

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

LA FAYETTE WILDERMUTH.  
SPRING BED BOTTOM.

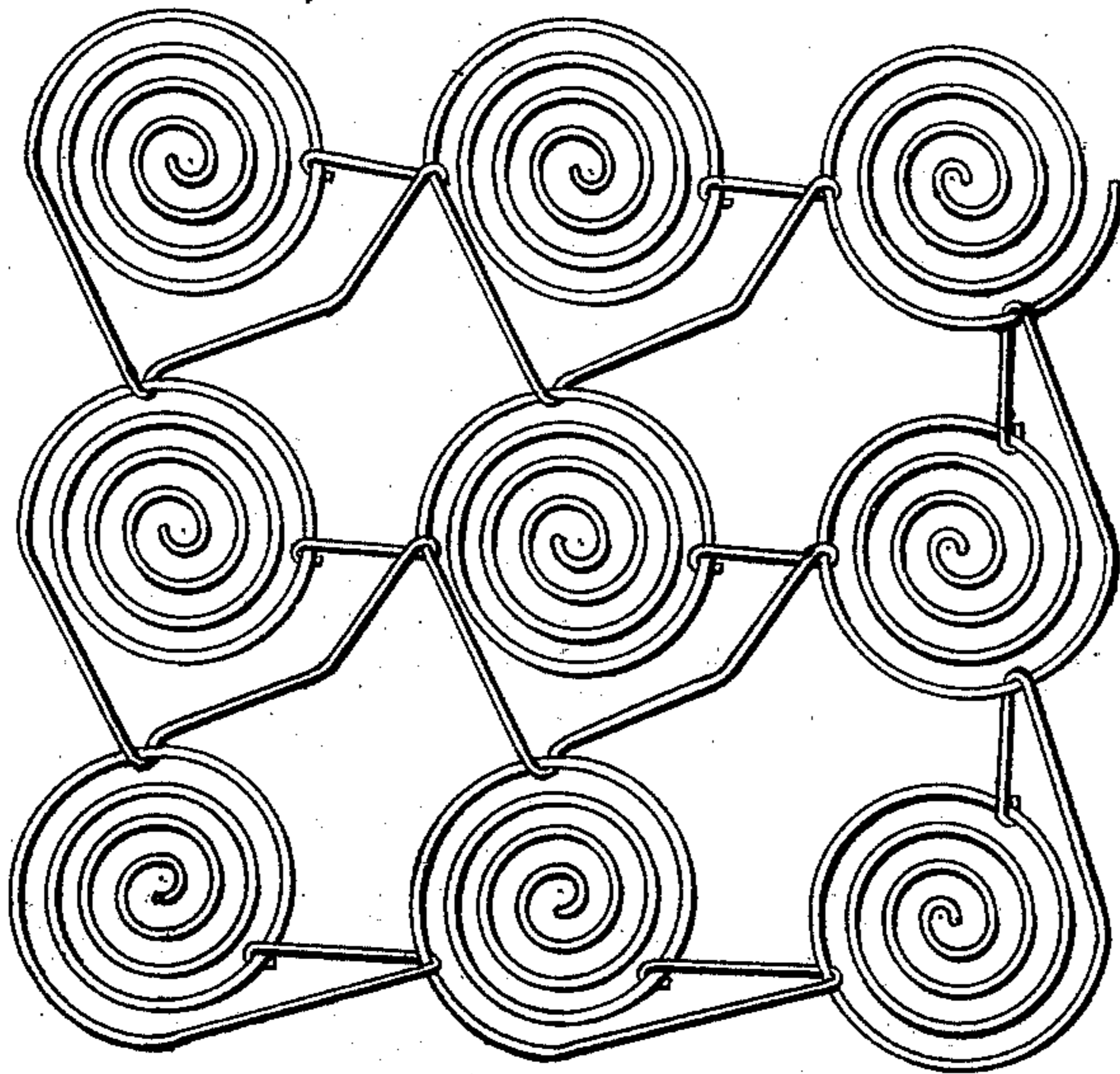
No. 519,368.

Patented May 8, 1894.

*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 5.*



WITNESSES

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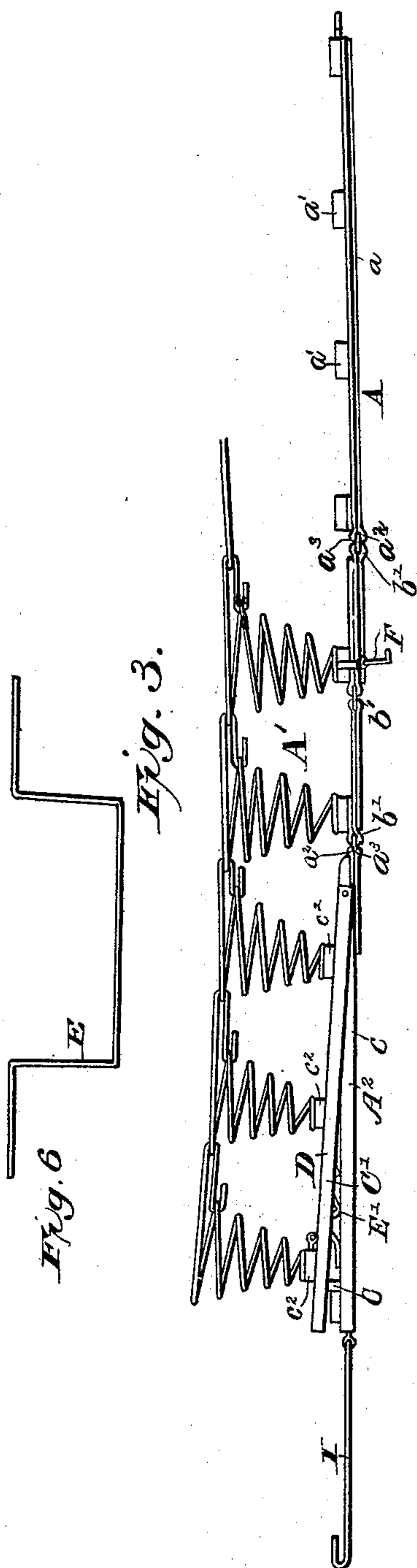


Fig. 3.

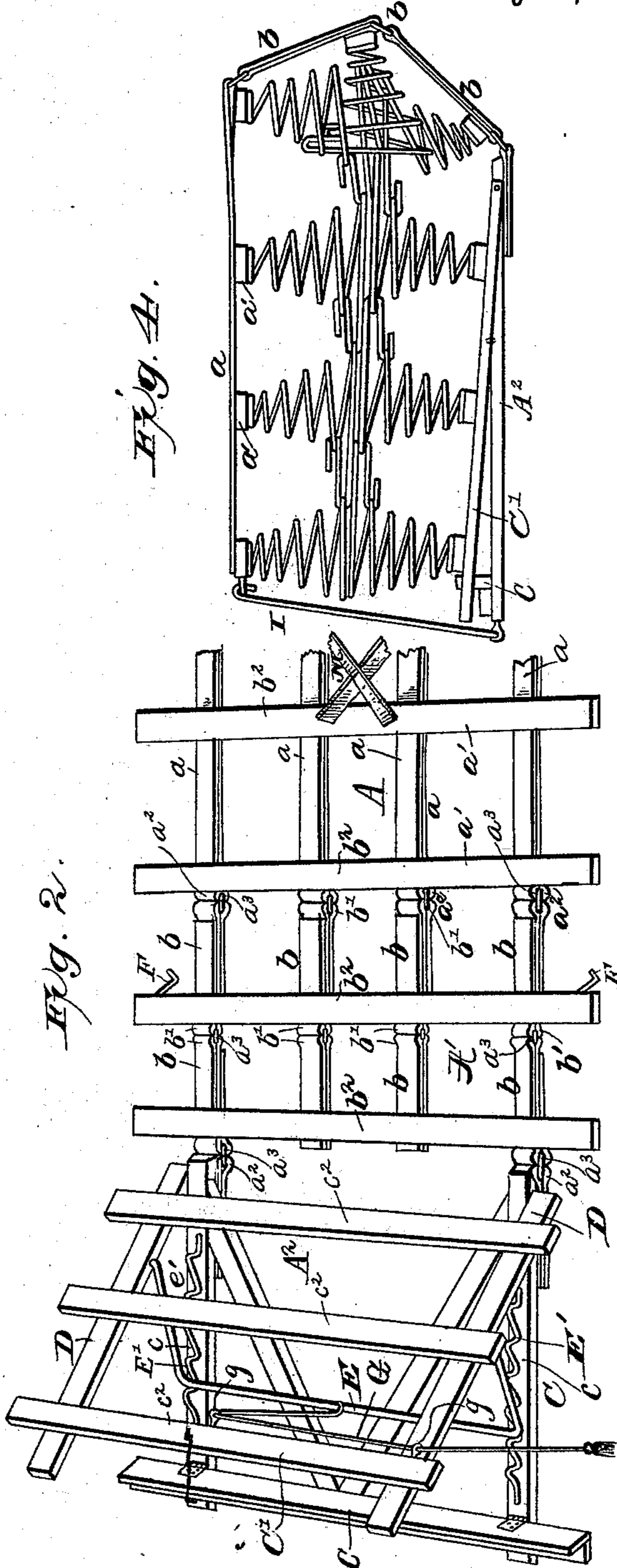


Fig. 4.

Fig. 2.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LA FAYETTE WILDERMUTH, OF COLUMBUS, OHIO.

## SPRING BED-BOTTOM.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 519,368, dated May 8, 1894.

Application filed April 10, 1890. Serial No. 347,324. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, LA FAYETTE WILDERMUTH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Columbus, in the county of Franklin and State of Ohio, have invented new and useful Improvements in Spring Bed-Bottoms; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of said invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The object of my invention is the production of a bed bottom of novel construction whereby the adjustment of the bed to the convenience of the occupant and its conversion into compact form for storage or transportation are facilitated, and the durability of the structure is enhanced.

In the accompanying drawings: Figure 1 is a perspective view of my device in use. Fig. 2 is a perspective view on an enlarged scale; the lower end of the frame being broken away and the springs removed. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of my bed bottom extended; Fig. 4 an elevation thereof in the folded position; Fig. 5 a plan view of several of the springs connected; and, Fig. 6 is a detail view of the pawl or bail.

Referring to the letters on the drawings: A, A' and A<sup>2</sup> indicate the foot, central and head portions, respectively, of my device which is of that particular class of bed bottoms in which the spring support or bottom proper is composed of longitudinal strips and transverse slats.

Heretofore attempts to produce a frame sufficiently flexible to properly conform to the contour of a person, have been attended by a corresponding weakening of the frame. To accomplish this object without the objectionable result referred to, and to correspondingly strengthen the structure at the point of the greatest strain, I form the central section of two or more longitudinally arranged links *b* in line with the several longitudinal strips *a* of the foot section, and transverse spring supporting slats *b*<sup>2</sup>. The links are preferably formed of metal strips having their ends bent back upon the opposite sides of their central portion to form knuckles *b'* at their opposite ends, and are united to each other and to the

ends of the longitudinal strips *a* and *c*, of the sections A and A<sup>2</sup> which are provided with correlative knuckles *a*<sup>2</sup>, by connecting loops *a*<sup>3</sup> passing through the contiguous knuckles and forming a flexible connection therebetween. The strips *a* of the foot section are surmounted by transverse slats *a'* and by diagonally arranged stay pieces or strips M secured at their opposite ends to the slats to prevent twisting of the frame. The head section A<sup>2</sup> consists of but two longitudinal strips *c* forming a continuation of the outside strips or links of the section A' and connected thereto by knuckles and loops as described. The strips *c* may be properly braced by intermediate brace bars, as illustrated.

C indicates an L-shaped bar secured upon the extremity of the head section by hinges located at the intersection of its sides or wings.

Pivotally secured to the strips *c* at a point contiguous to their knuckles is an adjustable auxiliary frame or head rest C', the side strips D, D of which are connected by transverse slats *c*<sup>2</sup>, the inner sides or faces of the strips being correlatively located with respect to the outer sides or faces of the strips *c* to admit of the depression of the head rest to the lowest possible position when it is desired to fold the device.

For the purpose of enabling the occupant of the bed to adjust the head rest to the desired elevation with facility, I provide racks E' upon the strips *c* which are adapted to be engaged by a pawl or bail E pivotally connected to the side strips of the head rest preferably at a point to one side of their middle. A pawl operating cord G is secured at one end to the pawl and provided at its opposite end with a handle, suitable eyes *g* being provided upon one of the slats of the head rest through which the cord may be passed in order to allow the handle to depend at one side of the frame. The person lying upon the bed is thus enabled to adjust the head rest from his reclining position by a slight pull upon the cord. The purpose of the L-shaped bar is to sustain the head rest in a slightly elevated position and to prevent the pawl from being disengaged from the rack when the device is in use. The disengagement of the pawl from the rack when the bed is folded,

being necessitated in order to allow the parts to lie closely together.

Obverse spiral springs of substantially the same construction as those illustrated in Letters Patent, No. 298,927 are in practice suitably mounted upon the transverse slats of the various sections, and a hook I secured to the end of the head section and engaging with an eye upon the opposite end of the foot section is employed to hold the parts in their proper relative positions when folded.

F indicates hooks upon the slats of the central section adapted to be secured to the bedstead or other support to prevent casual displacement of the bed bottom and to receive the strain when the bottom is subjected to unusual weight.

I claim—

1. The combination with a bed bottom, of an auxiliary frame pivoted thereto provided with a pawl or bail adapted to be swung entirely beyond and out of engagement with the rack when the frame is completely depressed for the purpose specified, and an L-shaped

bar pivoted to the bed bottom and adapted to permit the disengagement of the pawl and rack or to prevent the same when the device is in use, substantially as specified.

2. The combination with a suitable support, of a bed bottom having a flexible central portion, an auxiliary frame as a head rest pivotally secured at one end of the bed, pawl and ratchet mechanism adapted to sustain the frame in the adjusted position, an operating cord secured to the pawl and extending to one side of the bed, an L-shaped bar adapted to limit the depression of the frame when desired, a hook secured to the bed bottom and adapted to be secured to the support, and another hook adapted to retain the bed bottom in the folded position, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

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

LA FAYETTE WILDERMUTH.

Witnesses:

IRA S. READ,  
BENJ. MONETT.