T. S. Diblin.

Fire Escape.

No. 68,491. Patented Sept. 3, 1867.

Fig. 1.

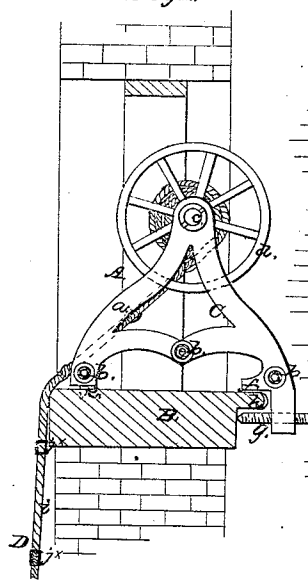


Fig. 2.

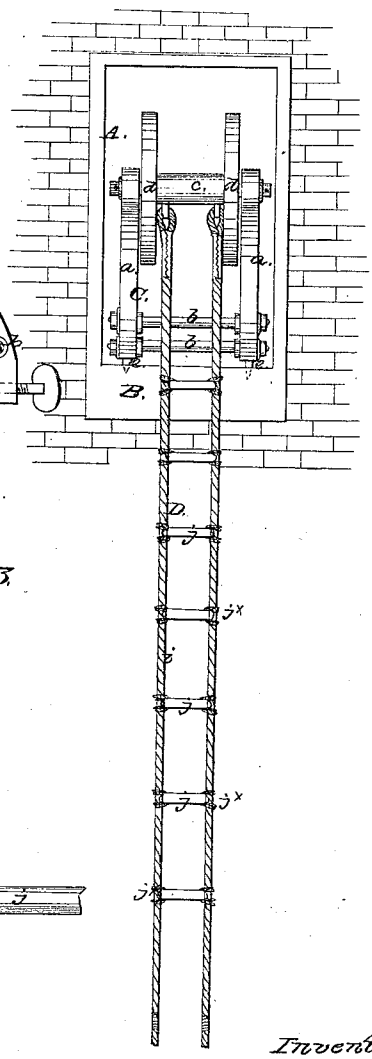
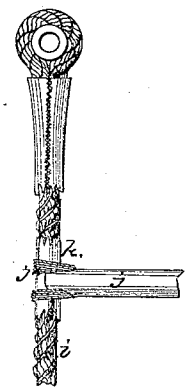


Fig. 3.



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TERTULLUS S. DIBLIN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

Letters Patent No. 68,491, *dated September* 3, 1867.

IMPROVED FIRE-ESCAPE.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, TERTULLUS S. DIBLIN, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and improved Fire-Escape, and that the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, hereinafter referred to, forms a full and exact specification of the same, wherein I have set forth the nature and principles of my said improvements, by which my invention may be distinguished from all others of a similar class, together with such parts as I claim, and desire to have secured to me by Letters Patent.

This invention relates to a new and improved fire-escape of that class in which a flexible ladder is employed.

The invention consists in a new and improved manner of constructing a flexible ladder for the purpose, and in a peculiar manner of securing the windlass to the window-sill, whereby the windlass, with the ladder wound upon it, may be adjusted and firmly secured in an open window very expeditiously whenever the device is required for use, the flexible ladder being unwound from the windlass, so that the occupants of a building may descend from the open window to the ground or pavement. In the accompanying sheet of drawings—

Figure 1 is an end view of my invention applied to a window-sill, the window being in section.

Figure 2, a front view of the same.

Figure 3, an enlarged section of the flexible ladder.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

A represents the window of a building, and B the sill thereof, of usual form and construction. C is a windlass-frame, composed of two side pieces, *a a*, of cast iron—that, at least, would be the preferable material—said side pieces being connected by cross-rods *b*. The windlass is composed of a shaft or drum, *c*, having a wheel, *d*, upon it near each end, both wheels being within the side pieces *a a*, as shown in fig. 2. The front lower ends of the side pieces are each provided with a spur, *e*, and the back lower ends are provided with lips or bearings, *f*, projecting horizontally towards the front side, as shown clearly in fig. 1, the back lower ends extending down sufficiently far below the lips or bearings to admit of screws, *g*, passing through them, one through each, said screws being provided with gimlet points to pass into the wood below the nosing *h* at the inner side of the sill B, the spurs *e* penetrating the upper surface of the sill, (see fig. 1.) By this means the windlass-frame is firmly secured in the window on the sill. D represents a flexible ladder, the sides *i i* of which are composed of ropes, and the rounds *j* are of wood, notched or hollowed out at their ends to receive the ropes, the rounds being fastened to the ropes by cords, *j*×, passing through them and around the ropes, the latter being protected from wear and abrasion by means of chafing-leather *k*, (see more particularly fig. 3.)

This ladder thus constructed will be extremely strong and durable, and still be flexible, so that it may be readily wound upon and unwound from the shaft or drum *c* of the windlass, to which it may be attached in any proper manner.

When it is necessary to use the device, the sashes of the most convenient window in the burning building are removed, or, in large windows, a sufficient space may be afforded by raising the lower sash. The windlass-frame is then secured to the sill B, the flexible ladder lowered, and persons can descend without difficulty. The windlass is operated by turning the wheels *d*, which serve in lieu of cranks, and also serve as guides for the flexible ladder when wound upon the shaft or drum *c*.

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

The combination of the fire-escape, composed of the frame with its cross-rods, spurs, screws, and windlass, and rope ladder, the whole arranged substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

The above specification of my invention signed by me this 8th day of March, 1867.

TERTULLUS S. DIBLIN.

Witnesses:

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ALEX. F. ROBERTS.