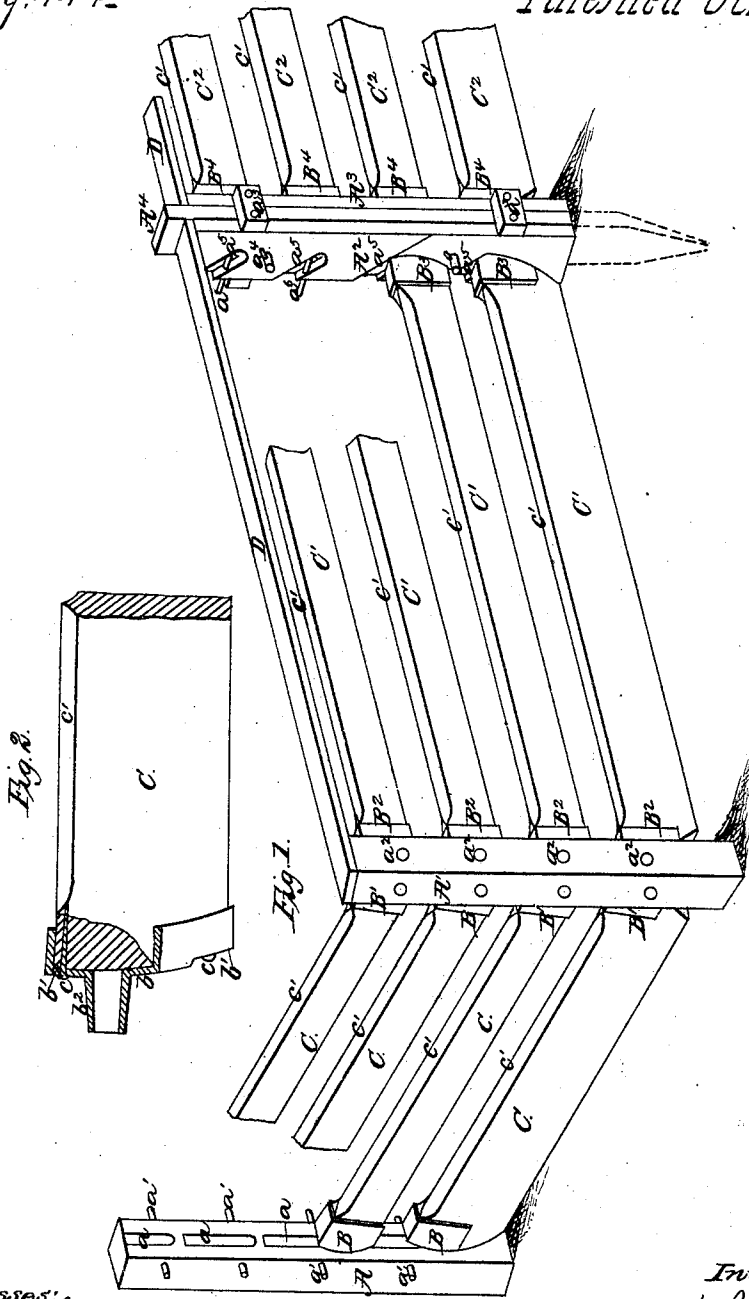


N. Johnson,
Portable Fence,

N^o 69,444-

Patented Oct. 1, 1867.



Witnesses:
Chas. D. Smith.
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United States Patent Office.

NELSON JOHNSON, OF JASPER, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 69,444, dated October 1, 1867.

IMPROVEMENT IN FENCE.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, NELSON JOHNSON, of Jasper, in the county of Steuben, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in 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, which are made a part of this specification.

My invention consists in securing the ends of the boards in metallic sockets, of suitable construction, hung eccentrically on pivots, so as to swing with the wind, to diminish the opposing surface of the fence, and thus prevent its being blown down or otherwise injured by the wind; also in a novel construction of posts for supporting said pivoted boards, and the manner of mounting them therein. In the drawings—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved fence, certain parts being broken away to more clearly show its construction.

Figure 2 is an enlarged view of one end of a board with a metallic socket applied, showing it partly in section.

A represents a post, in the vertical slots *a* of which the gudgeons of the sockets B on one end of the boards C, are pivoted, and in which they are secured by the pins *a'*; the gudgeons of the sockets B' on the opposite end of the board being secured in holes, the outer ends of which are represented at *a''* in the post A'.

A² A³ represent upright battens or boards, of suitable width, secured together by strips *a³*, between which the post A' is driven, and to which they are fastened by the pin *a'*. These battens are provided with the necessary holes or slots for the reception of the gudgeons, in this case oblique slots *a²*, in which the gudgeons of the sockets B² on one end of the boards C' are pivoted and secured by pins *a²*, those of the sockets B² on the opposite ends being secured in holes in the post A', similarly to those of the sockets B', and so on, the gudgeons of the sockets B' on the ends of the boards C² being pivoted in round holes in the batten A², and those on the opposite end in slots in the succeeding battens, either form of post and slots being used. I prefer that post composed of the battens A² A³, with the post or stake A' driven between them, as that form is much more readily constructed, and may be much more easily removed when desired. When the solid posts are used I prefer the vertical slots, as they are much more easily made in that way, in that form of post, and when the battens are used the others are preferable, for the same reason. However, either form may be used, when desired, in either form of post. The bearings for the gudgeons should be large enough to allow them to revolve freely therein.

D D represent longitudinal braces, which prevent the sagging of the posts in that direction, which might serve to bind the gudgeons and prevent their rotation.

The metallic sockets are constructed as represented in fig. 2, their interior being of suitable size to receive the end of an ordinary fencing-board, slightly flaring towards their bottom, *b*, which is provided with apertures *b'*, to admit the wedges *c* which are driven into the end of the board C, to force it into the flaring form of the socket and thus secure it therein. It is also provided with a gudgeon, *b²*, which I prefer to cast hollow, as represented, as it renders the socket much lighter and less expensive, while at the same time it answers every purpose of the solid one, and is as easily cast. I further construct the end or back *b* of the socket of curved form, to permit the slope of the boards on the hill-sides. When the board exceeds in breadth the length of the socket, (which is often desirable as the bottom board,) as represented in the drawings, the socket may be applied to it by cutting or sawing a slit in the end of the board and driving one end of the socket into it, and wedging, as before described, and narrower boards may be used by inserting additional wedges above and below them, through the openings in the sockets. The upper edge of the boards C, C', &c., is bevelled or sharpened, as represented at *c'*, so that when raised by the wind as small a surface as possible will be presented to it.

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

1. The skeleton metallic sockets, having either hollow or solid gudgeons, and otherwise constructed and operating substantially as described for the purpose set forth.
2. The boards C C' C², having bevelled upper edges *c'*, substantially as and for the purpose specified.
3. The combination of the battens A² A³, strips *a³*, post or stake A', pin *a'*, and brace D, substantially as and for the purpose described.
4. The combination of the socket B, wedges *c c'*, and board C, substantially as and for the purpose specified.
5. The slots *a a²*, gudgeons *b*, and pins *a' a²*, combined and arranged substantially as described.

To the above specification of my new and useful improvement in fences I have signed my hand this 15th day of July, A. D. 1867.

NELSON JOHNSON.

Witnesses:

J. E. M. BOWEN;
OCTAVIUS KNIGHT.