

(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

T. J. GAY.

DEVICE FOR MOVING AND HOLDING STAGE CARPETS.

No. 393,754.

Patented Dec. 4, 1888.

Fig. 1.

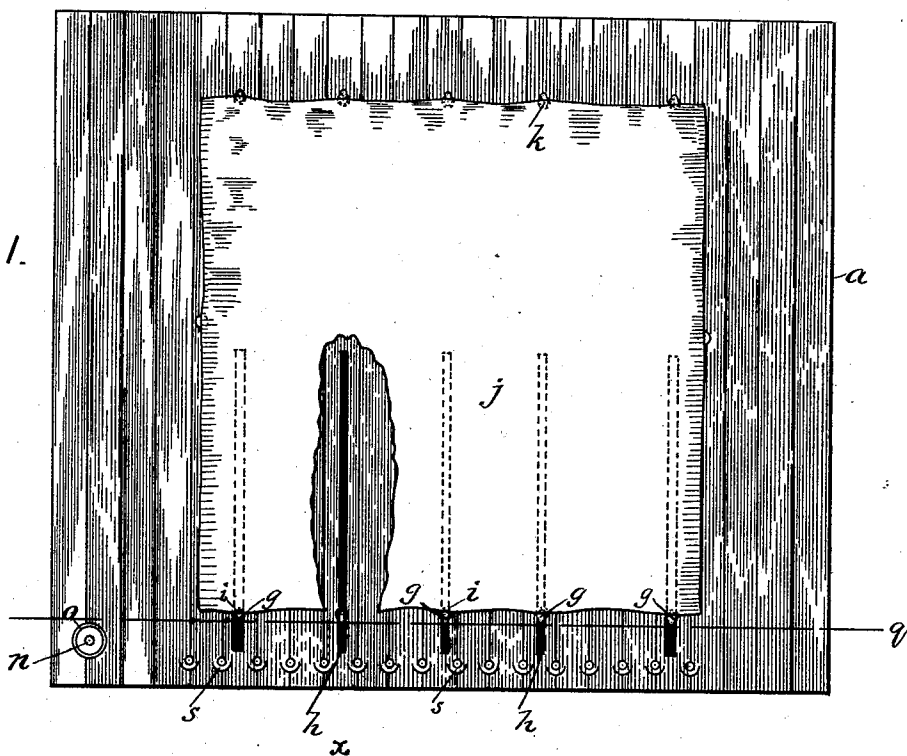
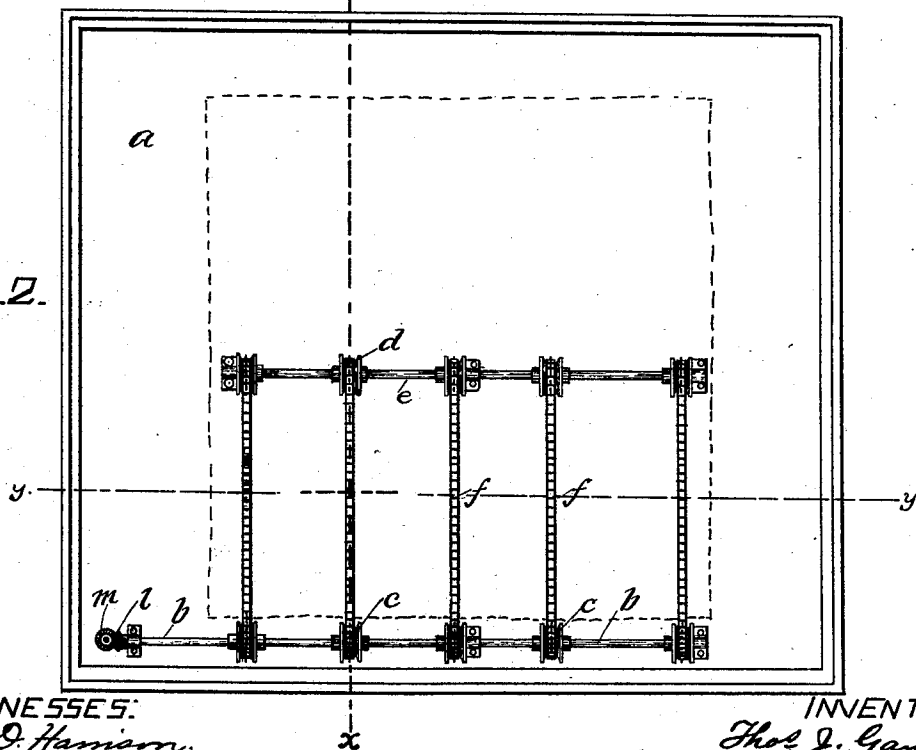


Fig. 2.



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FIG. 4.

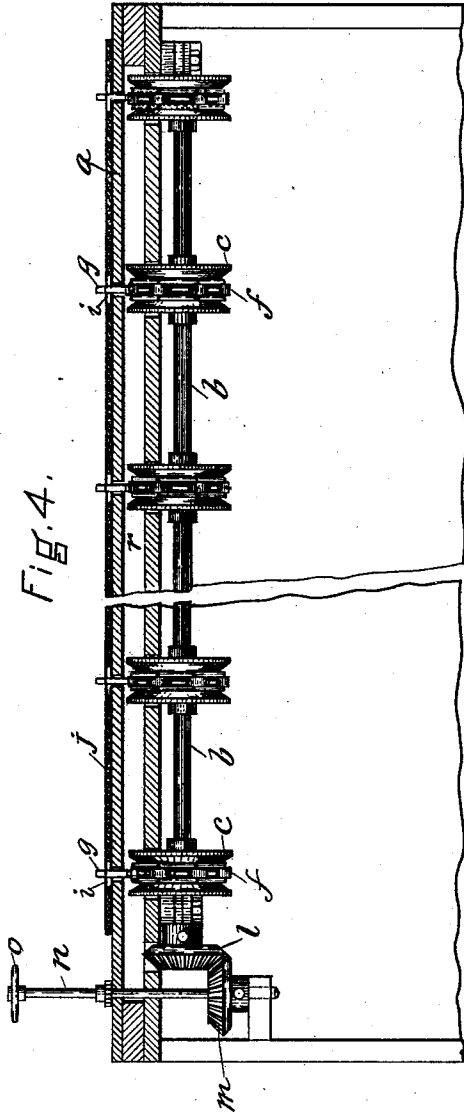
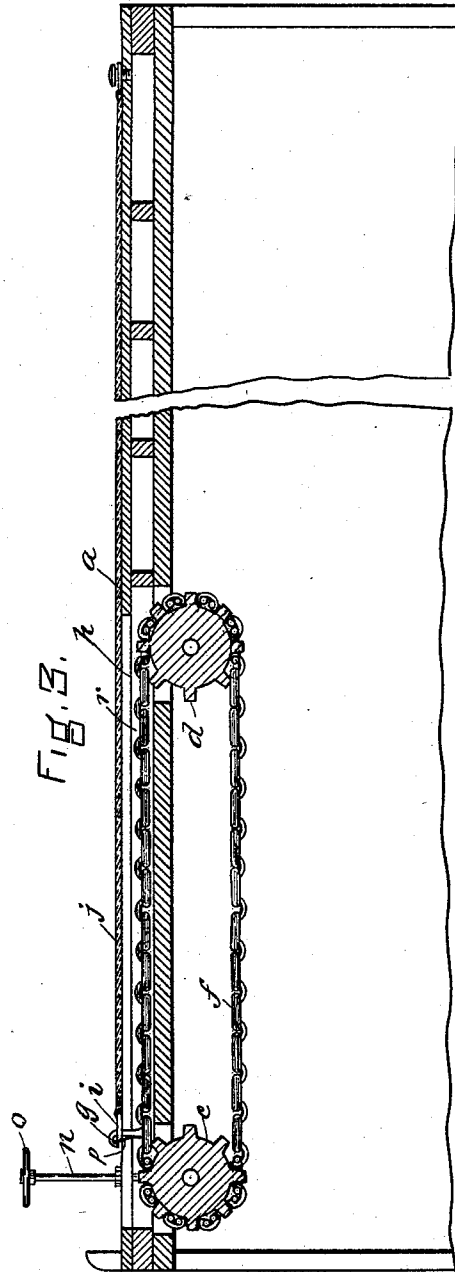


FIG. 3.



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3 Sheets—Sheet 3.

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DEVICE FOR MOVING AND HOLDING STAGE CARPETS.

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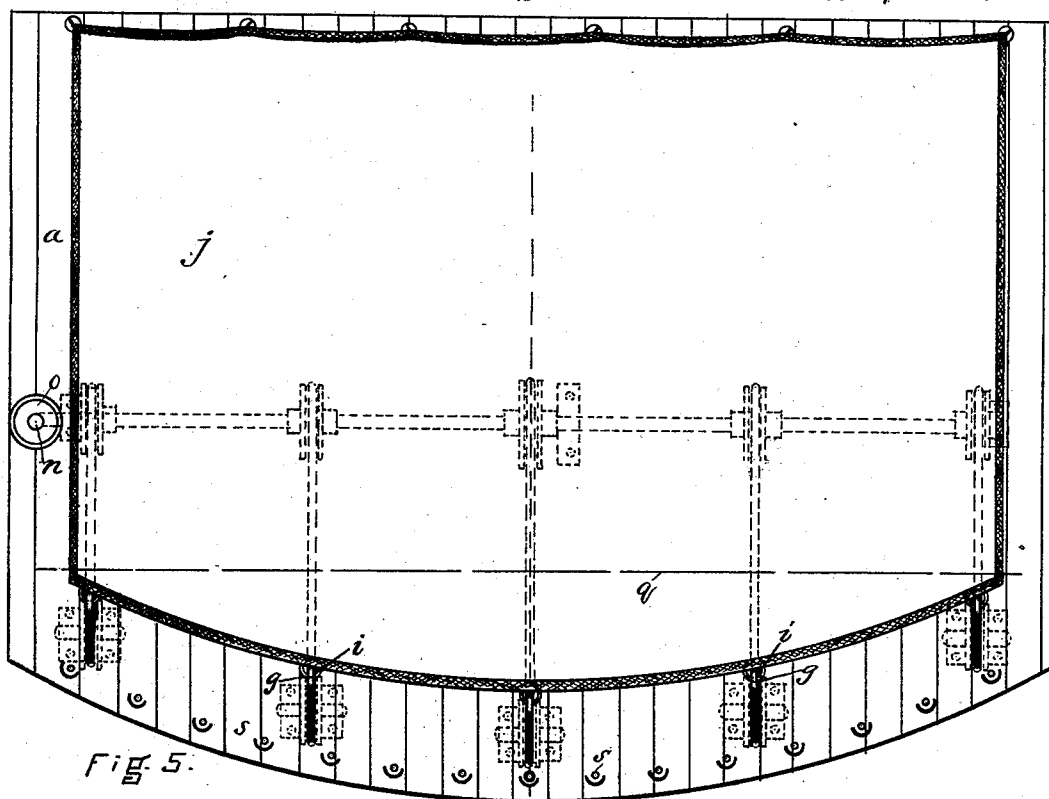


Fig. 5.

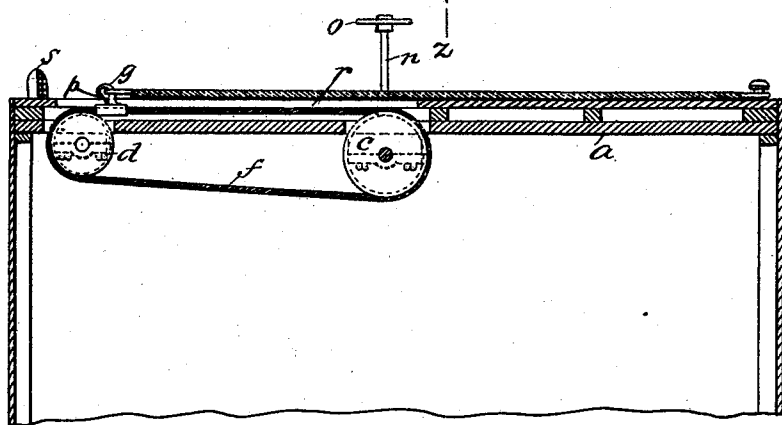


Fig. 6.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS J. GAY, OF LACONIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, ASSIGNOR TO BENJAMIN F. STORY AND SUMNER E. BLACKSTONE, OF SAME PLACE.

DEVICE FOR MOVING AND HOLDING STAGE-CARPETS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 393,754, dated December 4, 1888.

Application filed January 21, 1888. Serial No. 261,445. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS J. GAY, of Laconia, in the county of Belknap and State of New Hampshire, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Devices for Moving and Holding Stage-Carpets, of which the following is a specification.

It is the object of my invention to provide means whereby a carpet or other floor-covering may be automatically drawn or carried on a stage or rostrum from the rear of the drop-curtain, underneath the same, and up to its place at or near the foot-lights, and there held in position when wanted for use, and whereby, also, the carpet may be automatically drawn from in front of the drop-curtain, under and to the rear of the same, as, when during a performance, it is wanted to change the floor-covering of the stage or employ the bare floor.

It is well known by all those having acquaintance with stage equipments or paraphernalia and the giving of theatrical entertainments that it is frequently necessary to take up and put down or change the stage-carpet, and that this thing is often required to be done during the performance, and when so necessitated attendants are called who drag the carpet under the drop-curtain and forward to the foot-lights, where they stretch it over fastenings, or loose the carpet from its fastenings at the foot-lights and drag it back under the drop-curtain. This work is attended with the consumption of a not inconsiderable amount of time, and frequently with accidents, owing to the small amount of space between the forward edge of the carpet and the foot-lights, upon which space the attendant is obliged to work in stretching and fastening the carpet. Again, this common manner of putting down, taking up, and changing the stage-carpet not infrequently mars or interrupts the performance.

By my invention the difficulties and disadvantages mentioned are overcome, said invention consisting of chains, cords, or ropes provided with hooks or similar devices adapted to be attached to the edge of the carpet, combined with suitable means for supporting and operating the chains, cords, or ropes, so that the carpet may be attached to the hooks or

similar devices back of the drop-curtain and the chains or ropes to which the hooks are attached operated by mechanical means, out of the sight of the audience, to carry the carpet up to place near the foot-lights, and there hold it in position or draw it back under the drop-curtain, to be removed.

I will now proceed to describe the invention, so that others skilled in the art may be able to make and use the invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, forming a part of this specification, of which drawings—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a square-front stage having my invention applied thereto, a square of carpet being shown in position and drawn up toward though not fully to place at the foot-lights, and a portion of the carpet being represented as cut away to better exhibit the construction of the stage therebeneath. Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a sectional view on the line *x x* of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a sectional view on the line *y y* of Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a top plan view of a round-front stage equipped with my invention and having a carpet in position thereon. Fig. 6 is a section on the line *z z*, Fig. 5, showing also slight modifications of the invention.

The same letters of reference designate the same parts in all of the views.

In the drawings, let *a* designate the floor of a stage, rostrum, or platform, which may have a straight front, as shown in Fig. 1, or the front may be rounded or bowed, as represented in Fig. 5.

Having reference to Figs. 1 to 4, inclusive, *b* designates a shaft journaled in suitable bearings fixed to the under side of the floor *a*, near the front thereof, on which shaft, at suitable intervals, are secured sprocket-wheels *c*, around which and similar wheels or pulleys, *d*, secured to a shaft, *e*, arranged farther back on the under side of the floor, pass chains *f*, provided at proper points with hooks *g*, which extend barely through slots *h* in the floor *a*, so that they may be engaged with rings, eyes, or similar devices, *i*, secured to or formed in the forward edge of

the carpet *j*, which may be secured at its rear edge and sides, as at *k*, to the stage-floor. On one end of the shaft *b* is secured a bevel-pinion, *l*, which is engaged with a like bevel-pinion, *m*, on the vertical shaft *n*, provided on its upper end with a hand-wheel, *o*, whereby the shaft *b* may be rotated so as to move chains *f* and their attached hooks *g*, and carry or draw the forward edge of the carpet *j* backward or forward any distance within the limits of the slots *h*.

It is obvious that any other suitable means for rotating shaft *b* may be employed in place of that shown, the means made use of for the purpose depending upon the circumstances and conveniences of each case, and so changes may be made in the form and arrangement of other parts of the invention; for example, instead of having the wheels or pulleys mounted on the shaft *e*, each of said pulleys may be made independent of the others in its supporting means and the shaft *e* dispensed with.

To prevent the carpet *j* from becoming disengaged from the hooks *g*, I provide the latter with spring-tongues *p*, which permit of the ready engagement of the rings or eyes *i* and prevent them from becoming accidentally disconnected therefrom in moving the carpet back and forth under the drop-curtain, which may be supposed to have position along the line *q*.

The chains *f* may be arranged so that the upper portion moving between the two wheels or pulleys *c* *d* shall pass through a way, *r*, formed between the two layers of boards comprising the flooring of the stage, as shown in Figs. 3, 4, and 6; or said portions of the chains may be made to move entirely underneath the floor and pass through any cross-timbers that may be in the way.

In some instances the position of the sprocket-wheels *c* and their rotary shaft and the wheels or pulleys *d* may be changed—that is, the rotary shaft *b* and its attached sprocket-wheels may be secured to the under side of the stage-floor to the rear of the drop-curtain *q* and the wheels or pulleys *d* near to or under the foot-lights *s*, as represented in Figs. 5 and 6—this construction and arrangement of parts being desirable, if not essential, where the front of the stage is rounding or bowed, as shown in Fig. 5, in which case the size of the sprocket-wheels *c* may be varied, or the hooks *g* arranged on the chains *f* at different points considered with regard to the line of the drop-curtain, in order that when the carpet is drawn taut along the foot-lights *s* all portions of the same will be under the same degree of ten-

sion, or, in other words, the carpet will be properly stretched over the floor *a*.

Instead of employing chains to which the hooks *g* are secured, cords or ropes may be employed, as shown in Fig. 6.

The operation of my invention will now be understood without much, if any, further description. Supposing the drop-curtain to be down and that it is desired to stretch and secure a carpet on the floor, the shaft *b* will be rotated so as to bring the hooks *g* on the chains to the rear of the curtain, when the carpet will be secured to the floor at *k* and attached at its forward edge to the hooks *g* of the chain, and by the rotation of shaft *b* in the proper direction the carpet will be drawn under the drop-curtain to or toward the foot-lights, where it may be held by locking shaft *b* against rotation by any suitable means. To take up or remove the carpet when the drop-curtain is down, the shaft *b* will be rotated in a direction opposite to that in which it was moved when the carpet was stretched or spread in place, which operation will draw the forward edge of the carpet under the drop-curtain to the rear of the same, where it may be taken up and removed by attendants entirely out of sight of the audience.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. The stage-floor provided with slots or grooves, combined with movable cords, ropes, or chains provided with hooks extending into or through the slots or grooves in the floor, whereby a carpet may be attached to the hooks and moved from place to place and held in position on the floor, substantially as set forth.

2. The stage-floor combined with chains, cords, or ropes provided with hooks adapted to engage the edge of a carpet, a rotary shaft, sprocket-wheels on said shaft over which said chain, cords, or ropes pass, and additional wheels or pulleys for supporting and guiding the chain, as set forth.

3. The stage-floor provided with slots or grooves, combined with a rotary shaft, *b*, provided with a sprocket-wheel, *c*, a wheel or pulley, *d*, and a chain, cord, or rope, *f*, provided with a hook, *g*, extending into said slot in the floor, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses, this 16th day of January, A. D. 1888.

THOMAS J. GAY.

Witnesses:

STEPHEN S. JEWETT,
JAMES H. STORY.