J. M. KEEP.

Clothes and Towel Racks.

No. 149,868. Patented April 21, 1874.

Fig. 1.

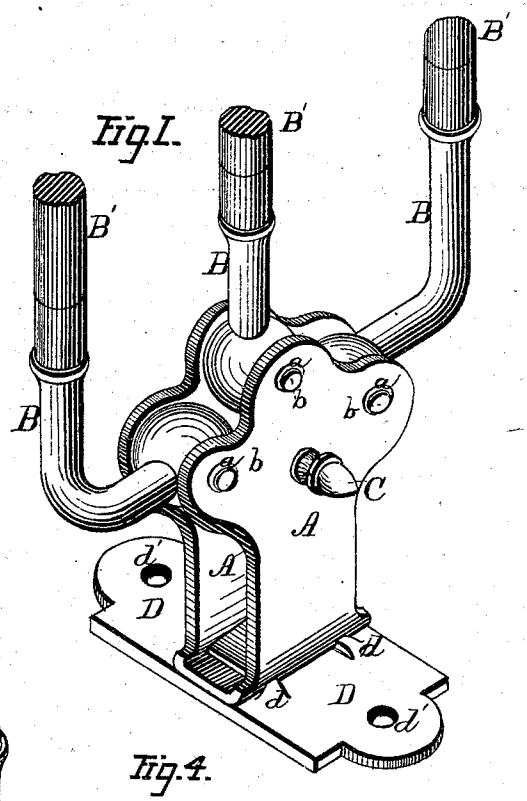


Fig. 3.

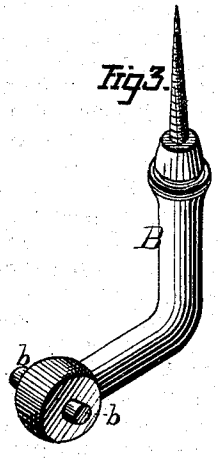


Fig. 4.

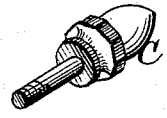


Fig. 5.

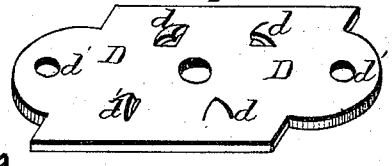
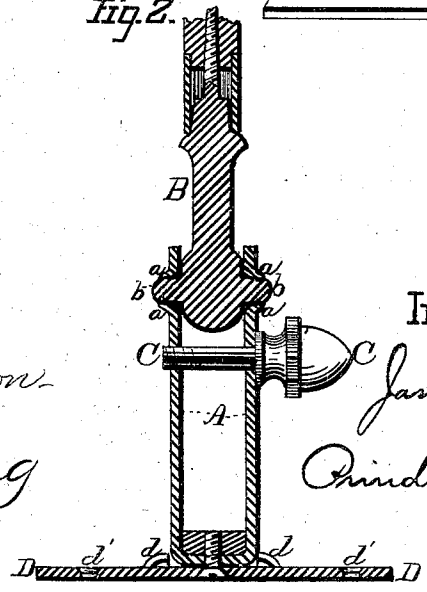


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES:

Jas. E. Hutchinson

John R. Young

INVENTOR.

James M. Keep, by

Prindle and Le. his Attys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES M. KEEP, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO JOANNA N. KEEP, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN CLOTHES AND TOWEL RACKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **149,868**, dated April 21, 1874; application filed August 30, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES M. KEEP, of New York city, in the county of New York and in the State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clothes and Towel Racks; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the bracket and of the rear or pivotal ends of the rack-bars. Fig. 2 is a central section of the same upon a line extending from front to rear. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the shank or pivotal end of a rack-bar. Fig. 4 is a like view of the binding-screw, and Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the seat-plate of the bracket.

Letters of like name and kind refer to like parts in each of the figures.

The object of my invention is to increase the efficiency and durability of a towel or clothes rack and render the same more easy of adjustment to place, to which end it consists, principally, in the construction and combination of the bracket and its seat-plate, substantially as and for the purpose hereinafter specified. It consists, further, in the means employed for combining the rack-bars or arms with the brackets, substantially as and for the purpose hereinafter shown. It consists, further, in constructing the bracket and base-plate, or either of them, of or from wrought-metal plate, substantially as and for the purpose hereinafter set forth.

In the annexed drawing, A represents the bracket of my device, constructed of or from sheet or cast metal, in the form shown, its horizontal portions being parallel and separated by a space of about one-half inch. Within each of the outer arms of the bracket A are provided two or more openings or indentations, *a*, which correspond in vertical positions with similar openings or indentations in the opposite arm, and each furnishes a bearing for one of two studs, *b*, that are formed upon opposite sides and at the rear end of the shank B of the rack-bar or arm B′, said studs having a common axial center and forming pivotal bearings, upon and around which said bar moves freely in a horizontal plane. The studs *b* are inserted within their bearings, and the shanks placed in position by springing the arms of the bracket apart, after which said arms are closed together, so as to confine said shanks, and are secured in relative positions by means of a screw or rivet, C, that passes through the upper arm, and has its lower threaded end contained within a corresponding opening in the lower arm. At its rear end the bracket A is attached to or upon a base-plate, D, which has any suitable size or shape, and is provided with four projections, *d*, that are equidistant from the center of said plate, and between which, in either direction, is left a sufficient space to just receive the rear end of said bracket. As thus constructed, it will be seen that the bracket is securely held in position upon the base-plate by the projections *d*, while the arrangement of said projections enables said bracket to be changed from one position thereon to another, having a right angle thereto. The advantage of this construction is, that it enables the base-plate (which is usually made in the form shown) to be arranged upon the bracket as to bring the screw-holes *d′* upon a line with the plane of movement of the rack-bars, or, as seen in Fig. 1, upon a line having a right angle to the same, in order to accommodate said plate to the position it is to occupy upon a wall, or an article of furniture.

As before stated, the bracket and base-plate are constructed from sheets of wrought metal, in consequence of which their peculiar form can be given, and the screw-openings, bearings, and locking-projections made by means of dies, thereby materially lessening the expense, and at the same time producing a better article than would be practicable by the use of cast metal. The shank of the center bar is straight, or in a line with said bar, while the shanks of the outer bars are extended laterally outward and then forward, so as to increase the space between said bars and said center bar.

The attachment of the rack-bars renders their insertion within, or removal from, position an easy operation, and greatly facilitates the construction or repair of the device.

Having thus fully set forth the nature and merits of my invention, what I claim as new is—

1. The seat-plate D provided with the locking-studs *d*, and combined with the bracket A, in the manner and for the purpose substantially as specified.

2. The shanks B provided with the pivotal studs *b*, and combined with the bracket A provided with the bearings *a*, in the manner and for the purpose substantially as shown.

3. In a towel-rack, substantially as described, the combination of the bracket A and base-plate or seat D, in the manner set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 25th day of August, 1873.

JAMES M. KEEP.

Witnesses:

GEORGE E. JEWETT,

GEORGE CORDNER.