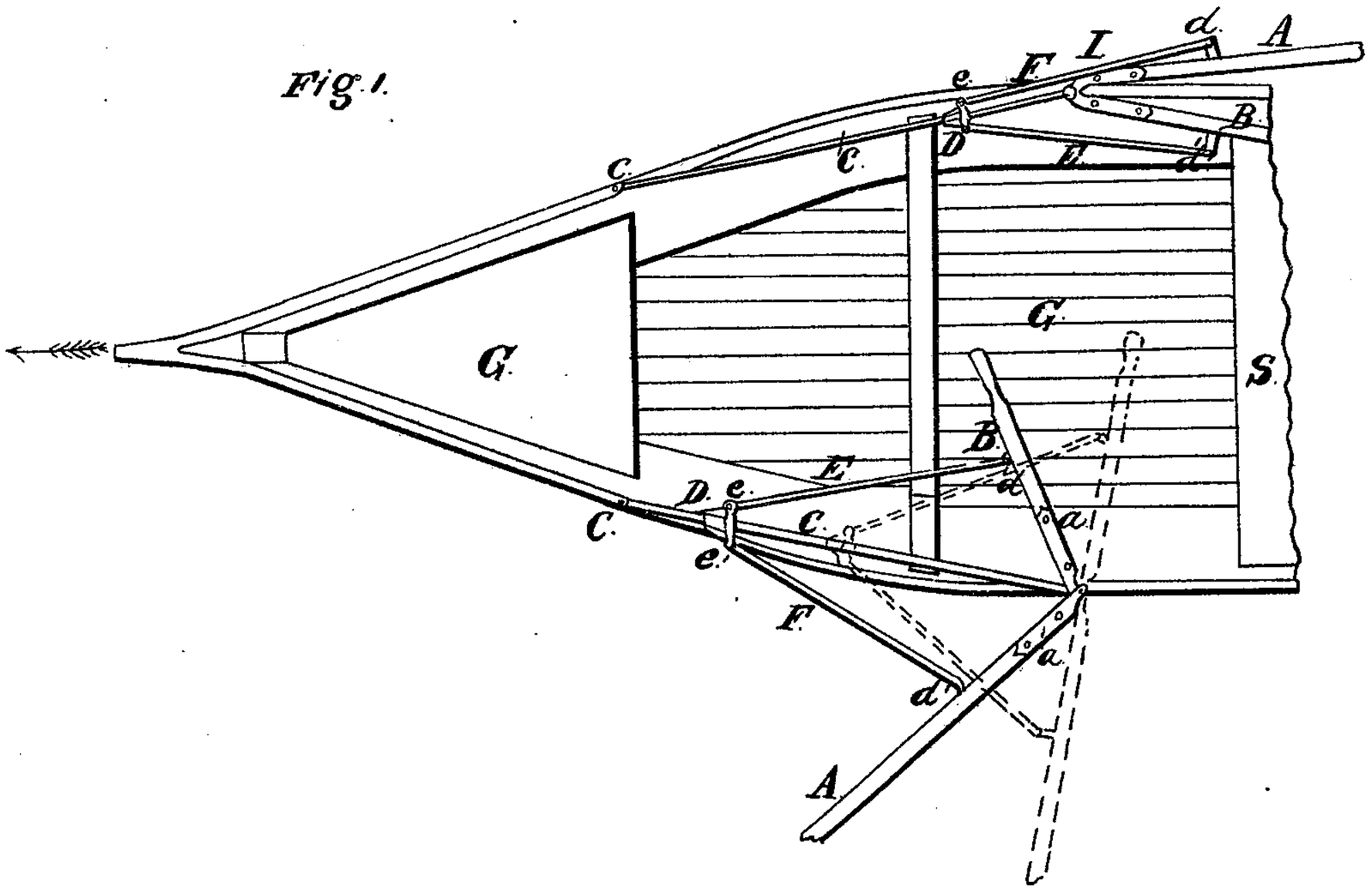
R. E. Gleason.

Oar & Oar Lock.

No. 91,226. Patented Jun. 15, 1869.

Fig. 1.



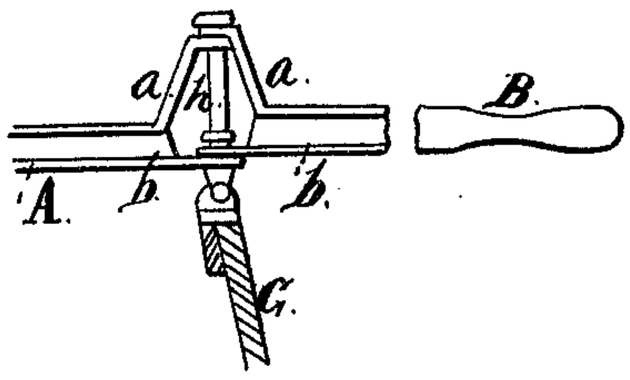


Fig 2.

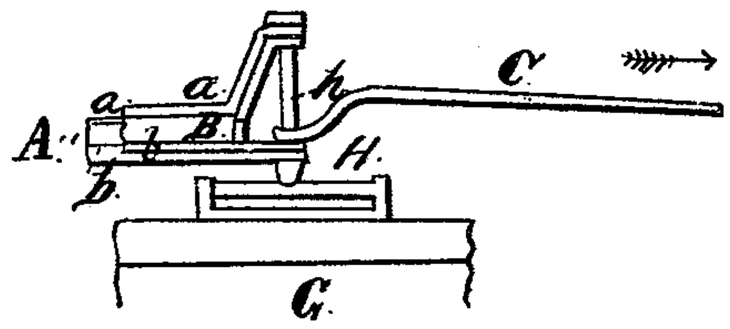


Fig. 3.

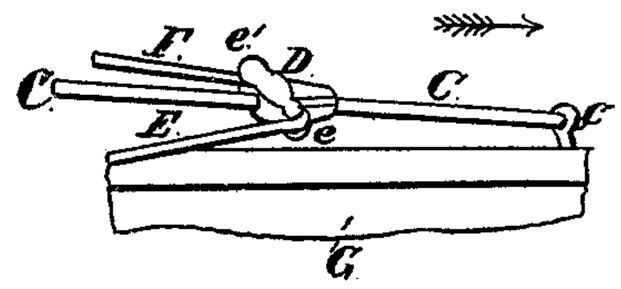


Fig. 4.

Witnesses.
W. H. Gillmore
& Attest.

Inventor
Robert E Gleason

United States Patent Office.

ROBERT E. GLEASON, OF LIBERTYVILLE, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND EDWIN W. PARKHURST, OF SAME PLACE.

Letters Patent No. 91,226, *dated June* 15, 1869.

IMPROVEMENT IN OARS.

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, ROBERT E. GLEASON, of Libertyville, in the county of Lake, and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Oars; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a top view of my oar connected to a boat, G.

Figure 2, a rear view.

Figure 3, a side view, looking at the inside of the boat.

Figure 4 shows the slide D and connecting-rods, looking at the inside of the boat.

The object of my invention is to so construct oars, and connect the same to boats, that the oarsman, when rowing, will sit facing the bow of the boat, looking in the direction in which the boat is being propelled, the action of the oarsman being the same as when using the common oar, and sitting with his face toward the stern of the boat, in the usual manner.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I proceed to describe the construction and operation of the same.

I make my oar in two parts, A being the blade, and B the handle, these two parts corresponding with the two parts which would be made by cutting a common oar into two pieces at the point where it is placed in the row-lock.

To the inner end of each piece I attach irons *a b*, the under irons, *b*, being straight, so as to bring the oar down near the edge of the boat, but the upper irons, *a*, I curve upward from the oar, as shown, so that in use there will be less play upon the iron to which they are connected.

These irons are securely bolted to the several parts of the oar, and the ends projecting from the ends of the several parts of the oar are all provided with one hole each.

H represents an iron rod, about five inches long, to the centre of which, and at right angles thereto, is secured, by welding, or otherwise, an iron pin, *h*, about five inches long, to receive the oars.

The ends of this iron, H, are to be placed in eyes in the ends of suitable bolts or irons, which are to be fastened to the sides of the boat.

This iron, H, is to move somewhat freely in the bearings, but the ends should be smaller than the central portion, to prevent longitudinal motion, and keep it in place; or this may be accomplished in some other way, as, by making the iron long enough to extend beyond the bearings, and placing a nut on each end.

C is an iron rod, about two feet long, one end of which has an eye, by which it is connected with the iron *h*, over which it passes. The other end is pivoted to the edge of the boat at *c*.

D is a slide, which moves easily upon the rod C.

E F are two strong iron rods. One end of the former is pivoted to B at *d*, and its other end is pivoted to the slide D at *e*, and one end of F is pivoted to A at *d'*, and the other end to D at *e'*.

My oar is connected to the boat, with the accompanying devices, by first putting the lower irons *b b* upon the iron *h*, which passes through the holes in said irons *b*.

The point, at the end of C, is passed into the eye prepared to receive it at *c*, and the eye, at the other end of C, is passed over the iron *h*. The upper irons *a a* are then passed over *h*, and all can be secured by a nut at the top of *h*. The oar is then ready for use.

The oarsman occupies the seat S, looking in the direction the boat is to move.

By pressing down upon B, and pushing from him, A will be lifted out of the water and carried forward, ready for the stroke. Then, by elevating B and pulling toward him, the oar will dip into the water, and the boat will be propelled forward in the direction in which the oarsman is looking.

The action of the oarsman is the same as when using the common oar, but the direction in which the boat is propelled by such action, is directly opposite to the direction in which it would move if, with the same action, the common oar were used.

When the full stroke has been taken, the oar can be easily raised out of the water, and carried forward for a second stroke, as before described.

When the oarsman pulls the part B toward him, the power is applied to the slide D by means of the rod E, drawing the slide along the rod C, toward the point where the oar is pivoted, and the same power, at the same time, through the rod F, forces the blade A through the water.

The movement of the parts, while the stroke is being taken, is indicated by the red lines in fig. 1.

The position of the pin *h*, when the blade is in the water, and when out of the water, is indicated by red lines in fig. 2. The position of the other parts will, of course, be correspondingly changed, but is not indicated.

When not in use, the several parts can be placed in the position shown at I, fig. 1.

The oarsman can propel the boat backward, if he desires so to do, by reversing the action described.

The several parts move freely in every required direction, in consequence of the manner in which they are connected and pivoted.

I do not confine myself to the form shown, in making the irons *a b*. These may be cast in a single piece, the central part encircling the oar, and the form may be in other respects changed.

It is evident that the oar and its attachments can be readily removed from the boat.

For many purposes, this oar will be found very useful; in fact, in most cases where a boat is managed by a single person, its use will be desirable. I may mention that its use will be found almost indispensable for hunters, enabling them to watch for game, and avoid disturbing the same.

The opening through the slide D may be bushed with leather, or other suitable substance, to prevent noise.

Having thus fully described my invention,

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is as follows:

1. The oar A B, when made in two parts, and provided with the irons *a b*, substantially as specified.

2. The oar A B, shaft and pivoting-pin H *h*, rod C, slide D, and rods E F, combined and arranged substantially as and for the purposes specified.

Witnesses: ROBERT E. GLEASON.

W. H. GILLMORE,

E. A. WEST.