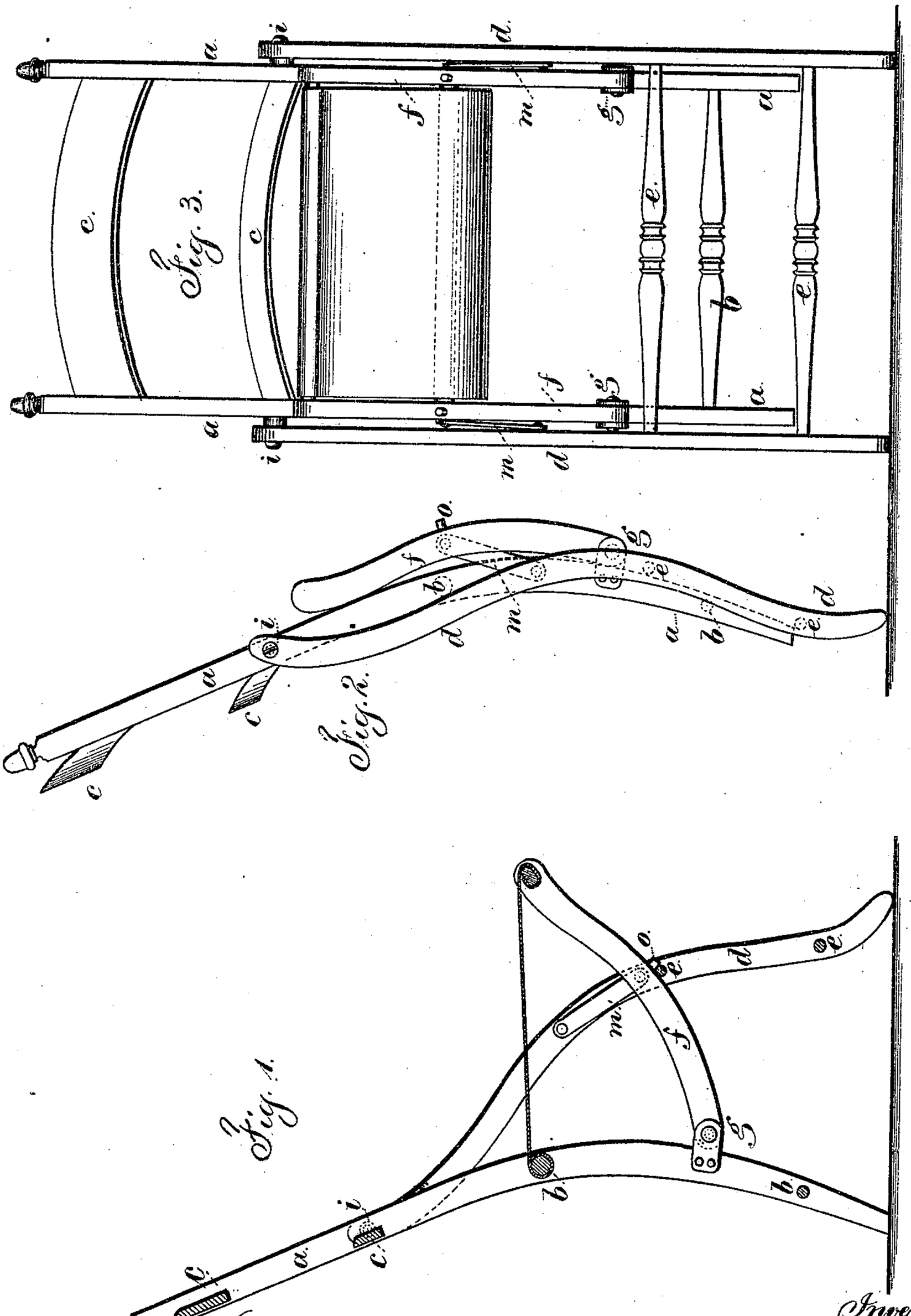
J. E. WAKEFIELD.

FOLDING-CHAIRS.

No. 180,292. Patented July 25, 1876.



Witnesses
Chas. H. Smith
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN E. WAKEFIELD, OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO EDWARD W. VAILL, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN FOLDING CHAIRS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **180,292**, dated July 25, 1876; application filed February 24, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN E. WAKEFIELD, of Worcester, in the State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Folding Chairs, of which the following is a specification:

This improvement relates to that class of folding chairs wherein the back and back legs form one frame, and the front legs extend up and are connected with the back, as in the patent of Peter Born, October 6, 1868.

The present invention consists in combining with such chair a folding seat-frame, a flexible seat, and links or braces connecting the front legs with the seat-frame, so that the links or braces prevent the seat-frame or supports folding by the strain upon the flexible seat, and the chair is rendered more rigid while being handled than those of this general character heretofore in use.

In the drawing, Figure 1 is a vertical section of the chair in its unfolded position, adapted to use. Fig. 2 is a side view with the chair folded, and Fig. 3 is a front elevation.

The back and back legs form one frame, the side pieces *a a* being connected by cross-rails or rungs *b* and back pieces *c c*, which may be of any desired or ornamental character.

The front legs *d d* are connected together by one or more cross-rails, *e*, and the upper ends of these legs *d d* are pivoted at *i* to the back *a*.

The seat-frame *f* is pivoted to the back legs at *g*, preferably by the side plates, that are fastened to the back legs, and through which plates the pivot-pin passes.

If these parts only were used, and the seat-frame rested upon the cross-rail *e*, when the chair is unfolded the flexible seat might sag down in the middle under weight, and the front part of the seat-frame approach toward the back. To prevent this the links or braces *m m* are employed between the seat-frame and the front legs, such links being attached by, and swinging upon, screws or pivots at the respective ends. These links press the seat-frame toward the cross-bar *e*, and the stops *o* upon the seat-frame, limit the forward motion of the front legs; hence the parts are locked and secure when in use; but if the lower parts of the front legs are pressed toward the back legs, the seat and seat-frame will fold upward into the position shown in Fig. 2, and occupy but little space.

I claim as my invention—

The combination of the links *m m* with the folding seat-frame *f*, front legs *d*, stops *o*, and back legs and frame, substantially as set forth.

Signed by me this 4th day of February, A. D. 1876.

JOHN E. WAKEFIELD.

Witnesses:
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