

M. L. THOMPSON.  
BARREL HEAD.

No. 80,886.

Patented Aug. 11, 1868.

Fig. 2.

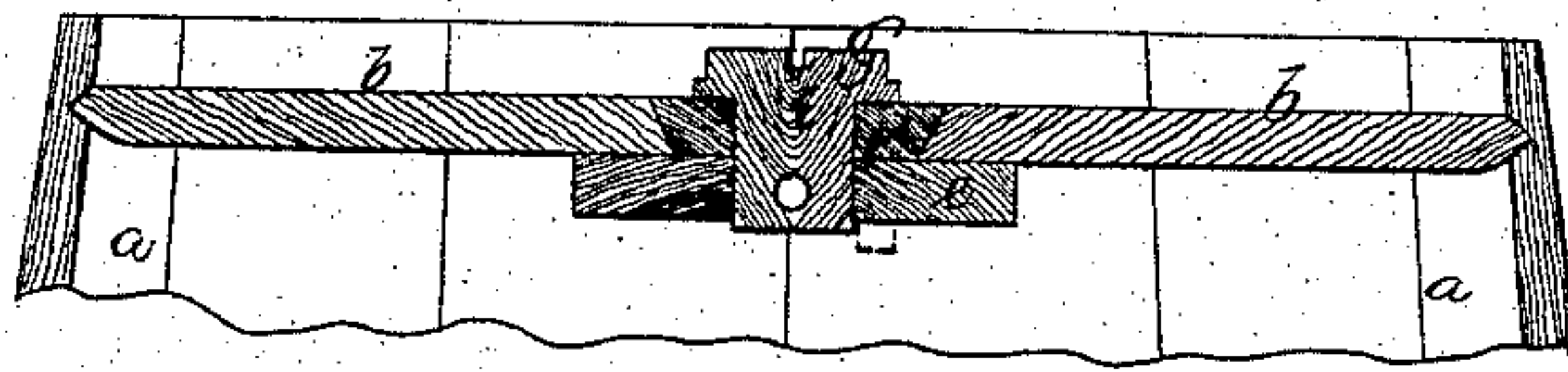


Fig. 1.

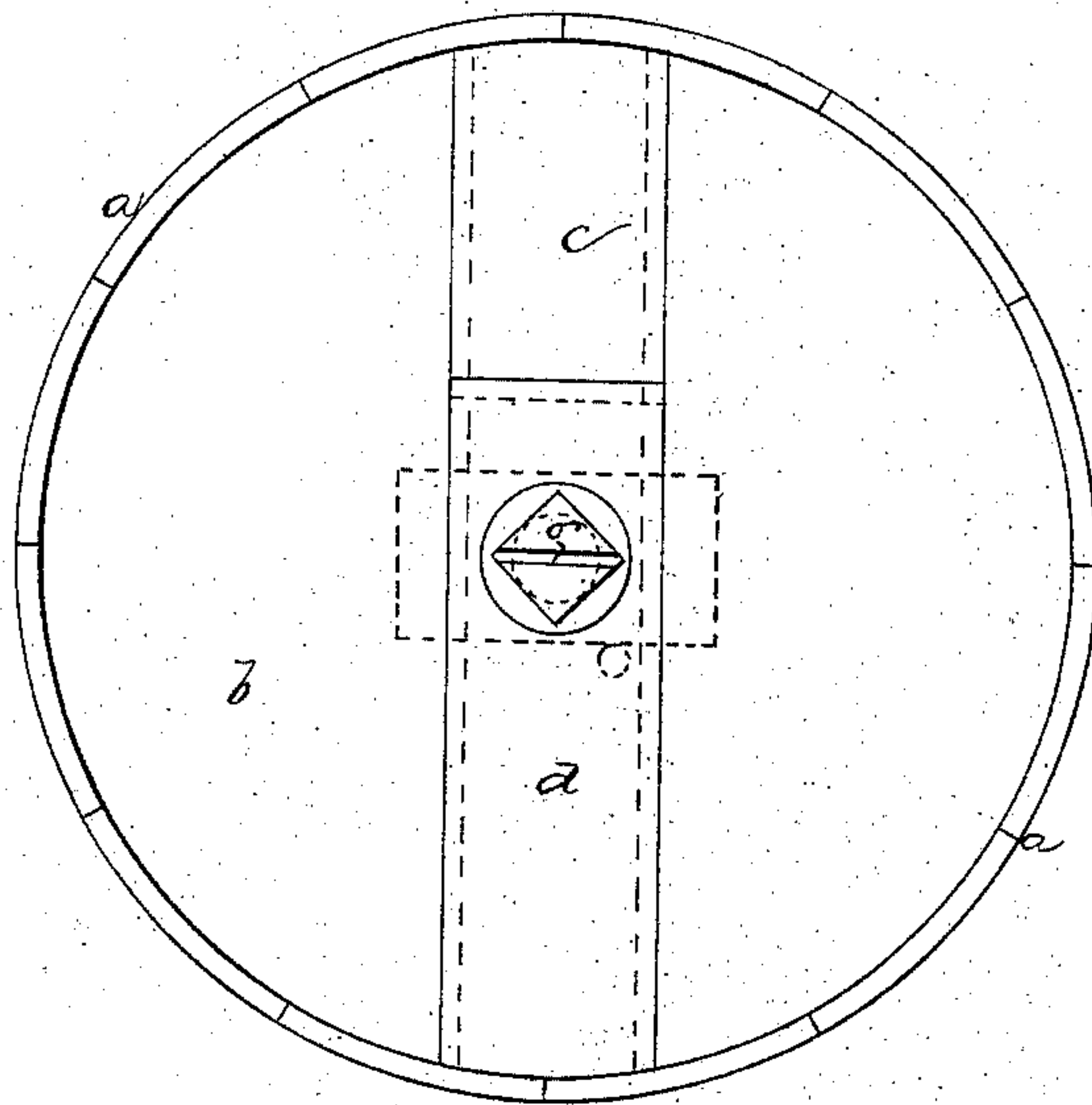
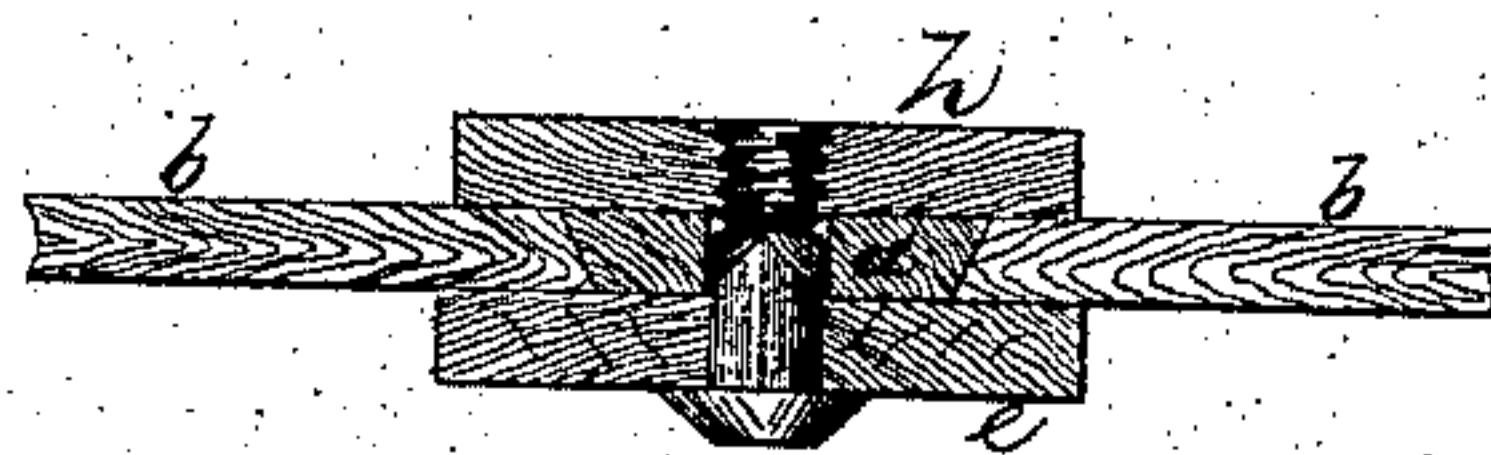


Fig. 3.



Witnesses

Chas. H. Smith

Geo. D. Walker

M. L. Thompson

# United States Patent Office.

MERRITT L. THOMPSON, OF FLEMINGTON, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR TO  
HIMSELF AND JOHN P. RITTENHOUSE, OF SAME PLACE.

*Letters Patent No. 80,886, dated August 11, 1868.*

## IMPROVED HEAD FOR BARRELS.

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, MERRITT L. THOMPSON, of Flemington, in the county of Hunterdon, and State of New Jersey, have invented, made, and applied to use a certain new and useful Improvement in Heads for Barrels; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the said invention, reference being had to the annexed drawing, making part of this specification, wherein—

Figure 1 is a plan of the said head,

Figure 2 is a vertical section of the same, and

Figure 3 is a section showing a variation in the securing-button.

Similar marks of reference denote the same parts.

The object of this invention is to allow the head to be removed without loosening the hoops, and my particular feature of invention consists in a turning-button inside the head, operated from the outside, to hold down or to release a movable section, which allows for taking out or putting in the head with great facility, said section being supported by rebated or inclined edges on the portions of the barrel-head that set as segments of a circle into the grooves in the staves.

In the drawing, *a a* represent the staves, *b b* the portions of the head that are formed as segments of a circle, and set into the groove around the inside of the barrel-head, leaving a space between them.

The straight sides of these segments *b b* are formed bevelled, or with rebates, so as to support the middle sections *c* and *d*, and these are of a length to fill said space, their ends passing into the grooved chime.

In order to prevent the section *d* coming out, I attach to it a button, *e*, with its spindle, *i*, passing through said section *d*, so as to be turned from the outside. For this purpose, I either employ the head, *g*, to the spindle *i*, or else make use of the head-nut *h*, fig. 3, that can be partially unscrewed, to relieve the button *e*, so that it will be turned by the friction of the screw, and I provide a stop, against which the button is arrested when it stands transversely of the section *d*, so that its ends take under the segments *b b*.

The screw and nut *h* allow the parts to be firmly clamped on the sides of the sections, but ordinarily the friction of the parts will prevent the button moving accidentally.

I provide a slot in the outer end of the spindle *i*, to indicate the direction in which the button stands.

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

1. A movable head for barrels or casks, formed in sections, with the last section that is introduced resting upon rebates, or the bevelled edges of those previously introduced, and held down by a turning-button, or equivalent clamp, substantially as set forth.

2. A turning-button, applied to the inner side of a sectional head, and fitted substantially as specified, so as to be turned from the outside of said head and secure the sections in place, substantially as set forth.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my signature, this sixteenth day of October, A. D. 1867.

M. L. THOMPSON.

Witnesses:

CHAS. H. SMITH,

GEO. DENNETT WALKER.