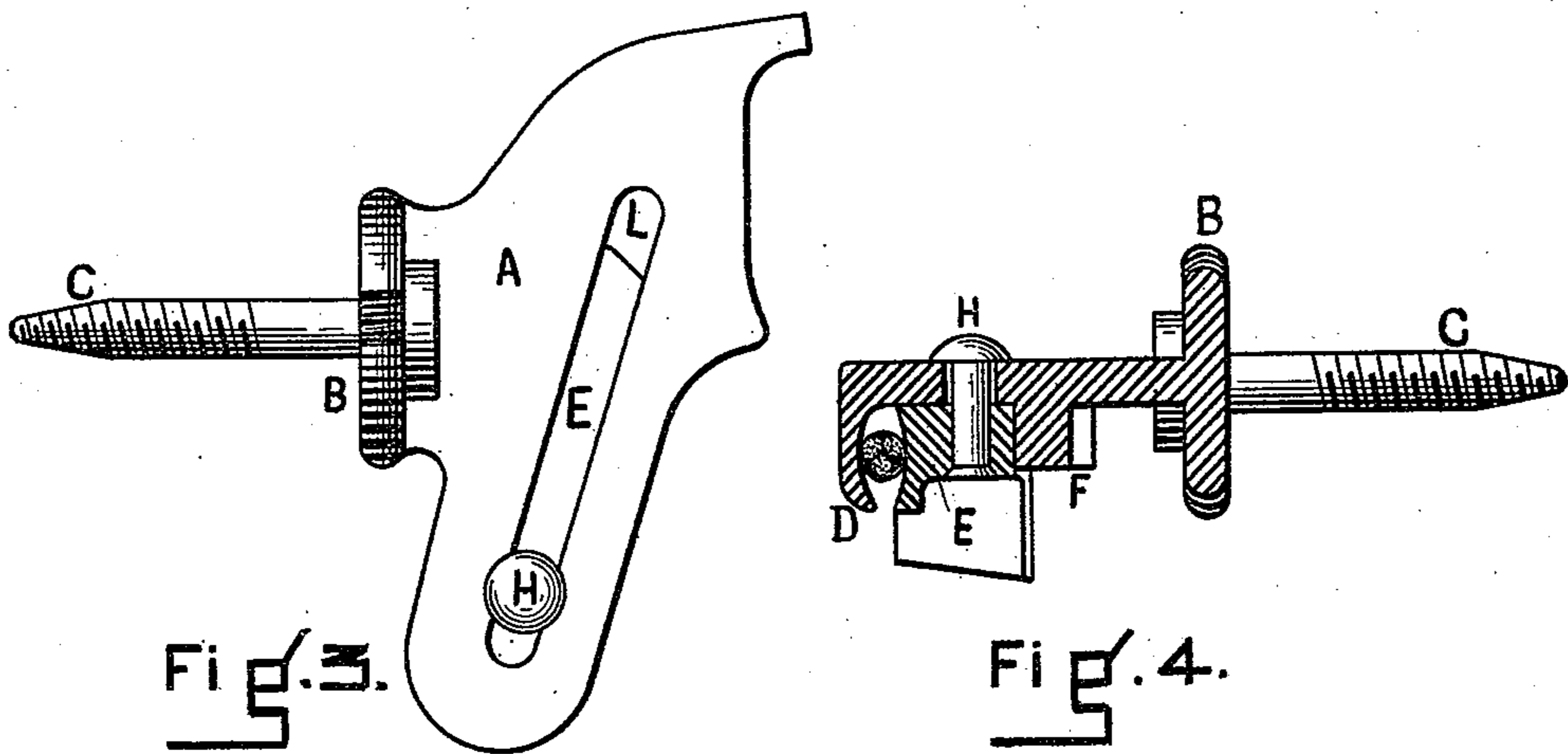
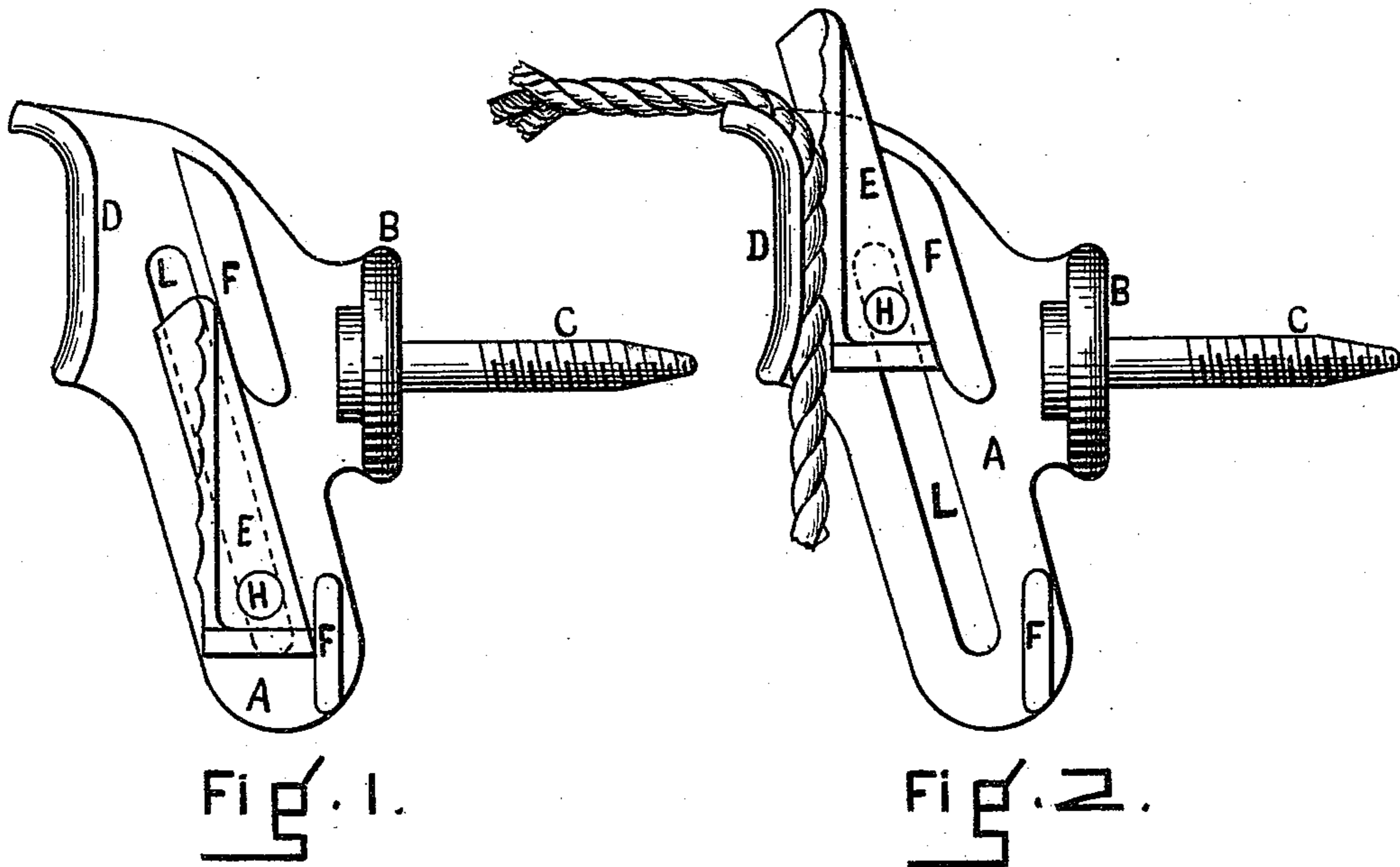


(No Model.)

G. W. BOWERS.  
LINE FASTENER.

No. 438,398.

Patented Oct. 14, 1890.



WITNESSES:

William St. Davy  
C. F. Emanuel

INVENTOR.

George W. Bowers,  
By Sylvanus Walker  
Atty

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE W. BOWERS, OF SOMERVILLE, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO LOUIS ERNST, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

## LINE-FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 438,398, dated October 14, 1890.

Application filed February 8, 1890. Serial No. 339,723. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE W. BOWERS, of Somerville, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Line-Fasteners, of which the following is a specification.

The objects of my invention are to provide a cheap, simple, convenient, and durable line-fastener adapted for fastening temporarily one end portion of a clothes-line, hammock-line, or a rope, so that such line when clamped or held therein shall be gripped very firmly and caused to hold more tightly upon the line when it is drawn with greater force in one direction, but easily released and removed when drawn in the opposite direction; and it consists in the construction, combination, and arrangement of the parts of the device, as hereinafter more fully described, and set forth in the claim.

Figure 1 represents a front side elevation of a line-fastener constructed according to my invention. Fig. 2 is a similar view with the line held clamped in position therein. Fig. 3 represents a similar view of the opposite side of the same. Fig. 4 represents a horizontal cross-section of the line-fastener with a portion of a line held in position therein.

A represents the main body portion of the fastener, consisting of a vertical plate, one edge of which is provided with a projecting bearing B, having cast therein the head end of a fastening-screw C, the projecting main portion of which is adapted to be screwed into a post, stud, fence, or wall of a building, so as to secure the fastener firmly in the desired position for use. A second screw or nail may be driven in through a slot, hole, or notch opposite, so as to prevent the former one from unscrewing. This plate A is also provided at its opposite edge with a projecting vertical bearing-lug D, against which the line to be fastened has a bearing when held thereto by the vertical sliding wedge E, which is corrugated upon its face side, so as to fit closely against the strands of the rope or line when raised up vertically. The lug and wedge contact with the opposite sides of the line when it is held in position, as shown. This sliding wedge is caused to move somewhat obliquely to the bearing-face of the lug D by means of the projecting guide-pieces F, which cause the upward movement of the wedge to approach the said bearing-lug D

as the intervening line or rope moves slightly upward therein after the wedge has been raised upward from its normal position when at rest, as shown in Fig. 1. The said wedge E is loosely held in contact with the face of the bearing-plate or main body portion A by means of a rivet H, passing through the said wedge or secured thereto firmly and sliding freely within an obliquely-vertical slot L, formed through the said body-plate portion A, as shown.

It will be seen that by drawing the said wedge slightly downward its frictional grip is instantly released upon the rope or line, which may be very easily removed by a simple horizontal side motion being imparted to the same without the necessity of drawing the unused portion of the rope or line from a guide or opening or receiving-hole, as heretofore, thus avoiding the annoyance occasioned by knots or kinks in the line or rope coming into contact with some part of the fastener when removing it therefrom.

This fastener is more especially designed for holding and fastening the surplus or free end of a clothes or hammock line, the main portion of which extends horizontally, and as the end portion is held and fastened in a vertical position or at a right angle to the main portion of the line when in use a "bight" is produced on the line at the bend formed by the fastener, thus partially releasing the wedge from too great strain, which might be liable to occur were the holding-wedge made to slide horizontally or in the plane of the main portion of the line, as heretofore employed.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

A line-fastener consisting of the vertical plate A, having a bearing B, provided with a fastening screw C and projecting guides F at one edge, and the opposite edge having a projecting vertical bearing-lug D, and the vertical sliding wedge E, held loosely against the said plate A by a rivet H, which passes through the obliquely-vertical slot L, formed therein, substantially as shown and described, as and for the purposes set forth.

GEORGE W. BOWERS.

Witnesses:

SYLVENUS WALKER,  
WILLIAM H. PARRY.