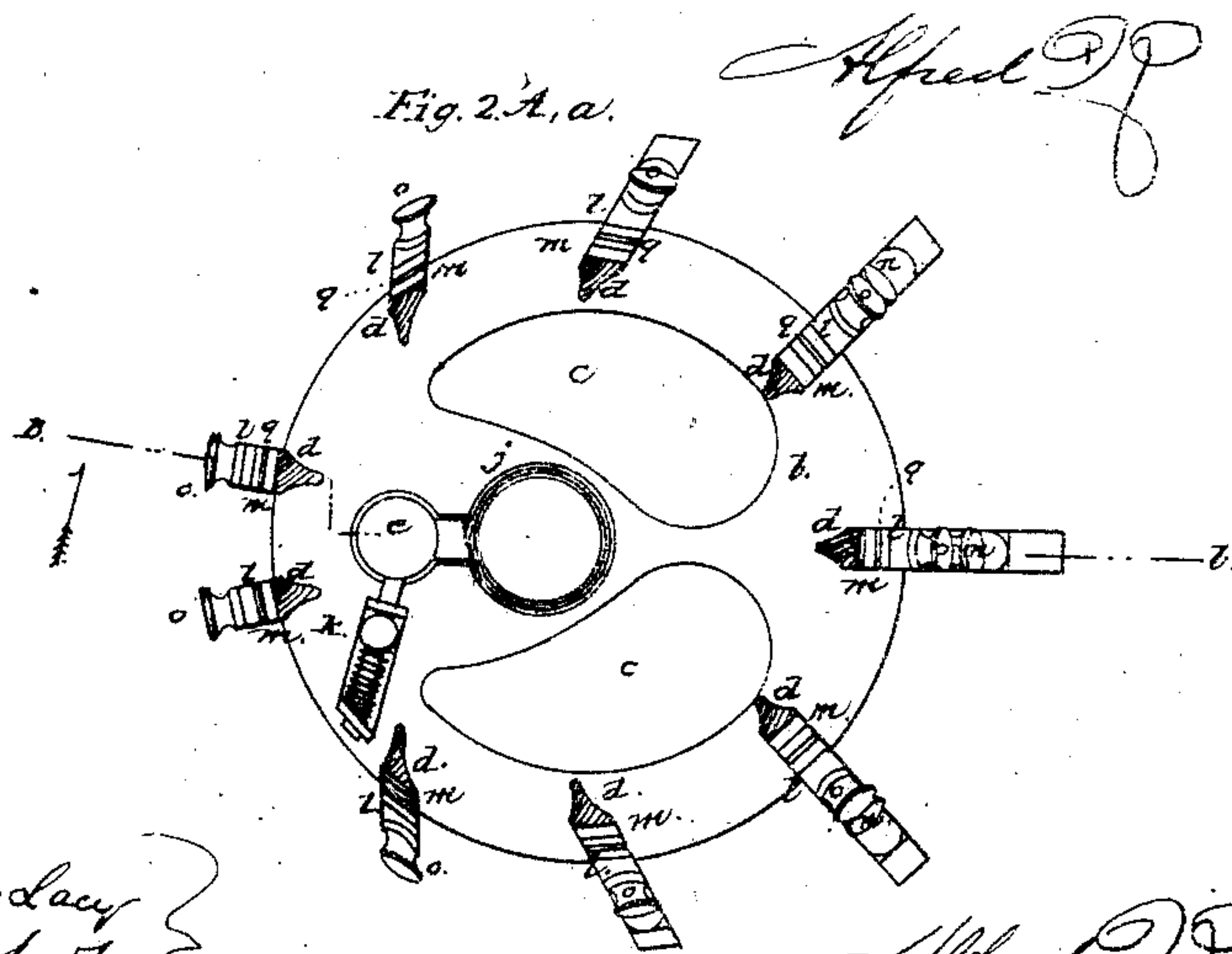
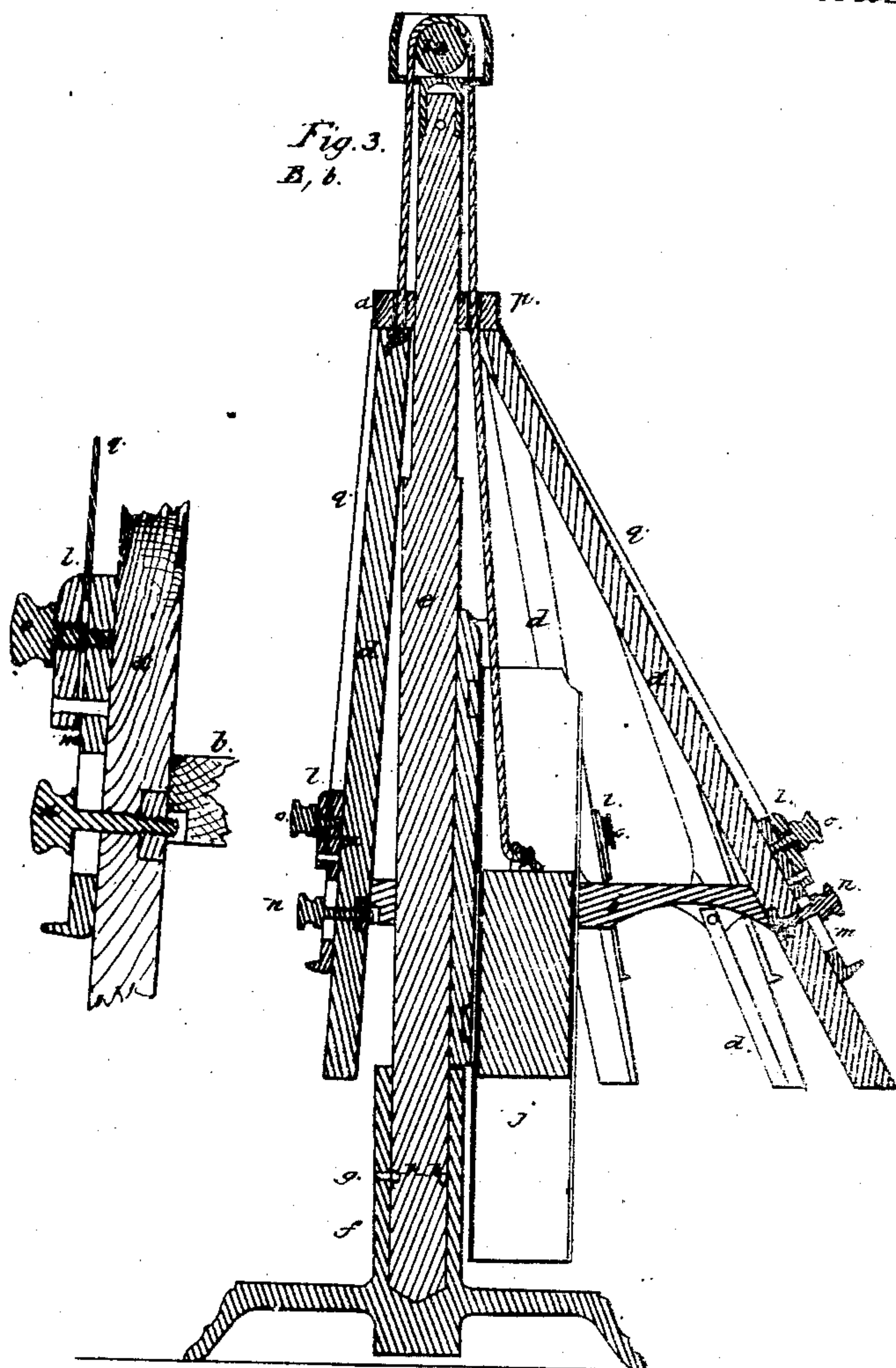
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Attest:  
Andrew DeLacy  
Wm. H. Ruckhop

Alfred D. Stanley



# United States Patent Office.

ALFRED R. STANLEY, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

*Letters Patent No. 76,263, dated March 31, 1868.*

## IMPROVEMENT IN FORMERS FOR HOOP-SKIRTS.

*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, ALFRED R. STANLEY, of Boston, in the State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Skirt-Frames or Forms on which to Make Skeleton Hoop-Skirts; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation.

Figure 2, a horizontal section, taken in the plane of the line A *a*, fig. 1; and

Figure 3 a vertical section, taken in the plane of the line B *b* of fig. 2.

The frames on which hoop-skirts are formed, as heretofore and now generally constructed, are of a fixed height, and with the upper part at a height which will enable the operatives to work on the upper part of a skirt with facility. It follows from this that the operatives are required to stoop considerably in working on the lower part of the skirt. This is not only injurious to the health of the operatives, but, as they work to a disadvantage, it is wasteful of time, and often results in imperfect work. This difficulty is avoided by the first part of my said invention, which consists in combining the skirt-former frame with its standard, so as to turn and slide thereon freely, and providing it with a counterpoising-mechanism, so that the operative can place any portion of it at the required height for working to advantage. Again, as the former-frames have been heretofore constructed, the lower ends of the tapes had to be secured to the frames by sticking needles or pins through them and into the wood of the frame, or to pieces of tapes secured to the frame. This was not only inconvenient, but failed to hold the whole width of the tapes under proper tension. This defect is avoided by the second part of my invention, which consists in combining, with the bars of the skirt-frame or former, against which the tapes are placed, a series of adjustable clamps, or equivalent devices, to take hold of the whole width of the ends of the tapes, and hold them with the required degree of tension, whatever may be their length.

In the accompanying drawings, *a* and *b* represent two horizontal plates or disks, of wood, the upper one, *a*, of about the diameter of the waistband of a skirt, and the other, *b*, of about the diameter of the lower part of a skirt. The latter may be cut out, as at *c c*, to reduce the weight. These two disks are united by a series of straight bars, *d*, let into and secured to them, there being as many such bars as there are to be tapes in the skirts to be made. A vertical post or rod, *e*, passes through the two disks, so that the frame can slide thereon vertically: and the lower end of the said post or rod is cylindrical, and fitted to turn in the cavity of a standard or pedestal, *f*, and is confined therein by a screw, *g*, the end of which extends into a groove, *h*, in the rod, or by equivalent means. The upper end of the said rod is provided with a pulley, *i*, over which a cord passes, one end of which is attached to the upper disk, *a*, and the other provided with a weight, to balance the weight of the entire frame. For convenience, this weight moves freely in a tube, *j*, attached to the side of the rod *e*. By this arrangement, the frame, with its post and appendages, can turn freely on the standard, that the operative, without changing place, may bring around to him any part of the circumference of the skirt, and, as the said frame is free to slide vertically on its post, and is balanced, or nearly so, it can be moved up or down, to bring any part of it to the level of the operative's hands, to enable him to work conveniently on any part of the skirt; and, with a view to hold the frame steady at any desired elevation, it is provided with a spring-bolt, *k*, the end of which takes into notches made in the post; but any other equivalent device which will act as a brake may be substituted; and, in fact, such spring-bolt or equivalent device may be dispensed with altogether, unless a spring should be substituted for the counterpoise-weight.

Each bar *d* is provided with a clamp, *l*, the plate *m* of which, for the purpose of adjustment to tapes of different lengths, is formed with an elongated slot, through which a screw, *n*, passes, to secure it to the bar *d*. The outer jaws of the clamps are hinged to the plates or inner jaws, with springs interposed to open them, and screws, *o*, to close them.

After the waistband, *p*, of a skirt has been secured to the periphery of the upper disk, the several tapes, *q*, are extended down, one on the surface of each bar, the end secured in the clamp, and the clamp drawn down, to distend the tape, and there secured by the screw *n*. In this way, and by the means described, the tapes, along their entire width, are conveniently distended and held.

It will be obvious, from the foregoing, that equivalent devices may be substituted for the clamps, such, for instance, as buckles, formed as represented in fig. 4 of the accompanying drawings; and, instead of securing the plates to the bars by screws passing through elongated slots, sliding spring-catches, taking into ratchet-teeth, or other equivalent devices, may be substituted.

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

Combining the skirt-former frame with its standard, by a turning and sliding joint, and counterpoising-mechanism, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

And I also claim, in combination with the skirt-former frame, the series of adjustable clamps, or equivalents therefor, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

ALFRED R. STANLEY.

Witnesses:

ANDREW DE LACY,  
WM. H. BISHOP.