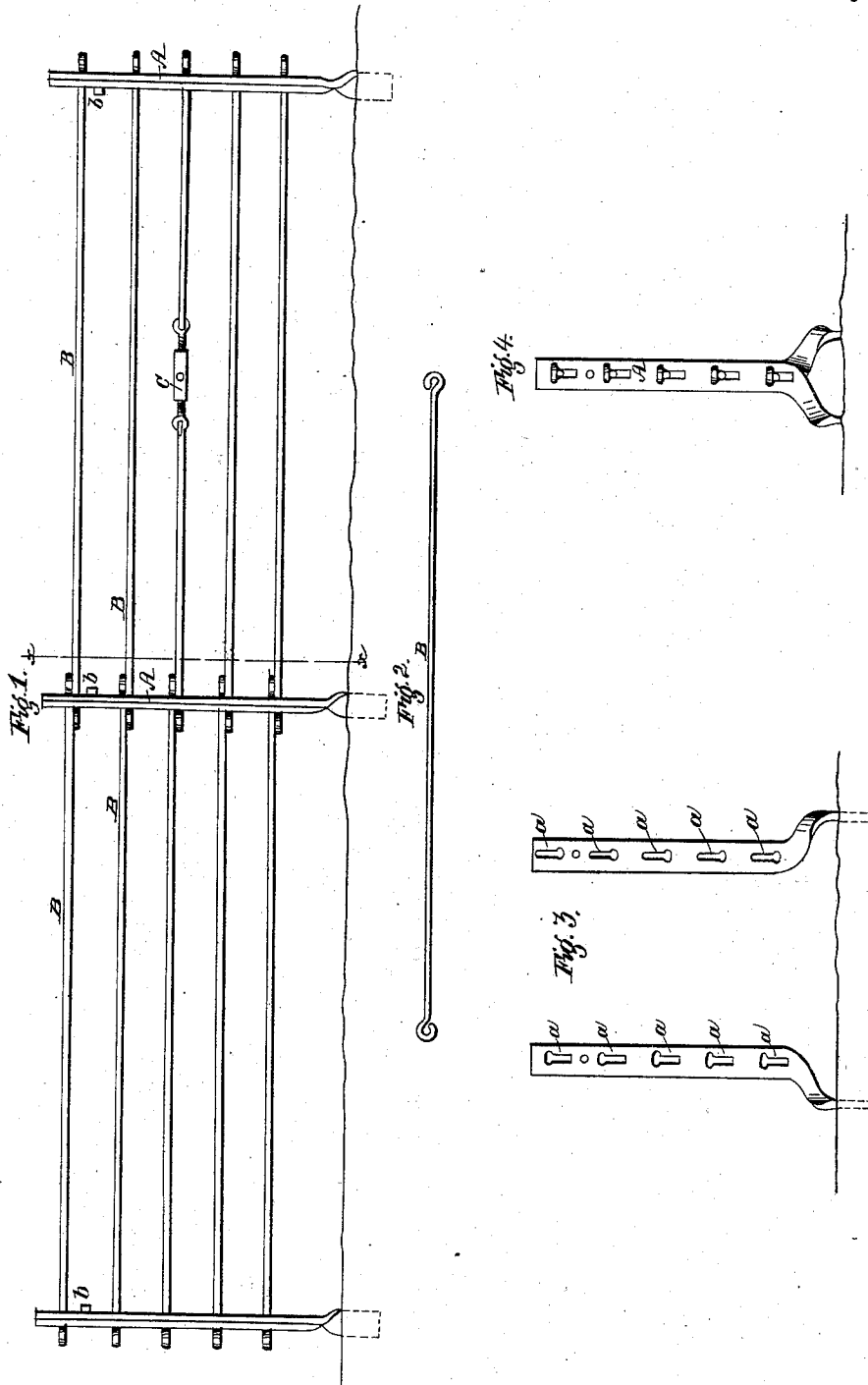


J. B. WICKERSHAM.

Iron Fence.

No. 8 189.

Patented July 1, 1851.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

J. B. WICKERSHAM, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IRON FENCE.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 8,189, dated July 1, 1851.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN B. WICKERSHAM, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful
5 Improvements in Portable Iron Fences; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part thereof in which—

10 Figure 1, represents the fence complete. Fig. 2, represents one of the rails detached. Fig. 3, represents the sections which constitute the post, and the arrangement of the slots therein. Fig. 4, represents a vertical
15 section through the red line *x, x*, of Fig. 1.

Similar letters in the several figures represent the same parts.

The nature of my invention consists in constructing iron fences with sectional or
20 divided posts, having slots therein, so arranged, as to break joint with each other when in place, and with rails made with an eye or loop in each end, which will pass through the slots in the two parts of the
25 post when placed opposite each other, and which will prevent them from slipping through said slots when the tops of the pieces constituting the posts are flush with each other, thus making the rails hold the
30 sections and panels together, and the posts hold the rails in place, without the use of wedges, keys, bolts, or other fastenings of any kind. It being a portable fence, easily removed, put up or taken down, without any
35 fastenings but those in the construction of the post and rails themselves.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe the same with reference to the drawings.
40

The posts A are made of two pieces of flat bar iron of suitable size, having their lower ends bent round (as shown in Fig. 3,) so that the broadest part of the bar shall
45 enter the ground and stand parallel with the fence, and be opposed to any force applied against either side thereof, (as seen in Figs. 1 and 4). The slots *a*, in the two pieces (Fig. 3,) which when put together
50 form the post, are so formed as that the rounded or enlarged parts thereof shall be at the top of the slot in one of the sections, and at the bottom of the slot in the other; the upper one for holding the upper rail
55 and the lower one for holding the lower, or rail immediately below it, as seen in Fig. 4.

The rounded parts of the slots are beveled or countersunk from the face of the posts (shown by the left hand drawing of Fig. 3,) so as to take in a portion of the dead eye, 60 or loop upon the ends of the rails, and which when drawn in serves as a wedge for holding the posts firmly together as well as the sections which constitute the post; the rails which lie in the posts, the one immediately over the other, being so put in as to have their dead eyes or loops on opposite sides of the same post. A small bolt, or common wooden pin *b*, may be used to hold the panels, or the sections of the posts together while putting them up, but when the ends of the post as shown in Fig. 4, are firmly driven into the ground, it will remain perfectly rigid, the rails and posts
75 tending to hold each other together. If it is desirable to make the fence permanent, the ends of the posts may be set in stone or other blocks properly prepared for that purpose.

The rails B, are made of round iron, having a dead eye or loop turned in each end, which are slipped through the slots in the post, in the position of that shown in Fig. 2, and when passed through, is turned half round into the position shown in Fig. 1, so
85 that the loop on the upper rail may rest flatwise on the loop of the lower rail, and which when the whole fence is strained up, prevents the rails from being turned or loosened, or taken out. The forming of the rails, as well as the bending and punching of the posts are all done by machinery, and when put up in fagots may be easily transported anywhere.

It will be perceived, that when the loops 95 are to be passed through the slots, the tops of the posts will not be flush with each other, but one above the other; but when they are driven into the ground so as to be flush on top, the slots which break joint will so have closed the spaces in each other, as to only leave room for the rails, as seen in Fig. 4, and the rails cannot be removed, without first drawing the posts out of the ground, and moving them sufficiently far to allow
100 the flat parts of the loops to run past each other, so that they can be turned half round to bring them in line with the slots, when they can be slipped out.

At suitable distances in the line of the fence I place screw-buckles *c*, for tightening up the rails, so as to make the whole fence
110

firm, and which may also be used for taking up or letting out the rails, to compensate for the contraction and expansion of the metal. I have found however by experience that
5 when the fence is built in sections or panels of twelve fifteen or twenty feet, more or less, and the strain by contraction comes on the loop of the rail, as herein described, the loops will yield almost if not quite enough
10 to allow for such contraction. The screw buckle is useful however, in straining up the fence, and may be made very cheap of common gas pipe cut into suitable lengths, with a female screw cut in it, into which the
15 screws having an eye into which to hook the rail, is run.

The method of arranging the fence, is to put the panels together on the ground, having the ends of the posts near the spot where
20 they are to be driven in, then raise up the fence and drive the posts into the ground firmly. When thus put together, holes might be so drilled or punched in the sections of the posts, as to bring the slots opposite each other, and by a pin through said
25 holes, hold them in such position until the

rails are properly arranged, and the fence raised up, when the pin should be withdrawn, and the posts driven into the ground until the tops of the sections which constitute the posts are flush on top as seen in Fig. 4. 30

Having thus fully described the nature of my invention, and the manner of constructing the same, what I claim therein as new 35 and desire to secure by Letters Patent,

Is the manner herein described of securing the rails of iron fences, by means of sectional or divided posts having slots therein which are so arranged that when in place, they 40 break joint with each other, the slot in one section extending upward, and the slot in the other downward so closing the slots as to prevent the rails which have a loop or dead eye turned on each end for that purpose 45 from passing through or coming out, as herein fully set forth.

JOHN B. WICKERSHAM.

Witnesses:

B. K. MORSELL,
A. B. STOUGHTON.