J. McMURTRY.

COTTON BALE-TIE.

No. 177,651. Patented May 23, 1876.

Fig. 1.

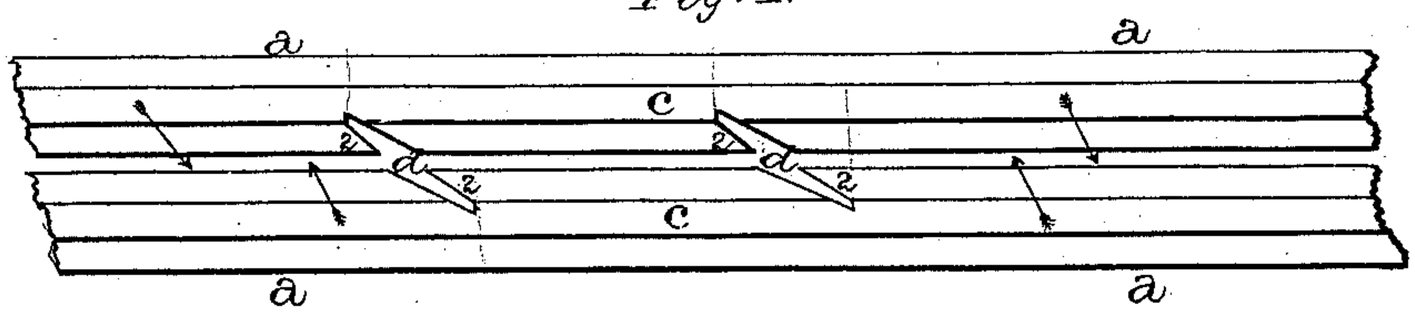


Fig. 2

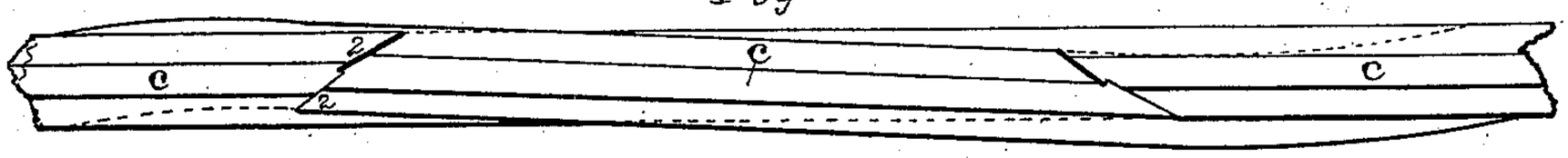


Fig. 3.

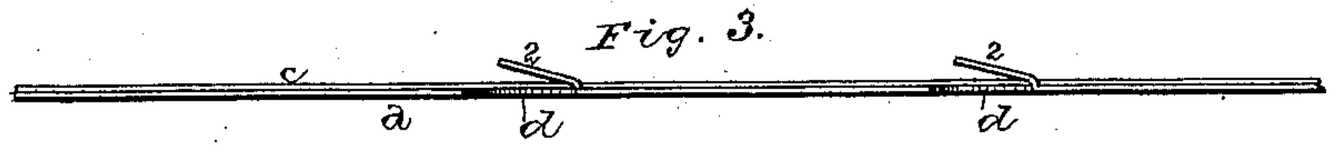
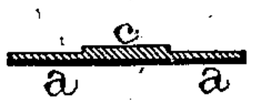


Fig. 4.



WITNESSES.

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Frank H. Burnham.

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per

F. A. Lehmann, Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN McMURTRY, OF LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY.

IMPROVEMENT IN COTTON-BALE TIES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **177,651**, dated May 23, 1876; application filed November 12, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN McMURTRY, of Lexington, in the county of Fayette and State of Kentucky, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cotton-Bale Ties; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in cotton-bale ties; and it consists in, first, cutting diagonal slots in one or both edges of the tie, for the purpose of locking the ends together; second, strengthening the tie by making it of increased thickness along its center; third, cutting the inclined slots in the edge or edges of just such a depth as to rest upon the increased thickness, all of which will be more fully described hereinafter.

The accompanying drawings represent my invention.

a represents the tie or band, rolled from sheet metal, and having a rib, flange, or thickness, *c*, formed along its center, on one side, either at both ends or its whole length, for the purpose of giving the band greater strength. Cut in the same edges of the ends of the bale, or in opposite edges, are two or more inclined slots, *d*, that are cut in just far enough to have their inner ends rest in the increased thickness *c*. When the ends are simply interlocked or crossed over so as to lock upon opposite edges, the increased thickness of both ends comes together, as shown, so that the greatest strain comes upon the strongest portion of the band. As the slots *d* do not extend inward quite half-way, the band is made broader at the point of junction by locking the two together, and this increased breadth adds, together with the increased thickness, greatly to the strength and utility of the band as a cotton-tie. The slots are made inclined, so that when the two ends are once interlocked, the strain upon the band causes the slots to slip up on each other, and thus holds the ends more firmly together. In case the bale should be compressed by falling or otherwise, so as to accidentally loosen the band, the ends cannot fly apart, as they will do when the slots are cut in straight instead of at an angle, as shown. The mouths of these inclined slots are preferably made wider than at any other part, while the lips 2 are depressed, so as to permit the slots on the opposite end of the tie to freely interlock with each other, and, when the strain is applied, will slip freely to their seats, without danger of hanging on the rough edges of the slots.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. As a cotton-bale tie, the band *a*, having two or more inclined slots cut in its edge or edges, substantially as shown.

2. The band *a*, having an increased thickness along its center, substantially as described.

3. The band *a*, having the inclined slots *d* and thickness *c*, substantially as and for the purpose described.

4. The band *a*, having inclined slots that are widest at their mouths, and having the depressed lips 2, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 2d day of November, 1875.

JOHN McMURTRY.

Witnesses:

THOS. G. RANDALL,

S. S. ROSZELL.