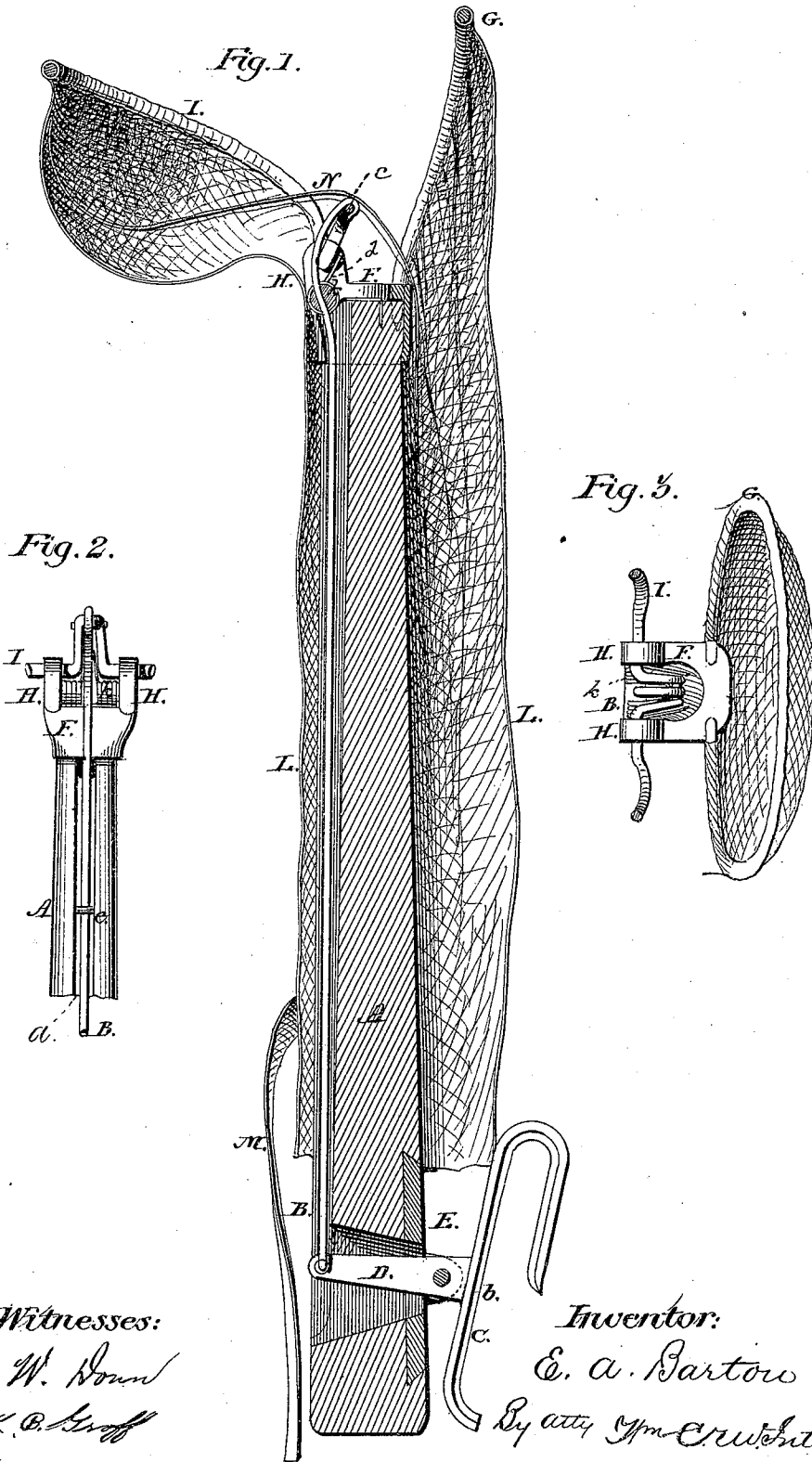


E. A. BARTON.
FRUIT-GATHERER.

No. 174,760.

Patented March 14, 1876.



Witnesses:
Edw. W. Brown
Frank B. Croff

Inventor:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWIN A. BARTON, OF BOONVILLE, INDIANA.

IMPROVEMENT IN FRUIT-GATHERERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **174,760**, dated March 14, 1876; application filed January 5, 1876.

To all whom it may concern :

Be it known that I, E. A. BARTON, of Boonville, in the county of Warrick and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvement in Fruit-Gatherers; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification.

My invention relates to that class of implements known as fruit-gatherers. It has for its object to render such implements simple and economic in construction, and efficient in their operation.

To enable others to more fully understand its construction and operation, I will proceed to describe the same, referring by letters to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal central section of a fruit-gatherer embracing my invention. Fig. 2 is an elevation in detail, showing the metallic head and the operating wire or rod attached to a portion of the movable jaw or griper, and Fig. 3 is a detailed top or end view, with movable jaw or griper broken away, in order to expose its connection with the metallic head.

Similar letters indicate like parts in the several figures.

A represents the handle, usually made from twelve to fifteen feet in length, or such other length as may be deemed advisable. This handle A is cut away on one side longitudinally, to form an inclined groove or channel, *a*, gradually increasing in depth as it approaches the top end of the handle, in order to furnish room for the necessary vibration of the upper end of the operating rod or wire B, as will be presently explained. This groove begins at about that point at which the handle is grasped when being used, and the handle is provided at that point and on the opposite side to the groove *a* with a rocking lever, C, having a fixed arm, D, passing through a mortise, and provided at its extremity with a hole through which the lower extremity of the wire B is passed and made fast. This lever C is pivoted at *b* to suitable ears or bearings upon a plate, E. The lever C is designed to be grasped by the hand, and the pivot *b* is so located with reference to the length and de-

sign of the lever that it shall lie under the middle or third finger, or that portion of the hand which is practically at rest, in order that the implement may be firmly grasped and held, while the fingers on either side of the pivotal point *b* may be used to rock the lever C, for the purpose of operating the moving griper or jaw. F is a cast-metal head, designed to fit over the upper end of the handle, and to which it is secured by suitable rivets or screws. This head is provided on its top surface, at or near to one edge, with two suitable holes, to receive the ends of the frame G of the stationary jaw, and near the opposite edge with two ears, H H, provided with holes, or bearings for the ends of the frame I of the moving jaw. The frames G and I are preferably made of wire of suitable size, the ends of the former being secured by solder or otherwise within the holes designed to receive them, and the ends of the latter, after passing through the bearings in the ears H H, are bent up at about right angles to form a crank or lever-arm, as clearly seen in the drawing, and being furnished with an eye or hole through which a pin or pivot, *c*, passes, to secure the ends to the end of the wire B, so that the raising or lowering of the wire B will open or close the movable jaw-frame I. *k* is a spiral spring, having an upwardly-projecting tongue in the center, and the two ends of the wire forming the spring returned and fastened in the end of the handle A, as clearly shown in Fig. 1, so that the tongue *d*, bearing against the inside of the wire B, will tend to throw the frame I into the position shown, and thus automatically open the mouth of the implement when pressure is removed from the lever C above the pivot *b*. L is a canvas or other fabric covering of the frames G I, formed into a tube or conduit below the head F, and extending down to about the pivot *b*, or any other desirable point, and being provided, at or near its extremity with a gathering-strap, M, for the purpose of contracting the lower end of tube to prevent the escape of the fruit dropping therein, until such time as it is desirable to empty the contents of the tube into suitable receptacles. N is a tongue-piece of canvas, arranged, as shown, on the inside of the frame I, and designed to cover the

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head F and its connections with the frame I, so that they are protected against any falling twigs which might otherwise enter and affect the operation of the griper-jaw. The wire B is held loosely within its groove in the handle by suitable staples *a*, at proper distances apart. As the upper end of the wire B vibrates through a greater distance than its lower end, the necessity of gradually increasing the depth of the groove *a* will be obvious.

In the operation of the implement, the handle is grasped, as before described, so that the fingers will lie over the lever C, the upper end of which is drawn toward the handle, which has the effect of closing the frame I against the frame G. The upper end is then directed to the piece of fruit to be taken from the tree, when, the upper end of the lever C being released, the frame I recedes from the frame G, and forms, as it were, an open mouth, into which the piece of fruit enters, when the frame I is again closed, and the piece of fruit being securely enveloped the implement is suitably manipulated to break the stem and allow the fruit to drop into and down the tube-channel. The flight of the fruit down the channel may be retarded by tightening the cloth L, which, in consequence of the position of the frame G, brings it close to the handle A, and

thus contracts the conduit. This is sometimes desirable, in order that one piece of fruit may not be dropped upon another with such force as to injure or bruise the same.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a fruit-gatherer, the combination, with the movable jaw-frame of the handle A, provided with an inclined groove, the wire B, and rocking lever C, substantially as and for the purposes hereinbefore set forth.

2. The metallic head F, adapted to fit upon the end of the handle, provided with suitable holes to receive the ends of the stationary frame, and having ears or bearings to receive the ends of the moving frames, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. The lever C, constructed substantially as described, and pivoted to the handle, so that the center of movement shall be under that portion of the hand at rest during the movement of the lever.

Witness my hand and seal this 5th day of January, 1876.

EDWIN A. BARTON. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

EDW. W. DONN,
F. B. GROFF.