

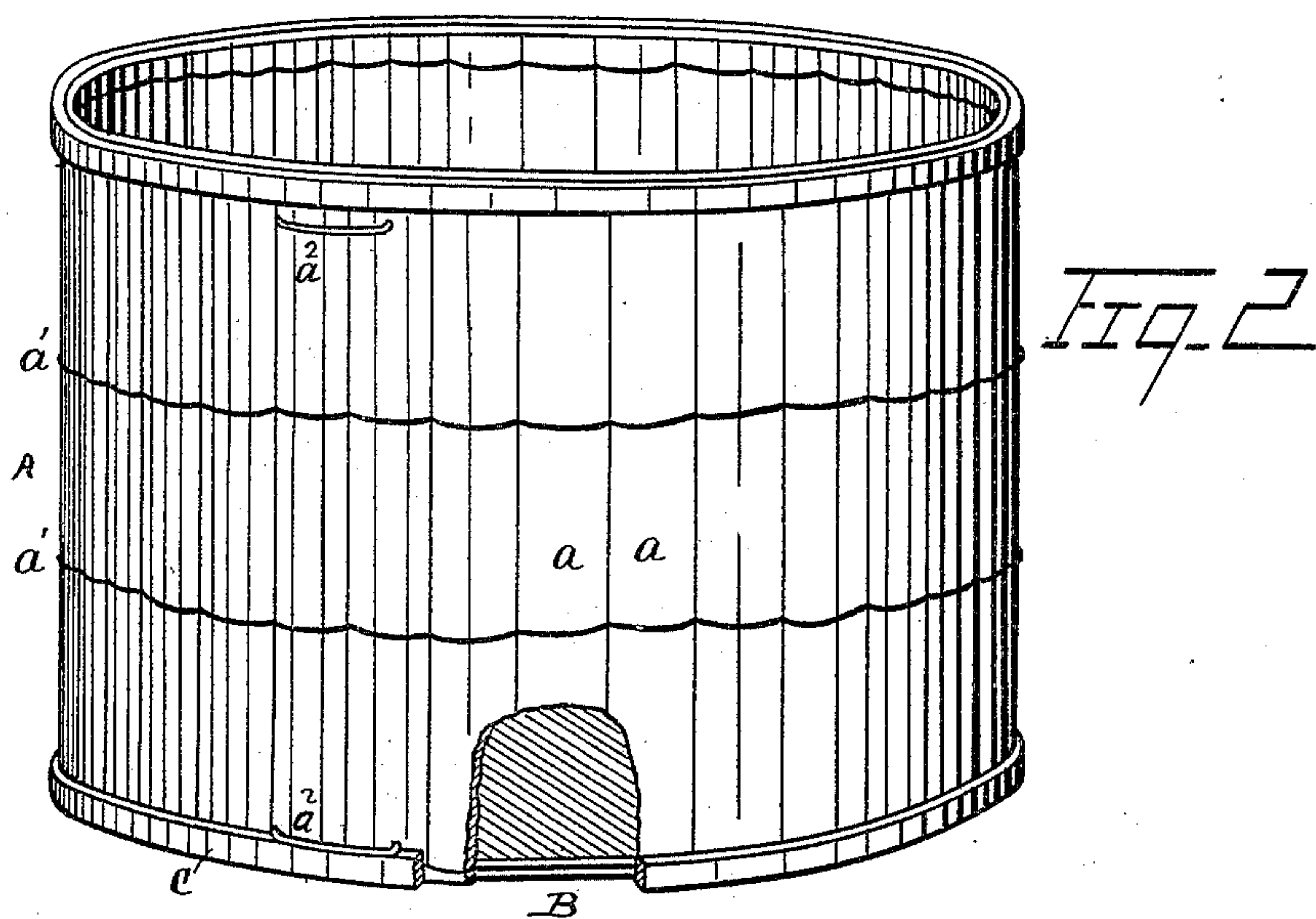
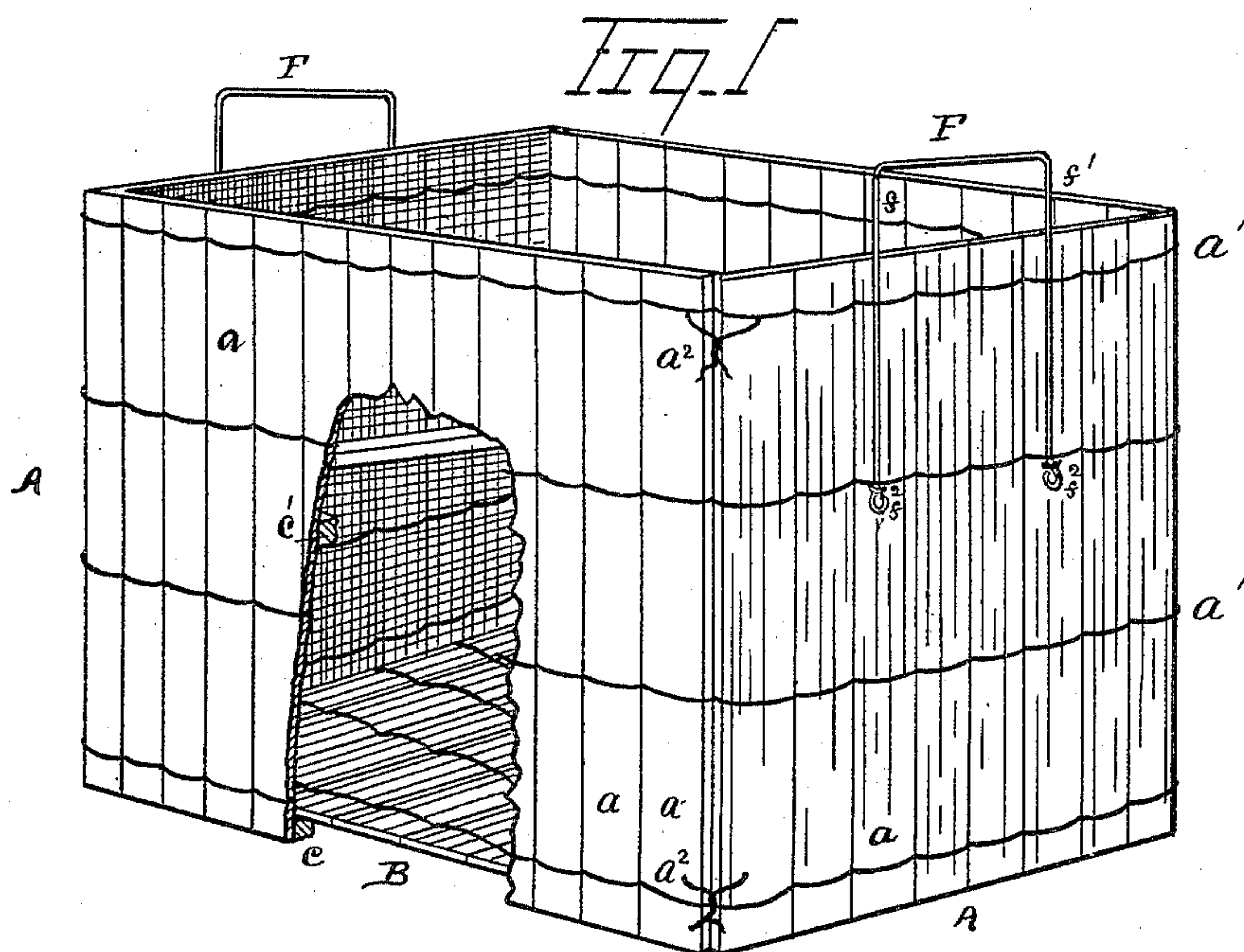
(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

M. A. HAMILTON.
WIRE AND SLAT BASKET.

No. 436,917.

Patented Sept. 23, 1890.



Witnesses
John Schuman.
John Miller.

Inventor
Milton A. Hamilton
By his Attorney
Newell S. Wright.

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 3

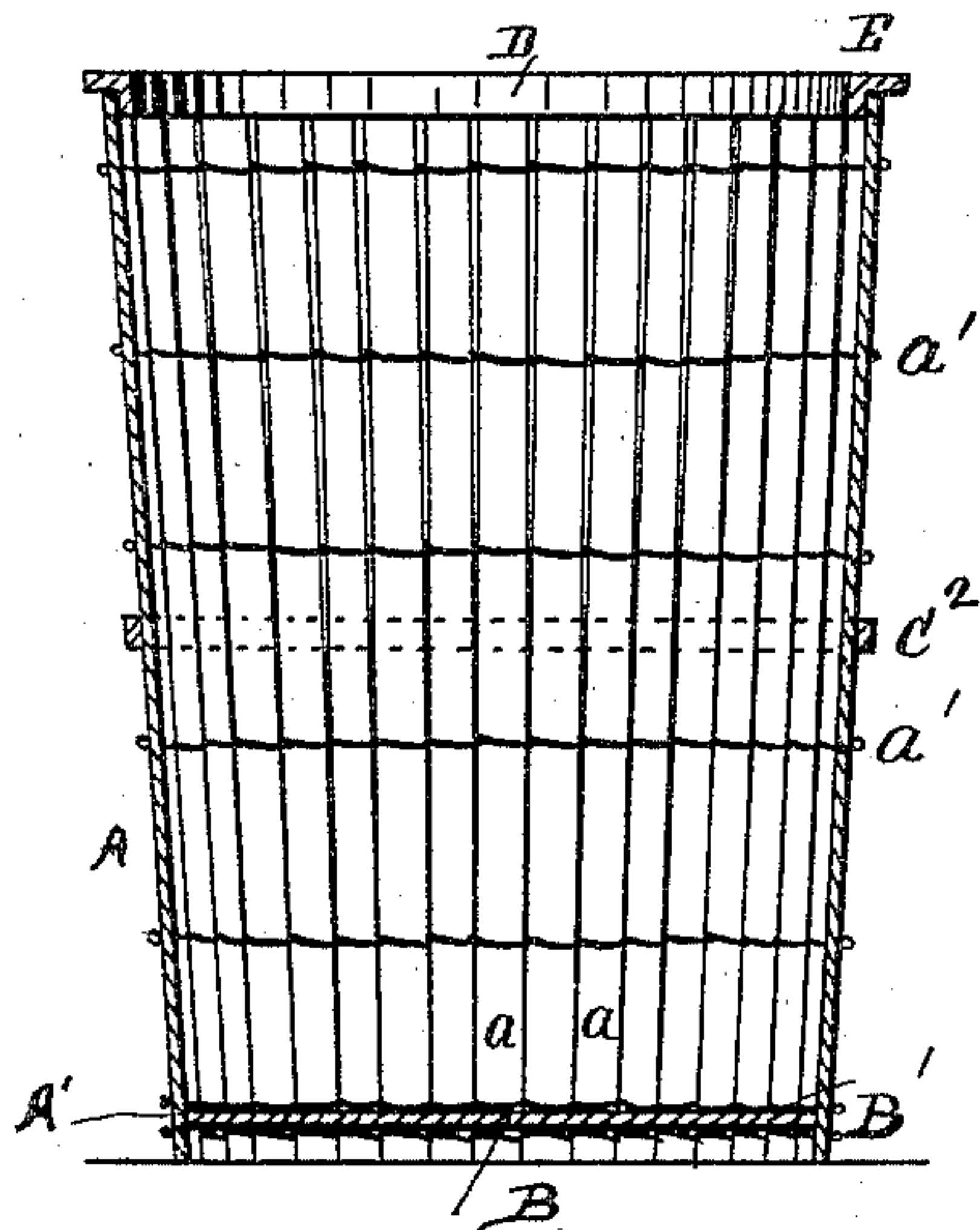


Fig. 4

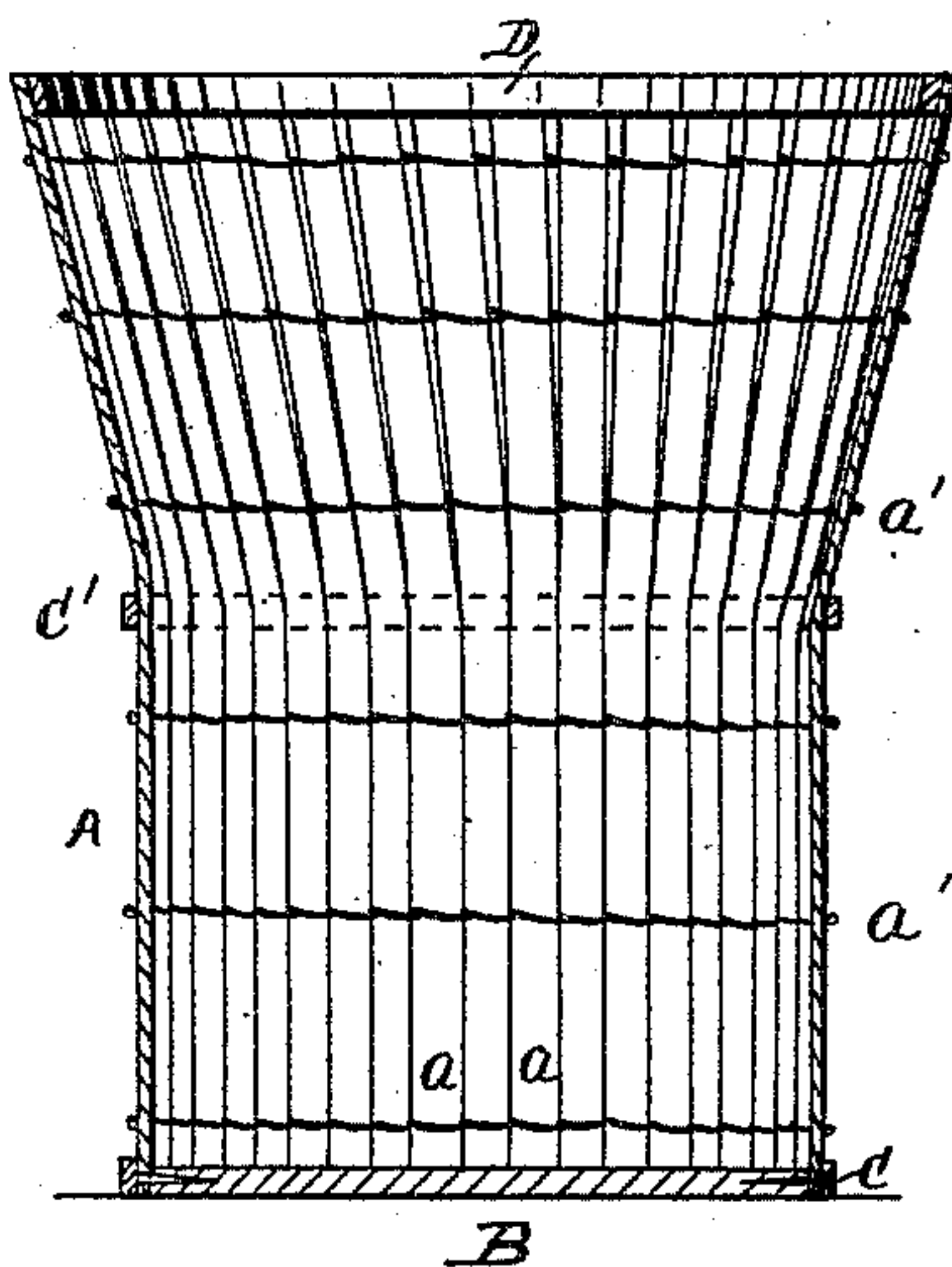
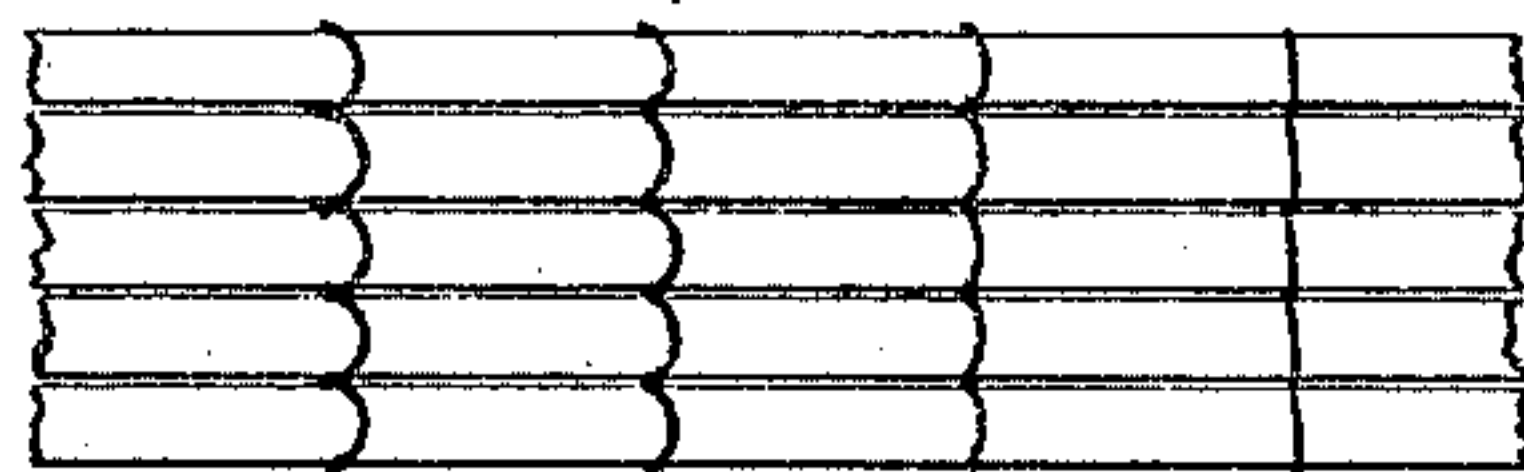


Fig. 5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MILTON A. HAMILTON, OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

WIRE-AND-SLAT BASKET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 436,917, dated September 23, 1890.

Application filed May 25, 1889. Serial No. 312,052. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MILTON A. HAMILTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Detroit, county of Wayne, State of Michigan, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Baskets; and I declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in the construction of baskets; and it consists, essentially, in the manufacture of baskets of various kinds and for various uses, the shell of the basket being formed from a fabric made of slats interwoven with a warp of wires in a manner analogous to a fabric of this general description embodied in United States Letters Patent granted to me November 29, 1887, No. 373,828, and on March 13, 1888, No. 379,219, and also in another application pending herewith relating to the construction of woven fabrics and packages made therefrom.

The object of this invention is to provide a basket that will be simple in construction, durable in use, and comparatively inexpensive of manufacture.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a view in perspective with parts broken away to show the interior. Fig. 2 is also a perspective of a modification. Fig. 3 is a vertical section. Fig. 4 is a similar section illustrating features of my invention; and Fig. 5 is a diagram of the fabric of which the basket is constructed, showing the tension of the warp graduated from one edge to the other of said fabric to admit of expansion.

I carry out my invention as follows:

A represents the shell of the basket, constructed of a fabric of slats a , interwoven with a warp of wires a' . The edges of the fabric when it has been formed into desired shape for the shell are secured in any desired manner, as by clips a^2 .

B represents the bottom of the basket, which may be constructed in one or more pieces, as preferred, and which may be engaged with the fabric in any suitable manner. In some

cases it will be desirable to construct the fabric with a croze of interwoven wires A' , in a manner described in my said patents; or the bottom may be recessed to receive a croze wire, if desired. I do not, however, limit myself to the use of a croze in the union of the fabric with the bottom.

As more fully described in my pending application, above referred to, I contemplate in some cases the compression of the lower edge of the shell upon the bottom and to hold the compressed fabric thereupon by a hoop C, located upon the exterior of the fabric, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4. In some cases, also—as in fruit-baskets and the like—I contemplate the expansion of the upper portion of the shell and to secure the fabric in such an expanded state by an interior hoop D, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. In some cases, moreover—as, for instance, in scrap-baskets—I contemplate locating upon the upper edge of the fabric a rim E, which may be made integral with the hoop D or separate therefrom.

The fabric may be expanded to desired shape over a suitable form, the hoop D being then engaged in place to prevent the retraction of the fabric and hold it in its expanded condition. To facilitate the expansion of the fabric the warp of the wires may be interwoven with the slats with different degrees of firmness, the wires which are intended for the bottom of the shell being woven very tight and graduating, as desired, in a lesser degree of intensity or firmness toward that part of the fabric calculated to form the upper part of the basket.

If it is desired to have the shell run upward for a short distance the same or substantially the same diameter as the base, the wires may be woven of equal intensity for that distance. Wherever expansion is wanted the wires should be interwoven with suitable looseness to admit the required degree of expansion. In this manner baskets of any preferred shape may readily be provided. Additional hoops intermediate of the top and bottom of the basket may be employed, if desired, as at C', Fig. 4, for instance.

By weaving that portion of the fabric close and firm which is to constitute the lower part of the shell the basket may be made tight at

the bottom, or by weaving the entire fabric close and firm the entire basket may be made tight, while the expansion may also make the basket flare in a suitable manner. Where
 5 the fabric is woven of the proper width for a single basket it may be so woven that the flare will be provided for without expansion by simply weaving in the wires with different degrees of firmness, so that I do not limit
 10 myself to a flaring basket produced by expansion alone. It will be convenient, however, at least for many purposes, to weave the fabric in widths suitable to be cut into strips for the shell of the baskets. In some
 15 cases, as in a square basket, the bottom may also be made of the fabric herein referred to, the shell being provided with cleats *c*, upon which the bottom may rest. Additional cleats *c'* may also be employed to stiffen the fabric
 20 intermediate of the top and bottom of the shell.

In Fig. 1 the construction shown provides also for a knockdown basket, the bottom being removable, when the shell may be collapsed or flattened. So, also, in connection
 25 with the basket shown in said figure, *F* represents my improved handle, which I prefer to make so as to have a movable engagement upon the shell. For this purpose the arms *f*
 30 *f'* of the handle may pass inside the adjacent loops of the warp-wire and within staples *f*² driven into the shell. The lower ends of the handles may be looped or otherwise shaped to prevent the disengagement of the handles.
 35 Instead of passing the arms *f f'* within the warp-wires, additional staples may be employed. For a knockdown basket it will be convenient especially to make the handles movable in this or any other suitable manner,
 40 so that they may be forced downward to have their upper portions on a line with the edge of the fabric, as thereby the basket may be packed more compactly. A round basket may also be constructed in a knockdown condition, the bottom being readily removable.
 45

The baskets may be provided with intermediate partitions where it is desired to break the bulk of the contents of the basket, and any suitable cover may be employed—as, for
 50 instance, of the woven fabric. A basket so constructed is economical and at the same time strong and durable.

In some cases the entire fabric may be compressed from the top of the shell to the base to make the basket tighter, in which case one
 55 or more additional hoops *C*² may be employed to hold the fabric in a compressed condition. A basket so constructed is not only tight, but very firm as well.

What I claim is—

1. A basket having, in combination with a bottom, a shell formed from a previously-woven fabric of slats interwoven with a warp of wire, the tension of said warp graduated from one edge to the other of said fabric to
 65 admit of expansion, and said shell made flaring at the top of the basket, substantially as described.

2. A basket having, in combination with a bottom, a shell formed of a previously-woven
 70 fabric of slats interwoven with a warp of wires, said shell expanded toward the upper portion of the basket, substantially as described.

3. A basket having, in combination with a bottom, a shell formed of a previously-woven
 75 fabric of slats interwoven with a warp of wires, said fabric expanded and held in its expanded condition by a hoop located on the inside of the fabric, substantially as described.

4. A knockdown basket having, in combination with a bottom, a shell formed of a
 80 fabric of slats interwoven with a warp of wire, substantially as described.

5. A basket having, in combination with a bottom, a shell formed of a fabric of slats interwoven with a warp of wire, and a handle
 85 passed under said wire and held in place by staples engaging the handle upon the fabric, said handle having a movable engagement in said staples and beneath the said wire, substantially as set forth.
 90

6. The fabric herein described, consisting of slats interwoven with a warp of wire, the tension of said warp-wires graduated from one edge of the fabric toward the other to
 95 admit of expansion of one edge of said fabric, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I sign this specification in the presence of two witnesses.

MILTON A. HAMILTON.

Witnesses:

N. S. WRIGHT,
 CHAS. F. SALOW.