

(No Model.)

T. MARCOTTE.
TRACE FASTENING.

No. 599,079.

Patented Feb. 15, 1898.

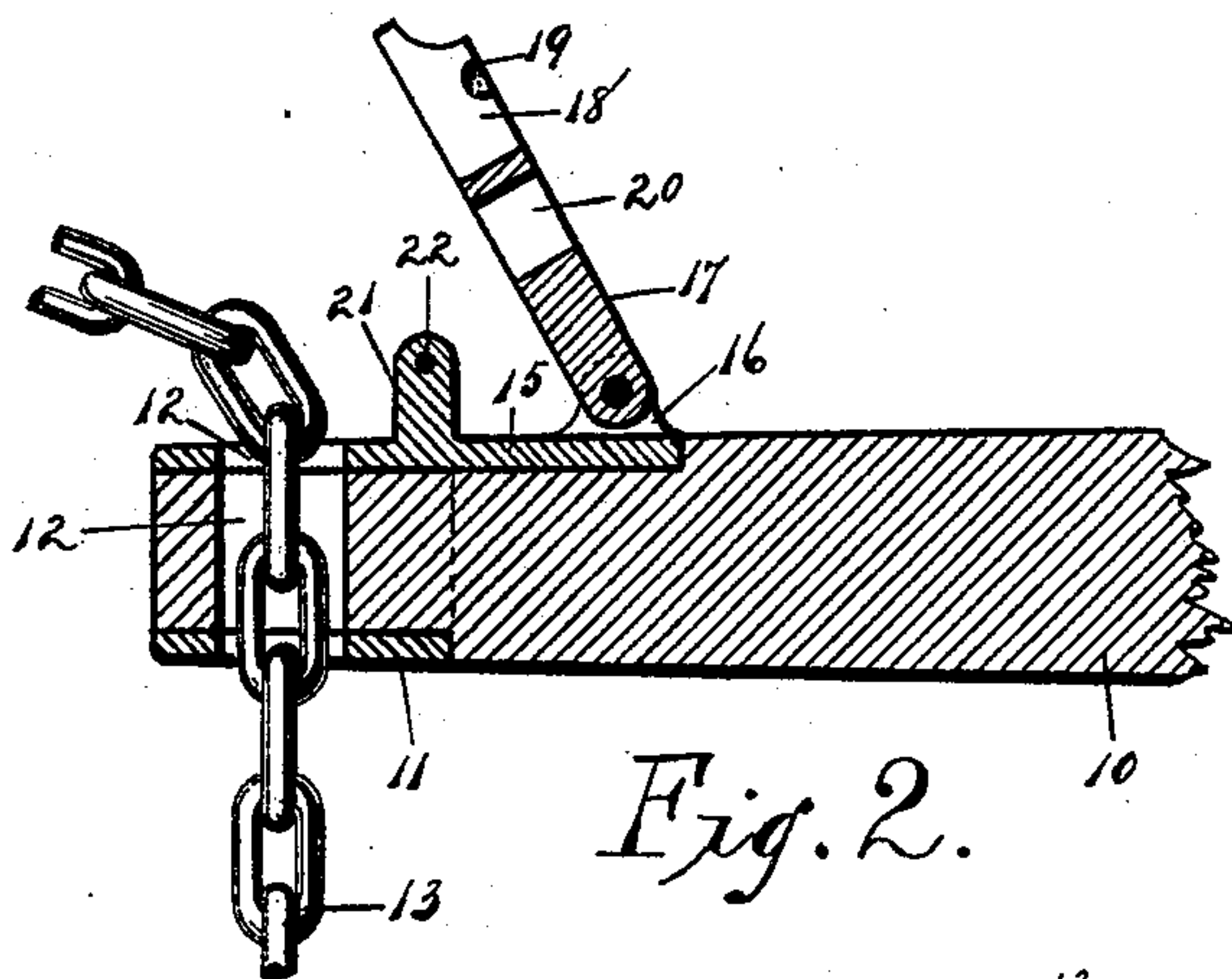


Fig. 2.

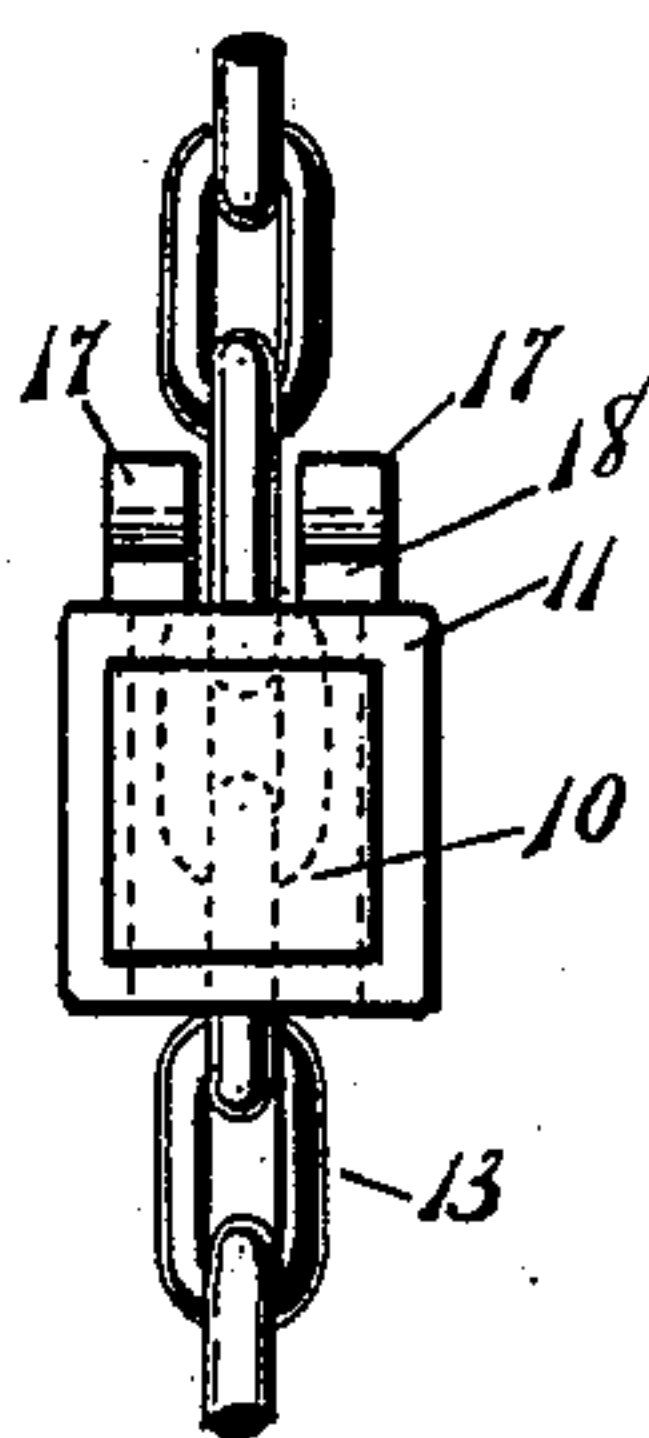


Fig. 4.

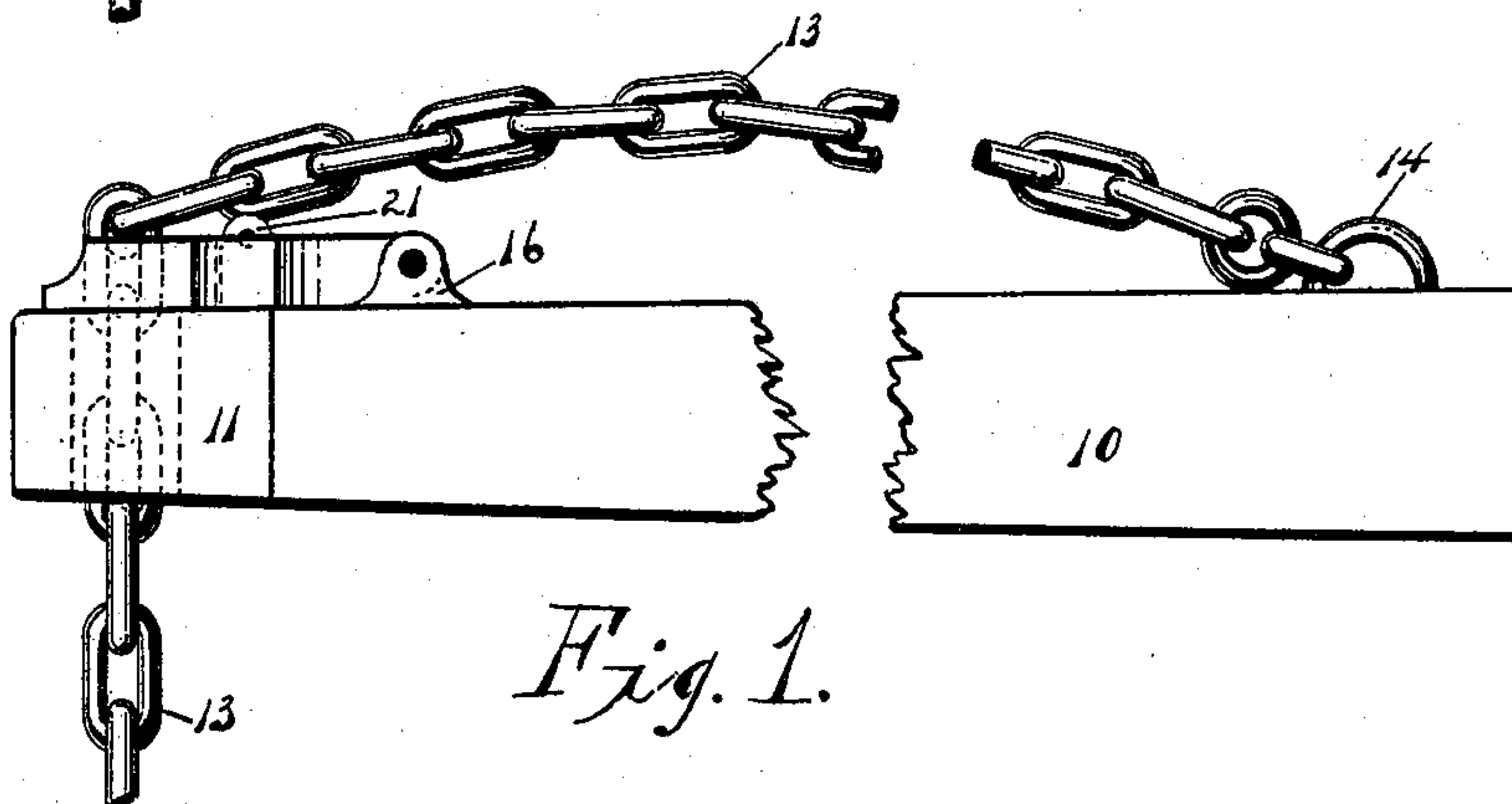


Fig. 1.

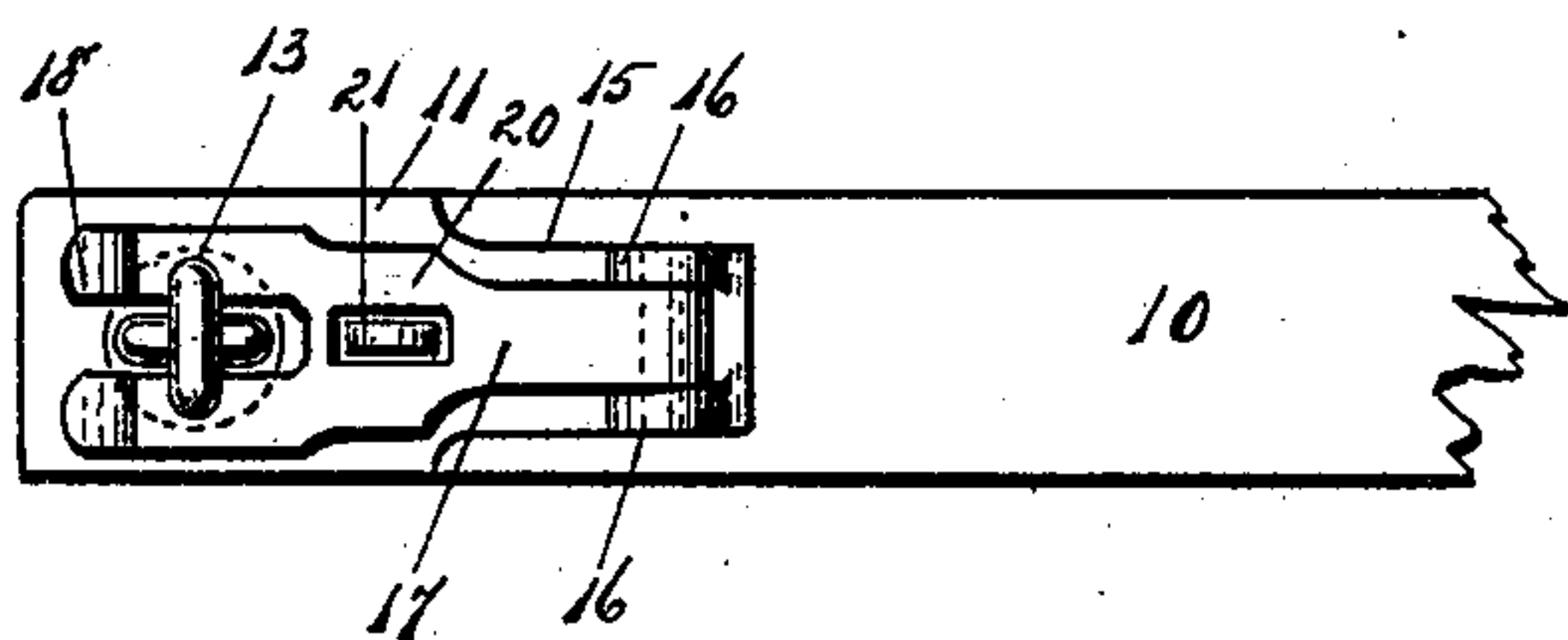


Fig. 3.

WITNESSES:

Joseph Adams
Bertha Deyo

INVENTOR

Thomas Marcotte

BY

H. O. Hutchinson
ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS MARCOTTE, OF STROUDWATER, MAINE, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF
TO WILLIAM H. STEVENS, OF PORTLAND, MAINE.

TRACE-FASTENING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 599,079, dated February 15, 1898.

Application filed April 5, 1897. Serial No. 630,738. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS MARCOTTE, of Stroudwater, in the county of Cumberland and State of Maine, have invented certain
5 new and useful Improvements in Trace-Fastenings, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to improvements in trace-fastenings; and the object of my invention is to produce a cheap and simple fastening which can be applied readily to a whiffletree or analogous device, which can be easily manipulated, which can be operated quickly to fasten or unfasten the trace, which permits
15 the ready adjustment of the trace as to length, which holds the trace so securely that it cannot accidentally become loose, and which is in itself strong enough to prevent by its application the weakening of the whiffletree.

To these ends my invention consists of a trace-fastening the construction and arrangement of which will be hereinafter described and claimed.

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

Figure 1 is a broken plan view of a whiffletree having my improved fastening applied
30 to one end thereof. Fig. 2 is a broken sectional plan of the fastening and whiffletree, the fastening being shown in open position. Fig. 3 is a rear elevation of the fastening as applied to a whiffletree and trace-chain, and
35 Fig. 4 is an end view of the fastening as applied to a whiffletree and trace-chain.

The whiffletree 10 can be of any make, and the end of the whiffletree is reduced, so that a ferrule-like body 11 can be applied to the
40 whiffletree and left flush therewith. This body and also the whiffletree end are pierced by a hole 12, extending through the whiffletree from front to back and adapted to receive the trace-chain 13, which can be any
45 usual form of chain, and which by preference has its rear end made fast either by a link or hook to the staple 14 in the center of the whiffletree. The front end of the chain can
50 be made fast to the harness in the ordinary manner.

On the back side of the body 11 is a tongue

15, which extends along the whiffletree back and carries rearwardly-extending lugs 16, between which is pivoted a locking-arm 17, although it will be understood that the arm can
55 be pivoted on the body 11 in any convenient way without departing from the principle of the invention. The arm 17 has its free end enlarged and slotted, as shown at 18, to receive the trace-chain, and the width of the
60 slot is such that a link can only enter it when turned edgewise to the slot, as shown clearly in Fig. 4. It will thus be seen that when the locking-arm is closed and the chain is in position in it the link just behind the locking-
65 arm will bear against the arm, and so the strain will come directly on the arm and whiffletree end in such a manner that there is little danger of breaking any part of the device. The back of the arm adjacent to the
70 slot 18 is preferably socketed, as shown at 19, in order that a link may fit nicely against the arm. Just behind the slot 18 in the locking-arm is a second slot 20, which is adapted to receive a stud 21 on the back of the body
75 11, and the stud is long enough to project through the locking-arm when the latter is closed and has a transverse hole 22, into which a pin can be inserted to prevent any accidental opening of the arm.
80

When the trace-chain is to be adjusted, the locking-arm is turned back, the chain pulled through the hole 12 the desired distance, and the arm closed; the chain being turned so that the desired link shall enter the slot 18.
85 A pin is then placed in the hole 22, and the chain is securely locked.

In the drawings I have shown the chain applied to the staple 14; but this is a mere matter of convenience, and it will of course be
90 seen at a glance that this arrangement is unnecessary and forms no part of the invention.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—
95

1. The combination with the whiffletree having a transversely-perforated end, of the transversely-perforated ferrule-like body fitting the whiffletree end, and a swinging locking-arm on the back of the whiffletree, said
100 locking-arm having a slotted free end to receive a chain-link, substantially as described.

2. A device of the kind described, comprising a ferrule-like body provided with transverse slots through which a chain is adapted to pass, a stud on the body, and a locking-arm pivoted on the body adjacent to the stud, said arm having a slotted free end to receive a chain-link and a second slot to receive the before-mentioned stud, substantially as described.

3. A device of the kind described, comprising a ferrule-like body having a projecting tongue on the back side and transverse chain-slots in its front and rear sides through which a chain is adapted to pass, a stud on the back of the body, and a locking-arm pivoted on the tongue, said arm having a slotted free end

to receive a chain-link and a second slot to receive the before-mentioned stud, substantially as described.

4. The combination with the whiffletree having a perforated end, of the ferrule-like body on the whiffletree end slotted to receive a chain, a stud on the body, and a swinging locking-arm on the whiffletree back, the locking-arm having a chain-slot at its free end and a second slot to receive the stud, substantially as described.

THOMAS MARCOTTE.

Witnesses:

GEORGE LIBBY,

ALPHEUS L. HANSCOME.