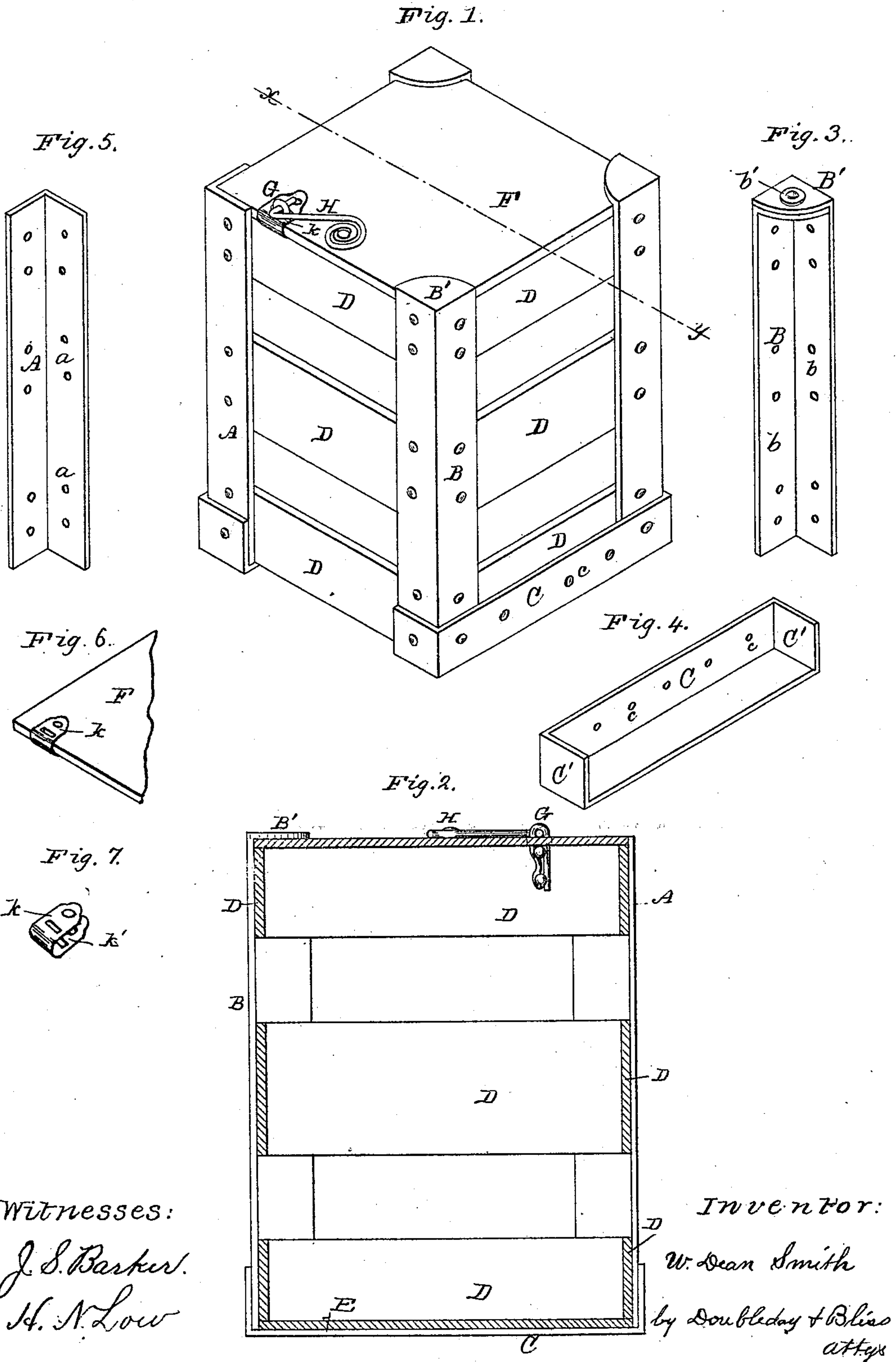


(No Model.)

W. D. SMITH.  
PACKING CASE.

No. 250,986.

Patented Dec. 13, 1881.





# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

W. DEAN SMITH, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

## PACKING-CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 250,986, dated December 13, 1881.

Application filed September 8, 1881. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, W. DEAN SMITH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Packages; 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 appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved crate or package. Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken on line  $xy$ , Fig. 1, looking in the direction indicated by the arrow 1; and Figs. 3, 4, 5 are detached views of the metallic portions or corner-pieces of the package.

The object of the first part of this invention is to produce a cheap, light, and durable package in which to pack and transport fruit, vegetables, and other similar articles; and to this end it consists in constructing such package with metallic corner-pieces which are angular in cross-section and are adapted to support the sides of the package.

The object of the second part of the invention is to so construct a package that the top or cover may be easily secured thereto and removed therefrom without the use of hinges.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 5, A is an angle-iron or corner-piece, consisting of a flat plate of metal, having two sides arranged at right angles to each other and provided with a suitable number of rivet-holes,  $a$ .

In Figs. 1 and 3, B is an angle-iron similar to the angle-iron A, except that at its upper end it is closed, as at B', for a purpose which will be explained. This angle-iron is also provided with rivet-holes  $b$ .

In Figs. 1 and 4, C is an angle-iron having both ends closed, as at C', and also provided with rivet-holes  $c$ .

D are slats secured to the angle-irons by rivets which pass through the rivet-holes formed in the angle-irons and corresponding rivet-holes in the ends of the side pieces. The bottom is composed of either a series of slats, D, supported at their ends upon the inwardly-projecting sides of the angle-irons C, or of a single

piece of suitable material supported in the same manner, and either riveted to its supporting angle-irons or held in place by the lower edges of the lower side pieces D, which may be placed in contact with the bottom, or by both side pieces and rivets. When the bottom is formed of a number of strips, I prefer to rivet their ends to the angle-iron C, which angle-irons are also riveted firmly to the lower ends of the uprights A B. The upper series of slats D are placed at such distance below the end plates, B', and upper end of angle-iron A as will permit the corners of the cover F to enter between the slats and said plates, and to be confined in said positions partly by the upper end of the angle-iron A and partly by a staple, G, and spring-latch H. The staple is secured to the inner face of one of the slats by rivets, (see Fig. 2,) and projects upwardly through a slot formed in the cover for its reception.

H is a spring-latch, the free end of which enters the staple above the cover F. I prefer to make the angle-iron A of such length that it shall extend to the upper face of the cover, and thus assist in holding the cover in place; but it is apparent that it might be made shorter, as under ordinary circumstances the cover would be held in place by the staple G and latch H.

The angle-irons may be made of malleable iron, cast in the form shown in Figs. 4, 5, or they may be made of sheet metal struck or stamped into the proper form, in which case I prefer to make the end pieces double, one thickness projecting from each inner angle-iron and overlapping the other thickness, so that after they are formed up they can be secured to each other by means of a rivet,  $b'$ , Fig. 3.

While I prefer to use wood as the material out of which to make the side strips, the bottom, and the cover, yet I do not wish to be limited to the use of such material, as under some circumstances I may prefer to use metal; nor do I wish to be limited to using two or more strips, D, in forming the sides, as for packages for some purposes I may prefer to substitute a single piece of metal or wood for the strips shown in the drawings; nor do I, in packages in which strips are used for the sides, wish to be limited to the employment of strips in all four of the sides, because a box



may be suitably ventilated by having one or more of its sides thus constructed; nor do I wish to be limited to the use of a particular fastening device, H, as many others might be satisfactorily employed.

I am aware that angle-irons have been used for strengthening the corners of boxes, crates, and similar packages; hence I do not claim their use, broadly, but my new combination of two or more angle-irons having one closed upper end with one or more angle-irons having open ends and connecting box sides or crate sides possesses marked advantages over any prior construction of which I have knowledge.

What I claim is—

1. In a packing-case, the combination, with the sides thereof, of two or more angle-irons, B, having their closed ends B' arranged above the edges of the sides D, whereby there are formed recesses adapted to receive the corners of the cover, substantially as set forth.

2. In a packing-case, the combination of the sides D, two or more angle-irons, B, arranged

with their closed ends B' above the upper edges of the sides to form recesses, and one or more angle-irons, A, arranged to project above the upper edges of the sides D to receive one corner of the cover, substantially as set forth.

3. In a packing-case, the combination, with sides D, of two or more angle-irons, B, having closed ends B', a cover, F, and a locking device adapted to lock the cover within the recesses.

4. In a packing-case, the combination, with sides D, of two or more angle-irons, B, projecting above the sides and having closed upper ends, one or more angle-irons, A, projecting above the sides, a cover, F, and a device adapted to lock the cover in position in the seats or recesses, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

W. DEAN SMITH.

Witnesses:

J. THEODORE GURNEY,  
HENRY H. PAGE.