S. I. RUSSELL.

Toy House.

No. 220,429. Patented Oct. 7, 1879.

Fig. 3.

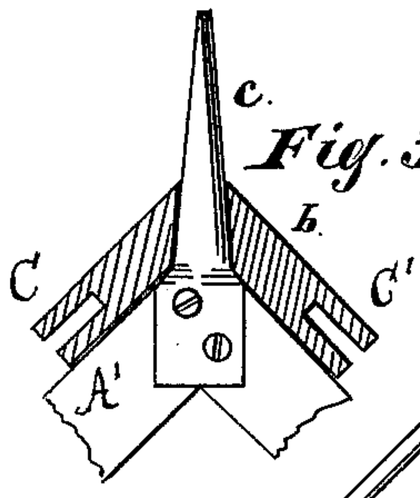


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

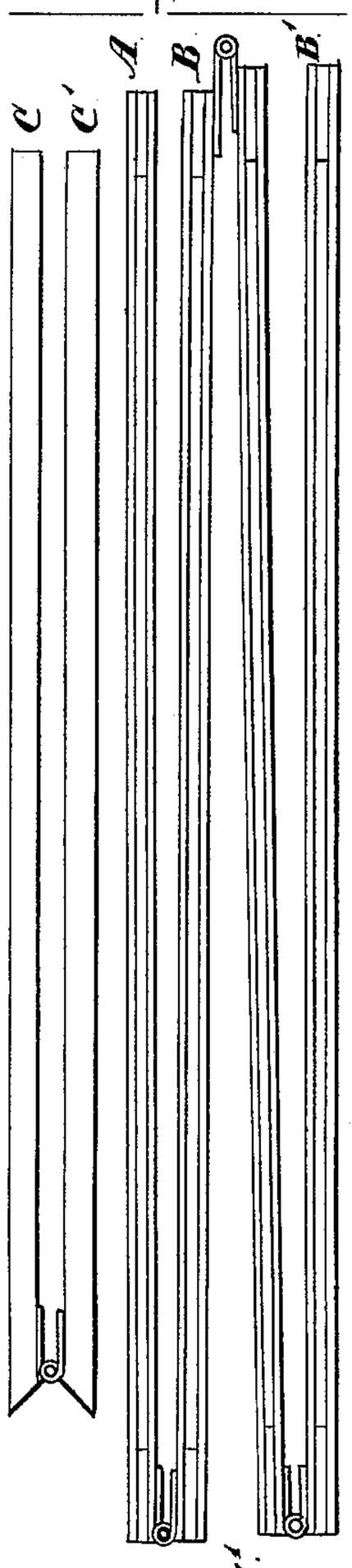


Fig. 4.

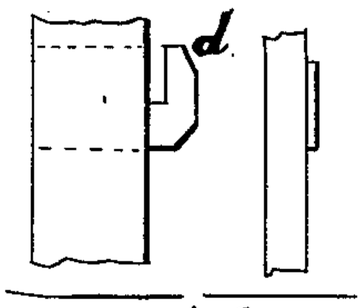
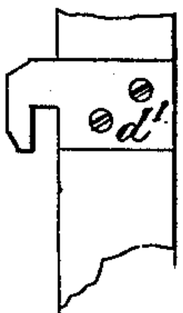


Fig. 5.



Witnesses:

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SAMUEL I. RUSSELL, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

IMPROVEMENT IN TOY HOUSES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **220,429**, dated October 7, 1879; application filed October 7, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL I. RUSSELL, of the city of Chicago, Cook county, State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Toy Houses, of which the following is a full description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an isometrical perspective view; Fig. 2, an end view of the parts folded; Fig. 3, a detail, being a section of the part shown, taken at *x* of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 shows an elevation and an end view of one part of the coupling used at one corner. Fig. 5 is an elevation of the other portion of such coupling. In both Figs. 4 and 5 the parts of the coupling are connected to the frame or body.

The object of my invention is to provide a light, portable, and cheap play-house for children, made in sections, so hinged and connected that the same can be readily set up for use, whether in the house or on a lawn, and when not in use can be easily taken down and folded together, so as to occupy but little room.

Fig. 1 of the drawings is intended to represent such a house, the ends and sides of which, as well as the two sides of the roof, are made from thin slats or strips of tough wood, woven together like basket-work. Each part, after the slats or strips forming the same have been woven together, is bound around the edges with thin narrow strips of tough wood placed on opposite sides of the basket-work and secured with clinch-nails.

The ends and sides of the body are hinged together, so that they can be folded together, and the two parts of the roof are also hinged and can be folded, as shown in Fig. 2.

When the body is set up for use, the two parts at the open corner are to be secured together. A suitable device for this is afterward described.

It is important that the roof be in some way connected with the body, so that it cannot be easily displaced, and yet can be readily removed, which I accomplish as hereinafter described.

In the drawings, *a a* represent thin pieces of wood woven together. *b* are strips of thin wood around the edges of each section or part of the house, and on both sides of each section, forming a firm binding, being held by clinch-nails.

A A′ are the two end pieces. B B′ are the two sides. C C′ are the two parts of the roof. The end A is hinged to the side B, and the side B and end A′ are hinged together, and the end A′ and side B′ are hinged together, so that they can be folded, as shown in Fig. 2, while the two parts of the roof are hinged together and can be folded.

In this Fig. 2 the parts are shown a little distance apart at their unhinged ends, for convenience.

At the apex of the gable of each end a piece of metal, *c*, preferably flat at the lower end and round at the upper end, is secured. It projects about two inches above the roof, and the roof is provided with two openings or holes at the peak, through which the irons *c* pass.

By this means the roof can be put on and taken off in a moment, and when in place it will be held in position, and will aid in keeping the body in place.

At one corner of the body there are no hinges; but I hold the two parts together at this corner, when in use, by means of pieces of strap-iron *d d′*, two of which may be used upon each part. As shown, the pieces *d*, secured to the end, are notched on the upper side, and the two *d′*, secured to the side, are notched on the under side. *d* and *d′* can be hooked together, and will thus secure the open corner when in use, as shown in Fig. 1. *e* is a door.

The play-houses may be small or large. I think it best to make them, say, about three feet square and about three feet high. In a play-house of this size children can enter with a number of playthings.

When not in use, the house can be folded, and will occupy but little room.

I do not confine myself to the exact construction shown, as a light frame might be made for each section or part.

Small houses into which children cannot enter can be made on the same plan, which may be called "doll-houses."

I am aware that play-houses which can be taken to pieces and packed away have been made, and I do not claim, broadly, such a house; but

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

1. As an improved article of manufacture, a toy or child's summer-house made in sections, A A′ B B′, of interlaced basket-splints, and hinged together for folding, and a detachable roof, all substantially as specified.

2. The gabled ends A A′ and sides B B′, in combination with the projecting pins *c c* and folding roof C C′, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:
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