(No Model.)

H. W. MORGAN.

HANDLE FOR COFFINS.

No. 354,802. Patented Dec. 21, 1886.

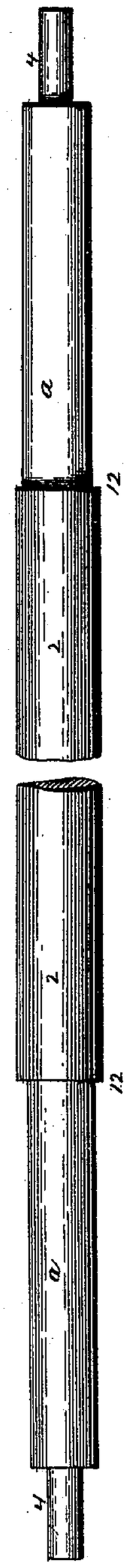

Fig. 1.

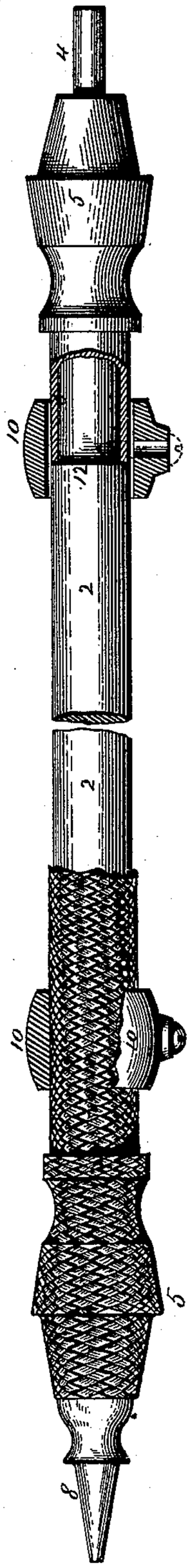

Fig. 2.

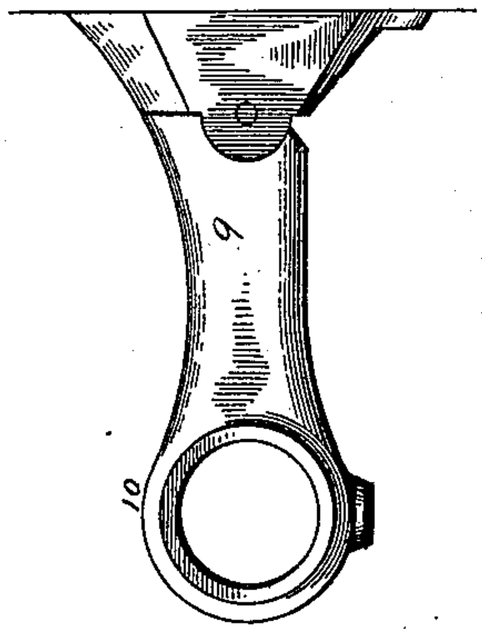

Fig. 3.

Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HUBERT W. MORGAN, OF MERIDEN, ASSIGNOR TO ALBERT H. MATHEWSON, OF ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT.

HANDLE FOR COFFINS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 354,802, dated December 21, 1886.

Application filed June 23, 1886. Serial No. 205,983. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HUBERT W. MORGAN, of Meriden, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Casket-Handles, of which the following is a specification and description.

The object of my invention is to overcome the serious objections incident to the use of the strap or clasp arm which has necessarily been used on solid bar handles, and to provide a casket-handle which is durable and strong, and at the same time attractive in appearance, and whose main bar portion (preferably made of wood) possesses all the advantages, both in use and appearance, of a handle made solid or in one piece, and whose pendent arm, which is secured to the bar, may have a solid endless ring made thereon to receive the bar, and therefore be much stronger than when the arm is made with a metal strap to be bent around the bar and the two parts of the strap merely held together by a screw; and I accomplish this by the construction hereinafter described, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of the bar portion of the handle, preferably made of wood, turned to receive the tubular ornamented end pieces or shells, with one of the latter in side view below the bar. Fig. 2 is a side view of the bar with one half its length uncovered, and showing the ornamented tubular shell fitted thereon ready to be covered or platted, but with the inner end of the shell partially broken away at its inner end, and showing the bar inside, and the other half of the handle platted or covered with a textile fabric, and with the metal arm in place thereon but partially broken away to show its position over the joint in the bar; and Fig. 3 is a side view of a portion of one of the solid arms to receive the covered bar, and in whose ring the bar is secured.

In the drawings, 2 represents the bar, which may be turned from a single solid piece of wood, with its end portions, *a*, turned smaller than the middle portion, and with an annular shoulder at 12; or the whole length of the bar may be turned of the size shown at *a*, and the larger middle portion may be turned from a separate larger piece of wood and bored out to fit snugly upon the middle portion of the bar, and the extreme ends of the bar are turned still smaller in diameter, as shown at 4 in Figs. 1 and 2.

The interior of the end pieces or shells, 5, are bored out, as shown clearly at 6, for their entire length, to fit snugly upon the corresponding end portions, *a*, of the bar, and the exteriors of these shells 5 are turned of any desired ornamental form, and of larger diameter near the end than the largest diameter of the part 2 of the bar. The whole length of the shells 5 is equal to the same length as the end portions, *a*, of the bar, and the exterior diameter of the shells 5 at their smaller end portions is of the same diameter as the exterior diameter of the portion 2 of the bar.

The end of each part *a* of the bar is inserted into the bore of the shell 5, and the latter is forced onto the part *a* until its small end abuts against the shoulder 12 of the bar. The latter, with the shells in place, is then placed in a platting-machine, and the exterior of the whole handle (the large part of the bar 2 and the shells 5) is covered or platted with a textile fabric in the same manner in which whips are platted. The handle is then removed from the platting-machine, and the platting is quickly severed with a sharp knife at the joint made by the smaller end of one of the tubular shells 5 with the corresponding shoulder, 12, and the platted shell 5 is then removed from the bar, and the latter is inserted through the ring 10 of each arm 9. The removed shell 5 is then replaced on the bar, and the rings 10 are placed, one upon and to cover the joint at one shoulder 12 and the other to cover the other shoulder, and a screw is inserted through the ring and also through the inner end of each shell 5 and into the bar, which effectually secures each shell in place on the bar, so that it cannot become detached, and also secures the ring 10 in place over the joint at the shoulder 12.

If the handles were made of one solid piece of wood, pieces of sufficient length for the whole handle would be required, and of the diameter of the largest part of the handle, which would be comparatively expensive, and instead of an arm having a solid ring, 10, a strap-arm—that is, an arm having a divided ring to be opened and passed around the bar

and closed again and secured by a screw—would have to be used. The objection to that device is that it is weak and is very liable to break if subjected to extraordinarily sudden and heavy strains, whereas this device is very strong, and the bar made as above described is as strong and substantial as a solid bar, and the tubular shells 5 cannot be detached from the bar when once secured without removing the screw. By this construction I am enabled to use up smaller and less expensive pieces of wood (as the wood portion of the handles forms no inconsiderable portion of the expense in the manufacture of casket-handles when carried on on a large scale) than could be used in making the bar and its ornamented ends or shells from one solid piece of wood, as I only require one piece of the same length and diameter as that of the bar 2, and the shells are made from any short pieces of the same length and diameter as that of the shells themselves. After the shells are in place on the parts *a* of the bar and the arm-rings 10 are secured in place, a metal or silvered tip, 13, is placed on each extreme end 4, and the handle is complete.

Although the bar 2 may be formed by two pieces—the larger and short middle portion made separate and tubular to fit snugly upon the long portion—I prefer to make the whole bar 2 in one solid piece, with the two end portions, *a*, turned of smaller diameter than the middle part, and with two shoulders 12.

I have hereinbefore described the bar portion of the handle as being made from wood; but it is evident that it, as well as the tubular shells 5, may be made of any other suitably-rigid material—such as hard rubber, papier-maché, or other similar substance—without departing from the invention in the least.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new is—

An improved casket-handle consisting of the combination of the bar 2 and the tubular shells 5, fitted upon the outer portions of the bar, and both the shells and the bar covered or platted with a textile fabric, and pendent arms each having a solid ring, 10, secured to and upon the covered bar and the shell at each end of the bar, substantially as described.

HUBERT W. MORGAN.

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