

(No Model.)

B. VITALIS.

APPARATUS FOR REPAIRING AND EXTENDING FLAG STAFFS, &c.

No. 366,141.

Patented July 5, 1887.

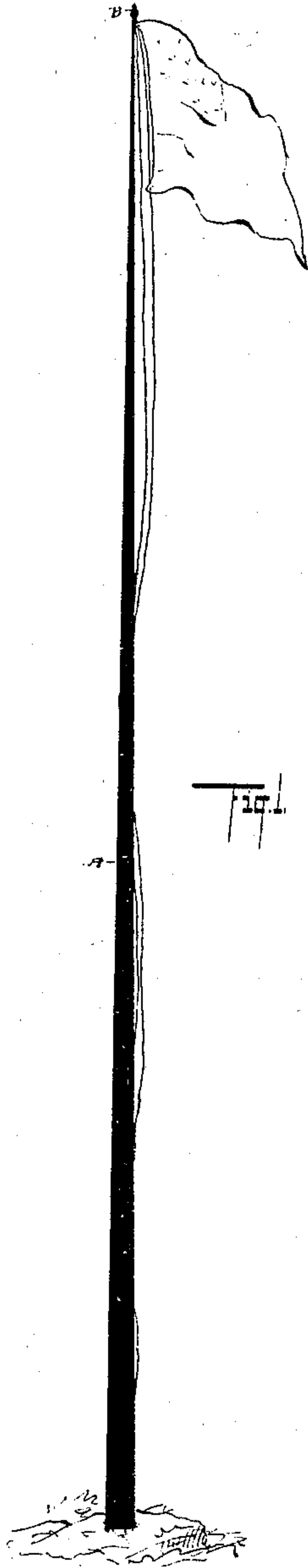


Fig. 1

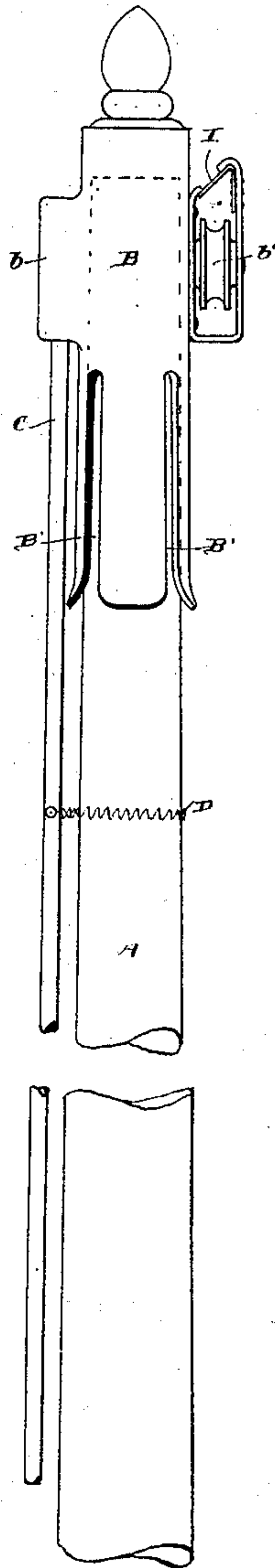


Fig. 2

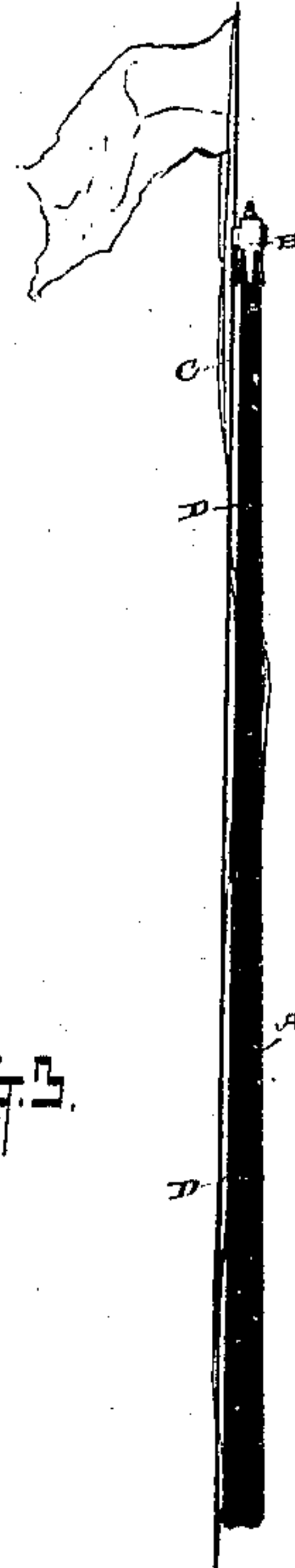


Fig. 3

WITNESSES
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BAPTISTE VITALIS, OF PITTSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

APPARATUS FOR REPAIRING AND EXTENDING FLAG-STAFFS, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 366,141, dated July 5, 1887.

Application filed December 2, 1886. Serial No. 220,551. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BAPTISTE VITALIS, of
Pittsburg, in the county of Allegheny and State
of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new
and useful Improvements in Apparatus for
Repairing and Extending Flag-Staffs and so-
called "Liberty Poles," &c.; and I do hereby
declare the following to be a full, clear, and ex-
act description of the invention, such as will
enable others skilled in the art to which it
pertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to apparatus for re-
pairing and extending, if need be, flag-staffs
and so-called "liberty-poles," &c.; and it con-
sists in certain features of construction, and
in combination of parts, hereinafter described,
and pointed out in the claims.

Flag-staffs usually have a sheave attached
near the top, with a cord for hoisting the flag,
and sooner or later such cord becomes rotten
and breaks. If a pole be high and slender, or
be unsound by reason of age, it is not safe for
any one to climb such pole to replace the cord
in the sheave. I have therefore devised ap-
paratus for placing a cord in position for hoist-
ing the flag and for extending the pole, if de-
sired, without special danger to the operator.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is
an elevation of a flag-staff having my improved
cap thereon. Fig. 2 is an enlarged elevation
of the cap, handle, and elastic bail, together
with the top portion of the flag-staff. Fig. 3
shows a flag-staff that has been extended by
means of my improved device.

A represents a flag-staff that we will sup-
pose is in want of a cord for elevating the
flag.

B is a cap, made preferably of thin sheet
metal—for instance, of galvanized iron. The
cap is usually a foot (more or less) in length,
and is made to fit approximately the end of
the flag-staff, the size of the latter of course
having to be, in a measure, guessed at. The
cap may have slits B' to render it extensible,
whereby it may be made to fit the end of the
pole snugly when drawn down thereon by
means of the cord. The cap has attached a
socket, *b*, and a suitable sheave, *b'*, the latter
for receiving the cord, and may, of course,
have an ornamental top and be otherwise em-
bellished, if desired. The socket *b* is made to

receive the end of a handle, C, the latter being
usually of wood or of ordinary gas-pipe of
small size. If the flag-staff is of great height,
the handle is made in sections, the joints where-
of, if the handle be of wood, will be secured
by ferrules, like the joints of a fish-pole. If
the handle be of pipes, they may be coupled
together in the ordinary manner of coupling
pipe. The joints of the handle should be so
firmly secured that the handle will draw out
of the cap-socket rather than part at the joints.

In operating the device the cap is first pro-
vided with a cord placed in position in the
sheave, and the cap is then mounted on the
end of the handle, or on the end of a section
thereof. An elastic bail or suitable guiding
device, D, is secured to the handle some little
distance below the cap and made to embrace
the flag-staff. A preferable construction is a
bail made of a spiral spring of small wire
wrapped around the pole and the two ends
fastened to the handle. The spring should be
distended after it is drawn around the pole to
such an extent that when the smaller portion
of the pole is reached the recoil of the spring
will keep the handle close to or near the pole.
Various other well-known elastic devices would
answer the purpose in place of the spiral spring
aforesaid. The parts being thus placed in po-
sition, the handle is slid up alongside of the
pole and more sections are added to the han-
dle until the cap is brought above the end of
the pole, when by turning the handle the
cap is lowered onto the end of the pole and
drawn down snug by means of the cord. The
pole may be operated from the ground or from
the top of a ladder or building. After the cap
is in position the handle is drawn out of the
socket *b* and drawn down and taken apart at
the joints and removed from the pole. If it
is desired to extend the pole, the handle may
pass through the socket and extend some feet
above, with the sheave secured to the top end of
the handle and the handle permanently secured
in the socket, in which case two bails are usu-
ally employed—one near the cap, as aforesaid,
and the other at the lower end of the section
of the handle that is secured in the socket.
(See Fig. 3.) The upper section, therefore, of
the handle is left permanently attached to the
pole, and the lower sections are removed. If

the section extending above the cap is long enough to reach down to where it is accessible, it had better be clamped or otherwise secured to the pole at the lower end, in which case the lower bail would not be wanted.

In arranging the sheave I provide a spring, I, arranged in the position shown in Fig. 2, so that it will bend down from above and admit the cord onto the sheave, but will prevent the cord from being misplaced after it is once on the sheave. If, therefore, by means of a long pole and ladder a cord could be laid on top of the sheave-block, it could be drawn into place without any trouble.

The expense of tall flag-staffs or so called "liberty poles" is very great, and large numbers of them are to be found that are worthless for want of a cord to raise the flag thereon. By means of my improved device the cord can be supplied at little expense. The socket aforesaid might be made in the end of the handle, and the shank for engaging the socket might be secured to the cap, if so pre-

ferred, without departing from the purpose and spirit of my invention.

What I claim is—

1. The combination, with a cap for engaging the top of a flag-staff, said cap having suitable means for attaching the handle, of a handle and guiding device connected therewith, such guiding device being made to embrace the flag-staff, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, with a cap adapted to engage the top of a flag-staff, said cap having a socket and a sheave attached thereto, of a removable handle for engaging the socket of the cap, said handle having attached thereto an elastic bail made to embrace the flag-staff, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I sign this specification, in the presence of two witnesses, this 5th day of October, 1886.

BAPTISTE VITALIS.

Witnesses:

CHAS. H. DORER,
ALBERT E. LYNCH.