

J. H. PRENTICE.  
Fire-Kindler.

No. 201,045.

Patented March 5, 1878.

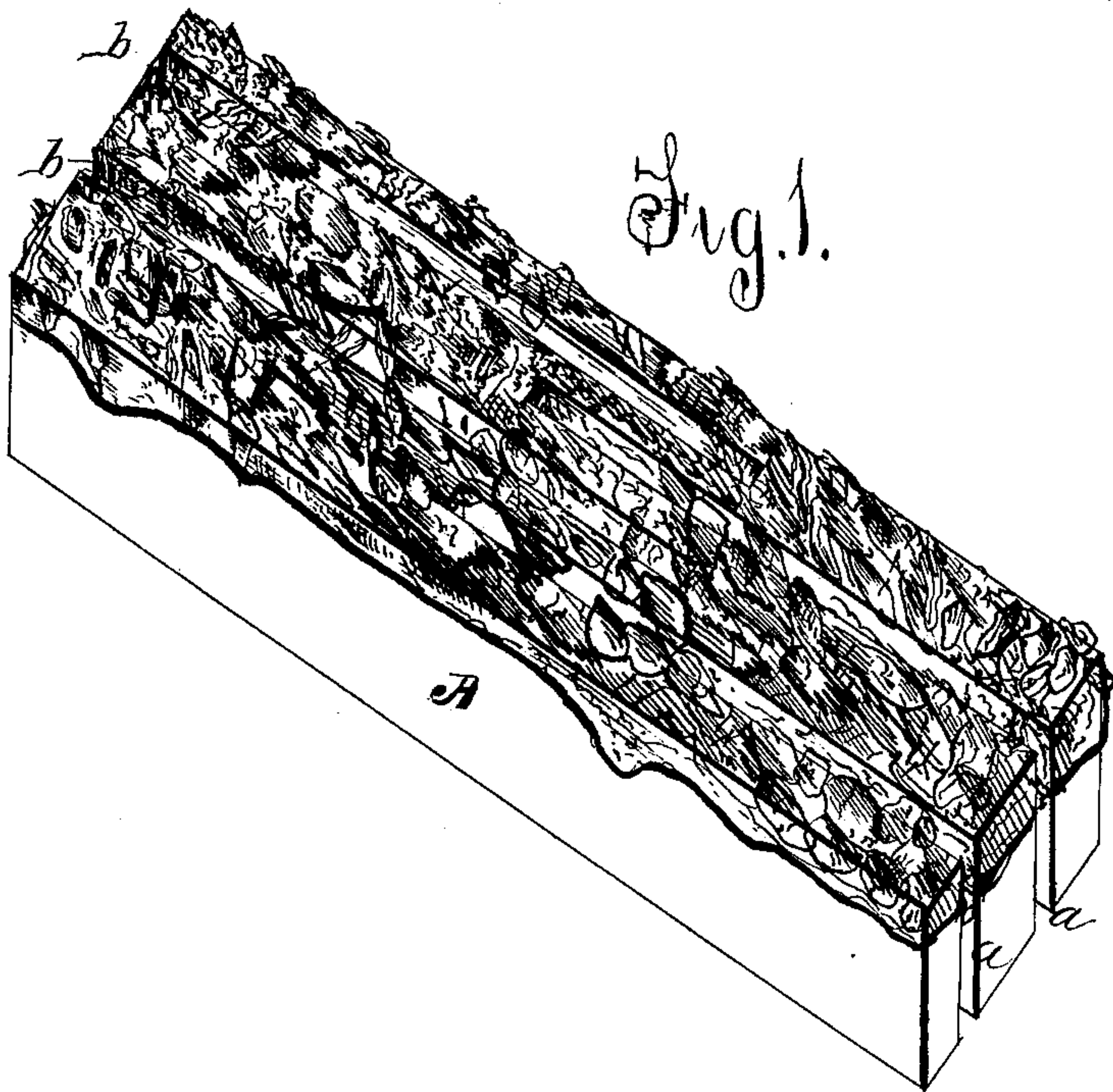
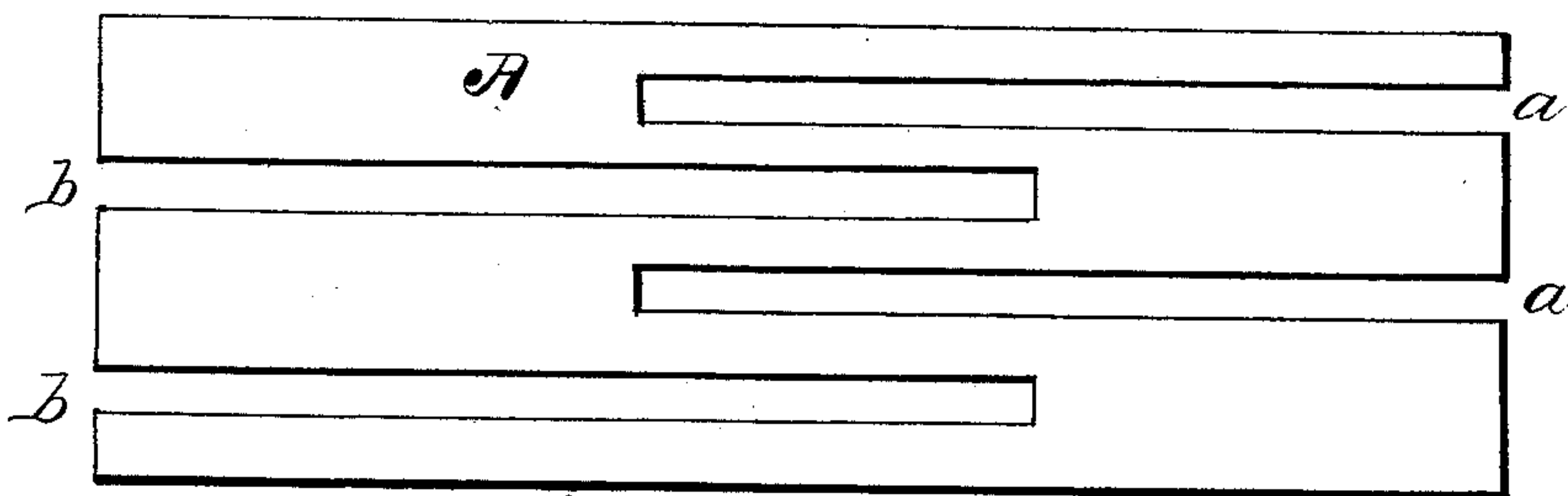


Fig. 1.



Witnesses  
J. Walter Fowler  
Chas. C. Gill

Inventor  
James H. Prentice  
By his attys  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES H. PRENTICE, OF SAGINAW, MICHIGAN.

## IMPROVEMENT IN FIRE-KINDLERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **201,045**, dated March 5, 1878; application filed February 4, 1878.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES H. PRENTICE, of Saginaw, in the county of Saginaw and State of Michigan, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Kindling Material, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

The invention relates to an improvement in fire-kindlers, as hereinafter more fully set forth.

The object of the invention is to construct kindling material in blocks having slots cut in them, the slots being open on alternating ends of the block, and having their inner ends extended slightly beyond the center of same, so as to preserve the ends of the block solid as far as possible, and to render the parts between the inner ends of the slots thin enough to readily ignite.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the invention. Fig. 2 is a bottom view of same.

A represents the block of kindling material, which may be of any suitable dimensions, and is supplied with the series of slots *a b*, as shown, which alternately enter the block on opposite ends, and extend a proper distance beyond the vertical center thereof. Thus it is obvious that the central portions of the block, being cut by the inner ends of both the series of slots *a b*, will be reduced to a readily-ignitable dimension, while that portion between the inner extremities of the slots and

the edge of the block, being traversed by only one series of slots, is left in an almost solid condition.

The block thus constructed is first coated with a resinous or other inflammable compound, and then receives a layer of sawdust, in order to increase its combustibility.

I am aware that fire-kindlers consisting of a block possessing a head or body with a series of partitions of the same or different widths, forming draft-flues, are old, and therefore do not claim such a device; but

What I do claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A block of kindling material in which the vertical inner portions are of the same depth as the block, but are thinner than the outer ends thereof, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. A block of kindling material having the longitudinal slots *a b*, the inner ends of which pass slightly beyond the vertical center of the block, while the outer ends are open at alternate ends of same, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing improvement in kindling material, as above described, I have hereunto set my hand this 31st day of January, 1878.

JAMES H. PRENTICE.

Witnesses:

BENJ. C. HARRINGTON,  
C. R. CARGILL.