

(No Model.)

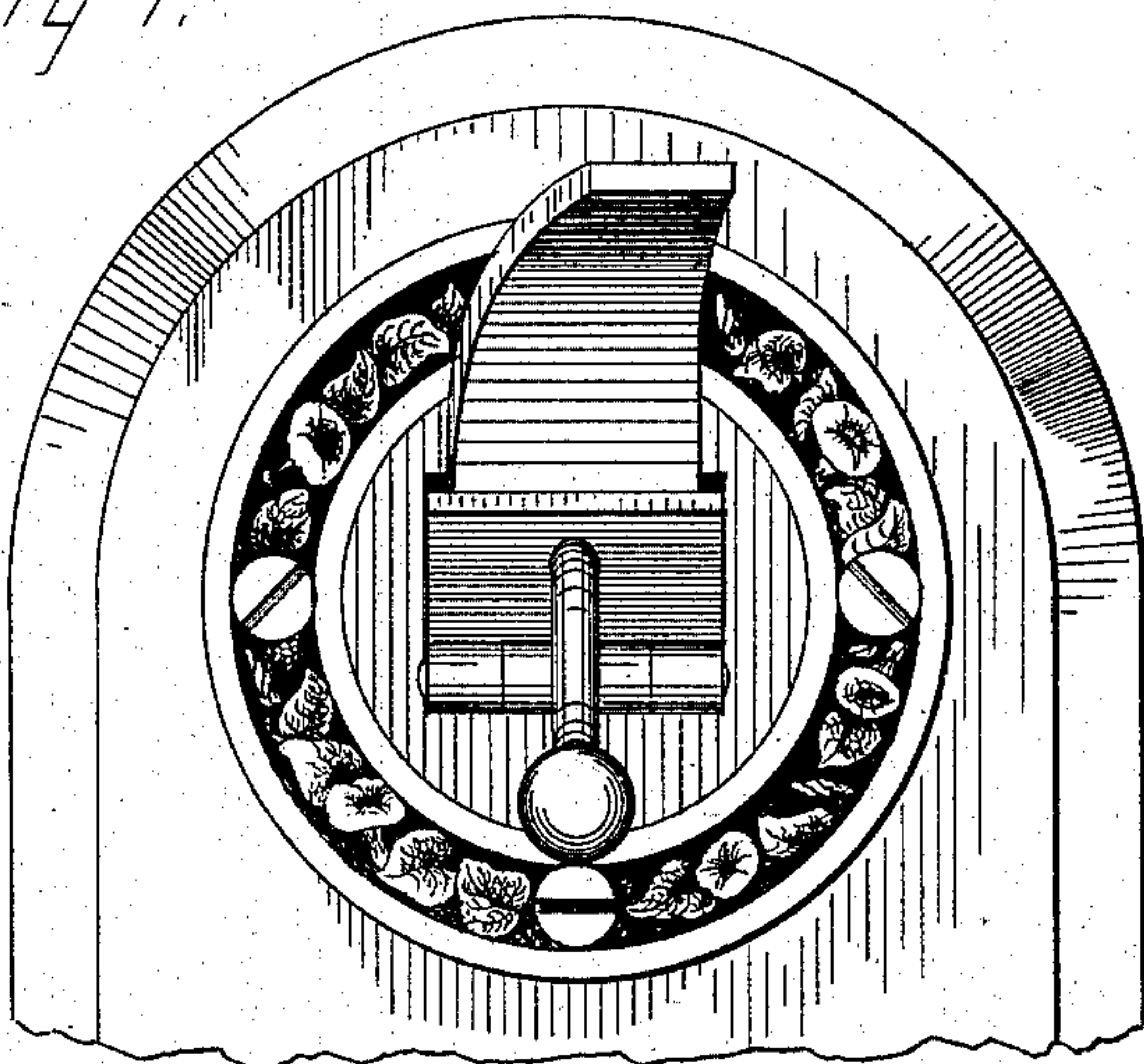
J. L. KENNEDY.

HITCHING DEVICE.

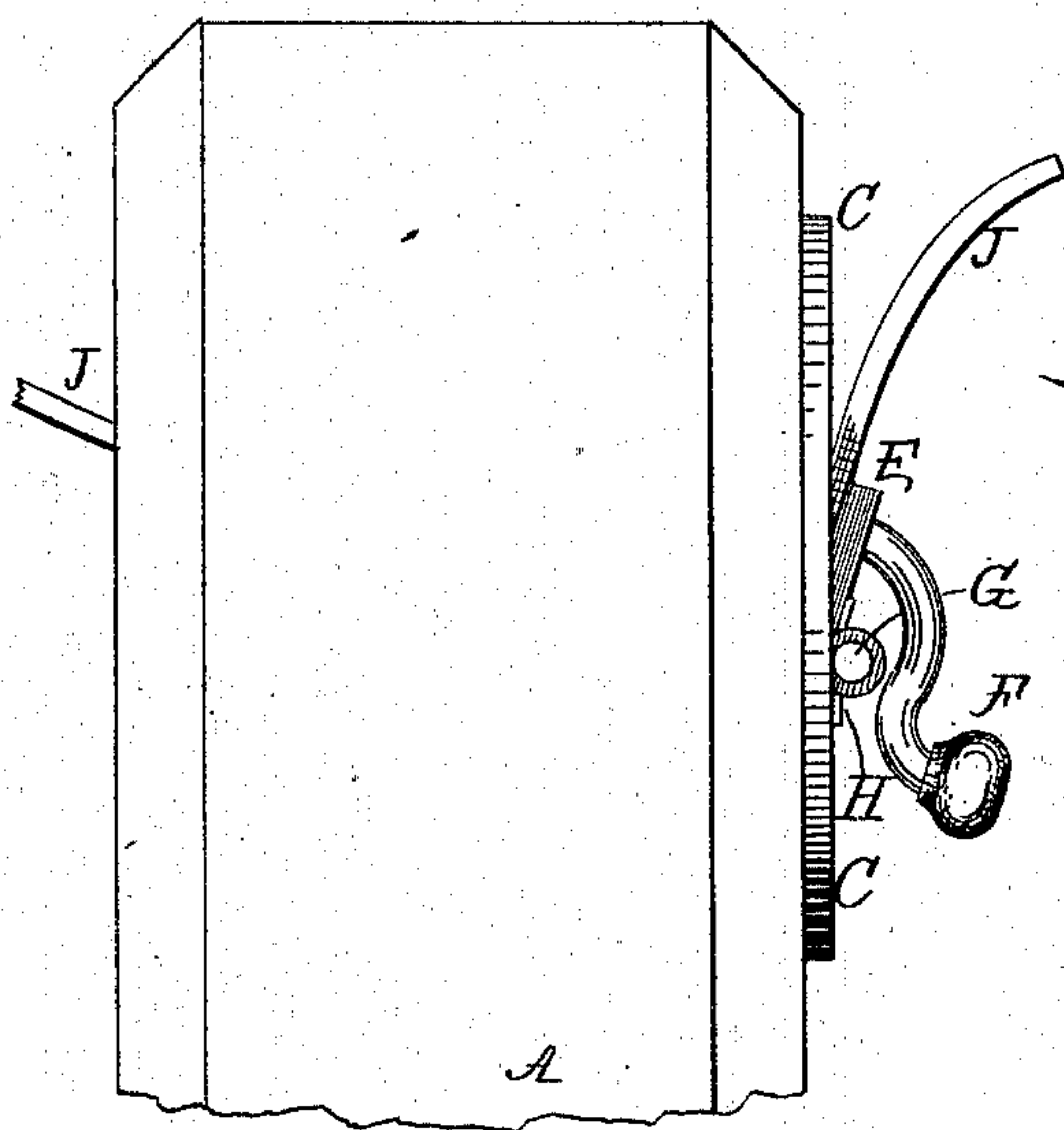
No. 291,357.

Patented Jan. 1, 1884.

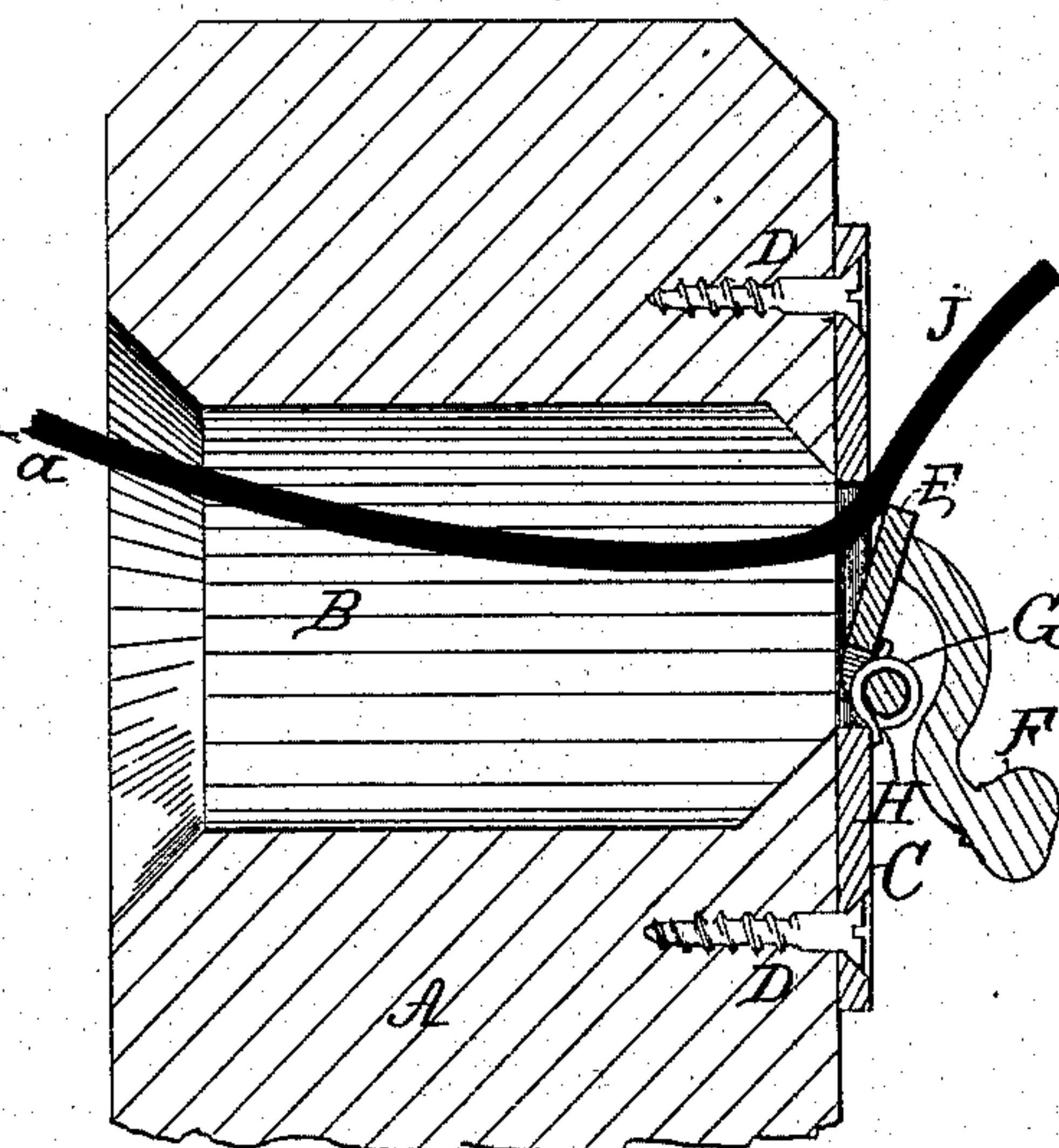
*Fig 1.*



*Fig 2.*



*Fig 3.*



WITNESSES.

*S. E. Stevens*

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ATTY.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES L. KENNEDY, OF SIOUX CITY, IOWA.

## HITCHING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 291,357, dated January 1, 1884.

Application filed September 29, 1883. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES L. KENNEDY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Sioux City, in the county of Woodbury and State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Non-Penetrating Strap-Hitches; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to that class of strap-hitches which are used to secure horses and other animals to hitching-posts, mangers, &c.; and it has for its object to hitch the strap of a halter or a rein or hitch-line of a harness quickly without tying a knot therein or penetrating the same with a buckle-tongue.

To this end my invention consists in the construction and combination of parts forming a clamp for hitching-straps, as hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of my non-penetrating strap-hitch and the top of a hitching-post to which it is secured. Fig. 2 is a side elevation, and Fig. 3 a transverse vertical section, of the same.

A represents a hitching-post perforated by a hole, B. Over this hole the body C of my clamp is firmly secured in any suitable manner, as by the screws D. This body may be circular, as shown, or it may be rectangular or polygonal, as may adapt it to the object to which it is to be applied, or to suit the fancy of the purchaser. This body has a hole through it, which should be located over the center of the hole in the post.

E is a door or clamp hinged at G to the body C to swing into said hole.

H is a spiral spring around the hinge-pin G, resting one end on the clamping-piece E and the other end upon the body C, constantly pressing the clamp into the body.

F is a handle secured to the clamp, projecting outward and to the rear of the hinge. By pressing this handle backward or downward from the position shown in the drawings the clamp will be opened and a strap, J, may be inserted. When the handle is let go, the clamp will spring against the strap, holding

it firmly against the edge of the body C, resisting tension in the direction of the arrow *a*. The clamping-piece E is of somewhat shorter radius than the width in that direction of the hole it enters, but not enough shorter to leave a space above it when closed equal to the thickness of common leather straps. By this means the strap will be firmly gripped between a corner or edge of the clamping-piece and the adjacent corner or edge of the body, and the harder the strap is pulled in the direction of the arrow the closer the clamp will be pulled thereby and the more firmly said strap will be held, while it may at any time be freely pulled in the opposite direction through the clamp.

The arrow indicates the direction in which a horse would pull. Therefore the pulling of the horse will draw the clamp against the post. The clamp, thus held, requires only light fastenings to secure it to the post, while if it were faced to clamp in the opposite direction any pull on the strap would tend to tear the clamp from the post. The advantages of this hitch over the common post hole or ring, into which the strap must be tied, and over a buckle having a tongue to penetrate the strap, are that, first, it is much more easily used; second, it is a safer hitch, as a perforated strap is weaker at the hole than elsewhere, and when held by a buckle-tongue in the hole it is yet more forcibly strained at this point; but my clamp-hitch does not require holes in the strap, though it will hold a strap having holes in it.

The body of my clamp might be made the top of the post and have the clamping-piece hinged directly to it.

The clamp may be ornamented in any manner, as by embossing, plating, &c., to suit individual taste.

I am aware that serrated cams hinged to swing against and rest upon serrated tangent planes, both within the head of a hitching-post, are not new. Such are not my invention, and I do not claim them.

What I claim as my invention, and wish to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A metallic body-plate having an aperture through it, in combination with another plate hinged to swing into said aperture freely past the edges thereof, a spring acting between the body and the hinged piece to close the latter,



and a handle thereon, substantially as described, whereby a strap may be held between the adjacent edges of the two plates.

5 2. The combination, with a hitching-post having a hole through it, of a perforated metallic plate secured to the post over the hole therein, another plate hinged to swing on the first plate, a spring for closing the same, and a handle thereon, as shown and described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JAMES L. KENNEDY.

Witnesses:

H. W. CHASE,  
CHAS. F. OLIVER.