

E. Thomas *Tobacco Press*

Nº 92,227.

Patented July 6, 1869.

Fig. 1.

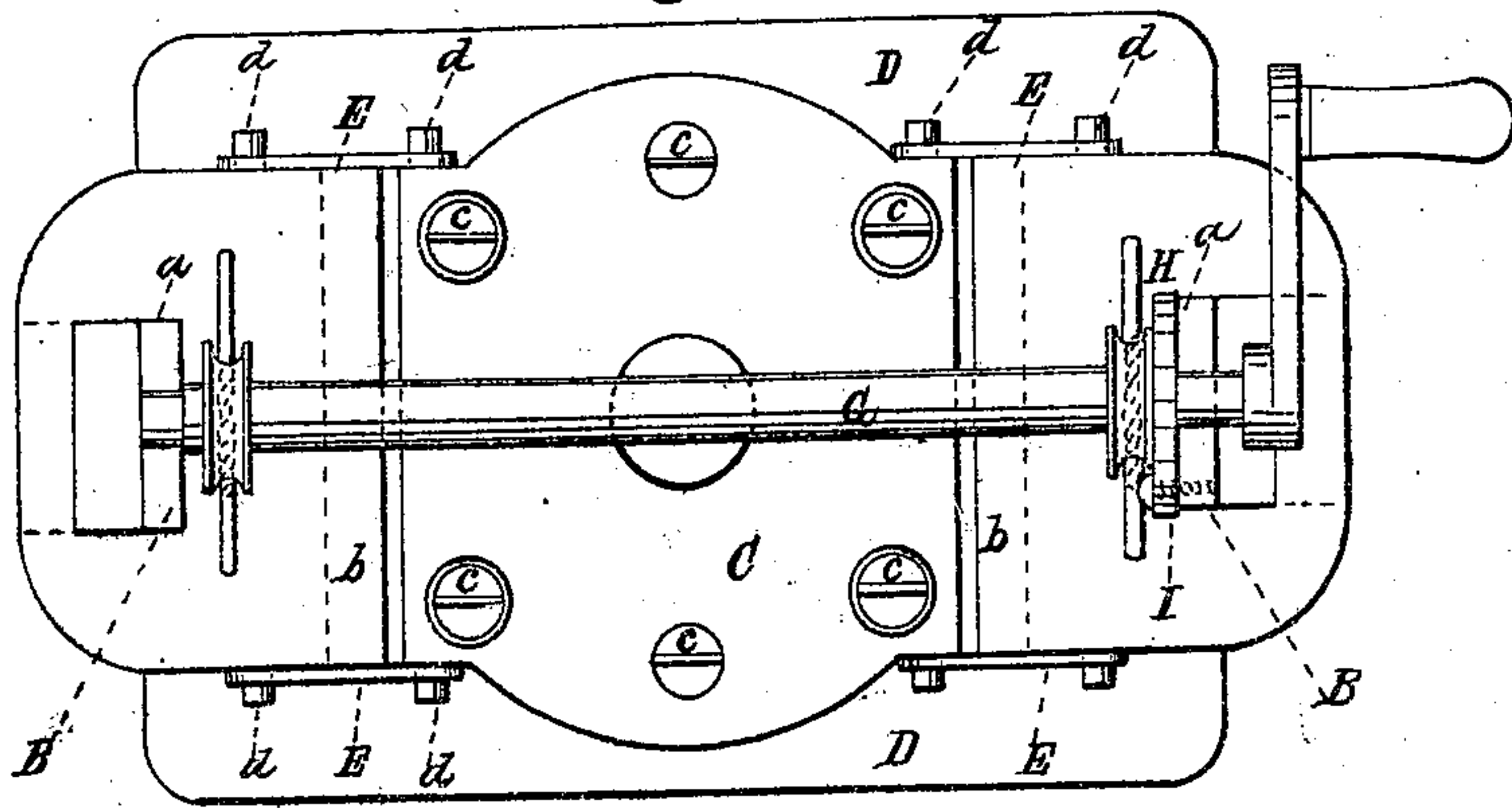
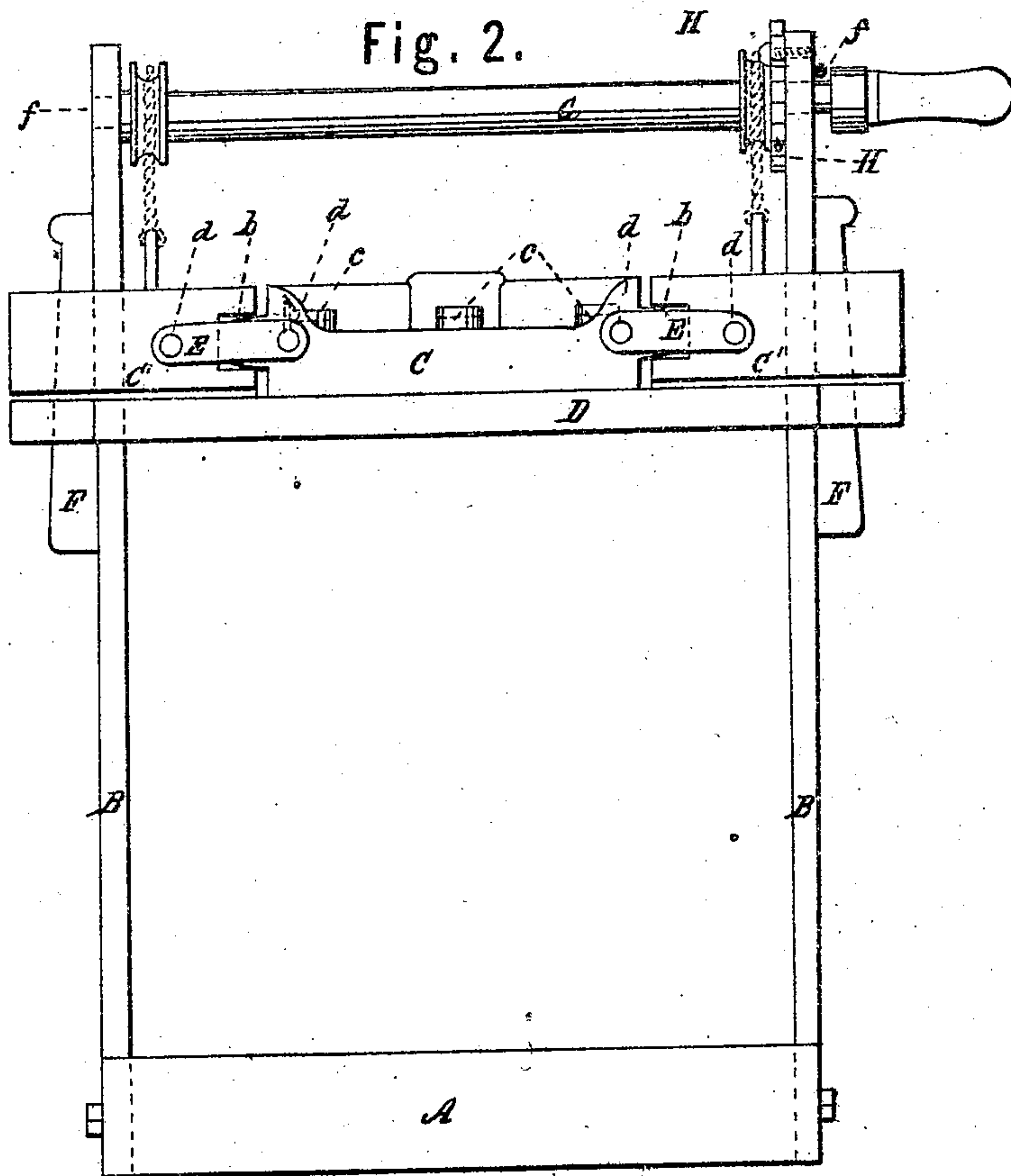


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.

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ENOCH THOMAS, OF CRAIGSVILLE, VIRGINIA.

Letters Patent No. 92,227, dated July 6, 1869.

IMPROVED RETAINER FOR TOBACCO-PRESSES.

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, ENOCH THOMAS, of Craigsville, in the county of Augusta, and State of Virginia, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Retainers for Tobacco-Presses; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The nature of my invention mainly consists in the construction of the follower of the retainer of a tobacco-press in three sections, which are jointed together in such a manner that the weight of the middle inclines the end sections on an angle when the follower is raised to receive the tobacco, whereby two diagonal corners of the slots which slide on the uprights of the retainer are caused to press hard upon the sides of said uprights, and thus hold the follower in its elevated position until the mass to be pressed is placed under it, at which time the follower is lowered and the pressure applied.

In the accompanying drawings—

Figure 1 is a plan of the improved retainer.

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the same.

Like letters in both figures indicate the same parts.

A is the bed-plate of the retainer.

B B are uprights, on which the follower C slides, by means of the vertical slots *a a*.

The follower has end sections, C' C', connected to it by means of the joints *b b*, which pass from one edge to the other, so that when it is elevated for the admission of the tobacco beneath it to be pressed, the middle section falls out of line with the end sections, whereby the latter are turned somewhat out of their horizontal position, and thus cause diagonal corners of the slots, *a a*, to bind against the sides of the uprights B B, so as to hold the follower in its elevated position until the mass to be pressed is placed beneath it.

The follower may have a wooden facing, D, (as seen in fig. 2,) secured to its under side, by means of screws, *e*, or made altogether of iron, of sufficient thickness to resist the pressure.

There are straps, E, connected with the edges of the follower C and end sections C' C', by means of

joint pins *d*, to keep the sections laterally in place, and keep the uprights B B in their vertical position.

F F are keys, by means of which the follower is secured firmly on the tobacco after it is pressed, and the pressing-force withdrawn for the removal of the retainer.

At this time the resisting force of the pressed mass has a tendency to spring the follower upward, by which the latter is more securely held in place, as diagonal corners of the slots *a a* are thereby caused to bind upon the sides of the uprights B, and thus assist the keys F F in holding the follower securely.

Hence, the keys do not require to be driven so tight as they otherwise would.

The keys are made to slide upward when being tightened, and when loosened for the elevation of the follower, rest upon their tail lugs *e*, and are thus prevented binding upon the uprights B, so as to admit of a free upward movement of the follower.

The latter may be elevated by two men, one at each end; but for an extensive manufactory, where it is desirable to economize the number of hands, the windlass G should be used.

H is a ratchet-wheel on the shaft G, into which the pawl I falls, to retain the windlass in place.

The journals *f f* turn in bearings in the upper ends of the uprights B B, the uprights being slotted out above the journals, (as seen in fig. 2,) for the removal of the windlass when the retainer is to be placed in the press.

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

The combination of the slotted sections C' C' with the follower C, and uprights B B, the said sections being connected with the follower by means of the joints *b b*, and straps E, the several parts being arranged and operating substantially in the manner and for the purpose herein set forth.

In testimony that the above is my invention, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal, this 23d day of October, 1868.

ENOCH THOMAS. [L. s.]

Witnesses:

STEPHEN USTICK,
JOHN E. LITTLETON.