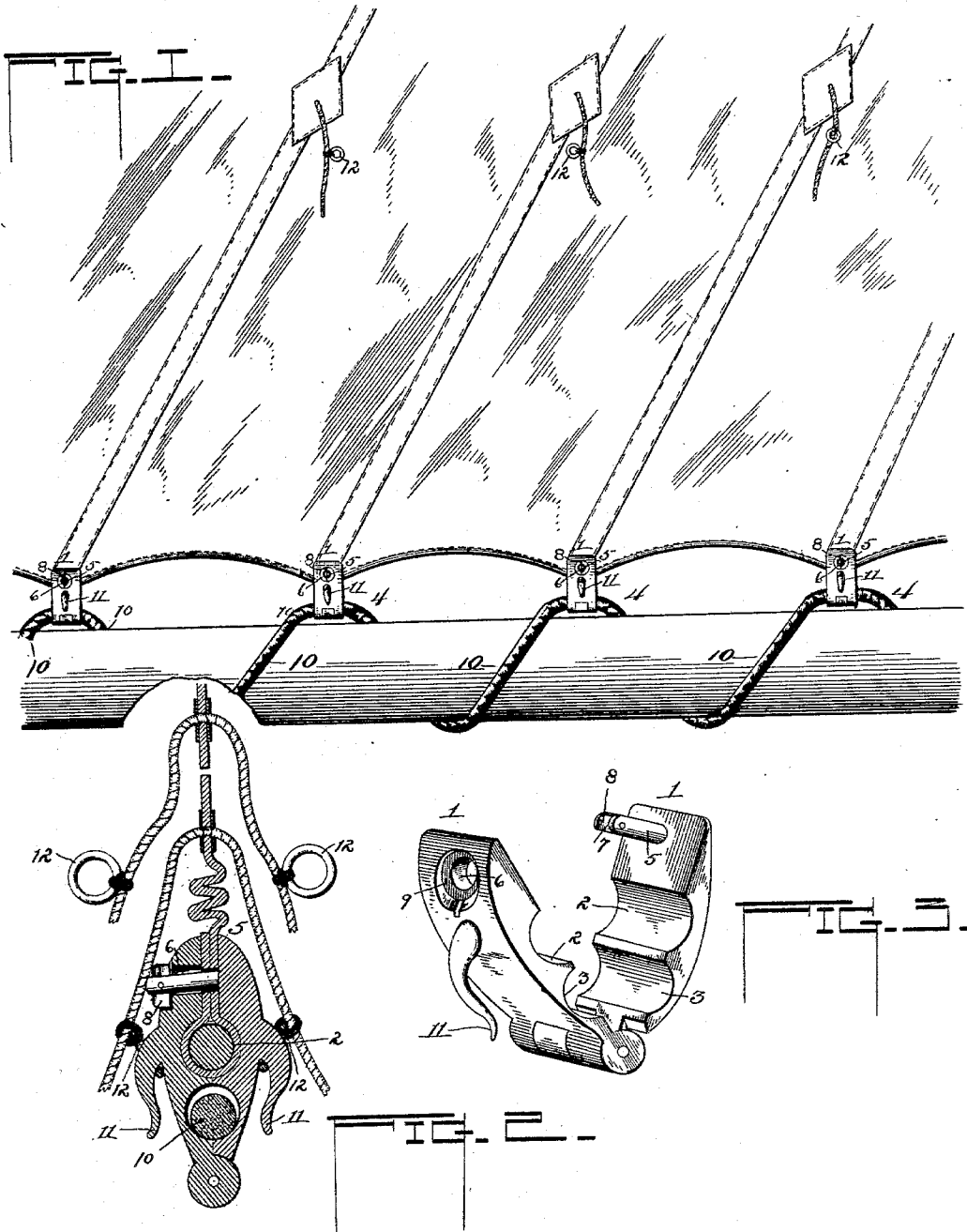


(No Model.)

B. G. CAHOON.  
REEFING DEVICE.

No. 559,843.

Patented May 12, 1896.



Inventor

Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN G. CAHOON, OF MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.

## REEFING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 559,843, dated May 12, 1896.

Application filed March 12, 1896. Serial No. 582,916. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN G. CAHOON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Marshfield, in the county of Plymouth and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Reefing Device, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to reefing devices, and the object in view is to provide a simple and effective device which will greatly expedite the operation of reefing a sail, the said device being applicable alike to large and small sails, or sails of any shape when used in connection with a boom and reef-points.

The invention consists in certain novel features and details of construction, as herein-after fully described, illustrated in the drawings, and finally pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of a sufficient portion of a sail and boom to illustrate the application of the improved device thereto. Fig. 2 is an enlarged detail sectional view showing the manner of reefing. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the improved device *per se*.

Similar numerals of reference designate corresponding parts in the several figures of the drawings.

The reefing device herein contemplated is preferably composed of metal and comprises two substantially equal and similar halves or sections provided at adjacent ends with interlapping ears, through which is inserted a common pivot, as shown. Each half or section 1 is provided upon its inner surface with two transverse semicircular grooves, one of said grooves 2 being located at the proximal center of its respective section and the other groove 3 being located between the groove 2 and the pivot. These grooves are disposed opposite each other in the two sections and form independent openings through the device when the sections are brought together, as shown in Fig. 2, the central opening being adapted to embrace the bolt-rope at the foot of the sail, while the other opening adjacent to the pivot receives the lacing-rope, by which the device is permanently attached to the boom, (indicated at 4.) At the swinging end of one of the sections and upon its inner surface is a pin 5, which projects toward the op-

posing section and passes through an opening 6 in said section when the device is closed. The pin is formed with a longitudinal slot 7, opening out at the end of the pin, and in the end of said slot is mounted pivotally a metal catch 8, of a width adapting it to be passed through the opening 6 and of a length sufficient to enable it to engage against the outer surface of the section having the opening 6 after it has been inserted through the same and given a quarter-turn, as shown in Fig. 2. The outer surface of the section containing the opening 6 is recessed, as at 9, to form a flat shoulder or bearing-surface for the catch 8. To apply the device to the sail, an eyelet is formed therein just above the bolt-rope, and the pin 5 is passed through such eyelet and through the opposing section 1 of the device and locked in the manner above described, in which position the bolt-rope at the foot of the sail is received in the opening 2. A lacing-cord 10 is then rove through the opening 3 and made fast to the boom in any convenient manner. By employing a suitable number of these devices the sail will thus be permanently connected at its bottom edge to the boom. Each of the sections 1 has upon its outer surface a hook 11 with a depending bill, and these hooks are intended to receive rings 12, attached to the reef-points upon opposite sides of the sail. The reef-points are preferably extended beyond their points of connection with the rings 12, so as to afford a handhold, whereby they may be grasped and drawn upon in order to bring the rings down far enough to engage under and with the hooks 11. In order to guard against the possibility of the rings becoming disengaged from the hooks and releasing the same, the opposite ends of the reef-points may be tied around the boom or passed through eyes therein, according to the nature of the boom.

By means of the construction above described it will be at once apparent that a sail may be reefed in a very short space of time. After slacking the sail it is only necessary to engage the rings 12 of the particular series of reef-points desired under the hooks 11, whereupon the sail may be immediately hoisted and stretched. This requires a small

amount of time and trouble compared with the old method of tying each reef-point separately.

The device is very simple in construction, 5 may be manufactured at slight cost, and is preferably galvanized to prevent corrosion. It may be manufactured in sizes to suit the requirements, and it will be apparent that 10 other changes in the form, proportion, and minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

15 1. A reefing device, comprising opposing hinged sections adapted to be closed upon and to engage the sail and having provision whereby it may be attached to the boom, and 20 one or more hooks carried by one or both of said sections and adapted to be engaged by the reef-points, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. A reefing device, comprising opposing 25 sections adapted to be moved apart and provided in their inner adjacent faces with opposing recesses or grooves for the reception of the bolt-rope of the sail when the sections are closed thereon, means for attaching the 30 device to the boom, and one or more hooks attached to either or both of the sections and adapted to receive the reef-points, substantially as described.

3. The herein-described reefing device, 35 comprising two opposing sections pivotally connected at adjacent ends and provided at

their free ends, one with a pin and the other with an opening therefor, a latch or stop carried by the pin and adapted to engage the opposing section for holding the sections together, and a hook or hooks upon one or both 40 of said sections, substantially as and for the purpose described.

4. The herein-described reefing device, comprising opposing sections formed in their inner adjacent surfaces with oppositely-dis- 45 posed recesses or grooves which when the sections are closed form openings, one for the bolt-rope at the foot of the sail and the other for the lacing-cord by which the device is secured to the boom, means for locking said 50 sections together, and one or more hooks carried by said sections and adapted to receive the reef-points, substantially as specified.

5. In a reefing device, the opposing sections adapted to be moved apart to clasp the sail, 55 hooks carried by said sections, and locking means for holding the sections closed, in combination with the reef-points having rings or loops permanently attached thereto, said 60 rings being adapted to be engaged with the hooks on the reefing device, substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

BENJAMIN G. CAHOON.

Witnesses:

JOSEPH N. ATKINS,  
PRINCE A. ATKINS.