M. SMITH.

Fruit-Gatherer.

No. 166,418. Patented Aug. 3, 1875.

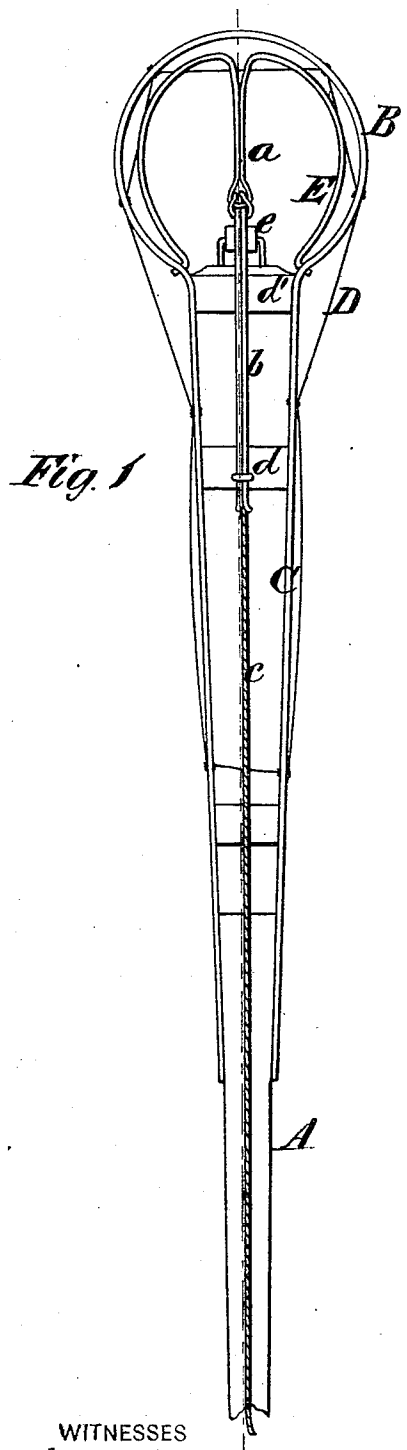

Fig. 1

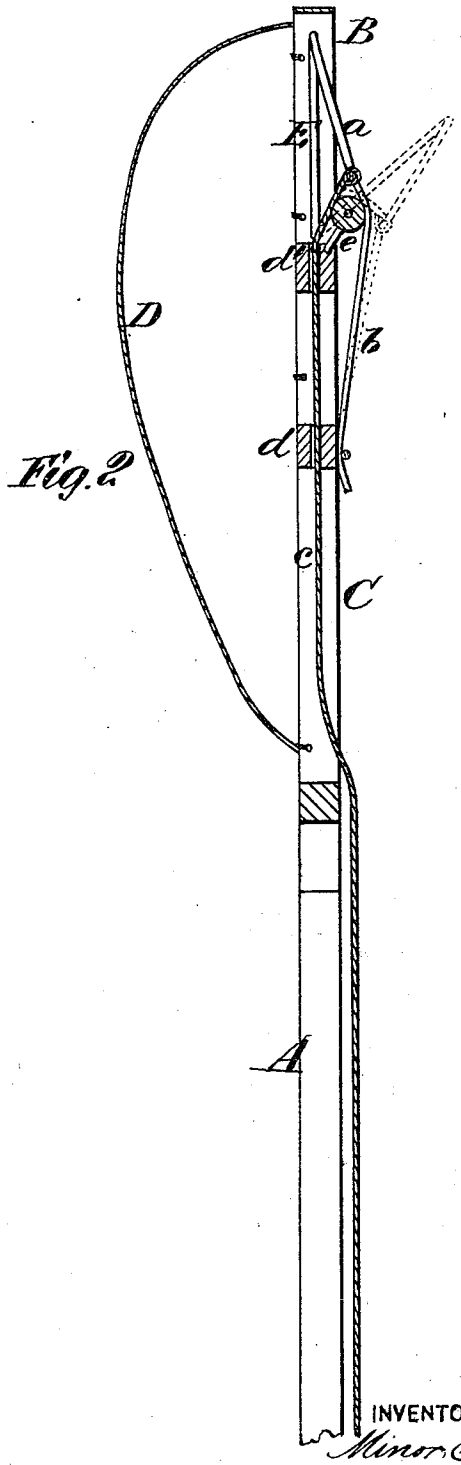

Fig. 2

WITNESSES

Eugene W. Johnson.

Geo. E. Strauss.

INVENTOR

Minor Smith,

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ATTORNEYS

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MINOR SMITH, OF CAYUTAVILLE, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN FRUIT-GATHERERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **166,418**, dated August 3, 1875; application filed March 20, 1875

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MINOR SMITH, of Cayutaville, in the county of Schuyler and State of New York, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Fruit-Gatherers; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawing is a representation of a plan view of my fruit-gatherer, and Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of the same.

This invention has relation to devices for gathering apples and other fruits which grow on trees; and the nature of my invention consists in a novel mode of constructing and operating the movable jaw which plucks the fruit, as will be hereinafter explained.

In the annexed drawings, A designates the staff of the device, which may be of any suitable length. To the upper end of this staff a jaw, B, is rigidly secured, which jaw is nearly a complete circle, and it is made of strap-iron, with a long shank, C. To the back of the jaw and its shank a bag, D, is attached, into which the fruit falls as it is plucked from the tree. F designates the movable jaw, which, in form, is obcordate, and which is made of one piece of wire, the ends of which are pivoted at the angles of the jaw B, as shown in Fig. 1. To the tongue *a* of the jaw E a spring, *b*, and a rope, *c*, are attached. The spring *b* is secured to a cross-bar, *d*, of the shank C, and the rope *c* passes over a pulley, *e*, on a cross-bar, *d'*, through this bar and the bar *d'*, and extends down to the hand of the operator. The spring *b* acts to open the jaw E, and the rope *c* is used for closing this jaw.

It will be observed that the rubber spring *b* passes through the staple in the cross-bar *d*, and that the tension of the spring may be varied at pleasure, to regulate the compressing force of the movable jaws. I am aware that fixed and movable jaws of the same form have heretofore been employed in connection with a pull-cord, as shown in Letters Patent granted to I. Towers, dated September 24, 1867, numbered 69,144. I therefore lay no claim to such invention.

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

In a fruit-picker, the combination of the circular fixed jaw B, having a long shank, C, the bag D attached thereto, the movable jaw E, of obcordate form, the ends of which are pivoted at the angles of the fixed jaw B, the adjustable spring *b*, operating-rope *c*, cross-bar *d'*, provided with grooved pulley *e*, and the stapled cross-bar *d*, substantially as described, and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

MINOR SMITH.

Witnesses:
J. W. SMITH,
E. B. STULL.