

No. 618,076.

Patented Jan. 24, 1899.

S. R. ELLIS.

TILTING BRIDGE FOR THEATRICAL PURPOSES.

(Application filed Apr. 15, 1898.)

(No Model.)

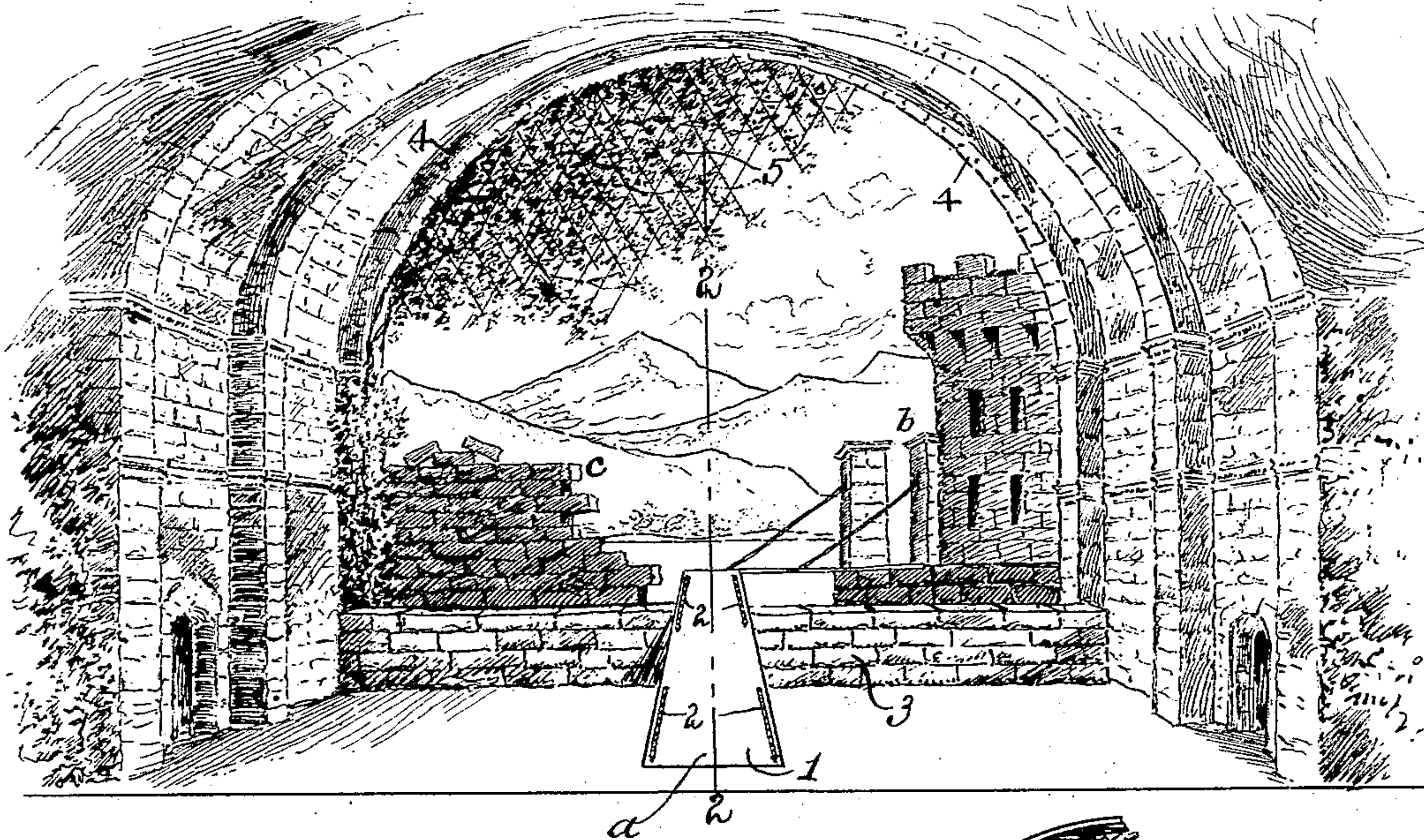


Fig. 1

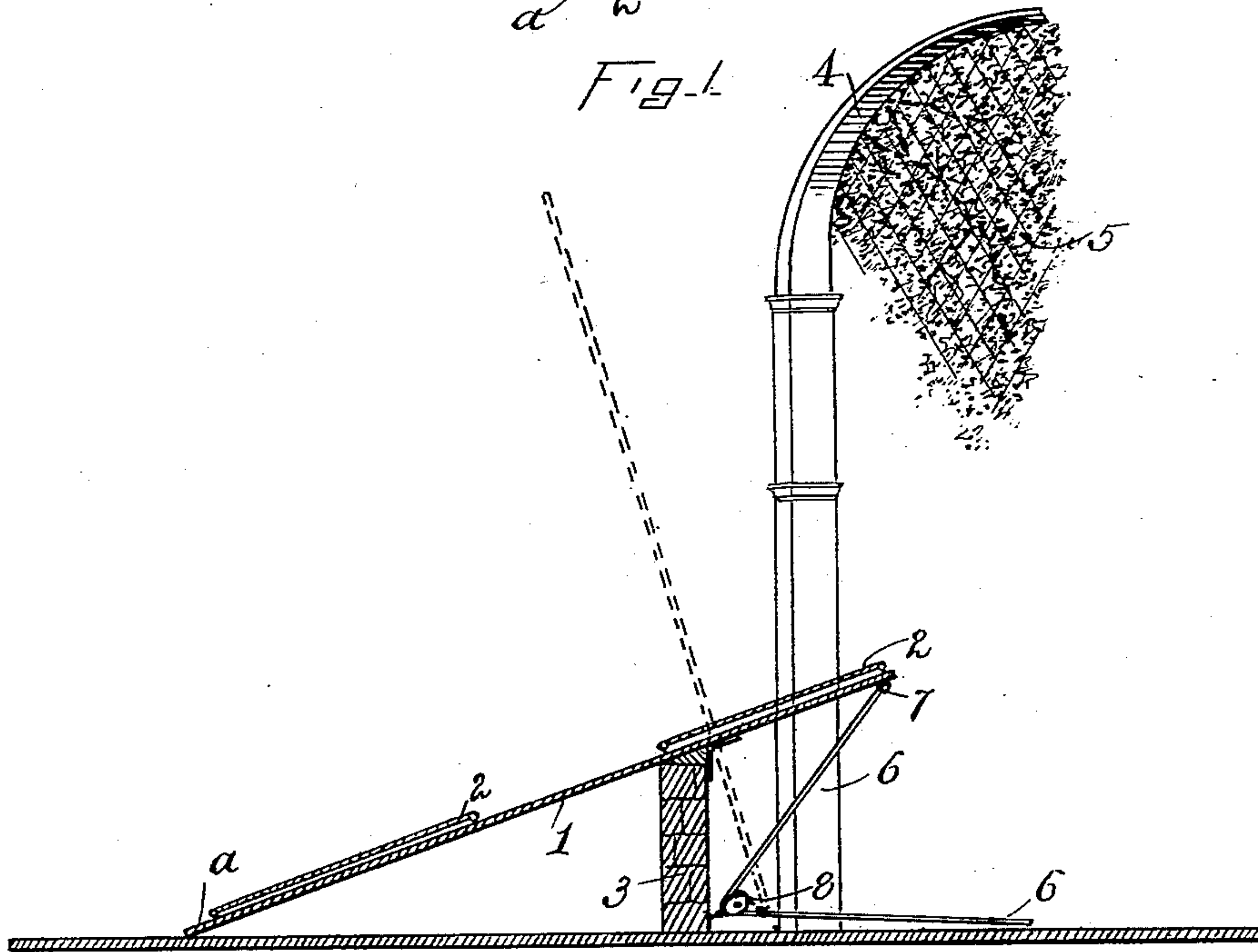


Fig. 2

WITNESSES.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TILTING BRIDGE FOR THEATRICAL PURPOSES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 618,076, dated January 24, 1899.

Application filed April 15, 1898. Serial No. 678,204. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SIDNEY R. ELLIS, a citizen of the United States, residing in New York city, in the State of New York, have invented
5 a new and useful Tilting Bridge for Theatrical Purposes, of which the following is a specification.

The object of the invention is to adapt portions of a stage-scene to be mechanically operated in such a manner as to produce a ludicrous or startling effect upon the audience viewing the same.

The invention consists of a bridge arranged to tip or tilt and having means attached thereto for operating the same.

The invention further consists in certain other features of construction and combination of parts, as fully described in the specification and pointed out in the claims thereof.

Like letters and numerals refer to like parts throughout both views of the drawings.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my invention in position for use in a stage-scene. Fig. 2 is a section
25 taken on line 2 2, Fig. 1.

In the drawings, 1 represents the drawbridge of a ruined castle, pivoted at one side of the center thereof to a support 3, said support representing a stone wall bordering
30 upon the side of a river. The drawbridge 1 is pivoted at one side of the center thereof, the longer side being placed toward the audience, so that normally the bridge will stand in the position shown in Fig. 2. Above the
35 drawbridge 1 is an arch 4 of the ruined castle, having depending therefrom a net 5, constructed and painted to represent vines and having ivy-leaves, &c., attached thereto. Said net 5 may be strengthened by lines leading
40 to the rigging-loft of the stage. Beneath the drawbridge and at the rear side of the wall 3 is a rope 6, one end of which is attached to the drawbridge by a ring 7, thence running through a tackle-block 8, attached to the
45 wall 3, the free end thereof being carried to a convenient position to be pulled upon when desired, the effect being to suddenly tip the bridge into an upright position. (Shown in dotted lines, Fig. 2.)

50 The operation of the device as a whole is as follows: Supposing a man to be standing

upon the drawbridge at the point *a*, another man standing at the point *b*, and another at *c*, in the background, Fig. 1, suddenly *b* and *c* jump on the short end of the drawbridge
55 and catch the ropes 2 2, while other men pull upon the free end of the rope 6, the result being to suddenly throw the bridge 1 into an upright position and to throw the man who was standing at *a* into the net 5, placed
60 in the proper position to receive him and to which he clings. The bridge may then be lowered to its normal position, if desired, and the man left clinging to the vines, the whole operation being performed in an instant and
65 producing a very startling and ludicrous effect.

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

1. A tilting bridge for theatrical purposes constructed to represent a bridge 1, pivoted at one side of the center thereof to a support 3, said platform having a rope 6 attached to the end of said platform nearest said pivotal
75 point, the free end of said rope passing around a tackle-block 8, in combination with a net or receptacle 5 attached to the set scene of a theatrical stage at a point above and to the rear of said platform, substantially as de-
80 scribed for the purpose specified.

2. A tilting platform for theatrical purposes, constructed to represent a bridge 1, pivoted at one side of the center thereof to a support 3 said platform having holding-ropes
85 2, 2, attached to the upper surface thereof and a rope 6 attached to the end of said platform nearest said pivotal point, the free end of said rope passing around a tackle-block 8, in combination with a net or receptacle 5 attached to
90 the set scene of a theatrical stage at a point above and to the rear of said platform, substantially as described for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set
95 my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

SIDNEY R. ELLIS.

Witnesses:

W. B. GEESKIND,
JAMES F. CROSSEN.