

(No Model.)

J. L. SULLIVAN.
FENCE.

No. 271,665.

Patented Feb. 6, 1883.

Fig. 2

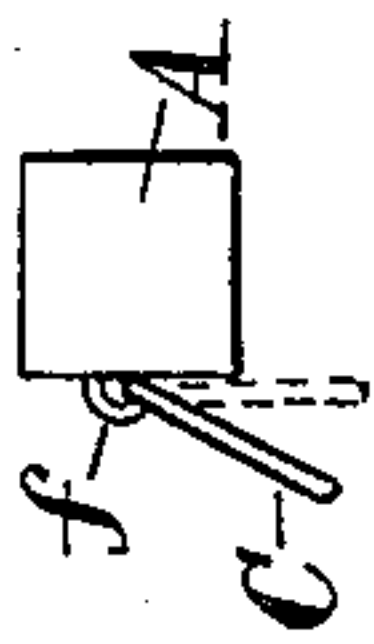


Fig. 1.

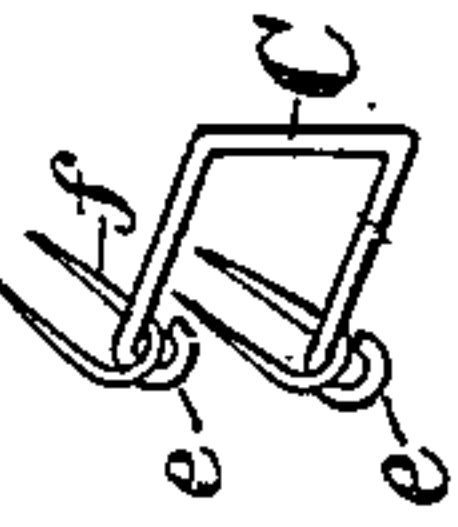
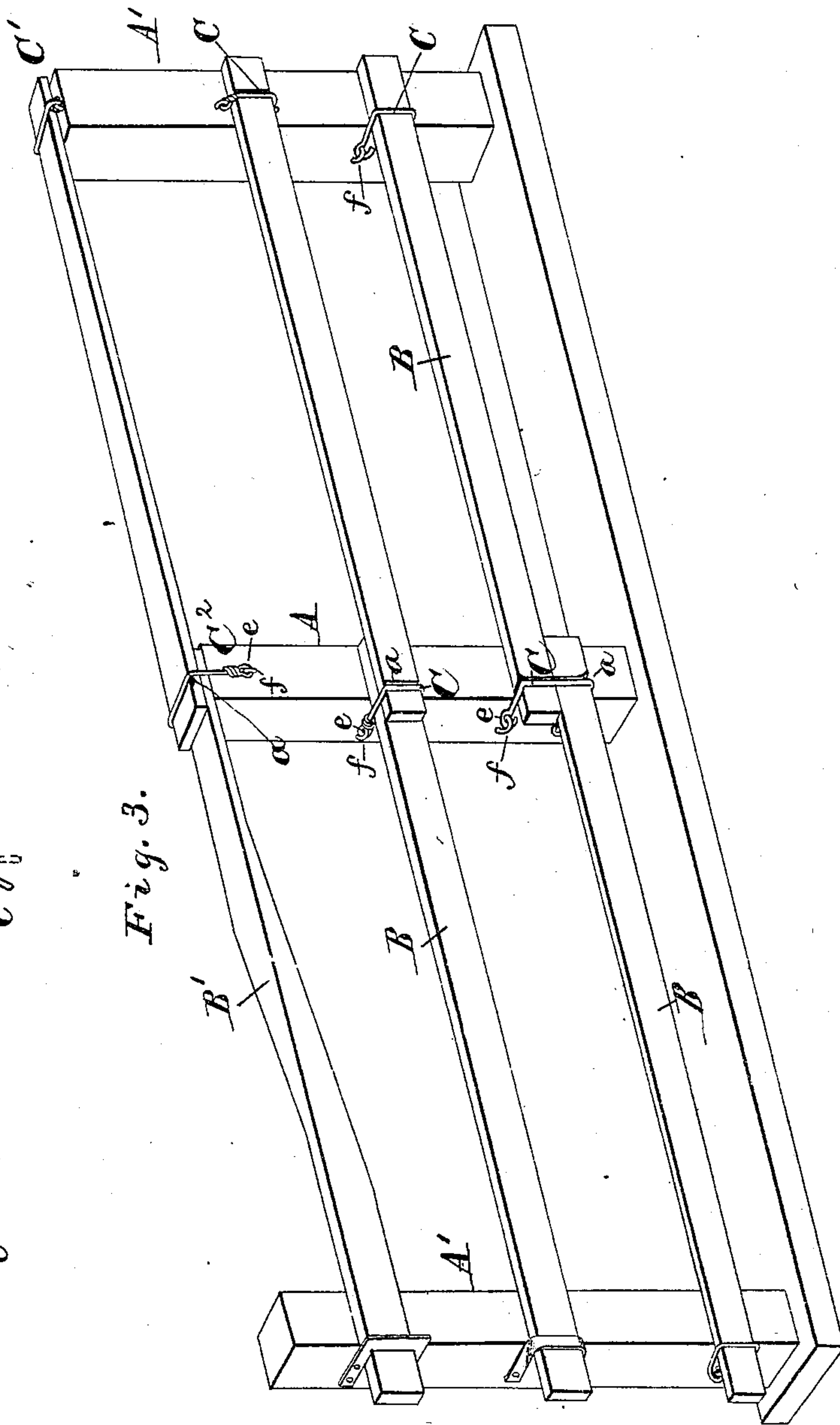


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN L. SULLIVAN, OF GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI.

FENCE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 271,665, dated February 6, 1883.

Application filed December 2, 1881. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN L. SULLIVAN, of the town of Grenada, county of Grenada, and State of Mississippi, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Fences, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to certain improvements in the fastening devices used to secure boards or rails to the posts of fences, and will first be described, and then designated in the claim.

In the drawings hereto annexed, Figure 1 shows a cuff for securing the boards to the post. Fig. 2 is a top view of a post having the cuff attached thereto, and showing by broken lines that the cuff may swing hinge-like. Fig. 3 is a view of a fence to which the improvement is applied.

The letter C designates what I call a "cuff," and it consists of a band of iron of any desired shape in cross-section—flat, round, square, &c. The iron is bent to form three sides of a square hoop, as shown; or it may be semicircular—that is, U-shaped; or it may have other shape approaching these—as, for instance, the two ends may touch or come together. The ends which are secured to the post are provided with eyes or loops *e*, formed in any suitable manner, and this device constitutes the cuff. The cuff is secured to the posts A A' by staples *f*, which are passed through the eyes or loops into the side of the post. This enables the cuff to move hinge-like on its fastenings. The cuff, being attached to a side of the post which is at a right angle to the line of boards or rails B, has much firmer hold than it would have if attached to the front of the post, because all strain on the fastening which may be occasioned by the boards or rails will be across the line of penetration of the staples. One end of each of two boards or rails B are arranged in the cuff with the said ends overlapping or resting side by side, as shown. The ends may be notched, as at *a*, to receive the cuff, and may

be pointed or not, as desired. The top board or rail may be fastened on top of the post, and the cuff C' for same may be secured directly on top; or, as at C², its end may extend down below the top and be secured to the front surface of post, having the nailings driven in the post at right angles to the grain of timber. One end of the rail, as at B', may rest on top of a post, and the other end against the front side of a post. When the top rail is secured on top there is economy of post material, as the post can be shorter, and it makes a neater-looking fence; and also the weight of railing not being on the cuff, but resting on the top of the post, makes a much stronger fence—an advantage of note, taking into consideration that the security of the top rail is of more importance than any other in the fence. When the cuff is arranged on the post to work hinge-like on its fastenings there is much convenience in the insertion and taking out of the rails, as the cuff may be turned to one side to permit the passage of the end of the rail and afterward turned again in position.

A fence made with my improved cuff can be rapidly constructed, and very rough inferior material can be used and readily taken apart for removal, and again very speedily constructed, as the cuffs do not require to be detached from the post.

Having described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

In a fence, the herein-described improved fastening for securing the rails to the posts, consisting of a three-sided or U-shaped cuff, the two ends of which are provided with eyes, *e*, and staples *f* passed through the eyes, thereby forming a joint to afford to the cuff a hinge-like movement, as set forth.

JOHN L. SULLIVAN.

Witnesses:

W. A. LAYNE,
PAUL L. JONES.