

H. T. Pratt,
Life Preserver.

No. 100,801.

Patented Mar. 15. 1870

Fig. 1

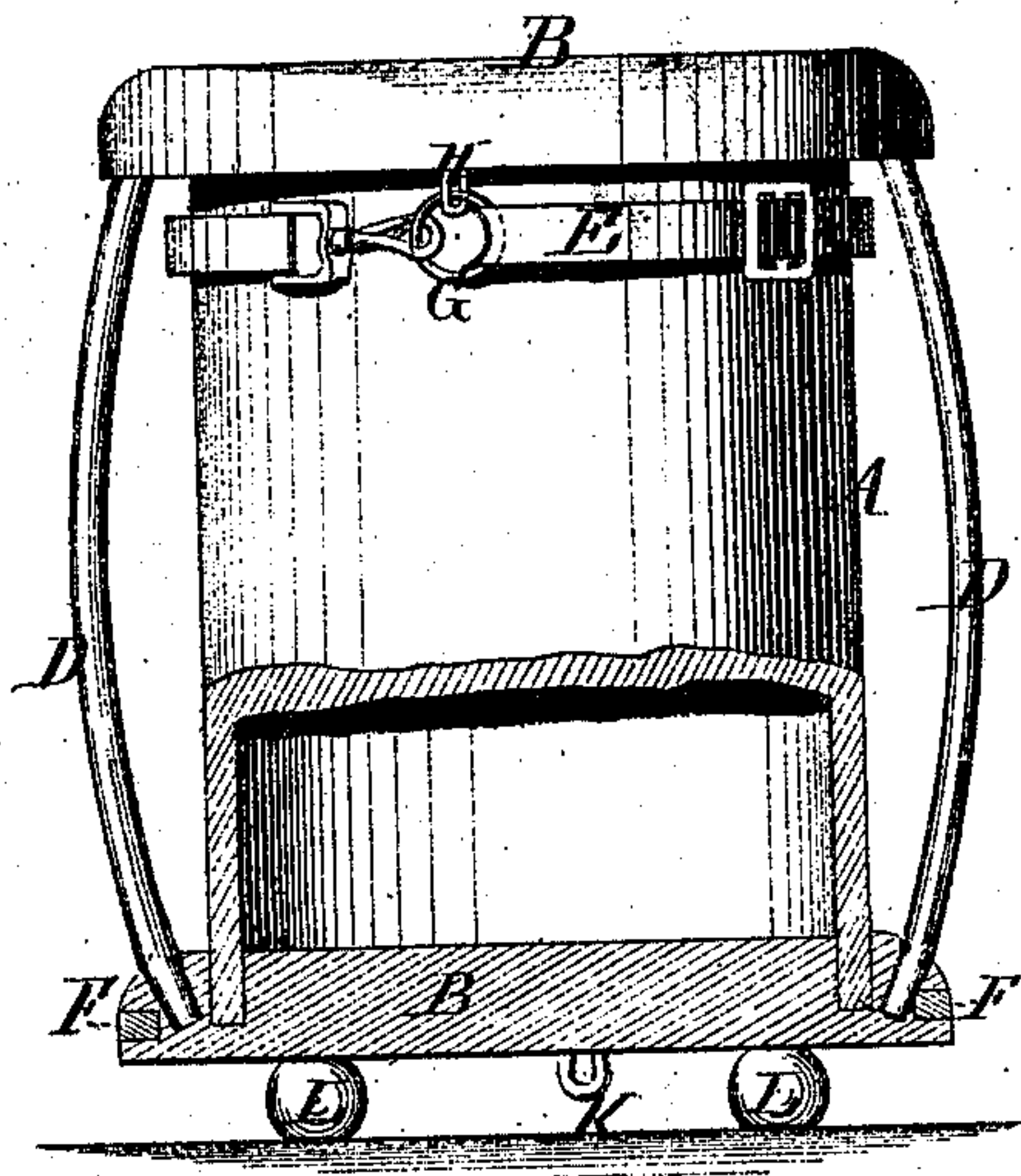
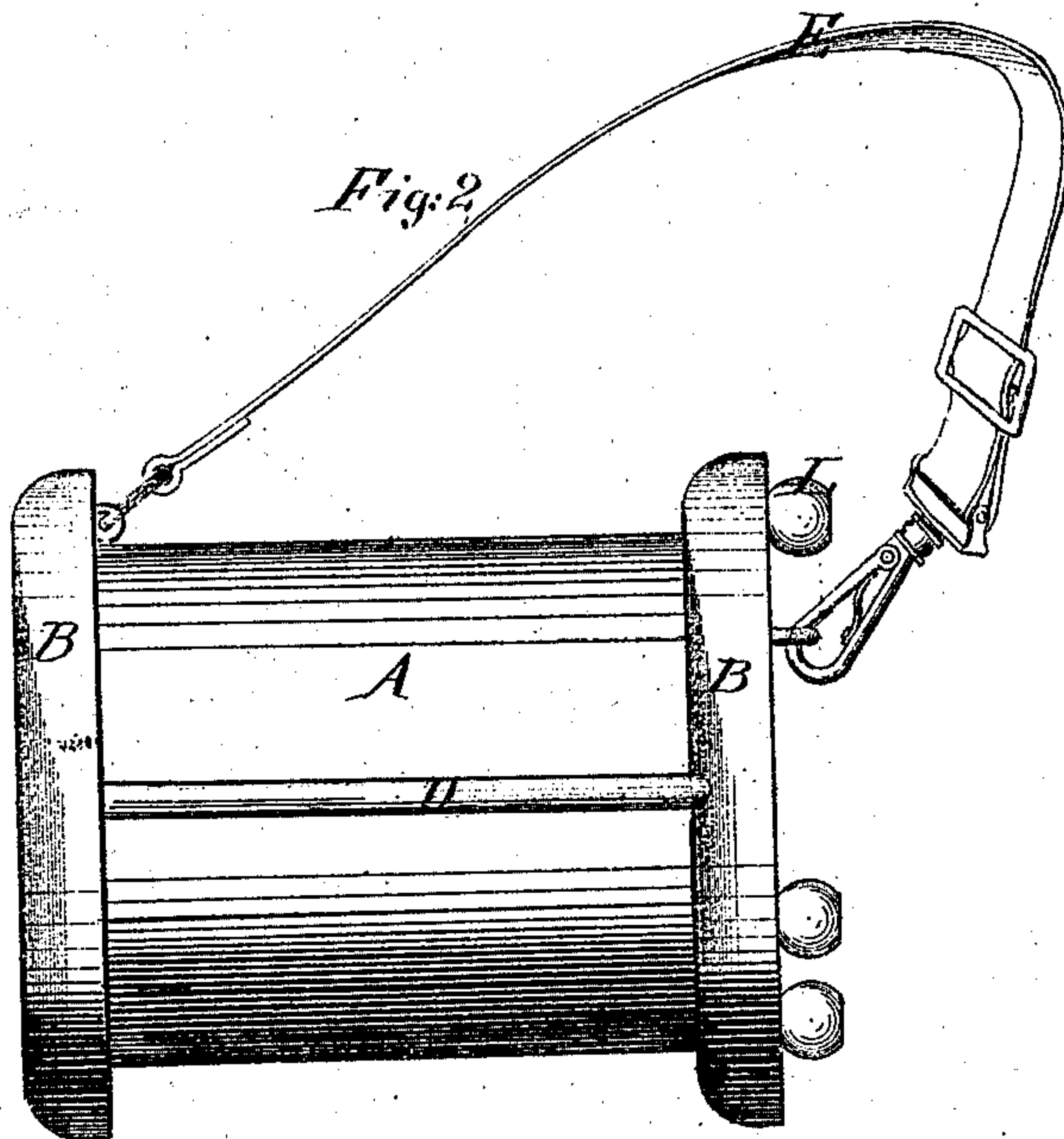


Fig. 2



Witnesses:

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HENRY T. PRATT, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

Letters Patent No. 100,801, dated March 15, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN LIFE-PRESERVING STOOLS.

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, H. T. PRATT, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and improved Life-Stool ; 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.

This invention consists in providing stools for use on steamers and other vessels, adapted for use, also, as life-preservers, the said stools being composed of a short hollow cylindrical or other shaped part, made of paper, and two ends or heads of wood, one of which ends forms the seat and the other the base. Also, there is provided one or more handles, and a strap or cord for attaching to the body.

The paper is used for the construction of the cylinder because of its high capacity to resist the action of heat, cold, and moisture ; also because of its great strength and lightness.

Figure 1 represents an elevation of my improved stool, partly in section, and in the position for use as a stool.

Figure 2 represents a side elevation of the same when used for a float or life-preserver.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

A is the hollow cylinder, and

B the heads for the same.

D represents handles, and

E a strap attached to the cylinder, or it may be to one of the heads, permanently at one end and detachably at the other, for passing round the body, for attaching the stool to be used as a life-preserver.

The said hollow cylinder must necessarily be impervious to water, so that when floating therein it will not fill and displace the air. It must also be strong, light, and durable, and capable of exposure to the variations of temperature, and wet and dry conditions, without checking, or splitting, or corroding.

All these qualities exist, as I have found by experiment, in straw or manilla paper, placed together in sheets and cemented in the manner well known, in a greater degree than in any other known substance. I therefore propose to use paper for these cylinders, and to connect the ends to the wood heads B, I make annular grooves in one side of each, fitted to receive the said ends, and cement them in any approved way,

so as not to use nails or screws, by which holes would be made through the paper.

I propose also to make grooves in the peripheries of these heads, and pack strong paper bands F in them to strengthen them, and prevent warping ; also to hold the ends of the handles D, which are necessarily engaged in holes near the peripheries, more firmly. These handles spring outward at the center a greater distance than the heads do, and therefore prevent the stools from rolling on the deck when laying on the sides.

The straps or cords E may be connected in any suitable way at one end, say by the rings G and staples H, and the other end may have snap-hooks, I, to engage with the rings G when the stool is used for a seat, but when used as a buoy, the strap, after passing around the body, under the arms, may be connected to the staples K at the end opposite the one where the ring G is connected.

One of the heads, B, may have short legs or knobs, L, to rest upon, if preferred.

I do not, however, limit myself to the precise arrangement herein shown for connecting the cylinder and the ends, nor to the mode of connecting the handles or straps ; nor do I limit myself to the cylindrical form of the part A, as all these details may be varied without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Having thus described my invention,

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

1. A stool, adapted for use as a seat and life-preserver, consisting of a hollow cylinder, A, made of paper, the heads B and the handles D, the latter curved outward, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

2. The arrangement, with the heads B, of the paper strengthening-bands F, in grooves, substantially as specified.

3. The arrangement, with the heads B, of the handles D, to prevent rolling, substantially as specified.

The above specification of my invention signed by me this 16th day of November, 1869.

HENRY T. PRATT.

Witnesses :

GEO. W. MABEE,

ALEX. F. ROBERTS.