

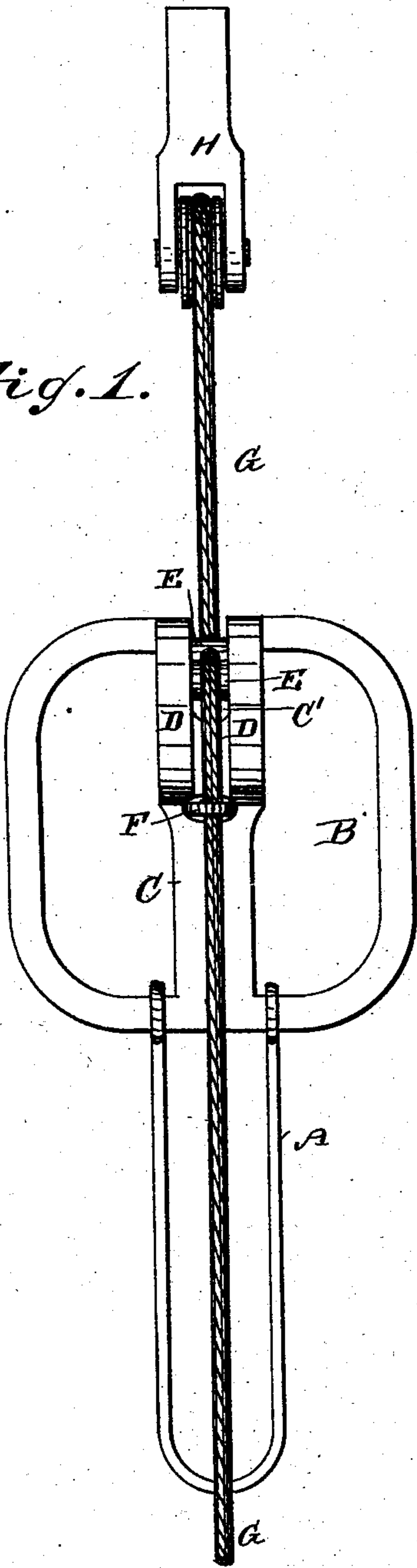
(No Model.)

J. H. DOWNING.  
FIRE ESCAPE.

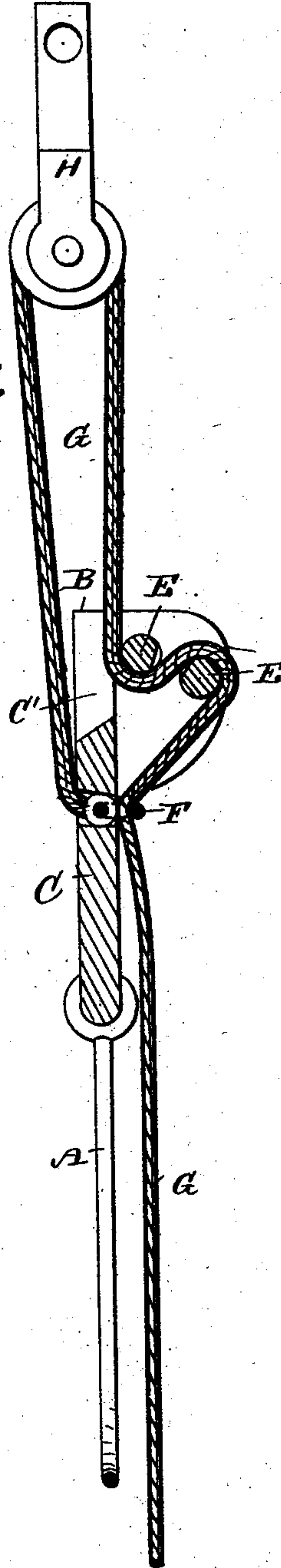
No. 290,007.

Patented Dec. 11, 1883.

*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



WITNESSES:

*Thos. G. Hooper*  
*C. Sedgwick*

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES H. DOWNING, OF LANE, KANSAS.

## FIRE-ESCAPE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 290,007, dated December 11, 1883.

Application filed July 18, 1883. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES H. DOWNING, of Lane, in the county of Franklin and State of Kansas, have invented a new and Improved  
5 Fire-Escape, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to that class of fire-escapes in which a frame is suspended from a rope or cable passing over a pulley and extend-  
10 ing to the ground.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in both the figures.

15 Figure 1 is a front view of my improved fire-escape, and Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional elevation of the same.

A rope, strap, or belt, A, suspended from a frame, B, serves as a seat or to support a seat  
20 for the person to be rescued. The frame B is provided with a vertical center piece, C, having a vertical slot, C', in its upper part, at each side of which slot a jaw, D, is formed, in which two cross-rods, E, are held. A ring, F, is  
25 fastened to one end of a rope, G, which rope is then passed through an opening in the center piece, C, and is then passed over a pulley, H, which is adapted to be suspended from  
30 hooks, spikes, or other projections on a building. From the pulley H the rope G passes under the inner rod E, over the outer rod E, and through the ring F, and then hangs down, as shown. If a person wishes to escape from  
35 fire, &c., the pulley H is suspended from a suitable hook. The person sits or stands on the rope or strap A, and descends by his own weight, the rope G being drawn upward. If the speed is to be checked or the descent  
40 stopped altogether, the person pulls downward on the rope G, thereby causing the same to bind on the cross-rods E. If the person then wishes to continue the descent at any desired moment, all that is necessary is to slacken the rope G—that is, raise it slightly. If the

frame B is to be raised after one person has  
45 been secured, all that is necessary is to pull the rope G downward, whereby the frame B will be raised. The fire-escape is very small, can be folded very compactly, is light and safe. It can be governed easily, so that it will  
50 descend rapidly or slowly, as the person may desire.

In place of the rope G, a wire, a cable, or webbing may be used, and the seat-strap A  
55 can be made of leather, webbing, rope, &c.

If the occupant wishes to stop for any length of time in a descent on the fire-escape, all that is necessary is to take hold of the rope below the ring and in front and raise it and pass it  
60 over the top of the frame between the jaws and let it hang loose behind the frame.

I do not abandon or dedicate to the public any patentable features set forth herein and not hereinafter claimed, but reserve the right  
65 to claim the same either in a reissue of any patent that may be granted upon this application or in other applications for Letters Patent that I may make.

Having thus described my invention, I claim  
70 as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. The combination, in a fire-escape, with the rope which passes over a superposed pulley, of the ring F and friction-rods E, whereby the speed may be retarded or the descent  
75 stopped, as described.

2. In a fire-escape, the combination, with the frame B, having a central piece, C, provided with jaws D, of the cross-rods E, the rope G, passed through an aperture in the center piece, C, the ring F, secured on the end of  
80 the rope G, which rope G is passed over a pulley, H, under and over the rods E, and through the ring F, substantially as herein shown and described.

JAMES H. DOWNING.

Witnesses:

OLIN M. WILBER,  
WILLIAM A. WASSON.