

F. LEBLANC.
Aerial Vessels.

No. 156,359.

Patented Oct. 27, 1874.

Fig: 1.

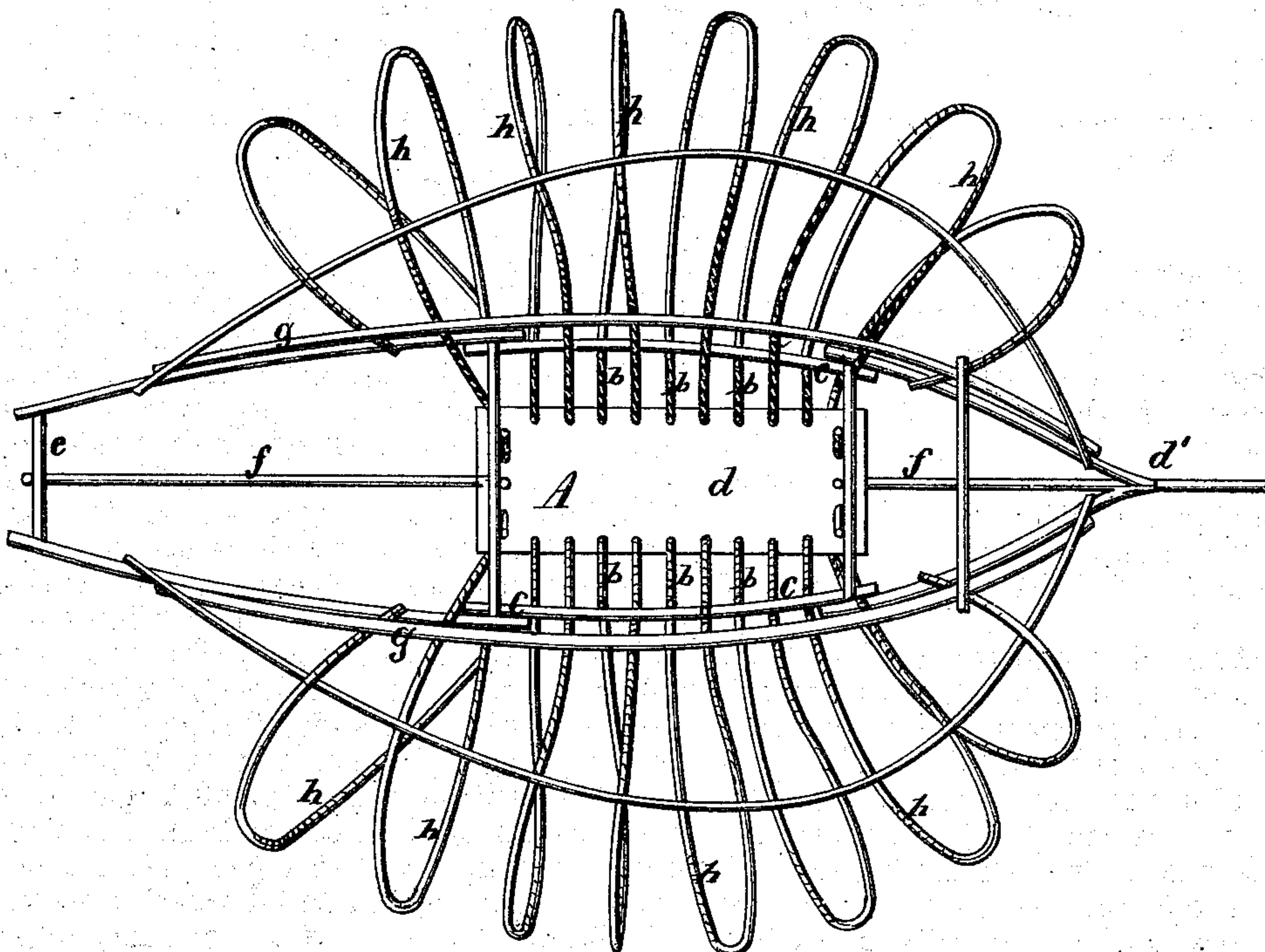
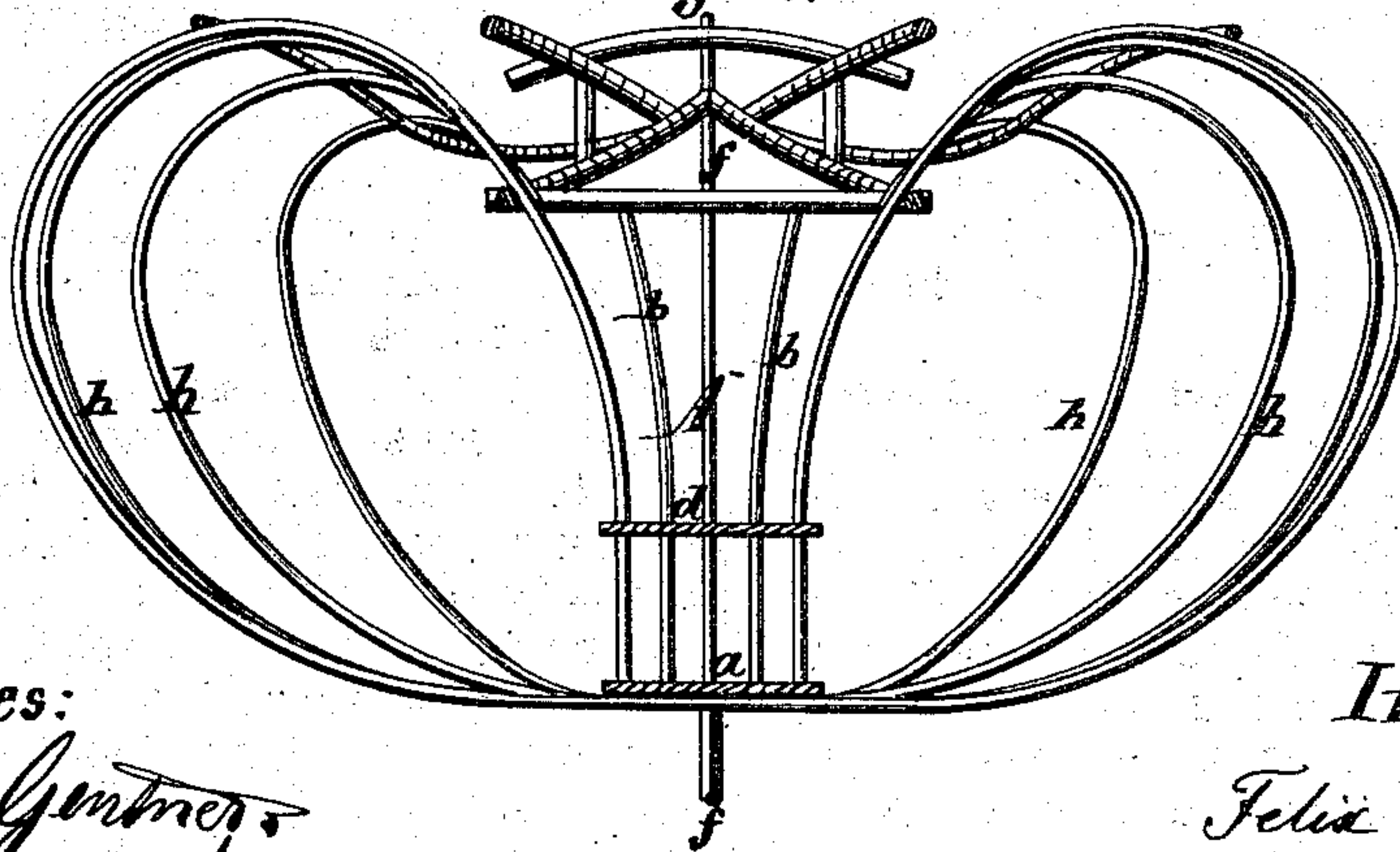


Fig: 2.



Witnesses:
Henry Gentner.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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IMPROVEMENT IN AERIAL VESSELS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **156,359**, dated October 27, 1874; application filed October 7, 1874.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FELIX LEBLANC, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Aerial Vessel, of which the following is a specification:

This invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a plan or top view, partly in section. Fig. 2 is a transverse section.

Similar letters indicate corresponding parts.

This invention relates to an aerial vessel, the frame of which consists of a basket, the side rails of which are extended and bend in the form of a boat or vessel, from the bow of which extends a central bar or keel beneath the basket to the stern. From the sides of the basket extend curved ribs, which are steadied in position by top rails in such a manner that by covering the basket and the curved ribs with prepared silk or other suitable material a gas-chamber is formed which surrounds the basket, while the shape of the vessel is similar to that of the body of a bird, and thereby an aerial vessel is obtained which can be propelled through the air in any desired direction.

In the drawing, the letter A designates a basket, which is composed of a bottom, *a*, a series of uprights, *b*, and a top frame, *c*. Between the bottom and the top frame are one or more decks, *d*, for the accommodation of suitable machinery and for the passengers and the cargo. The side rails of the top frame *c* extend beyond the ends of the basket, and they are united at one end to a sharp bow, *d'*, while their opposite ends are connected by a stern-bar, *e*, thereby imparting to the top frame the shape of a boat or vessel. The bow *d'* and the stern *e* of said top frame are con-

nected by a bar, *f*, which extends beneath the bottom of the basket and forms the keel of the vessel. With the top frame *c* are combined two side rails, *g*, which give additional strength to the structure, and if the top frame is covered by an upper deck these side rails give security to persons or articles on said deck. From the sides of the basket extend a series of ribs, *h*, which are curved outward, as shown, so that when the basket is covered with prepared silk or other suitable material, and a similar material is attached either to the inside or to the outside of the ribs *h* and of the keel *f*, a gas-chamber is formed, which extends all round the basket, and the capacity of which is such that, when it is filled with hydrogen or other gas of less specific gravity than atmospheric air, the requisite buoyancy will be imparted to the vessel.

By these means an aerial vessel is obtained the shape of which is based on rational principles, and by attaching to it wings or other suitable propelling devices my vessel can be propelled through the air in almost any desired direction. The propelling devices may be driven by hand or by suitable machinery placed in the bottom of the basket A.

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

The basket A, constructed with a bottom, *a*, and a series of uprights, *b*, in combination with the vessel-shaped top frame C, keel *f*, and curved lateral ribs *h*, all constructed substantially as herein shown and described, to form an aerial vessel, as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 3d day of October, 1874.

F. LEBLANC. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

L. LEBLANC,
W. HAUFF.