

(No Model.)

J. M. GORHAM.
WASH BOARD PROTECTOR.

No. 285,254.

Patented Sept. 18, 1883.

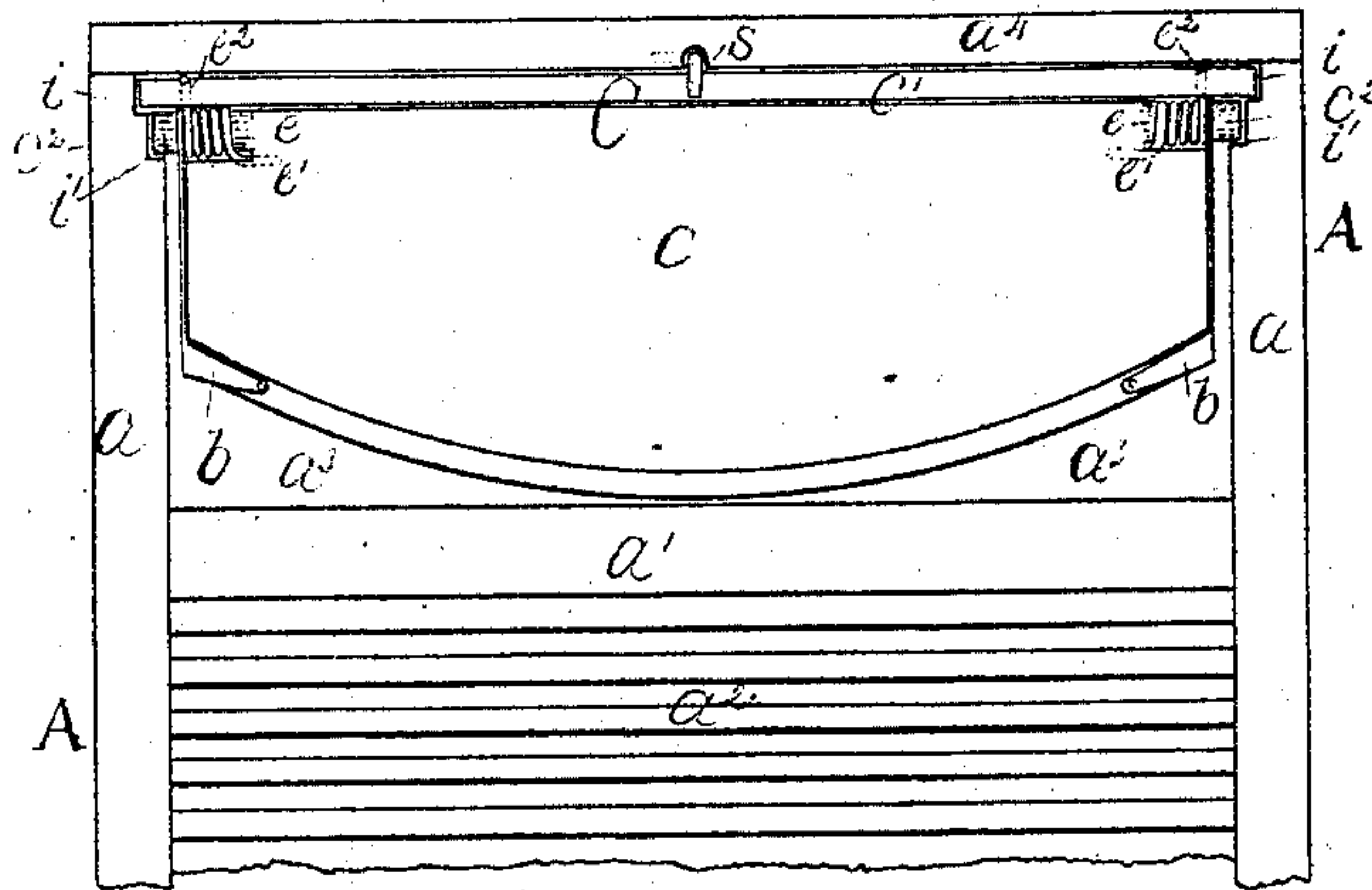


Fig. 1.

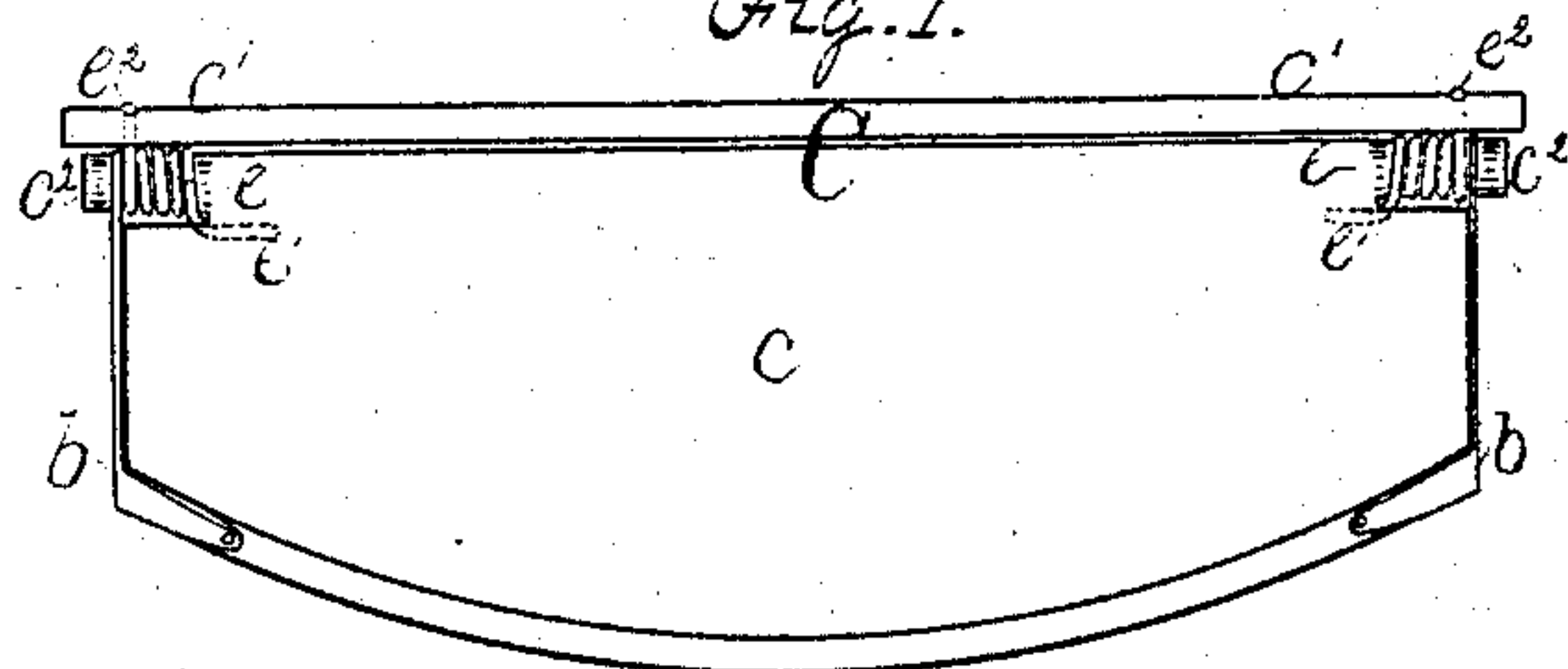


Fig. 2.

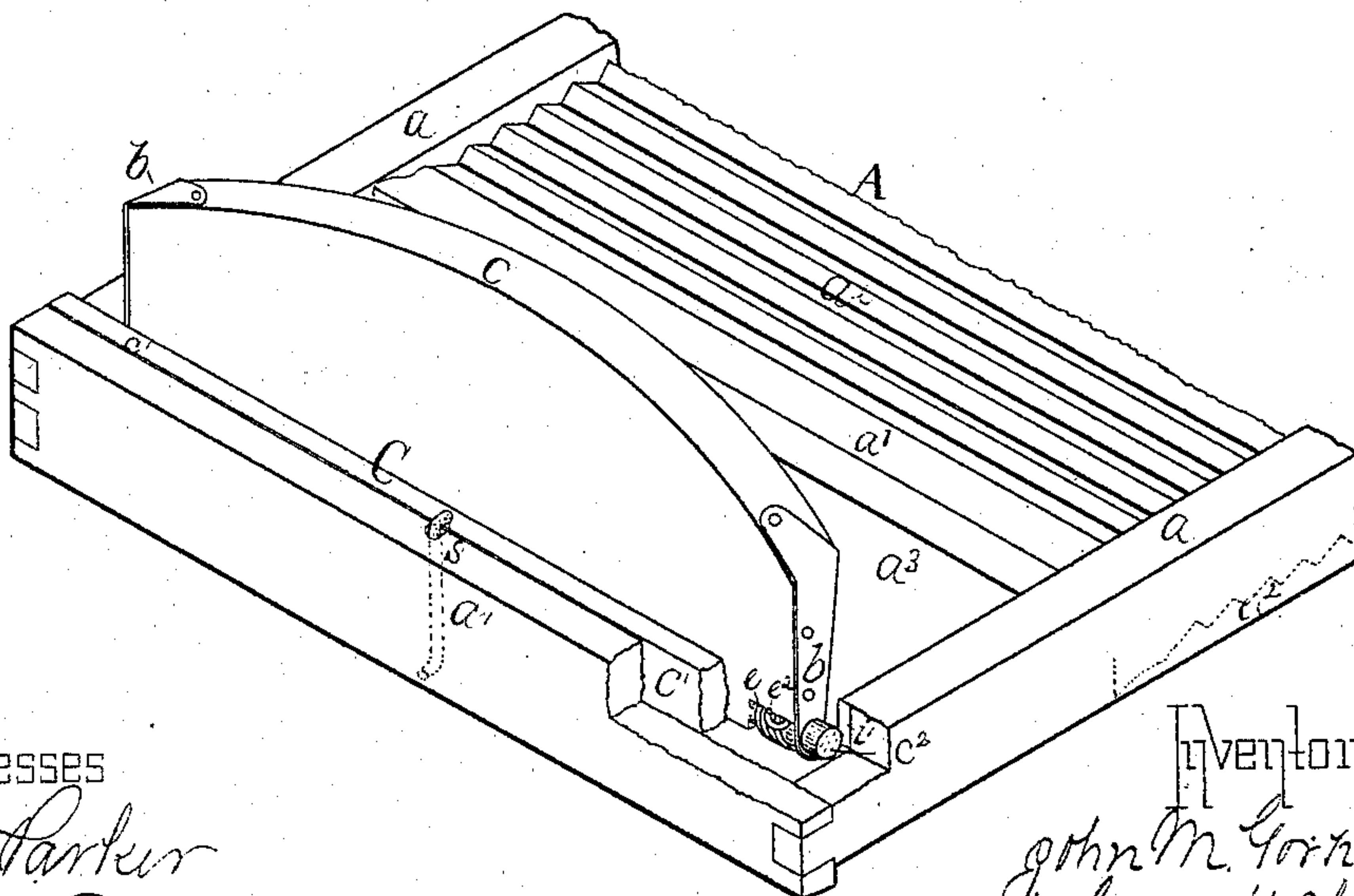


Fig. 3.

Witnesses
C. L. Parker
H. P. Potter

Inventor
John M. Gorham
by George H. Christy
his Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN M. GORHAM, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO.

WASH-BOARD PROTECTOR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 285,254, dated September 18, 1883.

Application filed August 22, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN M. GORHAM, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cleveland, county of Cuyahoga, State of Ohio, have invented or discovered a new and useful Improvement in Protectors for Wash-Boards; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, concise, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—like letters indicating like parts—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the upper portion of a wash-board, the protector being bent down as packed for shipping, the same being illustrative of my invention. Fig. 2 is a view of my improved protector removed or separate from the wash-board frame, showing the parts in the same relative positions as in Fig. 1; and Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a portion of the board, the protector being raised to working position and a portion of one corner of the frame broken away to show the construction of parts.

My present invention relates to certain improvements in that class of wash-board protectors for which Patent No. 223,338 was granted to me January 6, 1880, whereby such protectors are made removable or reversible and adapted for use with either single or double wash-boards; and it consists of a yielding protector having a protecting plate or board hinged or flexibly connected by springs to a holding-strip, both being separate from the wash-board frame, to which they are attached for use by means such that the protector proper may be removed readily and placed on either side of the board at pleasure.

In the drawings, A represents a double-faced wash-board, which, except as hereinafter described, may be of the usual or any desired construction. The frame of the board shown consists of side bars, a a ; cross-strips a' above and below the rubbing-surfaces a^2 , brand-board a^3 , and cap or head a^4 . The protector C is constructed and secured to the frame as follows: A board or plate, c , of any desired width and form, is connected to a holding-strip, c' , of wood or other material, by means of two spiral springs, e e —one at either

end—which are seated on rounded tenons or pins c^2 , formed by any convenient cutting mechanism on the lower corners of board c . One end, e' , (dotted lines,) of each spring is pressed into the body of board c , so as to hold the same securely, and the other end, e^2 , is passed through the strip c' , and there secured by binding or clinching or in other convenient way. In fastening these ends the springs are put under tension, so that their combined strength or pressure is exerted to hold the board c against the side face of strip c' and in position for work when placed in the board, as illustrated in Fig. 3. Consequently the board c will yield or bend forward under pressure of the body thereon in use, but will reassume the proper upright position as soon as such pressure is removed. In order to hold the springs firmly in place and strengthen the pins c^2 and board c , zinc or other sheet-metal strips, b , are punched near one end and placed on the pins outside the springs, the upwardly-extending ends being bent upon and tacked to the edges of board c across its ends. Such strips prevent warping and splitting of the board c and strengthen the pins, and for these reasons I prefer to use them. The requisite strength of these parts may be secured in other ways, however, and in such case the strips may be omitted. By preference the pins c^2 are extended somewhat beyond the ends of board c , and the holding-strip c' is made of still greater length, so that its ends project beyond the ends of the pins. This feature of construction is not an essential one, however, but is adopted for convenience with reference to securing the protector to the frame of the board, which is done by passing the ends of strip c' and pins c^2 into grooves, notches, or recesses i i' , respectively made in or across the adjacent faces of the side bars, a a , next or near to the cap a^4 . By making the grooves i deeper than i' , a shoulder or offset is formed between them, which assists in holding the strip c' firmly. This strip c' is also made of proper width through the whole or a part of its length, so that when in place in the grooves i a bent wire, s , or an equivalent button or other fastening device, may be turned upon its edge from the frame a^4 , and thus hold it

within the grooves. The holding-strip being thus secured, the board *c* of the protector may be pressed or bent downward into the soap-box or upward into working position at pleasure without moving the strip, which thus forms a fastening or holding medium between the frame and board *c*. By turning the wire *s* the protector may be removed from the frame, and if grooves, notches, or depressions similar to *i i'* be provided on both sides of the board the protector may be transferred from side to side as occasion may require, so as to be available whichever side of the board is used. This feature of reversibility from side to side constitutes one important object or purpose of my invention, and the means by which I secure it are simple and convenient. The wire *s* is passed through the cap *a'*, and its ends are bent in opposite directions, so that when one end is turned onto the strip *c'* the other end will be on the edge of cap *a'*, and thus prevent catching on the garments of the user, and also prevent the wire from being drawn upward in case the hole through which it passes is made near the inner face of the cap, as in Figs. 1 and 3. It is not essential that the ends of pins *c'* should enter grooves *i'* in the frame, and, if desired, these grooves may be omitted, the pins being made shorter, so as to pass down between the full faces of the side bars, *a*. I prefer, however, the construction shown, as it affords additional support to the protector. Also, recesses or notches answering substantially the same purpose as the grooves *i i'* may be made by strips, pins, or cleats nailed or otherwise fastened to the inner faces of the side bars, *a*, without cutting the bars out. If desired, any suitable or well-known form of flexible connection may be employed between the board *c* and strip *c'*, instead of the coiled springs *e*, and in such case one or more springs of any desired form may be used to press the board *c* upward into working position; but I prefer to use the springs as shown on account of cheapness in construction and adaptation to the requirements of the case. Instead of pressing the end *e'* of the spring into the body of board *c*, as above described, it may be bent against the outer face in such position as to prevent the spring from turning to de-

stroy its tension, and other like modifications may be made in the details of construction without departing from my invention.

With my present improvement I secure a yielding or spring-supported protector possessing all the advantages of that in my prior patent referred to, and, in addition, it is removable and reversible, and does not form a part of the frame proper, but is separate from and practically independent of the frame. The board can be used without it, and it may be made and sold apart from the board and readily applied to many or most of the boards in common use.

I am aware that reversible spring-protectors permanently attached to and practically a part of the frame of the board have been shown in prior patents, and I do not claim such feature of construction, broadly; but I am not aware of any removable and reversible spring-protector having the features of construction and invention which I have herein shown and described.

I claim herein as my invention—

1. A removable protector for wash-boards, having in combination a protector-board, *c*, a holding-strip, *c'*, the two having a flexible connection, and both being separate from the frame of the board, and a spring or springs for pressing and holding the board *c* upward in working position, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, with a wash-board, of protector-board *c*, strip *c'*, and spiral springs *e*, such springs forming a flexible connection under spring-tension between the board and strip, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. A wash-board having grooves, notches, or recesses across the adjacent faces of its side bars, near the cap, in combination with a holding-strip having ends adapted to fit into such grooves, notches, or recesses, and a yielding protector-board flexibly connected to the holding-strip, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

JOHN M. GORHAM.

Witnesses:

H. L. ROBINSON,
C. N. SHELDON.