

(No Model.)

E. ERSHELL.

PICTURE FRAME.

No. 387,779.

Patented Aug. 14, 1888.

FIG. 1

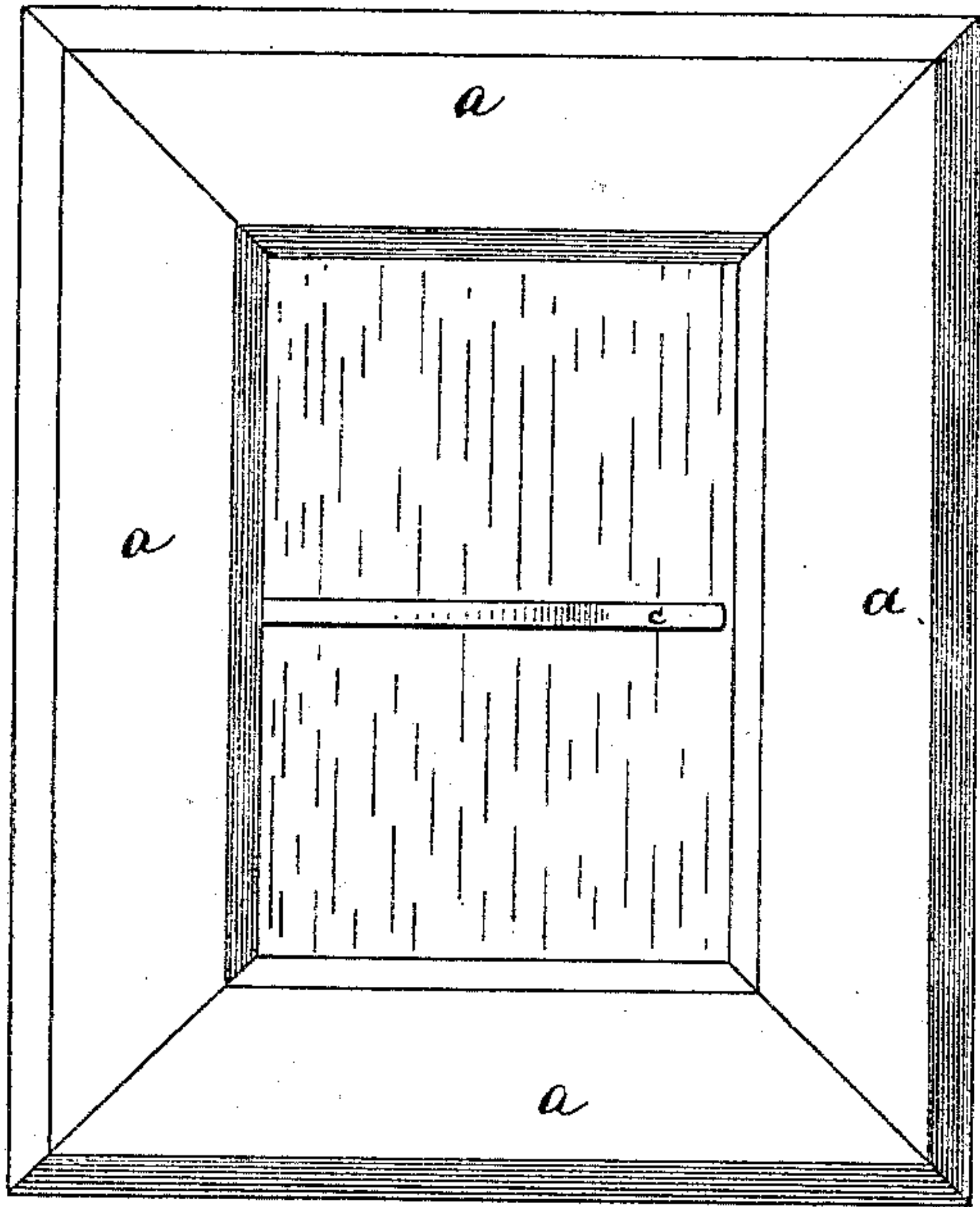
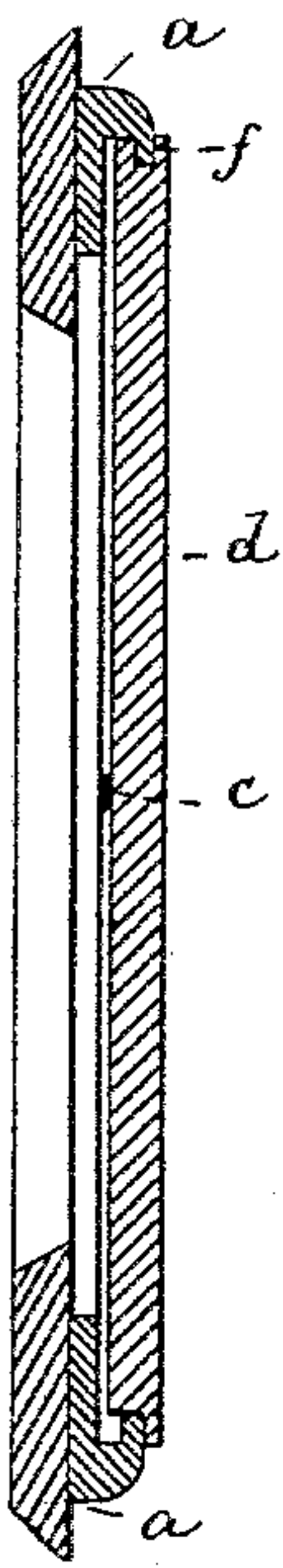
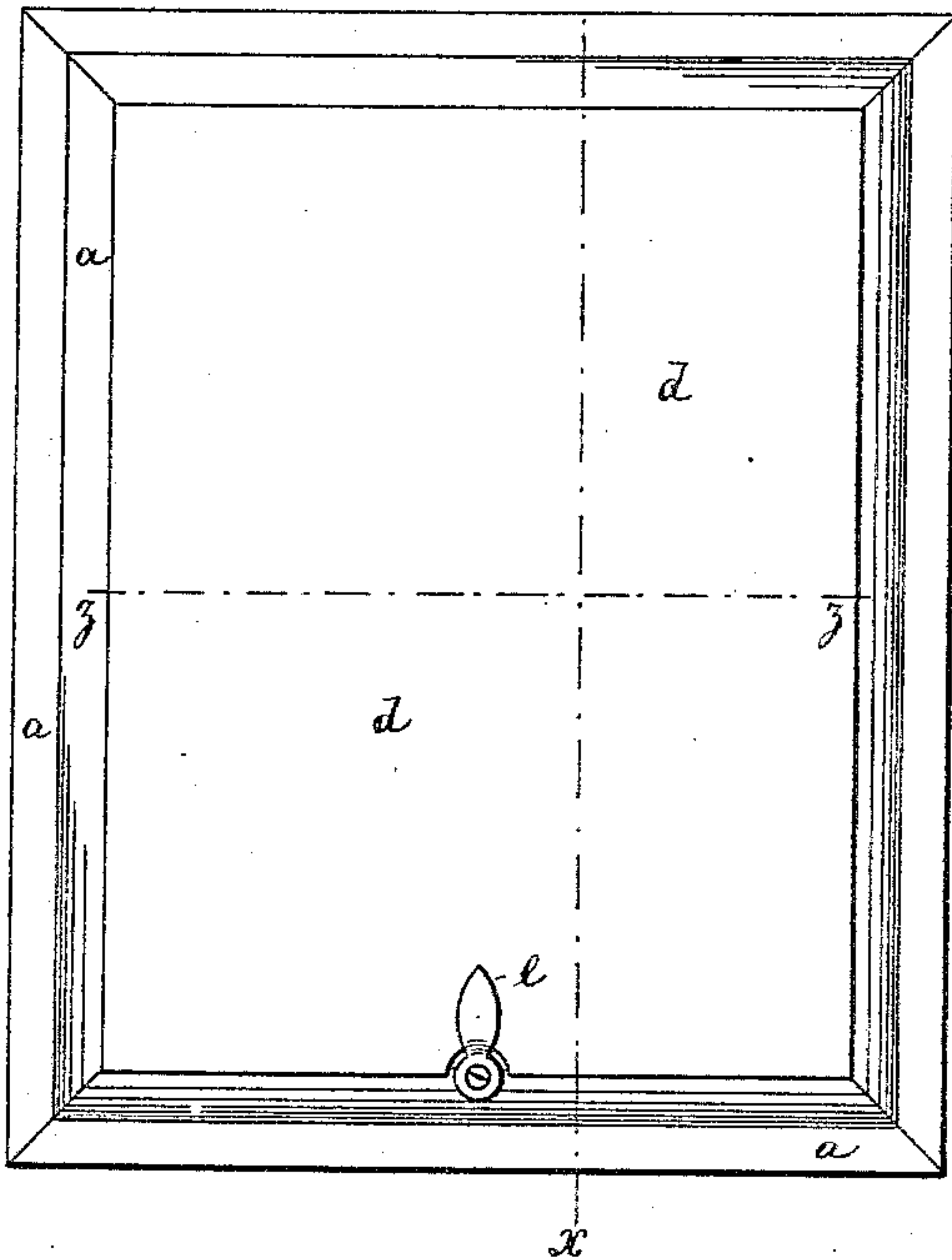


FIG. 2



y

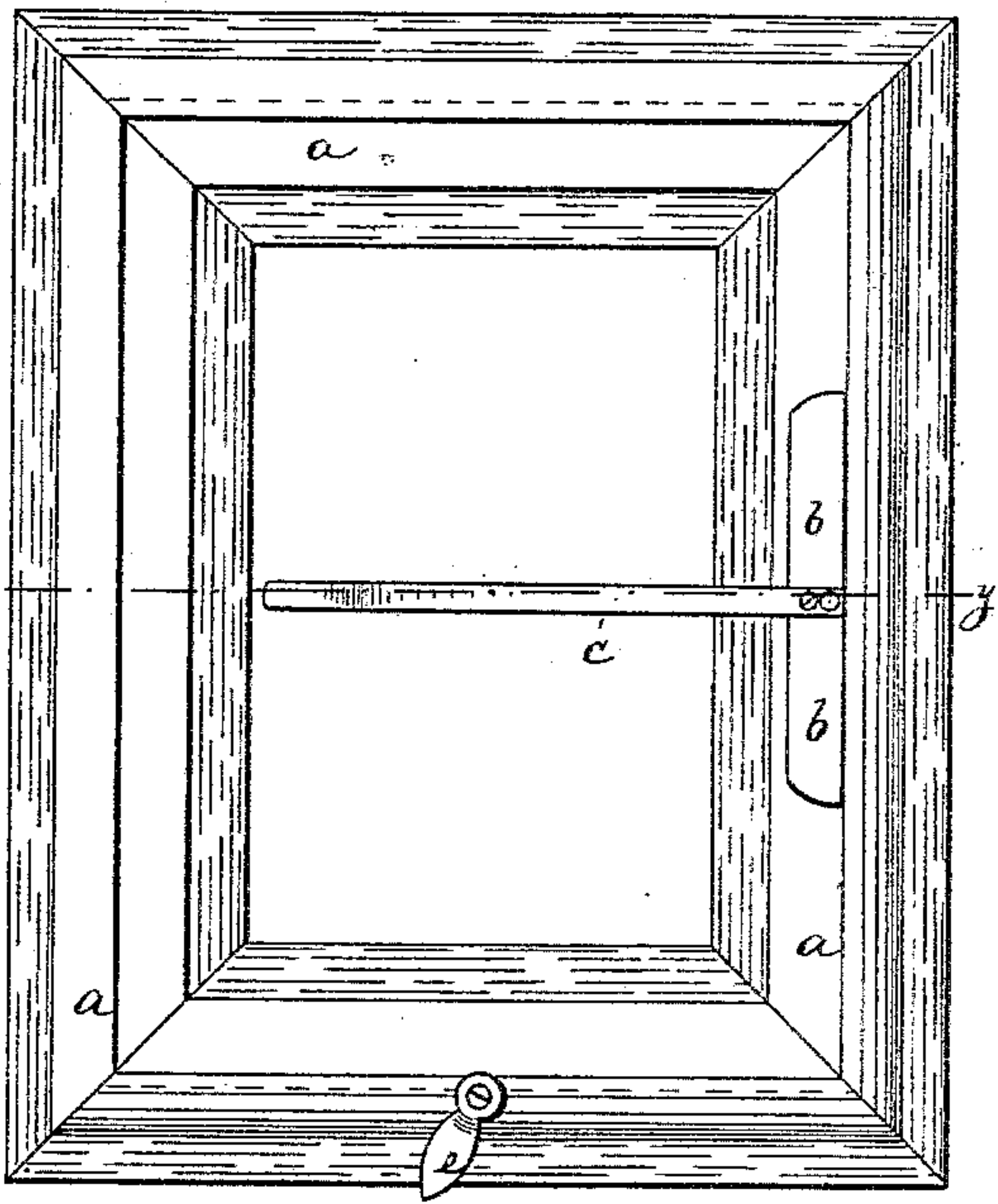


FIG. 3

Fig. 5.

FIG. 4

WITNESSES

Wm. A. Howe

Alfred Jonghman

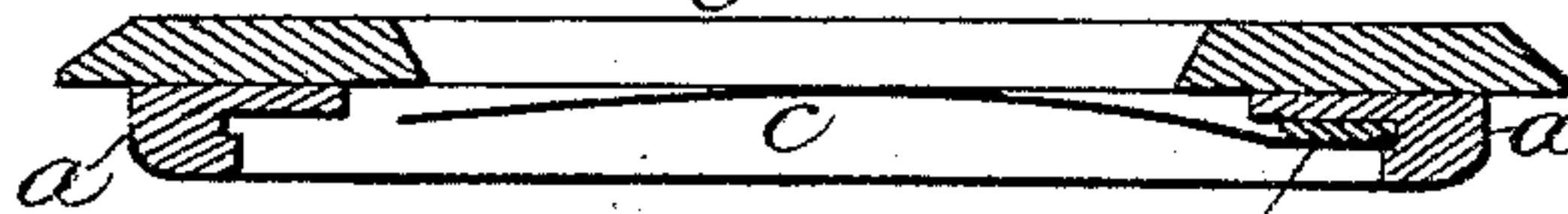


Fig. 6.



INVENTOR

E. Erschell

by his attorneys  
Roeder & Priesen



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ERNST ERSHELL, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## PICTURE-FRAME.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 387,779, dated August 14, 1888.

Application filed February 1, 1888. Serial No. 262,650. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ERNST ERSHELL, of New York city, New York, have invented a new and Improved Picture-Frame, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a picture-frame, and more particularly to the spring for holding the picture in place. Heretofore the spring, if used, was attached directly to the frame-back, and it was thus impossible to properly gage the picture before putting the back in place. I propose to secure the spring to the frame direct, and not to the back, so that the picture may be readily handled and adjusted before the frame is closed by the back.

The invention also relates to an improvement in the manner of attaching the back to the frame.

It consists in the various features of improvement more fully pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a front view of my improved picture-frame. Fig. 2 is a rear view thereof. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section on line *x x*, Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a rear view with the back removed. Fig. 5 is a transverse section on line *y y*, Fig. 4. Fig. 6 is a transverse section of the frame back only on line *z z*, Fig. 2.

The letter *a* represents a frame, of square or other shape and made out of suitable material. It is step-shaped in cross-section, as usual, to accommodate the glass, the picture, and the back. Upon the offset of molding *a*, and preferably at the center of one of its long sides, there is glued a block, *b*, Figs. 4 and 5, and to this block there is attached one end of a spring, *c*. The block *b* serves to connect the spring to the frame without injuring the frame. The spring *c* is made of convex shape, bulging outward toward the front of the frame. It is preferably made of steel, and is in the form of a long and narrow band stretching centrally

across the opening in frame *a*, and having one end free, Figs. 1 and 5. The spring bears preferably against the center of the picture, and thus holds it against the glass.

It will be seen that in framing a picture the hands have free access to the back of the picture, and thus the picture can be adjusted with great rapidity and accuracy. Not until the picture is properly gaged is the back applied. This back *d*, I prefer to secure in place by means of the fastening device illustrated in Figs. 2 and 6—that is to say, the back is grooved at its upper edge, Fig. 3, and is made with a flange at its three other edges, Figs. 3 and 6. In securing the back in place the grooved edge is made to engage a flange, *f*, on one side of frame *a*, while the three flanged edges of the back overlap the other sides of the frame. A catch, *e*, is then revolved to project over the edge of the back and to securely hold the back in position.

What I claim is—

1. The combination of a picture-frame with a spring, *c*, bulged toward the front and projecting across the frame, one end of the spring being secured to the frame, while the other end is disconnected therefrom, substantially as specified.

2. The combination of frame *a* with the block *b*, and with the spring *c*, secured to such block at one end, the other end of the spring being free, substantially as specified.

3. The combination of frame *a*, having flange *f*, with back *d*, having one grooved edge to engage said flange, and having the other edges flanged to overlap frame *a*, substantially as specified.

ERNST ERSHELL.

Witnesses:

ALFRED JONGHMANS,  
F. V. BRIESEN.