

(Model.)

G. H. THOMPSON.
SEAT FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

No. 292,071.

Patented Jan. 15, 1884.

Fig. 1.

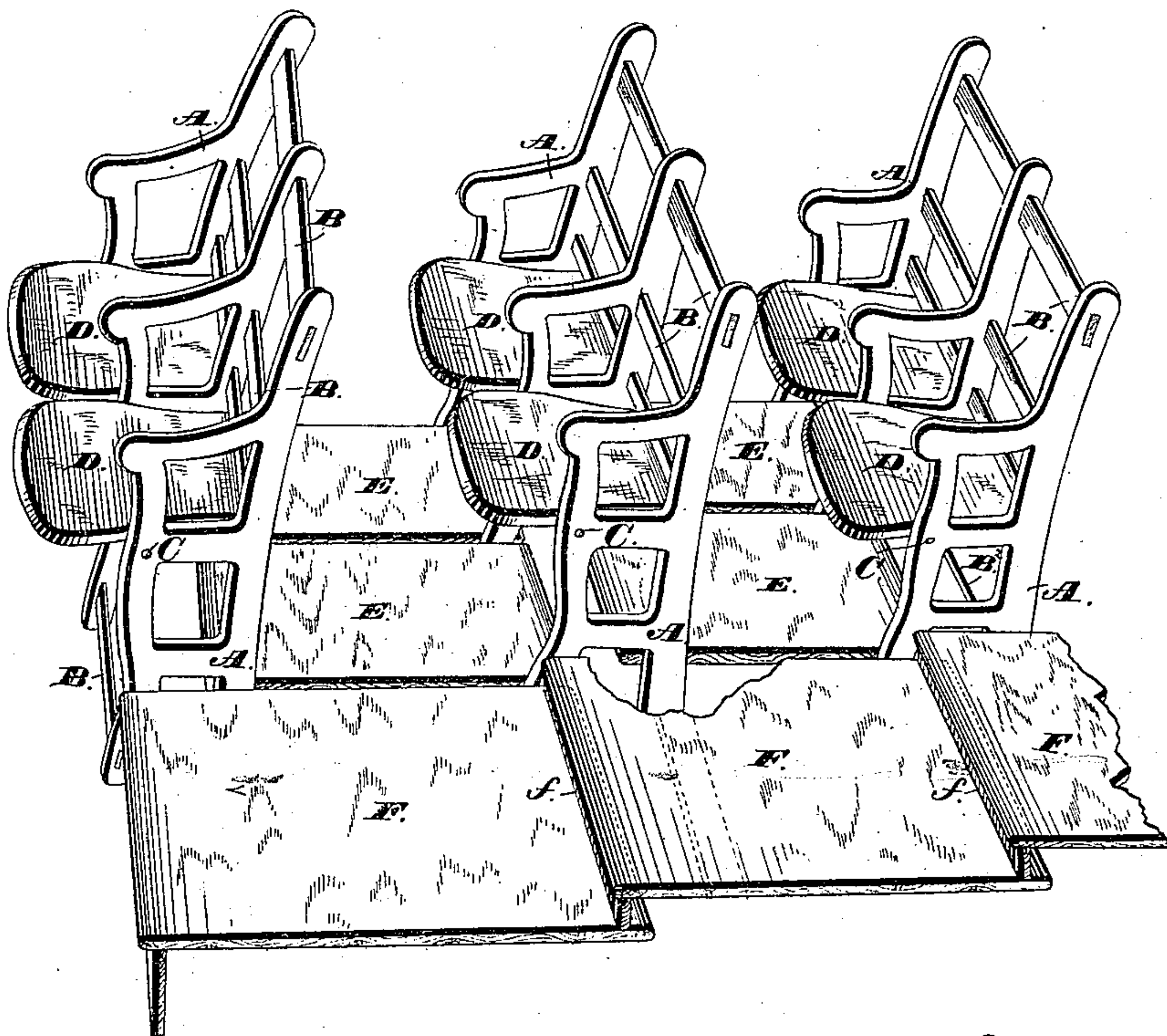


Fig. 2.

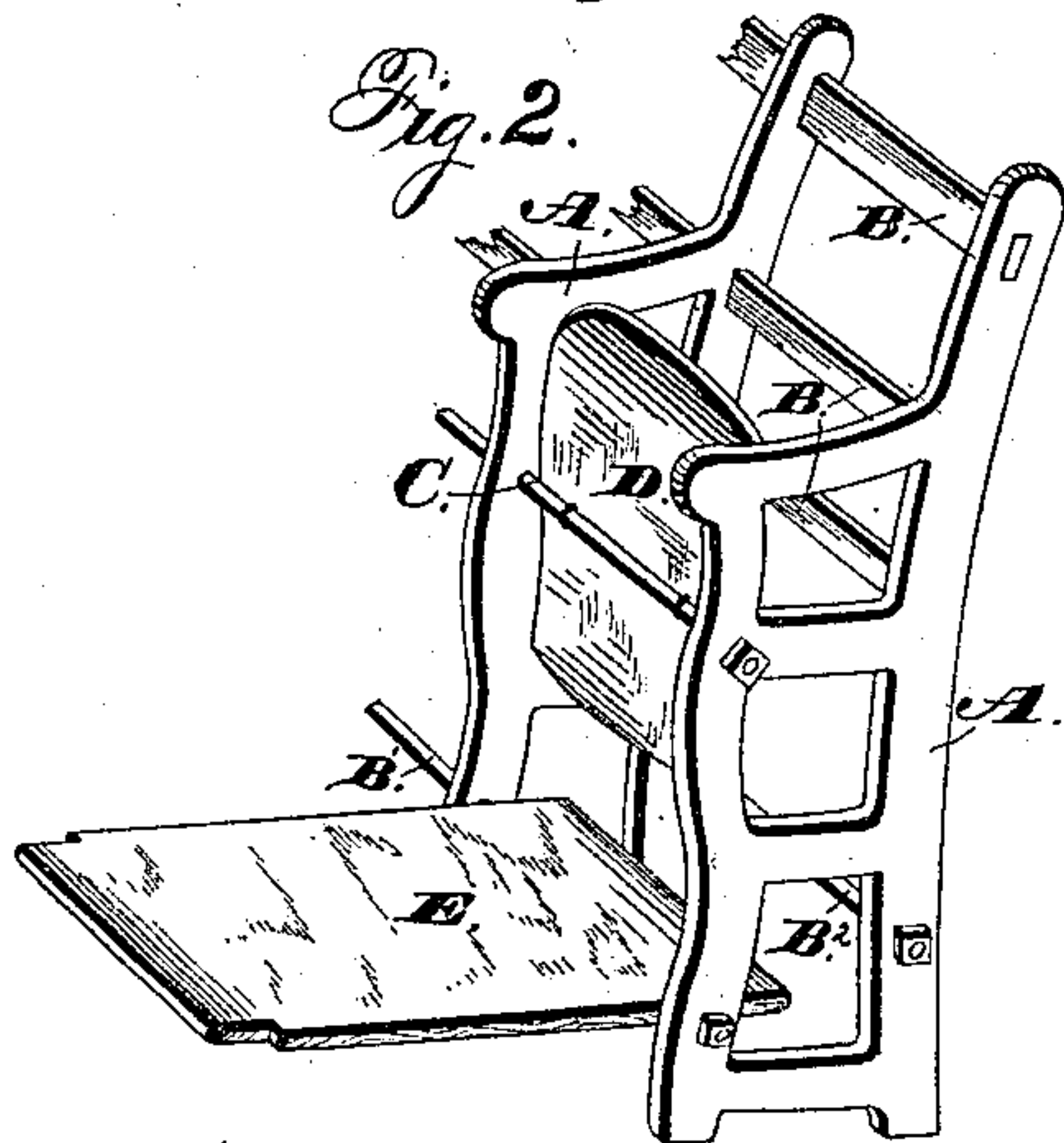
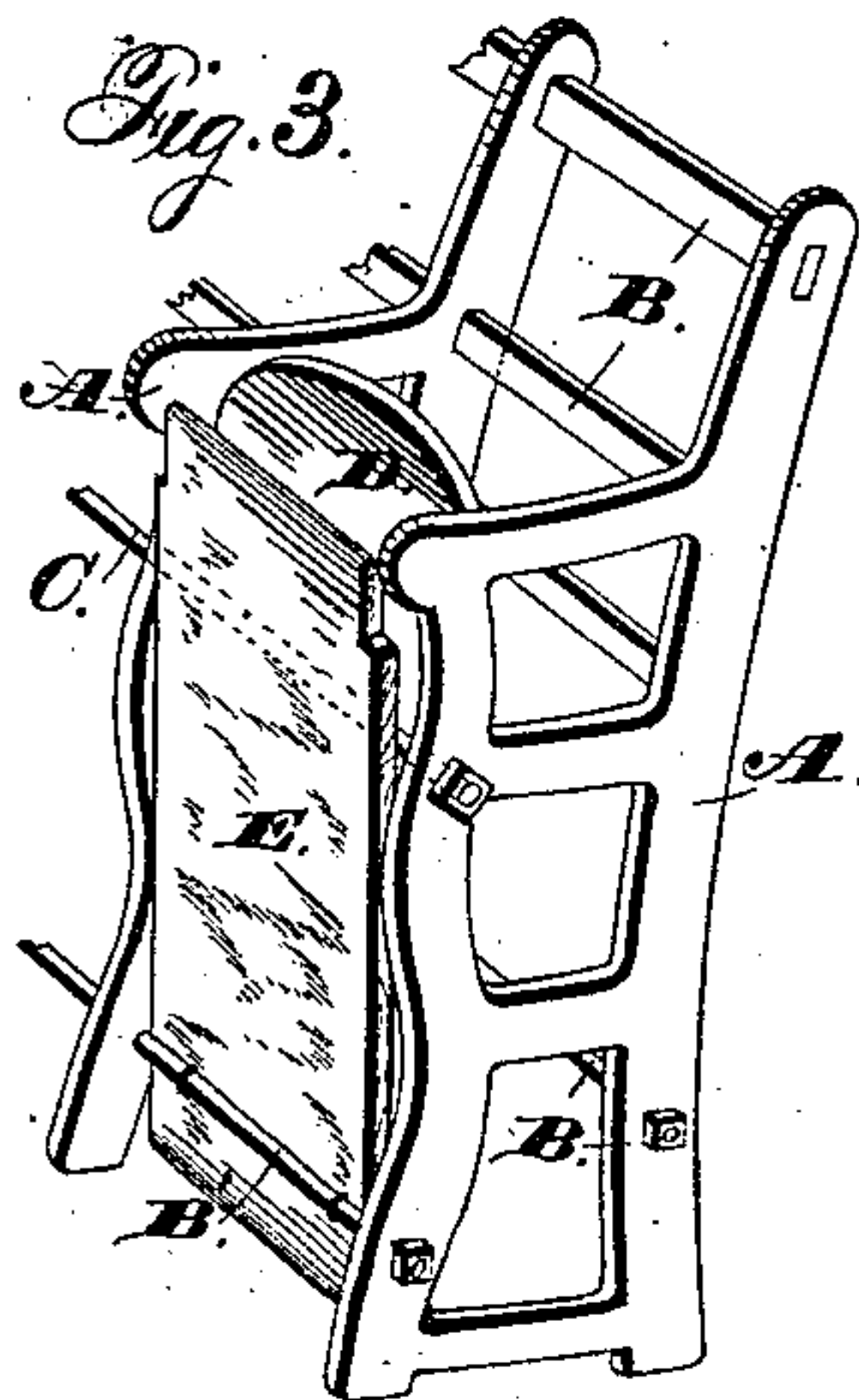


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE H. THOMPSON, OF PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA.

SEAT FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 292,071, dated January 15, 1884.

Application filed August 21, 1882. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEO. H. THOMPSON, of Plattsmouth, in the county of Cass, and in the State of Nebraska, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Seats for Public Buildings; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my chairs as arranged for use. Fig. 2 is a like view of one of said chairs separated from the others, its seat being turned upward, and its foot-support or adjustable platform in position for use, and Fig. 3 is a perspective view of said chair as arranged for storage.

Letters of like name and kind refer to like parts in each of the figures.

The design of my invention is to enable halls having level floors to be easily and cheaply converted into audience-rooms with graded seats; and to this end it consists in the construction of the chairs, in the means employed for furnishing support for the feet, and in the combination of the chairs with each other, substantially as and for the purpose hereinafter specified.

In the annexed drawings, A and A represent the sides of my chair, which may have any desired form, and are united by means of rails B, that extend between said parts at suitable points at the back and lower portions, and by a rod, C, that extends between the front central portions, and upon which is pivoted a seat, D, that is adapted to occupy a horizontal position when desired for use, and to be turned upward to the position shown in Figs. 2 and 3 when not in use. The chairs intended for the front row have the ordinary height, while those for use in each row in the rear have such increase in height as to enable their users to obtain a good view of the stage, such relative heights being governed by the size of the hall. Pivoted upon a rung, B', between the lower front portions of the chair-sides A of each chair in rear of the front row is one end of a board, E, which has a width equal to the space between said parts, and a

length sufficient to enable its outer end to pass between the sides of the next chair in front, and to rest upon a rung or rod, B², that is provided at such point. The board or foot platform E is placed at a distance below the seat D corresponding to the position of the floor with relation to the seats of the front row of chairs, and performs the same office as said floor, furnishing a support for the person while passing to or from the seat and for the feet while occupying the latter.

The chairs thus constructed are preferably combined to form rows of two or more in length, and when used are placed in position so that the platform of each will engage with and rest upon the supporting-rung of the chair immediately in front, after which the spaces left for passages or aisles are each provided with a platform, F, that fills the same laterally, and is provided with successive steps *f*, which each correspond in elevation and length to the platforms of the contiguous chairs. As thus arranged, it will be seen that while the floor covered by the chairs and aisle is level, it is practically the same as though inclined or stepped and furnished with the usual fixed seats, and a hall thus provided is capable of many very different uses to which either of the usual forms of floor and seating arrangements would not be adapted.

When the chairs are not required for use, they may be stored in a small space by turning the seat and platform of each to the position shown in Fig. 3, and then placing said chairs horizontally and piling one upon another.

Having thus fully set forth the nature and merits of my invention, what I claim as new is—

1. As a means for providing a level floor with graded seats, a series of chairs having from front to rear regularly-increasing elevations, and platforms pivoted to each rear chair and extending from the same to the one in front at elevations corresponding to the elevation of the chairs, whereby a raised stepped floor is formed, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

2. In combination with two or more series

of graded chairs and pivoted platforms,
constructed, substantially as described, and
grouped in sections, with aisles or passages
between the sections, platforms placed in such
5 aisles or passages at heights which correspond
to the elevation of the contiguous pivoted plat-
forms, whereby a stepped floor is formed for
such aisles, substantially as and for the pur-
pose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I do
have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of
August, 1882.

GEORGE H. THOMPSON.

Witnesses:

J. E. MORRISON,
ALLEN BEESDEL.