Henry Thompson,

Life Boat.

No. 95,538. Fig. 1 Patented Oct 5, 1869.

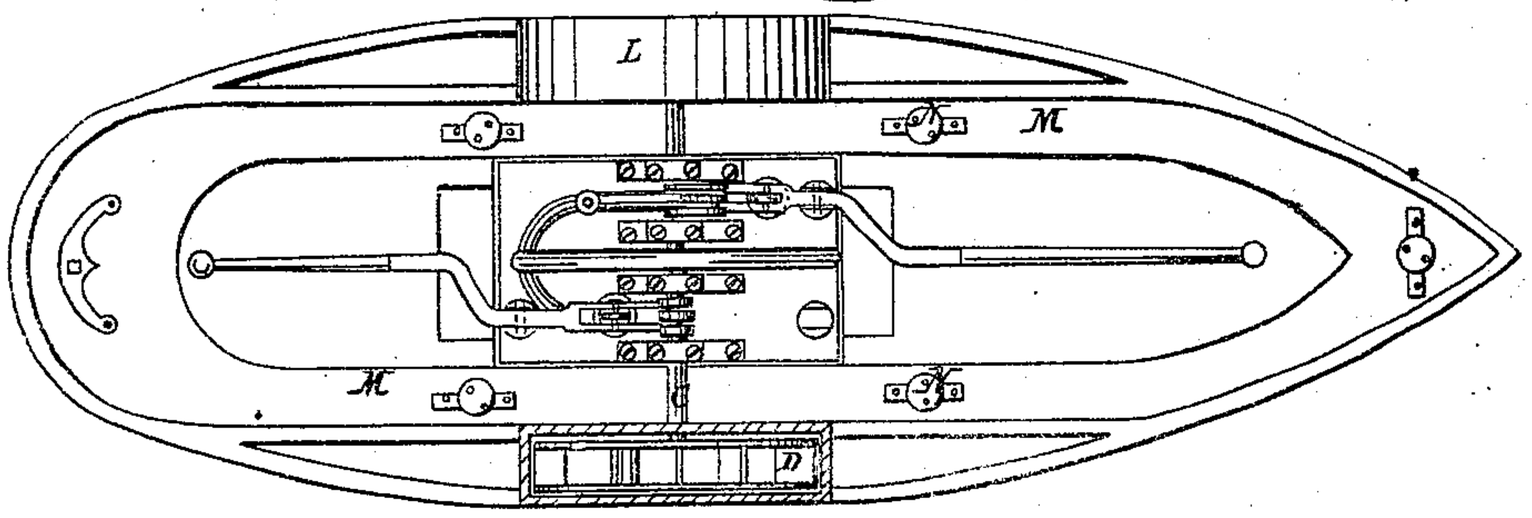


Fig. 2.

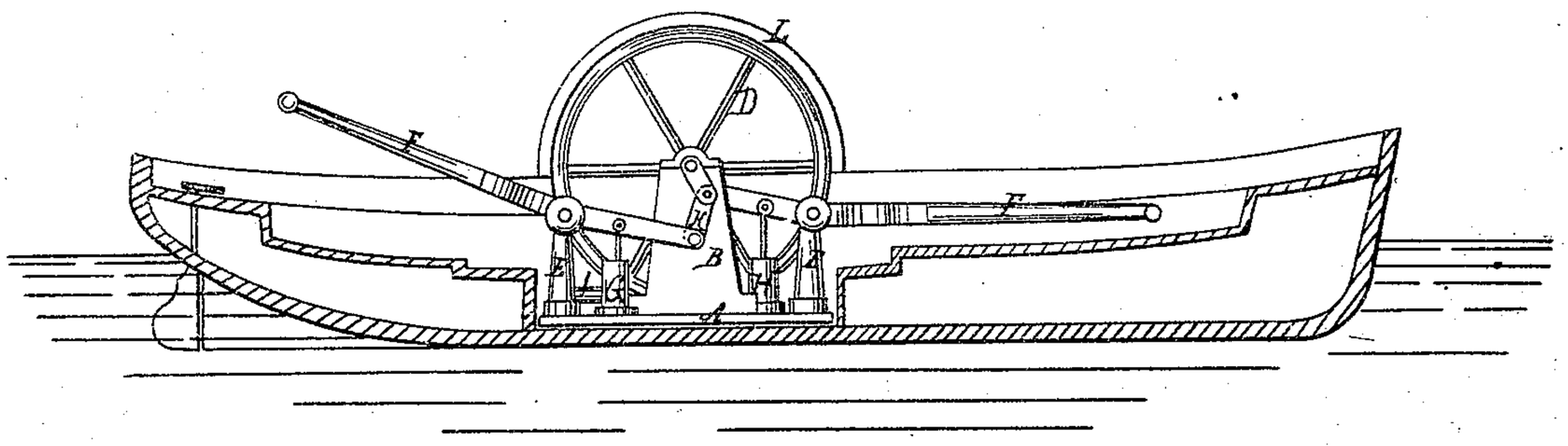


Fig. 3

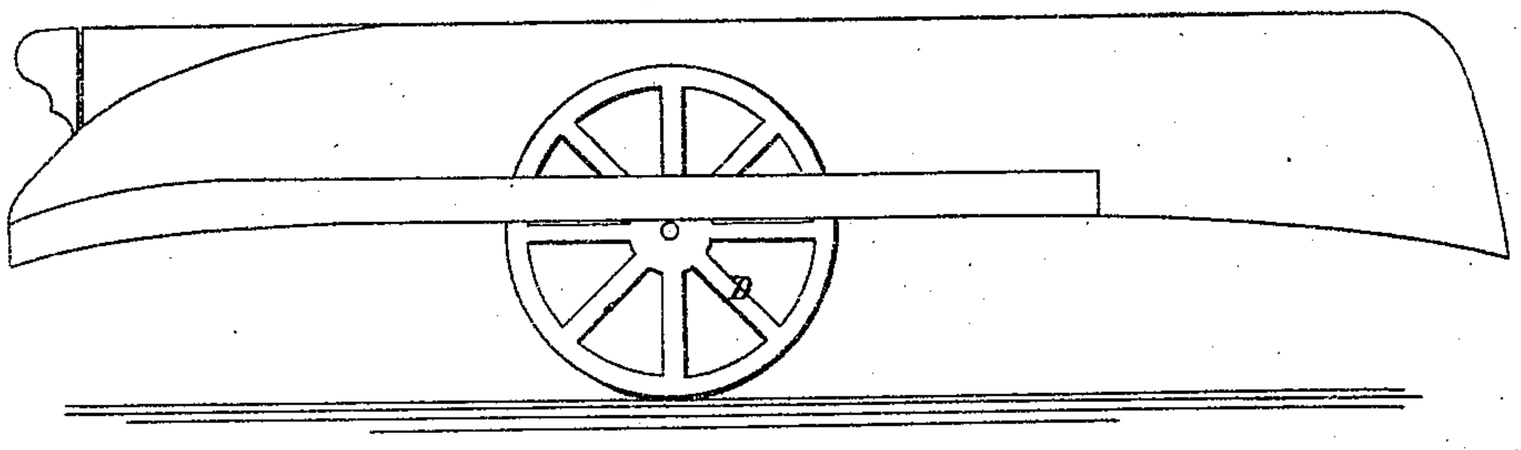
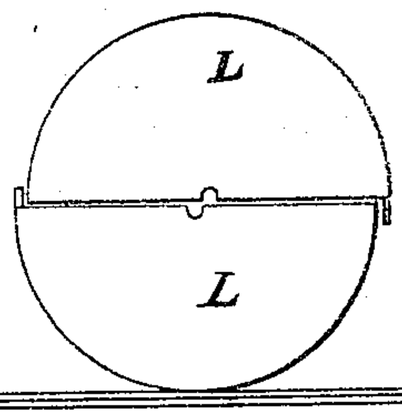


Fig. 4.



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HENRY THOMPSON, OF MOBILE, ALABAMA.

Letters Patent No. 95,538, *dated October* 5, 1869.

IMPROVEMENT IN LIFE-BOATS.

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, HENRY THOMPSON, of Mobile, in the county of Mobile, and State of Alabama, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Life, Surf, and other Boats; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

The object of this invention is to provide new and useful improvements in small boats, to render them safe and efficient as life, surf, or pleasure-boats.

Also, to provide improvements in propelling-apparatus, calculated to apply the power to better advantage than in the common way.

Also, to provide an arrangement of the paddle-wheels and wheel-guards, to facilitate the transportation of the said boats on land.

Also, to provide an arrangement of pumping-devices, which may be used either for pumping water from the hold, or for drawing water over the side for playing upon fires, or for other purposes.

Figure 1 represents a plan view of my improved boat;

Figure 2 represents a longitudinal section;

Figure 3 represents a side elevation, when adjusted for land transportation; and

Figure 4 represents a view of the wheel-houses or guards, when arranged for the same purpose.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

I arrange, on a suitable bed-plate, A, adapted to be readily fitted to the bottom of any boat, bearings B, for the support of the crank-shaft C, of a pair of paddle-wheels, D.

I also place, on this bed-plate, fulcrum-posts E, for the support of operating-levers F, which I propose to use for working the crank-shaft, which has double cranks placed at right angles to each other.

I also arrange, on this bed-plate, pumps G H, and suitable suction, discharge, and connecting-pipes I, for drawing the water from the hold for discharging, or for drawing water over the shell of the vessel for putting out fires or for other purposes.

These pumps are to be connected to the operating-levers F, so as to be worked simultaneously with the working of the wheels, and to be readily detached from the levers when not required to work.

The said wheels are arranged on the shaft so that the latter may be turned without turning the wheels, when it may be required to work the pumps without working the wheels, set-screws being used to secure the wheels to the shaft or to release them.

The levers F are connected by links K to the cranks, and have the capacity to apply the force to the cranks, both in the up and down movement, or twice in each revolution, one being carried over the dead-point while the other is in full labor.

A balance-wheel, F, is also used to assist in passing the dead-point.

These levers are represented in this example as arranged on opposite sides of the crank-shaft, to be operated by two persons, but I propose, when required, to arrange them both on the same side, and for this reason I arrange one of the posts E, for adjustment from one side to the other.

I propose to make the wheels of sufficient strength to serve for transporting the boat overland, as represented in fig. 3, the wheel-guards L being removed. These I make detachable for the purpose, and I propose to so construct them that they may be placed together, as shown in fig. 4, for rolling along over the ground.

M represents air-spaces along the sides of the boat, provided with plugs or caps N, for closing openings thereto.

An important advantage of the pump-connection with the levers is, that when the boat has become filled with water, persons in the water at the sides may, by taking hold of the levers and working them, discharge the water therein, and thus make it navigable.

And another advantage of the detachable wheel-guards L, is, that when the boat is bottom up in the water, persons clinging thereto or on the top may, by the application of the hands to the wheels, turn them, and thus work the boat along.

All the propelling-apparatus and pumping-devices are connected to the bed-plate, and require no other fitting in the application to the boat, than the fitting of the said plate thereto, which is done by a few screws or bolts.

Having thus described my invention,

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

1. The combination of the levers, crank-shaft, and propelling-wheels, when arranged on a bed-plate, A, substantially as specified.

2. The shaft-levers and pumps, combined and arranged upon a bed-plate, A, all substantially as specified.

3. The wheel-houses or guards L, detachably connected to the boat, and adapted to be disconnected for rolling over the ground, substantially as specified.

4. The herein-described improved life, surf, or pleasure-boat, provided with propelling and pumping-devices, air-cells, and detachable wheel-guards, when all arranged substantially as specified.

The above specification of my invention signed by me, this 14th day of June, 1869.

HENRY THOMPSON.

Witnesses:

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