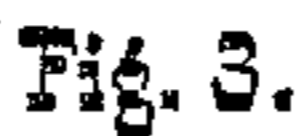
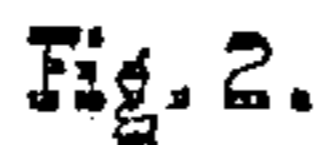
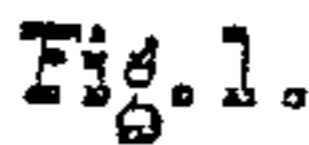


Patented May 31. 1870.



Att'ys.

United States Patent Office.

JAMES M. KEEP, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

Letters Patent No. 103,751, dated May 31, 1870.

IMPROVED TOWEL OR CLOTHES-RACK.

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, JAMES M. KEEP, of New York city, in the county of New York and in the State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Towel or Clothes-Racks; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved device with one of the bars removed, and the remainder placed parallel with the face of the supporting-bracket;

Figure 2 is a like view of the same with said bars placed at a right angle to said bracket; and

Figure 3 is a vertical longitudinal section of one of the bars and shanks, showing the means employed for attaching them together.

Letters of like name and kind refer to like parts in each of the figures.

My invention is an improvement upon a style of towel or clothes-rack in which a series of wooden bars is secured at one end within corresponding metal shanks, which are suitably hinged or pivoted to or upon a metal bracket; and

It consists in the means employed for attaching the wooden bars to or upon the metal shanks, as is hereinafter set forth.

In the annexed drawing—

A represents a circular metal disk, having secured to the center thereof, by means of a neck, *a*, a bar, B, which, extending vertically in both directions to or near the edge of said disk, and from thence horizontally outward, as shown in fig. 2, is provided at each end with a cylindrical boss, C, having its axis placed in a perpendicular line.

Passing vertically through the centers of bosses C is a rod, D, upon which, and between said bosses, are pivoted three flat circular metal disks, E, having attached to and projecting horizontally outward from each a round bar or shank, F.

Near the outer end of each shank F is provided a collar or shoulder, *f*, while projecting forward from the center of said end is an ordinary wood-screw, G, the head of which is secured within said shank by being

cast therein; but, if preferred, said screw may be formed upon the end of said shank.

H represents a wooden bar, having its outer end covered by means of a metal thimble, *h*, and its inner end embraced by a ferrule, I, the latter of which extends one-half of its length beyond the bar.

As thus constructed, the bar is attached to the shank F by means of the screw G, for the reception of which a suitable longitudinal opening is provided within the end of the wood, while the ferrule I passes over the end of said shank, and, bearing at its end against the collar *f*, gives increased strength and security to the joint.

As ordinarily constructed, the end of the shank is provided with a socket, somewhat smaller than the wooden rod or bar, into which the reduced end of the latter is fitted, and secured in place by means of a rivet passing through both parts, or by a wedge inserted in the end of said bar, and driven home by the act of placing the latter within the socket.

The above-described method possesses serious objections, however, as the shrinkage of the wood will, in a short time, loosen the bars, after which, by use, they rapidly wear at their point of insertion within the sockets until sufficiently loose to drop out.

It will be seen that my method of connecting the bars and shanks entirely obviates the above-named objections, as neither the shrinkage of the wood nor continued use can, in the slightest degree, impair the closeness of the joint, which, when once thoroughly made, can only be disturbed by design, or by being broken.

Having thus fully set forth the nature and merits of my invention,

What I claim as new is—

The shank F, provided with the screw G, in combination with the bar H, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing, I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of May, 1870.

J. M. KEEP.

Witnesses:

W. A. NICHOLS,
GEO. E. JEWETT.