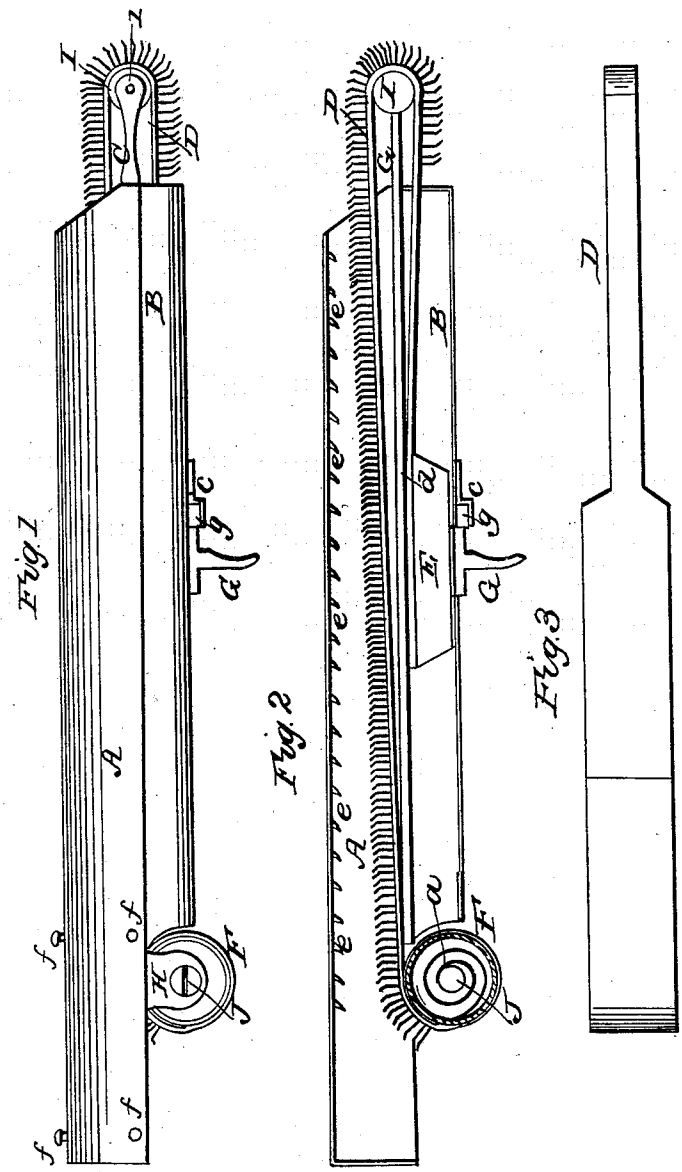
W. B. CARGILL.

Cotton Picker.

No. 27,348.

Patented March 6, 1860.



N. PETERS. Photo-Lithographer, Washington D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM B. CARGILL, OF WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT.

IMPROVEMENT IN HAND COTTON-PICKERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **27,348**, dated March 6, 1860.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM B. CARGILL, of Waterbury, New Haven county, State of Connecticut, have invented a new and Improved Cotton-Picker; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, figures, and letters of reference thereon, making part of this specification.

Of the said drawings, Figure 1 denotes a side elevation of my improved cotton-picker. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section, showing the operative mechanism. Fig. 3 represents the shape of the material in which is inserted the gathering-teeth.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts in all the drawings.

Heretofore the cotton-pickers devised by others have been heavy and cumbersome for the operator, and of intricate construction, and not well adapted for reaching all the bolls on the cotton-tree, particularly the highest and lowest, without stooping and reaching for this purpose. Another serious objection has been the turning of a crank, which renders it difficult to keep the gatherers in contact with the bolls, from the unsteady and vibratory motion at this point. With others the operation of winding up the spring consumes much time which should be used for gathering cotton. My purpose is to obviate all these difficulties and objections by using a light portable case and imparting a steady uniform movement to the instrument by the operator, which may be worked with ease and rapidity.

The nature of my invention consists in arranging and combining with a portable case a reciprocating gatherer, as will be more fully set forth hereinafter; also, in combining and arranging a mechanism for operating the gatherer.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

A and B are parts of a metallic case, constructed elliptical, cylindrical, or of other shape, and are united by soldering, or made whole and strengthened by a plate, C.

D is a gatherer, which may be constructed of a wire chain provided with teeth, or of card-fillet, consisting of wire teeth inserted in leather or other flexible material, and such as is employed for covering cotton-carding machine.

E is a slide, which reciprocates in the way B, (and to which one end of the gatherer D is secured at *d*,) and has secured thereto a handle, G, which slides in a groove in the shell B, as shown in Fig. 2.

F is a cylinder for inclosing and holding the reacting spring *a*, which spring is secured to the stationary pin J (upon which the cylinder rotates) at one end, while the other is secured to the shell of the cylinder. The pin J has its journals in the ears H, as shown in Fig. 1, and is prevented from rotating by a steady-pin secured to the pin J, and a corresponding groove in the hanger H, or by other means well known.

I is a roller provided with flanges to prevent the gathering-strip from running off as it is worked over the roller while gathering the cotton from the bolls or pods.

Operation: The machine is operated as follows: The operator provides a suitable receptacle for holding the cotton, which is attached to the case by loops or holes to the pins or buttons *f f*. This receptacle being well known, any description is thought unnecessary. The instrument is then held firmly, the left hand steadying and holding it to the pods or bolls, and with the right, grasping the case so that it will slide easily, draws back the piece G, which, being secured to the piece or slide E by screws or other fastenings, and by its connections at *d*, draws the strip D over the roller I (which roller has its bearing at *b*) into the under side of the case, which operation causes the spring *a* to wind up as the cylinder revolves on the pin J. Having drawn the piece G clear back, and with the gathering-teeth resting over the roller I in contact with the cotton in the bolls, the operator releases his hold on the handle G, when the spring *a* draws by its recoil the gathering teeth into the upper side of the case, as seen in Fig. 2, and carries the cotton into the case attached to the gathering-teeth, being held thereon by the inclined shape of the teeth. Projecting downward from the upper part of the case there are several rows of inclined teeth, *e e e e*, inserted or struck from the case, which teeth serve as strippers to strip the cotton from the gatherer-teeth as they are carried forward for a fresh hold of cotton from the bolls by working the gatherer by means of the handle G and spring *a*.

Attached to the under side of the case there is a bracket, *c*, which holds an elastic or soft

piece of material, *q*, to prevent percussion and break the force from the reaction of the handle G. The rear portion or part of the gathering-chain D always in the case is widened in order to insure the better stripping and delivery of the cotton to the receptacle. The portion of the gathering-chain which is to be placed in contact with the bolls is necessarily narrow in order that it may easily enter the partially-opened bolls and draw the cotton therefrom.

Having thus described my improved cotton-picker, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The reciprocating gatherer, arranged and operating substantially as described, whereby I am enabled to keep steadily in contact with the bolls the said gatherer for extracting the cotton, as set forth and specified.

2. In combination with the reciprocating gatherer, the stationary strippers for discharging the cotton from the said gatherer, as set forth and specified.

3. Widening that portion of the gatherer which is always in the case for the more perfect delivery of the cotton to the receptacle and to prevent clogging within the case, as set forth and specified.

WILLIAM B. CARGILL. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

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