

H. D. P. CUNNINGHAM.

Improvement in Fork-Guards.

No. 129,796.

Patented July 23, 1872.

Fig. 1.

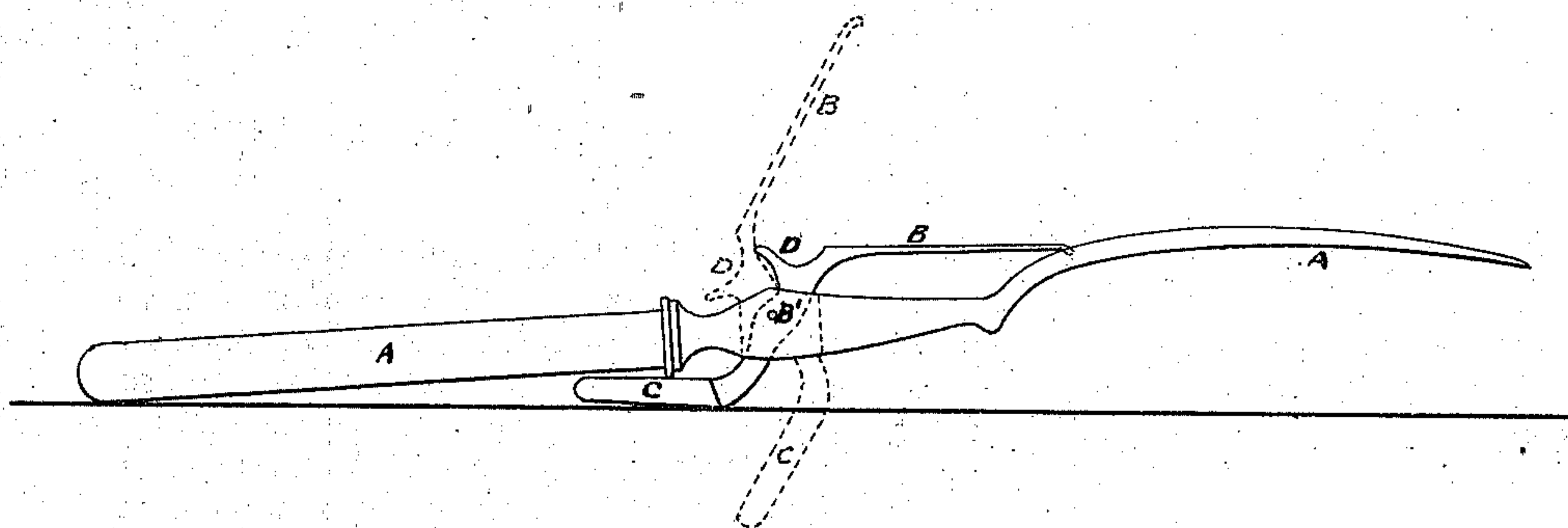


Fig. 2.

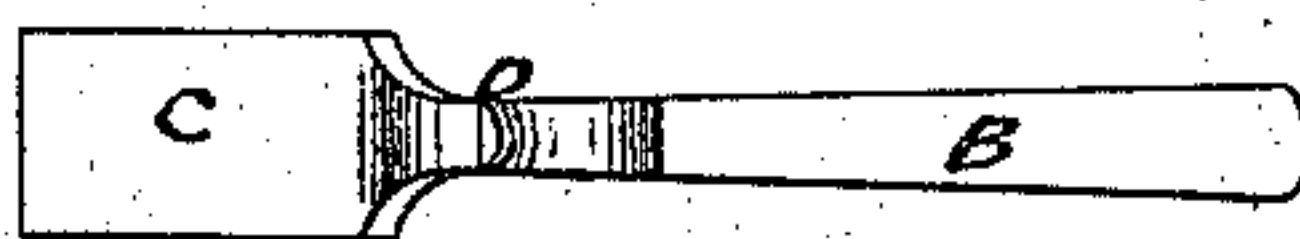


Fig. 3.

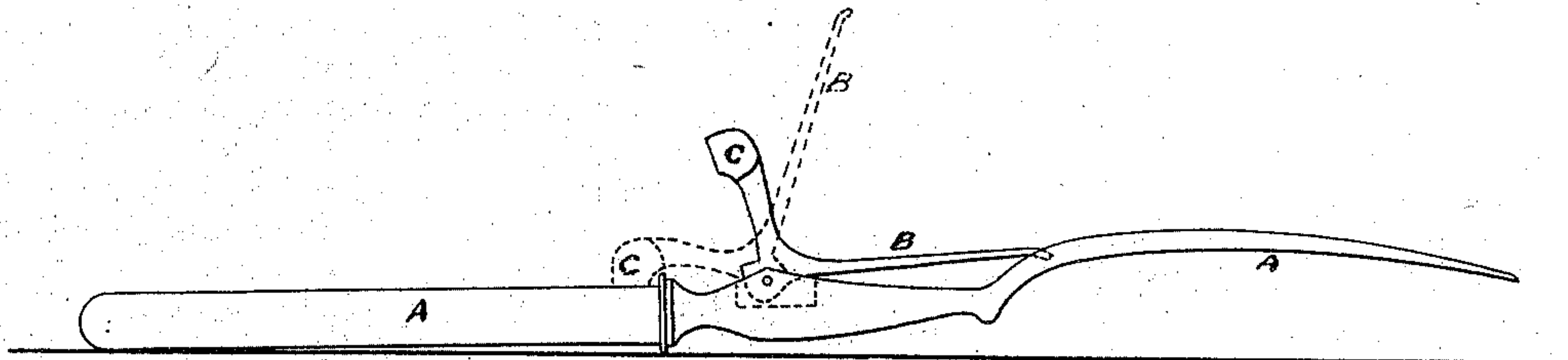
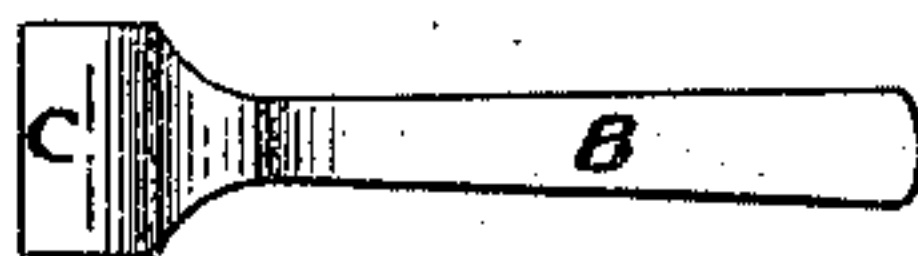


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY DUNCAN PRESTON CUNNINGHAM, OF BURY HOUSE, ALVERSTOKE,
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IMPROVEMENT IN FORK-GUARDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 129,796, dated July 23, 1872.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY DUNCAN PRESTON CUNNINGHAM, of Bury House, Alverstoke, England, have invented or discovered a certain new and useful "Improvement in Fork-Guards;" and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing and to the letters and figures marked thereon—that is to say:

My invention consists in constructing the guards of forks so that they shall come up to their guard by the action of a balance-weight or counterpoise. For this purpose I fit the guard so that it moves upon an axis upon the fork, and I prolong the guard to the under side of the fork, or on the upper side toward the handle, sufficiently and with such an amount of substance, or otherwise arrange it so as to obtain the action of a counterpoise to the upper part or guard proper. Thus, when the fork is taken up for use the guard at once flies or moves up ready for service, being, in fact, self-acting. When the fork is placed upon the table the guard shuts down, and the balance-weight, if below the fork, acts as a rest and keeps the prongs off the table.

Figure 1 of the annexed drawing is a side view of a carving-fork which is provided with a guard constructed according to my invention. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the guard detached.

A is the fork, the stem of which is formed with a vertical aperture to receive the guard. B is the guard proper, which is attached to the fork by a pin at B', and is prolonged underneath the fork by a piece or part, C, which forms a balance-weight or counterpoise to the

guard B. Thus, when the fork is taken up for use the weight C causes the guard B to fly up to its guard, as shown by dotted lines. When the fork is laid down the weight C forms a rest, keeping the prongs clear of the table. D is a finger-piece for the purpose of keeping the guard in position by means of the finger in case it should be necessary to raise the prongs of the fork much above the handle while carving.

Figs. 3 and 4 represent a modified form of my fork-guard. Here the balance-weight C is applied above the stem of the fork, forming a back continuation of the guard B. The weight C is so shaped that it can be conveniently pressed down by the finger, or grasped by the finger and thumb for the purpose of steadying the guard or keeping it in position if the handle-end of the fork should be overmuch raised. If preferred, the aperture or recess for the guard in the stem of the fork may be dispensed with, the guard being in this case made to embrace the stem.

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

1. In combination with the fork-guard B, the weighted arm or counterpoise C, whether arranged above the handle or below, and forming a rest therefor, substantially as and for the purpose shown and described.

2. In combination with the guard B and counterpoise C, I claim the finger-piece D, as and for the purpose set forth.

H. D. P. CUNNINGHAM.

Witnesses:

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