

(No Model.)

W. A. BULKLEY.

EASEL.

No. 376,852.

Patented Jan. 24, 1888.

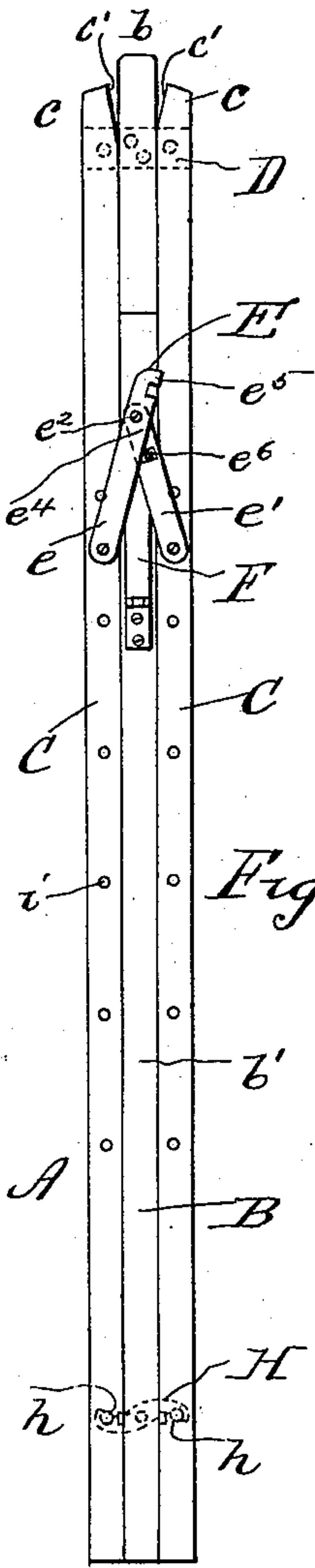


Fig. 2.

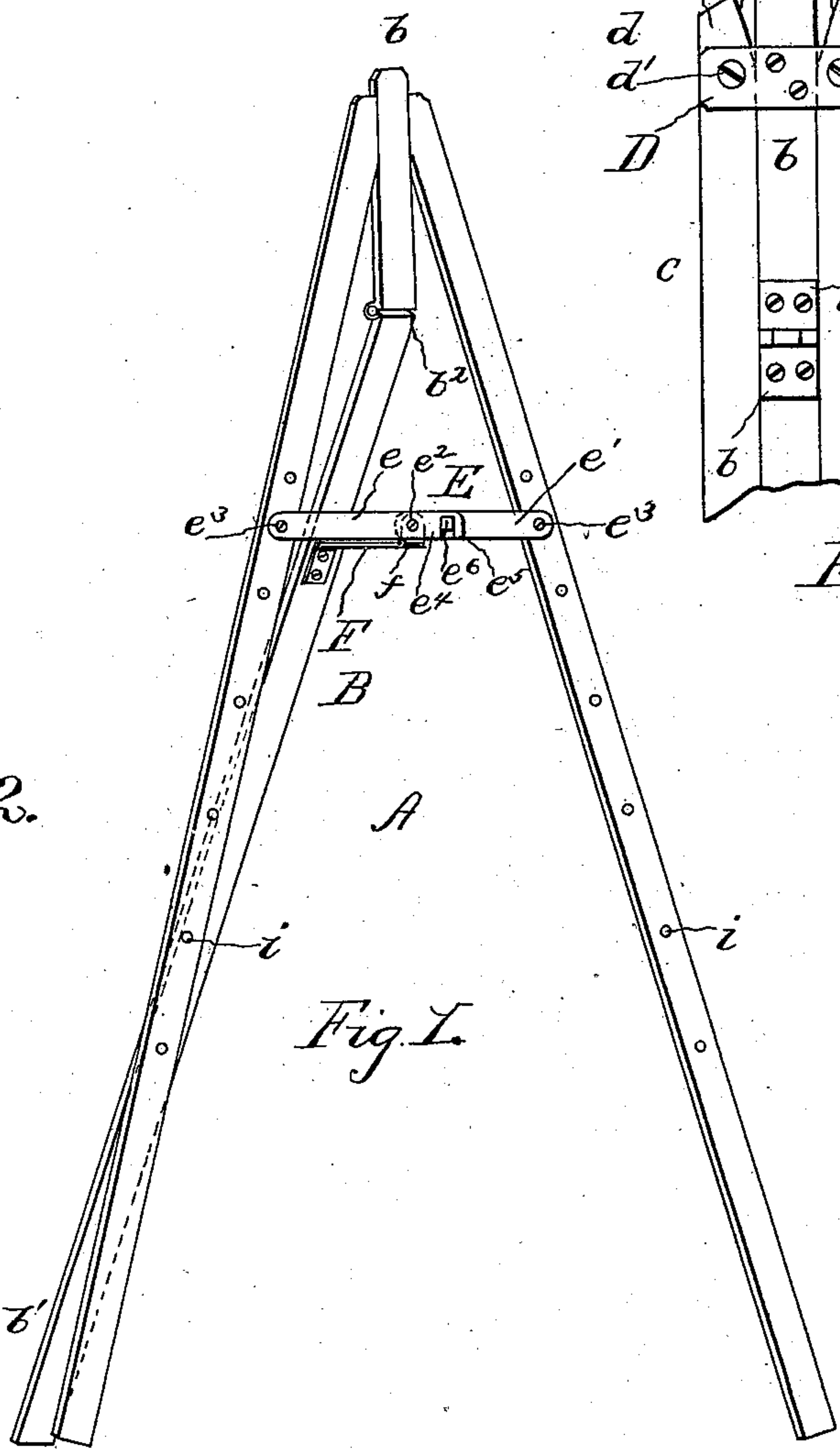


Fig. 1.

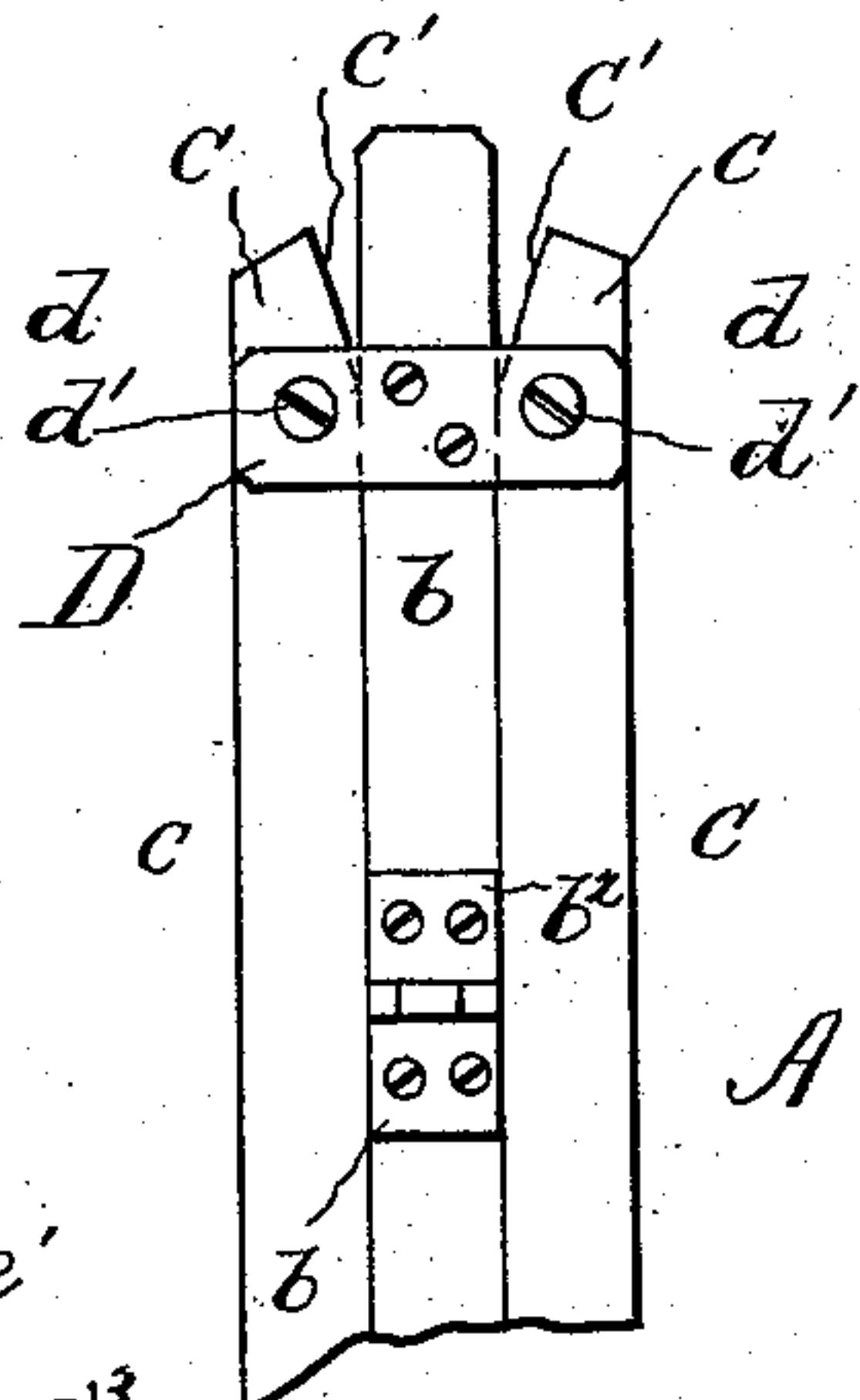


Fig. 3.

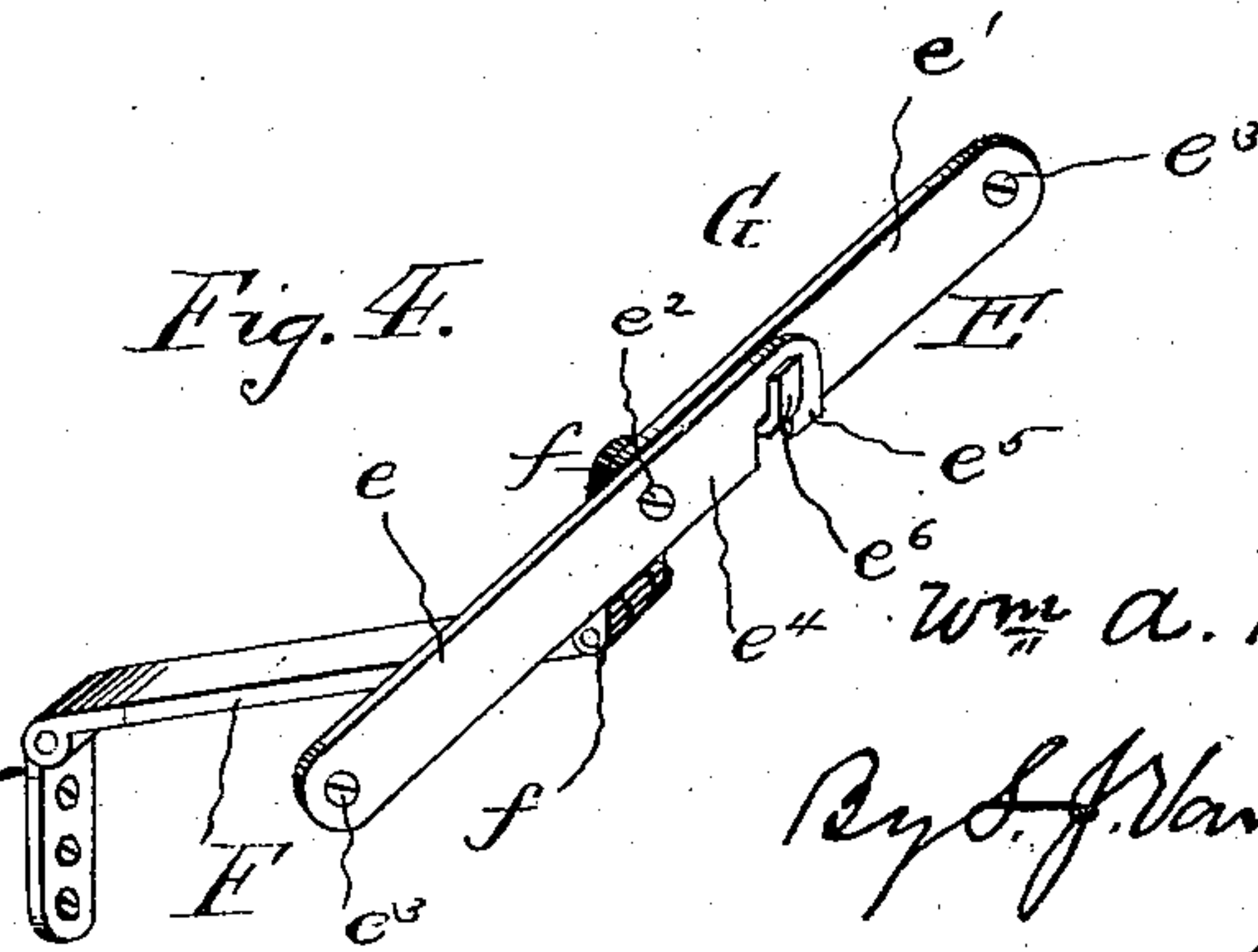


Fig. 4.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## EASEL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 376,852, dated January 24, 1888.

Application filed June 21, 1887. Serial No. 241,982. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM ALEXANDER BULKLEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Easels, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings, wherein—

10 Figure 1 is a perspective of an easel or tripod stand open or unfolded, showing my improvements. Fig. 2 is an elevation of same folded. Fig. 3 is a rear view of the upper portion of the easel drawn to an enlarged scale, showing  
15 more plainly the hinged or pivotal connection for the side legs; and Fig. 4 is a perspective showing the folding locking connection for the hinged section of the middle leg and for the side legs.

20 My invention has relation to folding or other easel or tripod frames for pictures or other articles; and it has for its object to so construct them that they can easily and quickly be folded and opened, and when opened their legs  
25 are securely locked together and firmly maintained in position, so that one or more of them cannot be accidentally jarred or moved out of its position to dislodge the picture or other article resting or held upon the frame, nor can the  
30 latter itself be correspondingly upset.

My invention accordingly consists of the combination, construction, and arrangement of parts, as hereinafter described and claimed, having reference particularly to a sectional  
35 center leg the sections of which are hinged together near the top of the frame, to side legs pivoted or hinged to the upper section of the center legs by a clip or strap, to a folding cross-bar connecting the outside legs, which  
40 bar is composed of two sections pivoted together at or near the center of the bar and at their ends to the outside legs, one section of the bar having a latch or lug fitting into a keeper formed on the other section, and to a bar  
45 hinged to the lower section of the center leg and having a forward hinged end or section pivoted to the center pivotal connection for the sections of the cross-bar, whereby said bars, when opened, form a T-shaped locked bar  
50 connecting the center and side legs, the locking of said bar being automatically effected as

the easel or frame is opened and is correspondingly unlocked when the frame is closed.

In the drawings, A represents the easel or tripod frame, of any suitable design, composed, preferably, of a center leg, B, and of side legs, C C. The leg B is composed of an  
55 uppershort section, *b*, and a long lower section, *b'*, hinged together at *b<sup>2</sup>* in any suitable manner, so that when the frame is unfolded the section *b'* will project rearwardly from the upper section, *b*, to give the necessary pitch to the frame. Upon the rear side of section *b* is  
60 secured a clip or strap, D, of metal or other suitable material, and to the ends *d* of which are pivoted, in any suitable manner, as shown at *d'*, the upper extremities, *c*, of the side legs, C C. The inner sides of the ends *c* are suitably  
65 beveled, as indicated at *c'*, to admit of the legs C C spreading apart and folding together, as illustrated, respectively, in Figs. 1 and 2.

E represents a cross-bar composed of sections *e* and *e'*, pivoted together at *e<sup>2</sup>*, at or near the center of bar E, and at their ends *e<sup>3</sup>* are pivoted to the side legs, C C. One of the sections—preferably the section *e*—is provided  
75 with a projecting or extended end, *e<sup>4</sup>*, at the middle of the bar E, which end is formed into or provided with a latch, catch, or hook, *e<sup>5</sup>*, to fit into an eye or keeper, *e<sup>6</sup>*, struck up or formed on or secured to section *e'*, when bar E or frame A is opened, as shown in Fig. 1, and thereby  
80 limit the extent of spread of the legs C C. Hinged to the lower section, *b'*, of leg B is a bar, F, having at its forward end a hinged section, *f*, which is pivoted or loosely connected to the center pivot, *e<sup>2</sup>*, for the sections *e* *e'* of bar E, so that when the frame A is opened the bar F limits the rearward movement of the section *b'* of leg B and determines the pitch  
85 or angle for the frame A. When the latter is opened, the hinged section *f* of the bar F is in an upright position, as shown in Figs. 1 and 4, and, in conjunction with the bar E, it forms a T-shaped bar, G, which is composed of  
90 jointed or hinged sections, as above described, and connects the center and outer legs of frame A together, and as the sections of bar G are locked, when opened by the catch *e<sup>5</sup>* and keeper *e<sup>6</sup>* on the sections of bar E, the legs of  
95 frame A are firmly held in position, so that one or more of them cannot be accidentally jarred



or moved out of position independently of the others. The picture or other article on the frame therefore cannot readily be accidentally displaced, nor can the frame A be correspond-  
5 ingly upset.

In opening the frame A, the latch or catch  $e^5$  automatically falls or fits into keeper  $e^6$ , and in closing the frame the sections  $e$   $e'$  of bar E are simply raised or elevated at the center of the  
10 bar, the hinged section  $f$  on bar F admitting of this elevation, and this movement or action unlocks the sections  $e$  and  $e'$  and draws them and the legs B and C C together until they assume the compact position shown in Fig. 2,  
15 and when folded a suitable pivoted locking-lever, H, on leg B, fitting or engaging with pins or studs  $h$  on legs C C, is provided to maintain the frame in its closed position.

The locking device on the sections  $e$  and  $e'$ ,  
20 it will be noticed in the drawings, is so constructed that it acts automatically when the frame A is opened and correspondingly so when closed; but I do not limit myself thereto, as it may be otherwise provided for.

25 The easel is provided with suitable pin-holes,  $i$ , or other means for supporting the article to be held upon the same.

What I claim is—

1. An easel-frame having its central and

outside legs connected by a T-shaped bar, G, 30 composed of jointed sections pivoted or hinged to said legs and to each other, and provided with a lock or fastening device, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination of leg B, having upper 35 and lower hinged sections,  $b$  and  $b'$ , the legs C C, pivoted to section  $b$ , or a clip secured thereto, the sectional bar E, composed of pivoted sections  $e$  and  $e'$ , provided with a lock or fastening device, and bar F, having hinged sec- 40 tion  $f$ , substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. An easel-frame having its central and outside legs connected by a jointed T-shaped 45 bar, G, composed of sections pivoted together and hinged or pivoted to the center and outside legs, and provided with an automatically-acting lock or fastening device for holding the legs of the easel in an open or extended posi- 50 tion, in combination with a separate catch, H, for locking the legs in their folded position, substantially as set forth.

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

WILLIAM ALEXANDER BULKLEY.

Witnesses:

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CHAS. F. VAN HORN.