

(No Model.)

R. T. JOY.  
BEDCLOTHES HOLDER.

No. 546,538.

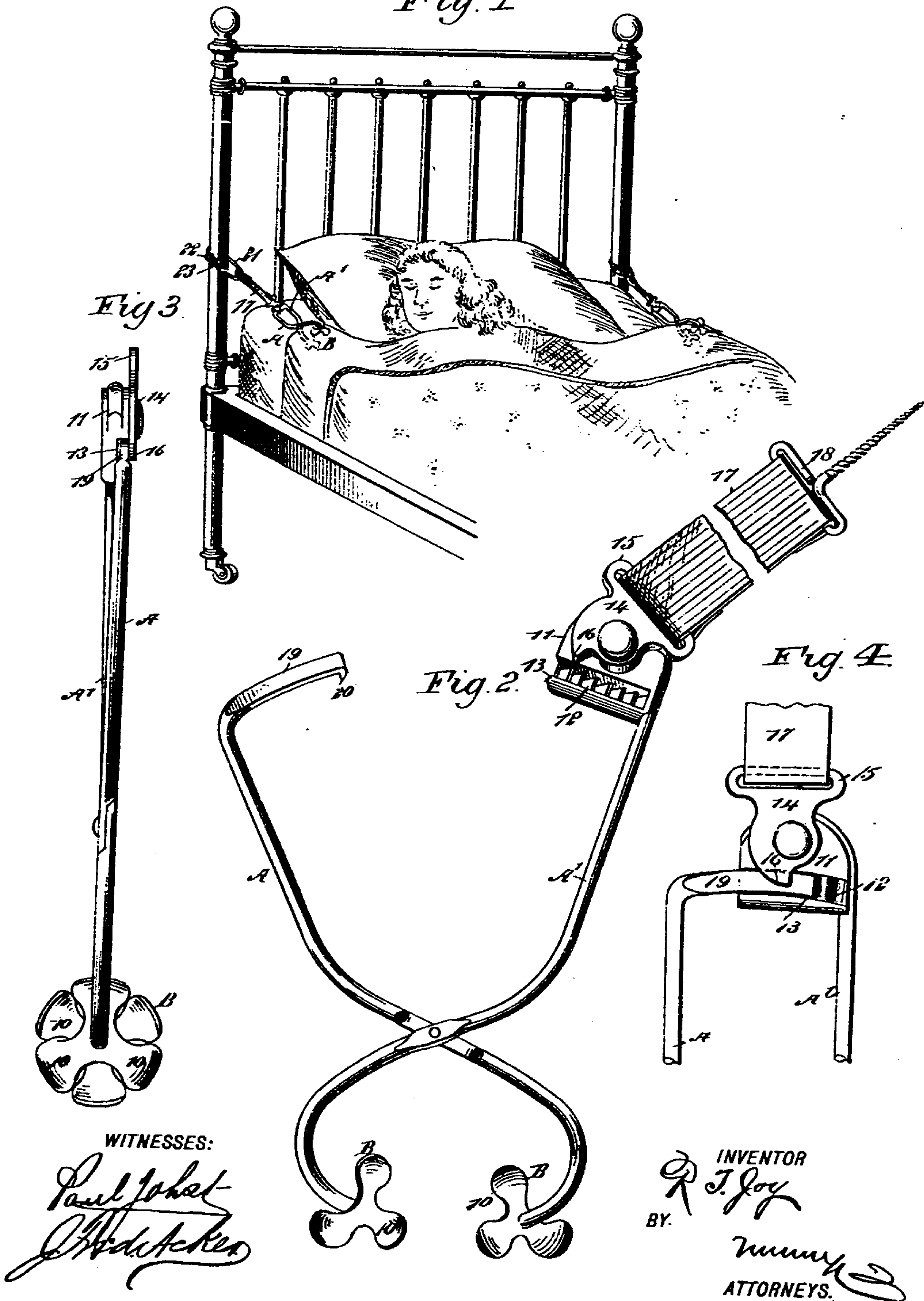
Patented Sept. 17, 1895.

Fig. 1

Fig. 3

Fig. 2

Fig. 4





# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RUSSELL T. JOY, OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON.

## BEDCLOTHES-HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 546,538, dated September 17, 1895.

Application filed January 9, 1895. Serial No. 534,295. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, RUSSELL T. JOY, of Tacoma, in the county of Pierce and State of Washington, have invented a new and Improved Bedclothes-Holder, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to an improvement in bedclothes-holders, and it has for its object to so construct the holder that the gripping-jaws will not injure the most delicate quilt or other bed-covering that may be placed between them, and, furthermore, to provide a means whereby even when the clothes between the gripping-jaws are very thick the jaws may be clamped upon the clothes in an exceedingly expeditious and convenient manner, and whereby the locking device will lock the jaws at various distances apart or substantially close together, as occasion may demand.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of the several parts, as will be hereinafter fully set forth, and pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar figures and letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the head portion of a bedstead, illustrating the application thereto of the bedclothes-holder. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the holder in an open position. Fig. 3 is an edge view of the holder, and Fig. 4 is an enlarged side elevation of the upper portion of the holder in locked position.

In carrying out the invention the holder proper consists of two arms or members A and A', which are pivoted together and are provided at one of their ends with gripping-jaws B. Preferably the arms are bowed in opposite directions at each side of their pivot, but most decidedly at the portion carrying the gripping-jaws, while the arms are preferably longer at the other side of the pivot.

The gripping-jaws B consist of a series of leaves 10, arranged at predetermined intervals apart and having an inward curve, the said leaves being widest at their ends, and preferably their sides are more or less concaved,

as are also their inner faces. Any desired number of these leaves may be used in the construction of a gripping-jaw. Ordinarily, however, the jaw is of the trefoil character, as shown in the drawings. The leaves curve from their attachment to the arms in an inwardly direction, and their edges are made smooth and rounded or cylindrical, in order that they shall not injure the clothes. The two jaws are so arranged that the leaves of one jaw will be opposite the space intervening the leaves of the opposing jaw, as shown in Fig. 3. Thus when these jaws are brought together they will effectually clamp or hold the material that is placed between them, and that without injury to the most delicate fabric.

The arm A' at what may be termed the "handle" end is provided with a block, plate, or lateral extension 11, which is located upon the inner surface of the arm, preferably at substantially a right angle thereto. This block or plate may constitute an integral portion of the arm or may be attached thereto.

In the upper or front face of the plate a transverse recess 13 is made, and upon the bottom wall of said recess a series of ratchet-teeth 12 is formed, inclined in direction of the arm. A latch 14 is pivoted upon the upper face of the ratchet-plate 11, and one end, terminating in an eye 15, extends beyond the outer edge of the plate, while the opposite end is provided with a finger 16, adapted to extend across the ratchet-teeth when the latch is straightened upon the ratchet-plate. An elastic band 17, preferably an endless one, is passed through the eye 15 of the latch and likewise through the head of a screw-eye 18 when the holder is to be attached to a wooden head-board, the screw being entered into a post of the board.

The handle end of the arm A is carried inward toward the ratchet-plate, forming a lateral extension 19, which may be flattened, as illustrated, and said extension terminates in a pawl 20, adapted for engagement with the ratchet-teeth 12, the recess 13 serving as a guide for the pawl and a receiver for the extension 19. When the bedstead is made of metal, as shown in Fig. 1, a cord 21 is substituted for the screw-eye, provided with a ring at one end and with a snap or hook 23 at



the opposite end, whereby the cord may be passed around and fastened upon the post of the bed.

In the operation of the device the arms A and A' are separated, thus separating the jaws B. The clothes having been gripped between the jaws, the finger 16 of the latch is removed from over the ratchet, and the arms are then drawn together, the pawl engaging with the ratchet, along which it is slid until the necessary tension is obtained upon the jaws. The ratchet and pawl are now locked together by straightening the latch, which will carry the finger 16 over the extension 19, connected with the pawl. In fact, the holding position of the jaws, together with the tension on the latch, hold the latter in locking position. The gripping jaws, instead of being made of plate metal, or solid, as shown in the drawings, may be of the same material as the jaws, which are usually constructed of stout wire.

By providing the holder with a ratchet and pawl as a tying device it is evident that a person possessed of but little strength may force the pawl over the ratchet until the clothes are gripped, and when the arms are released they will be locked together, and if the gripping power of the jaws is not then sufficient the pawl may be pressed farther over the ratchet without inconvenience.

It is evident that while the device is primarily adapted for holding bedclothes on a bed it may likewise be adapted as a towel holder or for kindred purposes.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. In a bed clothes holder or the like, the combination of a pair of pivoted arms having opposing ends provided with gripping jaws, a rack secured to one arm and extend-

ing transversely of the same a pawl secured to the other arm to engage the teeth of said rack, and a pivoted latch adapted to hold said pawl in engagement with said rack substantially as set forth.

2. In a bed clothes holder or similar device, the combination, with a pair of pivoted arms provided with gripping jaws at one of their ends, of a ratchet plate secured to one arm, the ratchet teeth being depressed, a pawl secured to the opposing arm, adapted for engagement with the ratchet, and a gravity latch adapted to extend over the pawl and ratchet, substantially as shown and described.

3. In a bed clothes holder or like device, the combination with a pair of pivoted arms provided with gripping jaws at one of their ends, the said jaws consisting of a series of leaves inwardly curved and spaced a predetermined distance apart, the leaves of one jaw being arranged opposite the space intervening the leaves of the opposing jaw, a ratchet formed upon one of the said arms, and a pawl formed upon the opposing arm, both ratchet and pawl being directed to the space intervening the said arms, and a latch adapted to lock the pawl to the ratchet, as and for the purpose set forth.

4. In a bed clothes holder or like device, the combination, with a pair of pivoted arms provided with gripping jaws at one of their ends, a ratchet and pawl locking device at their opposite ends, and a gravity latch confining the pawl to the ratchet, of an elastic band connected with said latch, and fastening devices, substantially as described, carried by the said band, as and for the purpose set forth.

RUSSELL T. JOY.

Witnesses:

J. FRED ACKER,  
C. SEDGWICK.