(No Model.)

C. WILLIAMS.

FOLDING BED.

No. 272,502. Patented Feb. 20, 1883.

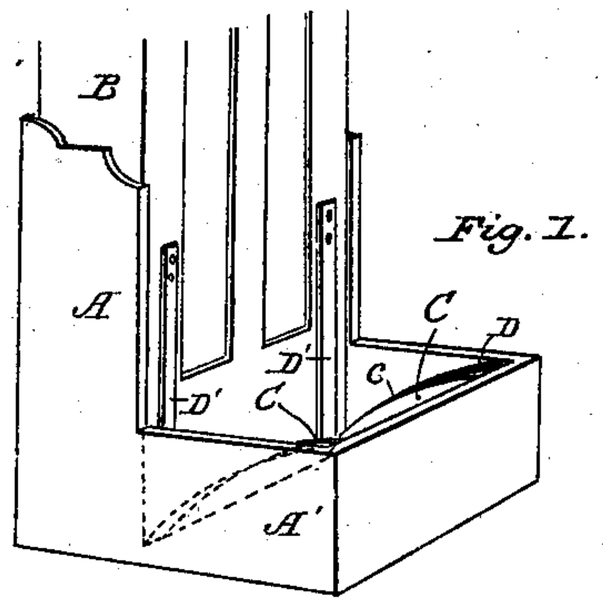

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

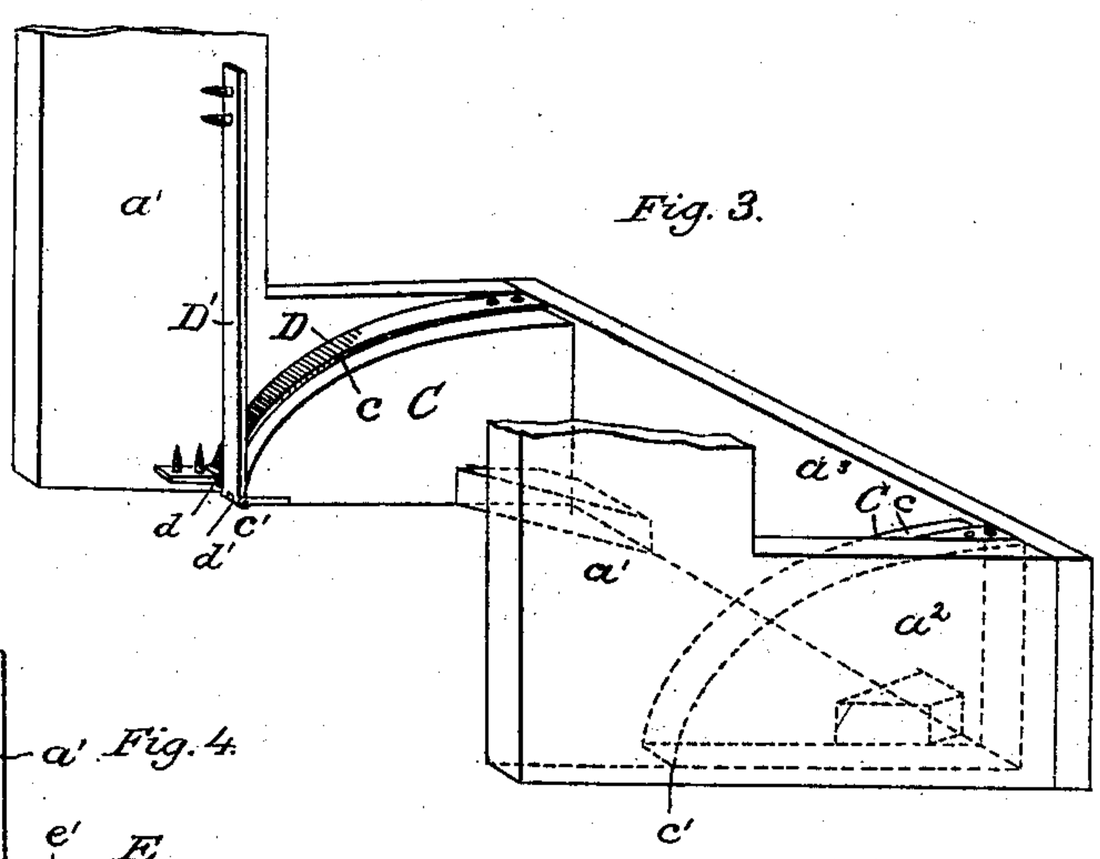

Fig. 3.

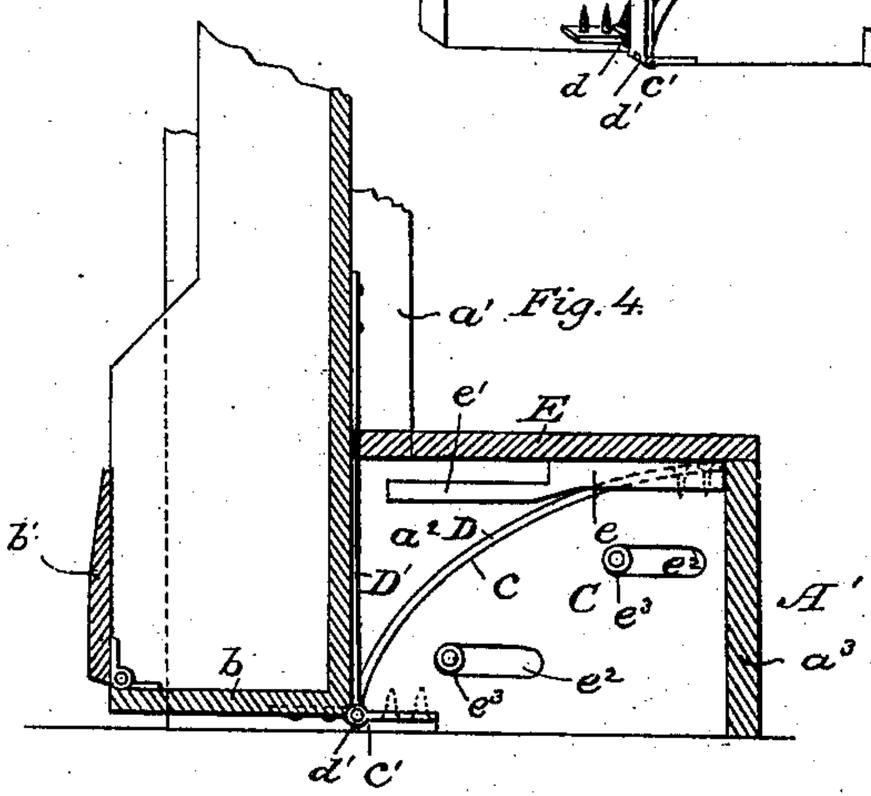

Fig. 4.

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CHARLES WILLIAMS, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

FOLDING BED.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 272,502, dated February 20, 1883.

Application filed November 24, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES WILLIAMS, of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Beds; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to that class of wardrobe or folding bedsteads in which the bed-box or portion supporting the mattress is hinged at one end to a stationary part to which the head-board belongs, in order that the bed-box may be let down into a horizontal position for use and folded up into vertical position when not in use.

The invention consists in the matters hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the lower portion of a wardrobe-bedstead when folded, constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section of the same, with the folding portion in position for use. Fig. 3 is a fragmentary perspective rear view of the stationary part and of the hinge-connection by which the bed-box is secured thereto. Fig. 4 is a fragmentary vertical section of the lower portion of the bedstead when folded.

A is the stationary portion of the bedstead, to which the folding portion or bed-box is attached. The part A comprises the head-board *a* and a rectangular forward extension, A′, at the bottom, which rests on the floor, and the upwardly-extended side pieces, *a′*, joined to the head-board. Upon the inside faces of the ends *a′* of the extension A′ are attached bearing-blocks C C—one at each end—which may be made movable, as shown in Fig. 4, for a purpose hereinafter described. The upper surfaces of said blocks C are curved downward and rearwardly from the top of the extension to or near the floor, at a point in or nearly in the plane of the front face of the bed-box when the latter is in an upright position. Said blocks are intended as the means for supporting the bed-box when in a horizontal position, and serve as ways over which the bed-box rides or rocks when being raised and lowered.

The opposite end of the bed-box is upheld by legs B′, hinged or otherwise attached thereto.

Suitable means are employed to retain the bed-box in proper position upon the rounded ways *c c*. Such means may consist of flexible straps D D′, which, as illustrated in the drawings, are attached alternately at their opposite ends to the ends of the curved ways and to the under surface of the bed adjacent thereto, in a manner common in connecting tilting surfaces—that is to say, the straps D are attached at one end to the upper or front end of the rounded way *c*, and at the other to the lower edge of the end *b* of the bed-box B, and the straps D′ are arranged at the side of the straps D, and are attached at one end to the bottom of the curved ways *c*, and at the other to the face of the bed-box. The straps D may preferably support the weight of the bed-box when it is in a vertical position, and are in this case made of such length as to hold it a short distance above the lower surface of the blocks C C. When thus connected, as the front edge of the bed-box is alone supported by the straps, its upper portion tends to press against the head-board, so that no other means are necessary to prevent such bed-box from falling forward. If desired, however, casters may be applied to the head end of the bed-box to receive its weight, or a frame-piece may be attached to the stationary part of the bed at the bottom thereof for the same purpose, and the whole structure sustained on casters beneath said stationary part of the bed.

As represented in the drawings, the straps D D′ are made of metal, and are attached at the lower end of the rounded way *c*, and to the lower edge of the bed-box by hinged connections *d d′*. They may, however, be made of leather or other flexible material, or may be flat link chains. Instead of using strap-connections toothed racks may be attached to the face of the bed-box, and corresponding curved racks applied to the opposing curved surfaces of the ways *c*, which racks will serve, though perhaps less perfectly, the same purpose as the straps D in keeping the bed in proper position in reference to the casing and ways *c c*. The straps D′, attached to the lower ends of the ways *c* and to the front face of the bed-box, co-operate with the straps D, to prevent the

bed-box from being displaced in laterally moving the bedstead when in a lowered position. The straps D′ may be dispensed with without affecting the operation in other respects of the devices described, and when the straps D are of metal they are usually sufficiently stiff to retain the bed-box in proper position in moving the same, as described, without the straps D′. When a single strap on either side is used, the surface of the curved ways may be covered with felt or similar material, so that the surface of the bed-box resting thereon may not be injured or defaced.

The projecting portion A′ of the stationary part A is provided with a cover or lid, E, which may be used to form a foot-board to the bed by slipping the ends e' e' of the cleats e upon the bottom piece, b^2, of the bed B, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2. The lid E, when in position upon the projection A′, serves to prevent the bed-box from falling down in case it is thrown forward at the top by accident, and for this purpose the front ends of the cleats e thereon are arranged to fit against the inner face of the front piece, a^3, so as to prevent the said lid from sliding forward from its place.

Upon the upper edge of the head-board b of the bed-box is a hinged piece, b', which is turned back against the head-board a, so as to close the space between the end of the bed-box and the head-board when the bed is in use, and is folded against the side pieces of the bed-box when the latter is turned up into a vertical position.

The end piece, b, of the bed-box may be brought beneath the head board a and in line with it by making the curved bearing-blocks C C movable upon slides or rollers in the projection A′, so that they may be pushed backward together with the bed-box after the latter is lowered and the folding piece b' dispensed with. Provision for such movement of the blocks C is shown in Fig. 4, wherein e^2 are slots in said blocks, and e^3 are roller-pins secured to the ends a^2 of the projection A′.

The bottom of the bed-box, which appears in front when the said bed-box is folded up, is paneled and otherwise ornamented so as to resemble the front of a wardrobe, as is customary in bedsteads of this character, and it is intended that a suitable counterbalancing-weight shall be placed at the head of the bed-box.

I claim as my invention—

1. In a folding bedstead, the combination, with a tilting bed-box, of a stationary part provided with upwardly and forwardly curved ways or supports in front of the bed-box when the latter is in a vertical position, substantially as described.

2. In a folding bedstead, the combination, with a bed-box and upwardly and forwardly curved supports, of means for retaining the bed-box upon such supports when said bed-box is raised or lowered, substantially as described.

3. In a folding bedstead, the combination, with the bed-box and upwardly and forwardly curved supports, of a flexible strap, D, connecting the box with the said supports, substantially as described.

4. In a folding bedstead, the combination, with a bed-box, B, and rounded supports C, of the straps D and D′, oppositely connected with the box and supports, substantially as described.

5. In combination with a stationary part, A A′, and a bed-box, B, supports C for the bed-box, movably attached to the stationary part, substantially as described.

6. In combination with the forwardly-projecting stationary part A′ and bed-box B, a removable lid, E, for the part A′, adapted, when in place on the latter, to retain the bed-box in a vertical position, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES WILLIAMS.

Witnesses:

M. E. DAYTON,

CYRUS KEHR.