

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TABLE OR STOOL TOP OR CHAIR-BOTTOM.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM W. SINCLAIR, a citizen of the United States, residing at Phoenix, in the county of Oswego and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Table or Stool Tops or Chair-Bottoms; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a table-top (or stool-top or chair-bottom as well) with attached legs and representing a portion of the woven fabric or strands of the top broken away for the purpose of partially showing the underneath adjacent portions of the rectangular bed-frame or stretcher, &c.; Fig. 2, an enlarged bottom plan of the table-top (or likewise stool-top or chair-bottom) mounted on its supporting legs or standards and showing the places where the splints are joined. Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail illustrating a slight variation or modification of my main construction, said modified construction preferably being embodied in the formation of stool-tops, wherein greater lightness in weight is oftentimes desirable and advantageous.

Similar letters and figures of reference denote corresponding parts throughout the several views of the drawings.

My invention relates, broadly, to table and stool tops, chair bottoms or backs, and analogous articles of furniture wherein strands or splints of cane, bamboo, or other material in the form of strands woven or interlaced together are utilized, wherein my novel features of construction are susceptible of application or embodiment without involving any material departure from the true scope or spirit of the subject-matter comprising my invention.

Primarily my invention relates to a new and improved construction of table-tops, chair-bottoms, and stool-tops.

The object of my invention is to simplify and coincidentally increase the strength and durability of table or stool tops, chair-bottoms, and analogous furniture incorporating woven or twisted strands of bamboo, &c., with the use of a comparatively small amount of splint

material or other suitable strands, and concurrently producing a very strong and thoroughly-braced article of furniture, and coincidentally creating an article of the aforesaid class of much more artistic appearance or configuration than usual or attainable under the common or ordinary manner of construction, a formation that insures the perfect bracing of and retention in parallel horizontal position of the bed-frame or bars or rails entering into the construction of a table or stool top or chair-bottom proper and the auxiliary and independent horizontally-disposed rails or rounds erected at a distance beneath the aforementioned portions, a construction which admits of the ready weaving of a single layer of strands or splints of split bamboo, &c., upon the bed-frame or stretcher of a table or stool top, chair-bottom, and analogous articles and creating interwoven side portions prior to the attachment to the said bed-frame or stretcher of supporting-legs or a back or arms wherein the requisite reversal of a strand or splint may readily be accomplished at a non-prominent point and expeditiously, and in the novel, advantageous, and serviceable combining of a number of short or medium length strands or splints employed in my construction into one continuous strand of suitable length possessed of requisite strength and tenacity, and insuring (in the weaving) the disposition of the secured extremities at the inside and practically out of sight of a casual observer, and also other improvements in the detail construction of my device imparting increased effectiveness and value thereto, as hereinafter described.

My invention consists in the several novel features of construction and combination of parts hereinafter described, and which are specifically enumerated in the clauses of the claim hereunto annexed.

It is constructed as follows:

A represents the rectangular bed-frame or stretcher, comprising four bars or rails *aaaa*, rigidly connected together at their ends, and thus forming a practically continuous rectangular-shaped frame for the woven covering, the said connected bars usually consisting of flat pieces of suitable wood. Securely inserted in and pendent from the under surface of the

bed-frame or stretcher at or in close proximity to its respective corners are inverted corner-posts B B B B, which extend downward a suitable distance vertically and respectively comprise a swelled or enlarged lower extremity *b* and a contracted or stem portion *c* adjacent to or at its point of insertion into a bar of the bed-frame. Firmly attached to the swelled extremity *b* of the respective corner-posts B are horizontal rounds or bars *d d d d*, respectively extending from one post to the opposite post, and so on, and thereby creating an auxiliary or strengthening frame C, of rectangular shape, disposed at a distance beneath the bed-frame A, its outer or boundary edges—*i. e.*, of each round or bar *d*—being lineal vertically with the boundary edges of the aforesaid bed-frame.

As is apparent, the auxiliary frame C (or each individual bar *d* thereof) is entirely distinct and independent of the bed-frame A, except through its indirect connection therewith through the medium of its supporting corner-posts B, that are rigidly pendent from the overhead bed-frame or stretcher A.

My object in having the swelled extremity *b* on the pendent corner-posts is to afford a secure and strong hold or bearing for the inserted extremities of the rounds *d* without the necessity of having the upper ends of larger diameter, and thereby necessitating but a comparatively small aperture *e* in the bed-frame for their reception and insuring a stronger bearing through non-weakening of the material surrounding the aperture, as would not be the case were the diameter of the aperture and inserted end of corner-post excessive.

D is the woven-fabric portion of the table or stool top or chair-bottom, &c., as the case may be, consisting of woven or interlaced strands or splints *s* of cane, bamboo, or other suitable material woven in any desired or preferred pattern, the strands composing said top or bottom extending downwardly a distance to a support at either side, as shown, and thereby forming escarpments or vertical flanges D' to the horizontal upper fabric D.

In my construction of the aforesaid parts D and D' the strand or splint *s* (of whatever material) is applied by commencing as in the construction of the common or ordinary double bottom; but instead of bringing the strand or splint over the top of the bed-frame or bed bars or rails and then around under and back to the starting-point at the opposite side of the frame I proceed and bring the strand *s* over the top of the bed-frame and over the upper surface of a bed-frame bar *a*, and thence vertically downward alongside the outer edge of the bar and continuing downward a distance to and once around a horizontal round or bar *d* of the auxiliary or strengthening frame C, and then, forming a twist *f* at the inner side, upward and incliningly outward to and over the outer face edge of the aforesaid bar *a* of the bed-frame A,

and thence horizontally over the top thereof to the opposite bar *a* of said bed-frame or stretcher, where the same operation is repeated until the said bed-frame A is filled or covered with strands or splints *s*, running in one direction, and the cross-strands or splints *s* are secured at either opposite ends in like manner and woven with the first-named strands to form any pattern desired, and whereby a single layer or thickness of woven strands is formed by the utilization of the round or bar *d* for the attachment to and ready reversal of the strand or splint. The adjacent contacting ends of the individual strands or splints are placed parallel with each other and secured together, thereby forming one continuous splint or strand. When this resultant continuous strand or splint is applied to the bed-frame or auxiliary frame of my device in the formation of the woven-fabric portion, the numerous spliced or attached ends (shown at *w*, Fig. 2) are located underneath or interiorly and practically out of sight.

i i i i are binding-strips secured by screws, nails, or other suitable fastenings to the outer edges of the bed-frame A outside of and bearing against the interposed strands or splints *s* and tending to not only increase the solidity and strength of the bed-frame and as a protection against any possible accidental bruising or other injury to the strands lying along the vertical edges of the frame A, but concurrently serving to give to the completed table or stool top or chair-bottom a more ornamental appearance.

The function of the escarpments or flanges D', integral with the woven-fabric portion D, is to brace, stiffen, and generally strengthen the complete table or stool top or chair-bottom of which they form a component part, for, as readily discernible, the strands or splints *s* laterally and downwardly extending to and around the rounds or bars *d* accomplish that purpose, the position of the taut strands *s* and their peculiar connection serving to retain the bars *a* of the bed-frame and the rounds or bars *d* of the auxiliary frame entirely parallel, and consequently practically creating a truss-support to the bed-frame or stretcher A. As is evident, this result is secured in an ornamental manner, and by my erection of the rounds or bars *d* at some distance beneath the overhead bars or rails *a* and their outer edges practically lineal on a vertical plane with the outer edges of said overhead bars *a* far greater rigidity, strength, and compactness are attained (through the medium of the attached connecting strands or splints *s*) than would be possible were the lower rounds or bars *d* against or in very close proximity to the upper bars *a* of the bed-frame, lying parallel therewith. Moreover, the arrangement and attachment of the various strands *s* insures a direct and positive tension upon the respective bars or rounds *a* and *d* and necessarily retains them parallel.

1 1 1 1 are the legs or standards supporting the bed-frame and attached portions constituting my improved table-top, chair-bottom, or stool-top and having the usual cross rounds or bars *m* for imparting additional stability to the complete table, chair, &c, the upper ends of the legs 1 being secured in perforations *n*, cut into the bottom face of bars *a* of the bed-frame adjacent to its corners.

10 By dotted lines *o o* I illustrate the preferable and usual plan outline of the bed-frame, &c., when constructed for usage as a chair-seat.

15 Fig. 3 of the drawings illustrates a slight modification in my construction in that in said variation the top-bars *a* (preferably cylindrical) are inserted at their extremities into the posts or supports instead of the posts or legs being inserted into a rectangular frame, as embodied in my main construction, and the lower bars or rounds *d* enter at their extremities into the posts or supports, as in my main construction, while the strands or splints are disposed similarly to the manner 20 illustrated in main formation. This modified construction is especially advantageous in the manufacture of foot or other small or medium-sized stools, wherein greater lightness in weight is desirable.

30 Obviously by diminishing the size of the bed-frame shown in my main construction and increasing somewhat the length of the inverted corner-posts therein employed to answer the purpose of supporting-legs a stool is resultant, the supporting-legs primarily employed in the adaptation of my device for table or stool tops or chair-bottom purposes being of course in this instance dispensed with. Yet lightness in weight corresponding 40 or approaching to a stool constructed in accordance with my modified formation does not, in my opinion, seem attainable; but, aside from its being somewhat heavier, a perfect, durable, and highly ornamental stool is insured.

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

50 1. The herein-described table, stool, or chair, comprising an open main frame having legs secured thereto, downward projections extending from the corners of said frame, longitudinal and transverse bars located diametrically beneath the bars of the main frame 55 and having their ends secured to said downward projections, thereby forming a supple-

mental or auxiliary frame, the bars of which are out of contact with the bars of said main frame, and the woven strands or splints forming the tops of the table or stool and the seat 60 of the chair, said strands or splints passing over a bar of the main frame, extending thence perpendicularly downward to and around an adjacent bar or round of the auxiliary frame, thence upward and outward in an inclined 65 direction from the auxiliary bar to and over the before-mentioned bar of the main frame and horizontally inward therefrom, said strands or splints having a twist between said bars, whereby their faces are reversed, and 70 the individual strands or splints having their adjacent contacting ends secured together.

2. A table and stool top or chair-bottom comprising the main open frame A, having the bars or rails *a*, the posts B, projecting 75 downward a short distance from the corners of said frame, the bars or rails *d*, secured at their ends to said corner-posts, the woven strands or splints passing over said bars *a*, thence downward and around said bars *d*, 80 thence upward and over the bars *a*, said strands or splints being twisted between said bars *a* and *d* at the inner side thereof, the contacting ends of the adjacent strands or splints being secured together, and strips *i*, 85 secured to said bars *a* over said strands, all substantially as shown and described.

3. The herein-described table, stool, or chair, comprising an open main frame having legs secured thereto, an open supplemental or auxiliary frame beneath said main frame and in non-contact therewith, and the woven strands or splints forming the tops of the table or stool and the seat of the chair, said strands or splints passing over a bar of the main frame, 95 extending thence perpendicularly downward to and around an adjacent bar or round of the auxiliary frame, thence upward and outward in an inclined direction from the auxiliary bar to and over the before-mentioned 100 bar of the main frame and horizontally inward therefrom, said strands or splints having a twist between said bars, whereby their faces are reversed, and the individual strands or splints having their adjacent contacting 105 ends placed parallel with each other and secured together.

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Witnesses:

B. T. MASON,
O. E. WARD.