

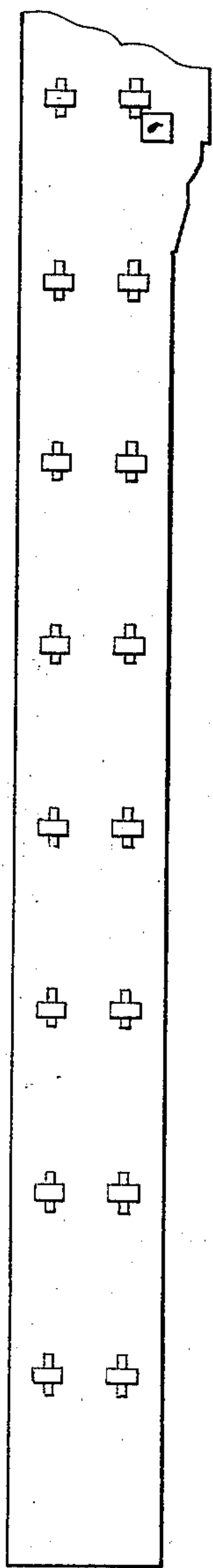
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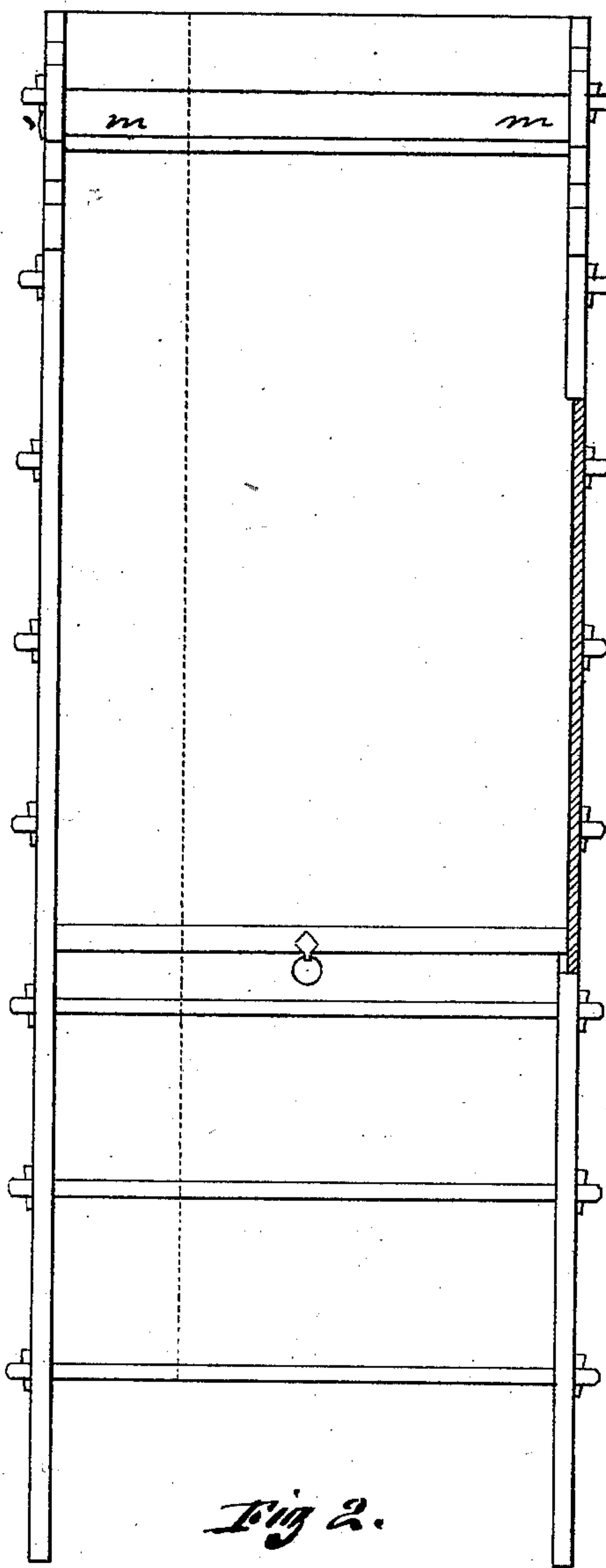
M. STARR.  
SHELVING CURTAIN.

No. 303,759.

Patented Aug. 19, 1884.



*Fig 1.*



*Fig 2.*

*Witnesses*

*M. W. Starr*  
*Eugene M. Isher*

*Inventor*

*Merritt Starr*

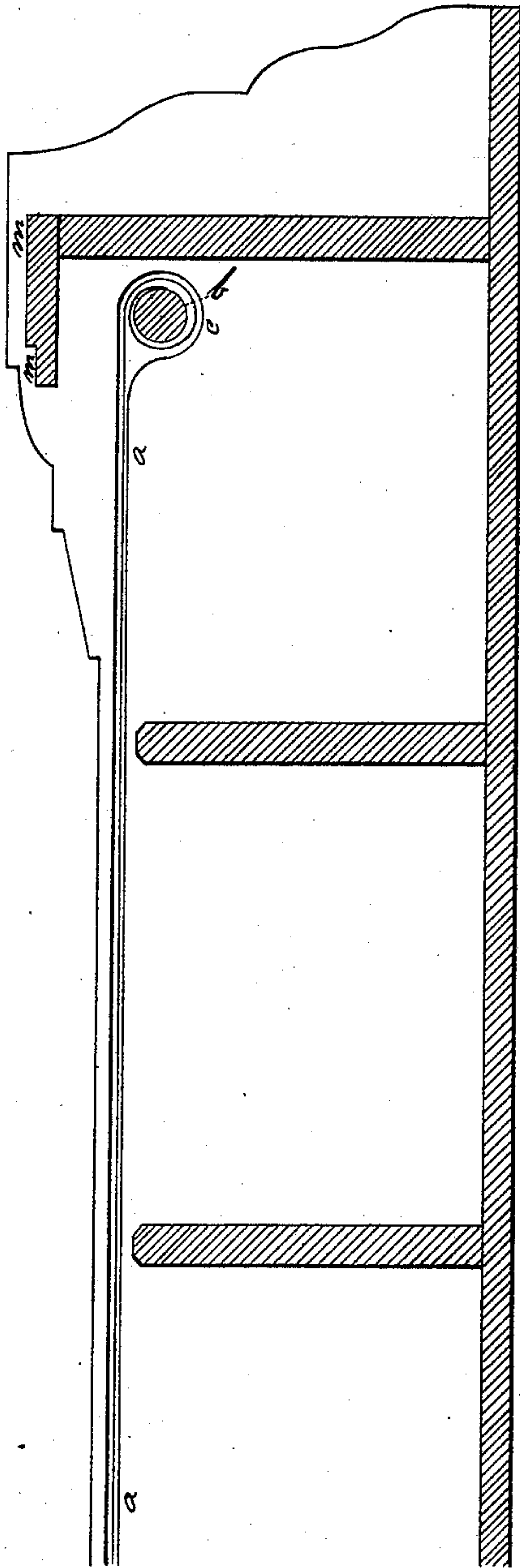
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*Fig 3.*

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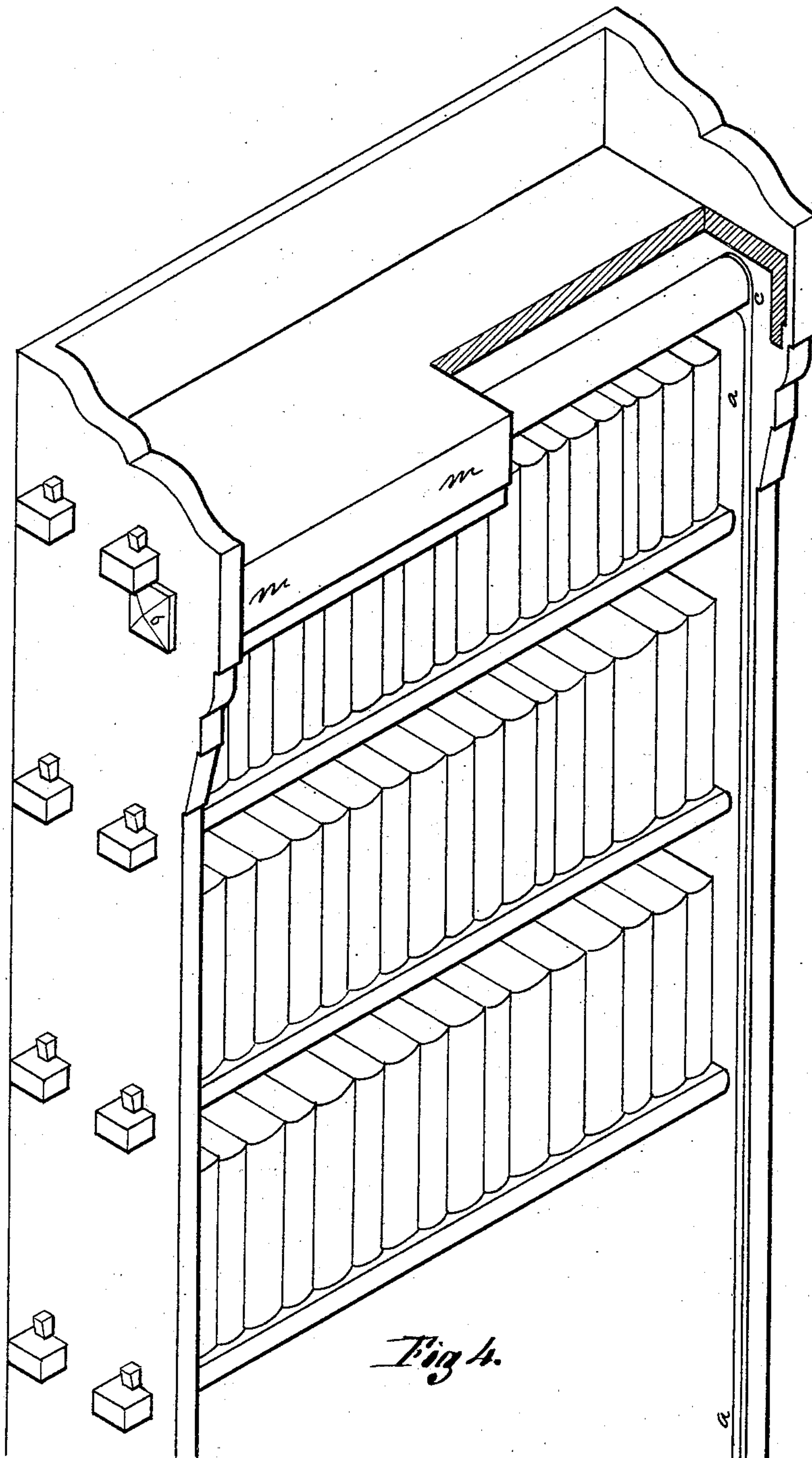
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Witnesses  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MERRITT STARR, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO  
EUGENE M. EHRLICH, OF SAME PLACE.

## SHELVING-CURTAIN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 303,759, dated August 19, 1884.

Application filed May 31, 1884. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MERRITT STARR, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Shelving-Curtain, on which I have obtained no patent in this or any other country, and which, to my knowledge, has not been in public use or on sale in the United States for more than two years prior to this application, and I do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used prior to my invention thereof, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an attachment to shelving and book-cases, to wit: the attachment thereto of a curtain with fixtures and appliances for suspending and operating the same; and the objects of my invention are, first, to provide a convenient and economical protection against dust, dirt, sun, and exposure to air for books, dry-goods, and other articles kept in and upon shelves; and, second, to provide such means of protection in a form which will occupy the least space, and which can be rolled up, so as not to obstruct the use of the shelves and their contents. I attain these objects by the use of a curtain sliding or running in grooves upon the sides of the shelving or of the book-case, and rolling up upon a spindle or roller at the top of the shelving or case. This mechanism is illustrated by the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents the front elevation of a case of shelves or book-case with the curtain partly unrolled. The lower part of the figure represents the shelving as uncovered. A sectional view of the right-hand side is given in the plane of the groove, showing the curtain extending into the groove. Fig. 2 represents the outer side of the side piece or standard supporting such shelving. Fig. 3 represents the interior of such vertical side piece, and shows the groove in which the curtain runs and the circular depression in which the sockets for the roller are set. It gives a sectional view of the shelving, back, top, and cornice, and of the roller sustaining the curtain. Fig.

4 is an isometric perspective showing the shelving with the curtain rolled up and part

of the cornice removed, showing the curtain rolled up on the roller.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views. Figs. 1 and 2 are drawn on the scale of one inch to the foot, Fig. 3 on the scale of three inches to the foot, and Fig. 4 on the scale of two inches to the foot.

Heretofore the protection of books in book-cases and of goods kept upon shelves against dust, dirt, and exposure to sun and air has been sought by the use of glass doors or wooden or other doors. All such doors seriously obstruct the use of a book-case or shelving. They project into the space in front of the book-case or shelving and occupy a great deal of room. They impede access to the shelves and obstruct passage in front of the shelves.

When book cases or shelves are placed in a continuous line, if doors are used at all, several sets of doors on successive panels or compartments of such case or shelving are necessary. Such doors on successive panels open against each other, back to back, and occupy a great deal of space in front of the shelves. When such doors are made of glass, the glass is liable to constant breakage. This is especially so where glass doors are hung upon successive panels and open against each other. This liability to certain and repeated breakage of glass doors is a source of great trouble, great expense, and physical danger to the persons using book cases or shelving provided with such doors, and such doors are an unavoidable obstruction to the use of such shelves and cases to which they are attached.

My improvement is made as follows: I cause the vertical sides or standard-pieces supporting the shelving and the vertical panel-standards where shelves or book-cases are arranged in continuous panels to project forward from the space occupied by the shelves. Near the front of each vertical side piece, (see Fig. 3,) on the inner side thereof, a groove, *a a*, runs the whole length of each of such side pieces. At the top of such side piece, and at the forward part thereof, a circular depression, *c*, is cut, of such a depth as to allow the sockets for the curtain-roller to be set into the side piece to the same depth as the depth of the groove. The top of the groove meets and enters into



the outer edge of the circular depression. Into these depressions in the standard-pieces, at each side of the shelves, are set the sockets which support the spindle or roller *b*. The top board of the case or shelving comes out over the spindle, and the cornice *m m* covers the spindle and conceals it from view.

Instead of the depression of the depth of the groove the side pieces may be cut clear through in circular orifices and neat blocks *o o* be placed on the outside of the case or side piece over the apertures so made, and into these blocks the sockets to support the roller may be set. The curtain rolls up and unrolls from the roller or spindle *b*, and when unrolled runs in the close-fitting grooves *a a*. When unrolled, as in the upper part of Fig. 1, the curtain fits closely in the close groove on each side and entirely protects the books or other contents of such shelving from dust, dirt, sun, and exposure to sun and air. When rolled up on the spindle *b*, as is shown in Fig. 4, the curtain is entirely removed from before the shelving, occupies no space before the shelves, does not obstruct access to the shelves nor free movement in front of the shelves.

The virtue of the invention consists in the fact that when unrolled the curtain secures the advantages of a closed book-case or cupboard-shelving—to wit, complete protection to the contents against dust, dirt, exposure to sun, moisture, and impurities in the air—and when rolled up it secures the economy of space, convenience of access to the shelves, freedom from expense by breakage of glass, and inexpensiveness in construction of an open case or shelving without doors. It combines all the virtues of both styles of cases at the least cost.

The invention is applied to shelves or book-cases placed in continuous panels by cutting the groove on each side of the vertical panel pieces or supports for the shelves. The orifices for the roller-sockets are cut clear through

the panel-pieces, and the two sockets are made together in one block.

I am aware that wooden slats sliding in grooves have been used as curtains or blinds in horse-cars and street-cars, and as covers for desks, but I am not aware that such curtains or covers have been used upon shelves or book-cases.

I am aware that such wooden-slat curtains cannot be rolled up upon spindles, and I am not aware that slats used as curtains have ever been used in any way upon book-cases or shelving, or that any practicable way has yet been used by which a curtain of slats can be adjusted upon shelves so as to give convenient access to such shelves; but I am also aware that I am now perfecting an invention by which such a wooden-slat curtain and other curtains may be applied to book-cases and shelving by means of a combination of pulleys, and that I file a petition herewith for a caveat for the protection of such invention.

What I desire to claim, and secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The curtain for shelving and book-cases sliding or running in close-fitting grooves on the front of the casing or shelving, and rolling upon a spindle, whether such curtain be of cloth, slats, or other material.

2. The devices containing the depressions, grooves, and orifices specified in the foregoing specification, to wit: the grooves running into the depressions or orifices, and the depressions or orifices in combination with such grooves, by which the sockets supporting the curtain or its spindle are set into the side pieces, or supports of the shelving to such a depth as to permit the curtain running in such grooves to roll upon its spindle in the space opened by such depression or orifice.

MERRITT STARR.

Witnesses:

EUGENE M. EHRLICH,  
WM. W. STARR.