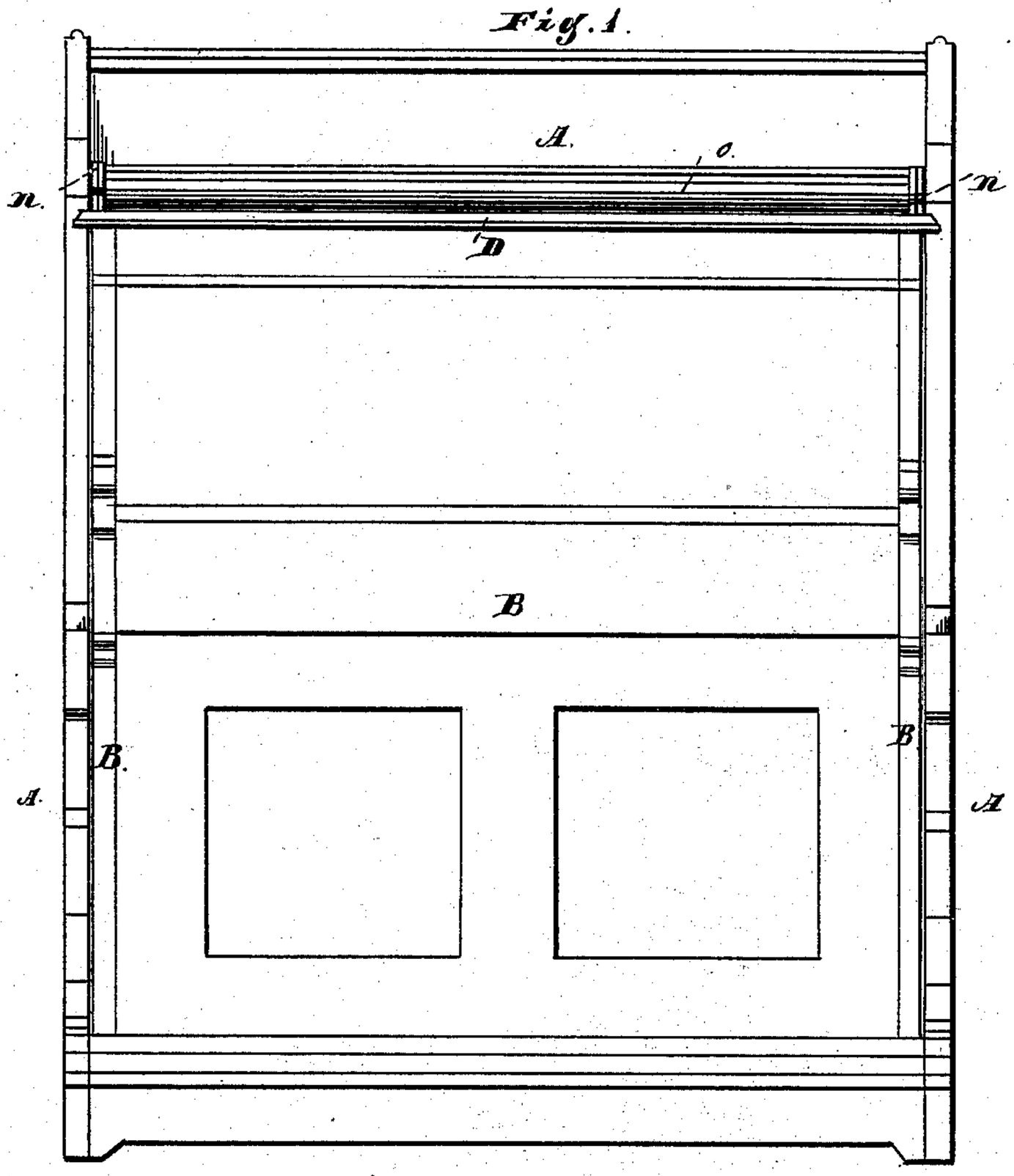
(No Model.) 3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

A. W. STEWART.

WARDROBE OR FOLDING BED.

No. 255,548. Patented Mar. 28, 1882.

Fig. 1.



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(No Model.) 3 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 2.

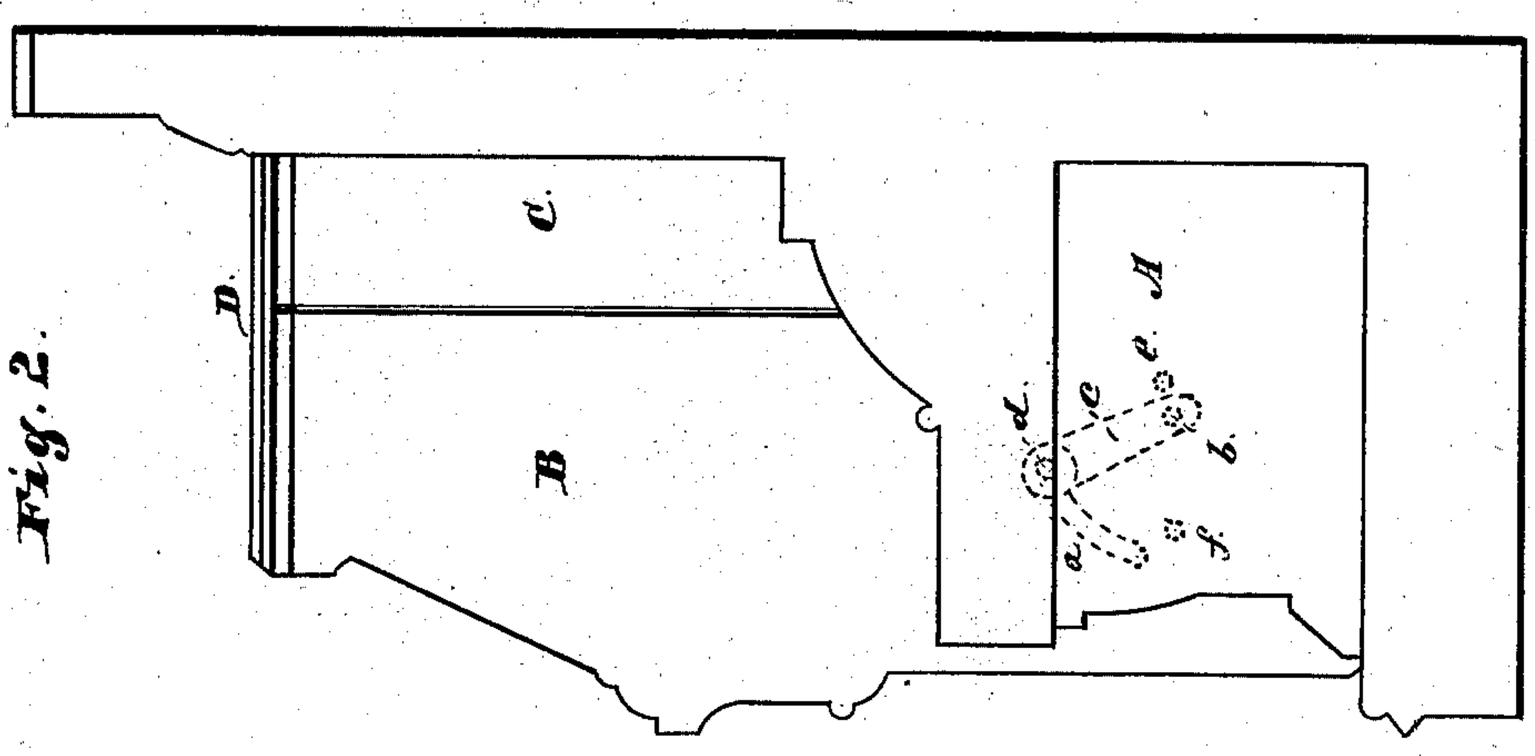
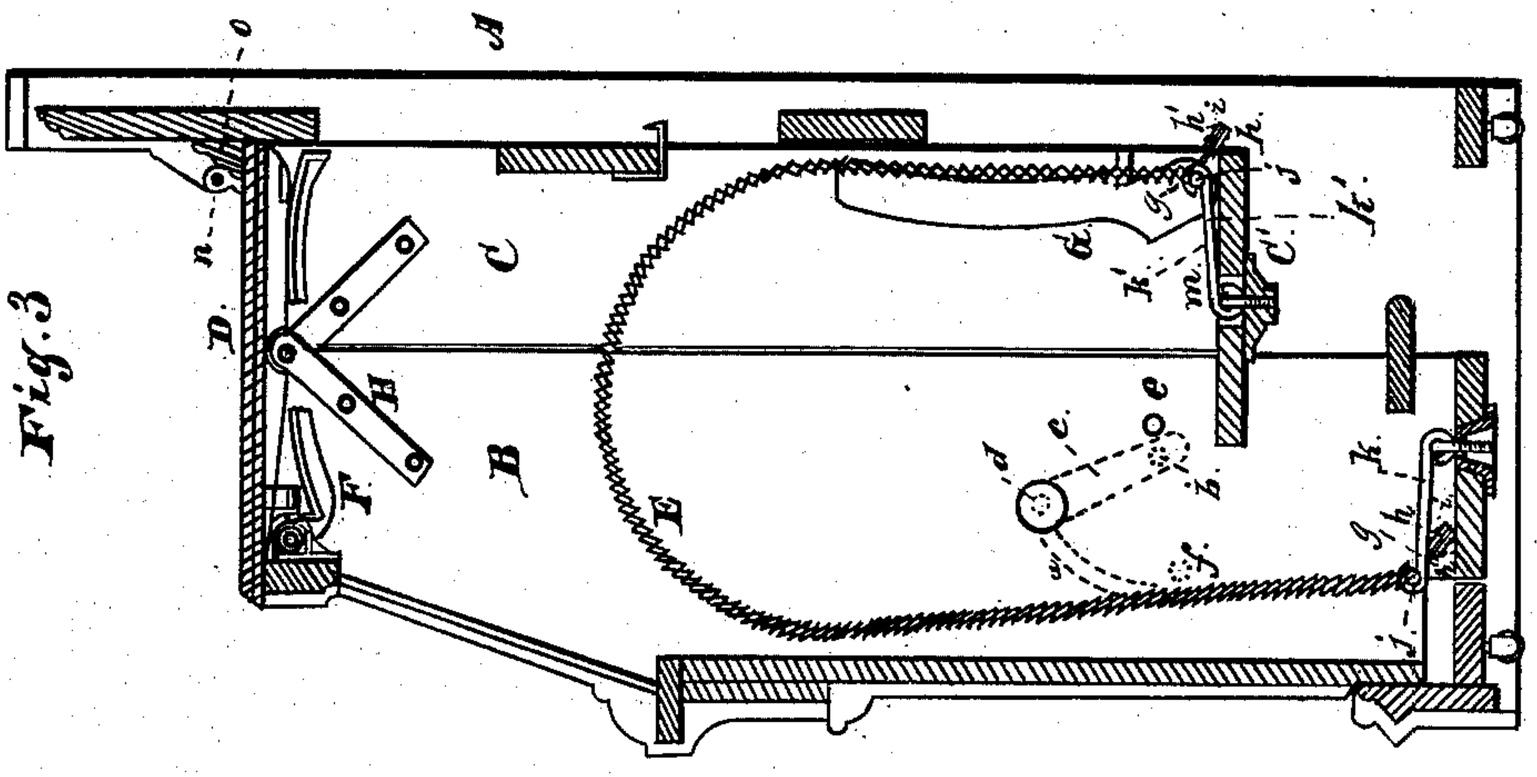


Fig. 3



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(No Model.) 3 Sheets—Sheet 3.

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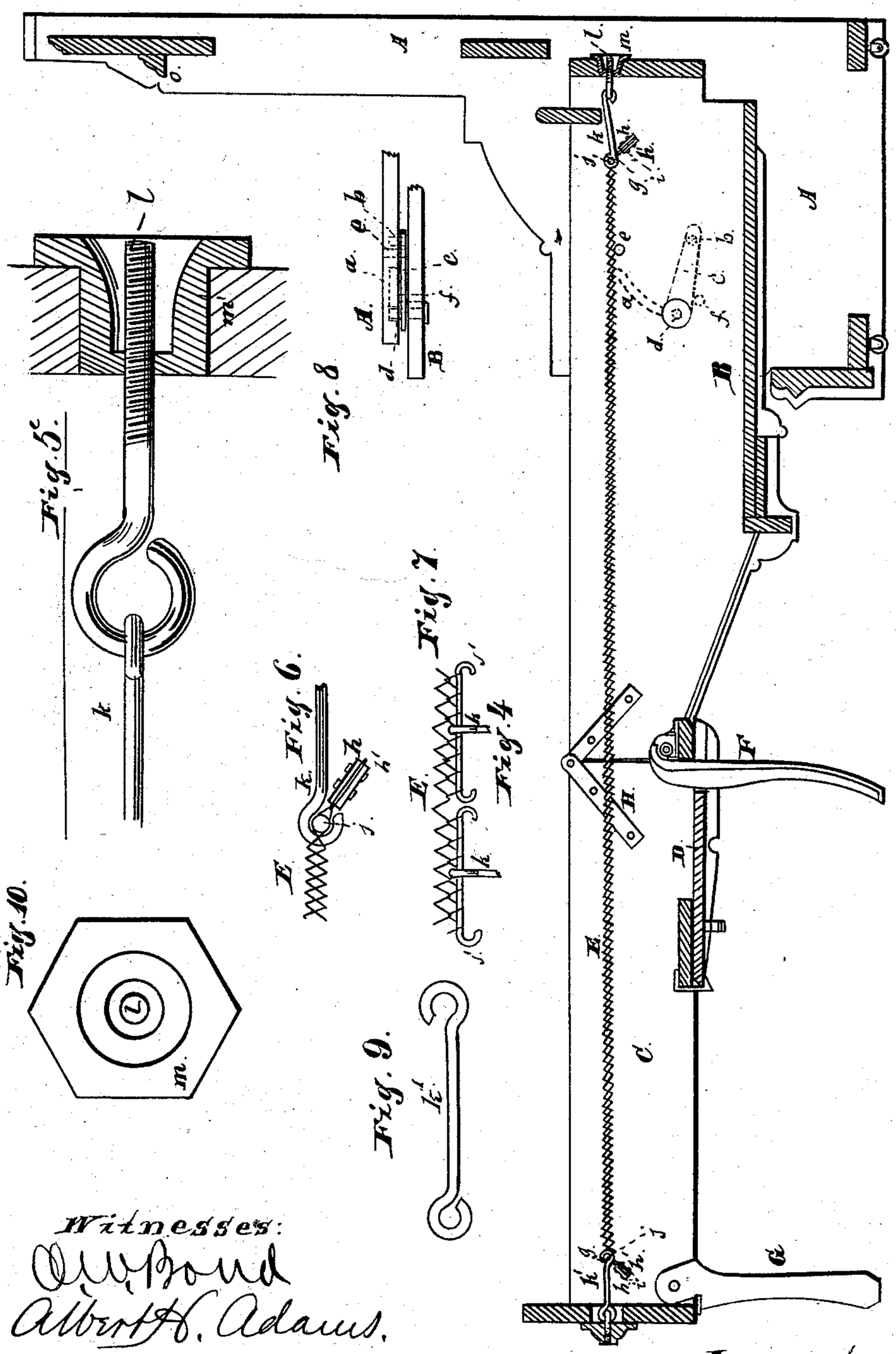

Fig. 5.

Fig. 8

Fig. 6.

Fig. 7

Fig. 4

Fig. 10.

Fig. 9.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALEXANDER W. STEWART, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

WARDROBE OR FOLDING BED.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 255,548, dated March 28, 1882.

Application filed September 5, 1881. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALEXANDER W. STEWART, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, and a citizen of the United States, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Wardrobe or Folding Beds, of which the following is a full description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figures 1 and 2 are front and side elevations of the bedstead folded; Fig. 3, a vertical section of the bedstead folded; Fig. 5, a detail of the device used for straining the bed-bottom; Figs. 6 and 7, details showing the method of connecting the straining devices with the bed-bottom, Fig. 7 being a modification; Fig. 4, a longitudinal section of the bed unfolded; Fig. 8, a detail of the device for connecting the movable with the fixed or stationary part, and Fig. 9 a view of the non-adjustable hooks detached. Figs. 4, 5, 6, and 9 are enlarged; Fig. 10, an end view of the devices drawn in Fig. 5.

The object of my invention is to improve the construction and operation of that class of folding beds of the form commonly known as "cabinet-beds;" and its nature consists in the improved means for connecting the swinging with the fixed parts, and in the several parts and combinations of parts hereinafter described and claimed as new.

In the drawings, A indicates the fixed or stationary part; B, the first or front section of the folding part; C, the second or rear section of the folding part, the terms "front" and "rear" referring to the sections when folded; D, the hinged top or cover; E, the wire bottom or fabric; F, the middle leg; G, the end leg; H, the hinge; *a*, groove in the fixed frame for permitting motion or travel of the pin *d*; *b*, pin or pivot on the part A; *c*, the plate or bar connecting the pins *b* and *d*; *d*, the pin or pivot in the part B; *e f*, stops; *g*, compressed or flattened ends of the wire fabric E; *h h'*, straps or plates for fastening the ends of the wires of the fabric E; *i*, rivets; *j*, bolt or rod extending through the fabric E and resting against the compressed portion; *k k'*, retaining-hooks composed of rigid or inelastic bars or rods of metal or similar material, so that they will not yield in the direction of their length; *l*, screw-hooks or eye-bolts for straining the fabric; *m*, straining-nuts; *n*, cover-hinges; *o*, projection on frame A for locking the folding parts back by the cover D unfolded.

The stationary part of the bedstead may be made in the form shown, or any other suitable form, as may be desired. The other devices, B C, are made as shown, and are connected together by the hinge H. The front of the part B is faced with panel-work or other suitable covering, and may be made plain or ornamental, as desired. The part C is somewhat shorter than the part B, and is composed of two sides and an end board. It may be backed, if desired; but this is not necessary, a single cross-board being sufficient to keep it in form.

The part B is provided with the legs F, which can be folded out of the way; but the part C is turned over onto the part B, as shown in Fig. 3, and the legs G are folded in the ordinary manner.

If preferred, the legs F may be made slip-legs, so as to be taken out or removed for the purpose of folding. Owing to the weight of this class of bedsteads and the bedding, it has been found quite difficult to fold and lift them into position. To overcome this difficulty to a large extent, I have connected the stationary and swinging parts together by the link *c* and pins or pivots *b d*. In order to apply the link, I cut a groove, *a*, in the stationary parts, as shown by dotted lines and in section at Fig. 8, in which the pin *d* travels.

The side rails of the part B are provided with the stops *e*, and the sides of the section A with the pin or stop *f*, the link *c* being pivoted to the part A by the pin *b*, and to the part B by the pin *d*. In lifting the swinging parts they turn on the pin or stop *f* as a pivot until the pin *d* reaches the upper extremity of the pin *d*, from which point the further turning is upon the pin *b*. The link *c* extends to the rearward of the pin *b* sufficiently far to have the pin or stop *e* strike against it. The pin *e* strikes against the rearward extension of the link *c* when the part B stands at an incline of about forty-five degrees, and thereby holds the pin *b*, so as to lift the swinging parts up and keep them from coming in contact with the floor in turning.

As the lifting does not commence until the weight is lifted and ready to be pushed into place, and by this arrangement the weight is so nearly counterbalanced that the folding parts are easily lifted and pushed into their vertical position to complete the folding, the cover D is pivoted or hinged to the rear edge of the section C, as shown, so as to be in the position shown in Fig. 4 when the bed is unfolded, and as shown in Figs. 2 and 3 when folded.

As shown, the hinge *n* is projected upward, so as to give the cover at that point an eccentric movement. The same movement may be obtained by extending the hinges backward. As the bedstead is pushed into position the front edge of the cover is lifted, so as to pass under the projection *o*. When it is dropped the rear edge of the lid D comes in contact with this projection, and as the pivot *b* is in front of the back or head piece carrying the projection *o*, this arrangement of the lid forms a lock or stop to hold the parts firmly in position when folded, so that in order to unfold the bed it will be necessary to first lift the front edge of the lid, so as to clear the rear edge from the projection *o*.

The projection *o* may be made of a piece of molding of the form shown, or may be made of one or more simple projecting stops.

As shown the principal portion of the back of the case, which forms the head-board when unfolded, is left open; but I prefer to fill it with rods or lattice-work for ventilation when the bedstead is folded, but it may be filled with panel-work, if desired.

As thus far described I do not limit my improvements to the kind or form of bed-bottom used; but I have adapted it to the use of wire mattresses or bed-bottoms, and to do this I take a mattress of the coil or spiral form and flatten the ends by compression, as shown at *g* in Fig. 6, and I confine the ends by the strips *h h*, riveted together by the rivets *i*, to give the mattress a perfect binding at the ends.

Immediately back of the compressed portions I run through a small rod, *j*. By means of these rods *j*, I attach the retaining-hooks *k k'*, which are composed of rigid or inelastic bars or rods of metal or other similar material, so that they will not yield in the direction of their length, whereby when the mattress is unfolded and in a horizontal position there will be present a substantially rigid connection between the ends of the mattress and the head and foot boards of the folding sections, such series of rigid hooks also serving to support the bed-clothing and mattress when the latter is in an unfolded position. The retaining-hooks *k'* are pivoted to the foot-board, as shown, and they may be fastened to the foot-board by running a rod through their eyes, and the binding-head for this purpose may be covered by a piece of molding or otherwise. At the opposite end I pivot the hooks *k* to the rods *j* and connect the hooks with the eyebolts *l*, which eyebolts pass through the nuts *m*. The nuts *m* are provided with hexagonal heads, so that they may turn in the end piece for straining the wire fabric E to a proper tension.

The heads of the hollow nuts *m* may be made at any suitable angle for engagement with the wrench, and the nuts are driven in with sufficient force to prevent them from falling out when the bed is folded and the strain released. By this arrangement of the hooks and rods *j*, I obtain an advantage in addition to that of suspending the wire fabric, for when the bedstead is folded, with the mattress and clothing inclosed, the hooks *k k'* turn or drop, as shown in Fig. 3, to give sufficient room for the clothing, and when the folding sections are open and the mattress is in a horizontal position there will be a substantial and rigid connection between the ends of the mattress and the head and foot boards of the folding sections, which rigid connection is composed of the series of rigid hooks before mentioned. These hooks being arranged in a series transversely across the bed, and being rigid, as stated, will also support the bed-clothing at these points when the bed is in use.

In order to prevent undue weight of the pivots *b d* on the wood, they may be bushed or provided with metal collars or sockets, and the groove may also be metal lined.

Instead of running the rod *j* entirely across the mattress E, it may be made in short sections and the ends turned after it is inserted, as shown at Fig. 7, so as to have a short cross-section in each hook *k*. The number of hooks *k* will depend somewhat upon the size of the hooks used. Ordinarily about twelve at each end will be sufficient.

I do not claim the devices and means herein shown and described for connecting the wire fabric with the frame, and for straining said fabric, as such features will constitute the subject-matter of a separate application for Letters Patent.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is as follows:

1. In a folding bed, the combination, with the stationary part A, provided with the groove *a* and stop *f*, of the swinging part B and the link *c*, pivoted at or near one end to the part A by a fixed pivot, *b*, and having at its other end a pivot, *d*, arranged to travel in the groove *a*, substantially in the manner and for the purpose described.

2. In a folding bed, the combination, with the stationary part A, provided with the curved groove *a* and stop *f*, of the swinging part B, having the stop *e* and the link *c*, pivoted near one end to the part A by a fixed pivot, *b*, to form a rearward extension to said link, and having at its other end a pivot, *d*, arranged to travel in the groove *a*, said stop *e* on the part B being adapted to strike the extension of the said link, all substantially in the manner and for the purpose described.

3. The top or cover D, having eccentric hinges *n*, with the stop or projection *o* for forming a lock, substantially as set forth.

4. In combination with the folding sections B and C and an elastic or spring mattress, E, a series of rigid hooks, *k k'*, arranged at each end of the mattress, and having a pivotal connection at one end with such mattress and at the other end with the head and foot boards, respectively, of the folding sections, substantially as and for the purpose hereinbefore set forth.

ALEXANDER W. STEWART.

Witnesses:

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B. A. PRICE.