

F. G. Ford,
Red Bottom.

No. 111,332.

Patented Feb. 14, 1871.

Fig. 1.

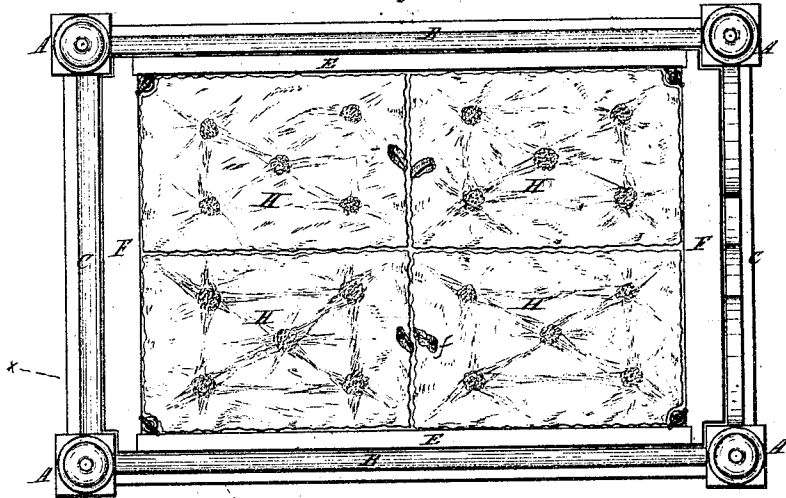


Fig. 2.

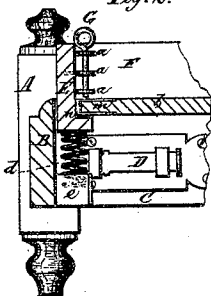


Fig. 3.

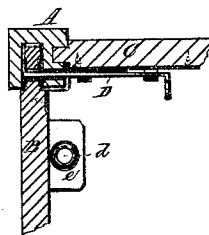


Fig. 4.

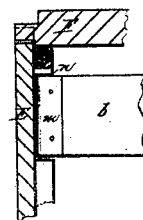
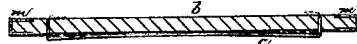


Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.



Witnesses.

Samuel C. Smith.
W. Morris Smith

Inventor.

Frederic G. Ford
by Attorneys
Brown, Coomb & Co.

United States Patent Office.

FREDERIC G. FORD, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

Letters Patent No. 111,832, dated February 14, 1871; antedated February 10, 1871.

IMPROVEMENT IN BEDSTEADS AND BED-BOTTOMS.

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, FREDERIC G. FORD, of the city and county of Baltimore, and State of Maryland, have invented certain Improvements in "Bedsteads;" and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing through letters of reference marked thereon forming part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 represents a top or plan view of a bedstead embracing my improvement.

Figure 2 is a sectional elevation, showing one angle of said bedstead and mattress-holder, taken as indicated by the line *x x* on fig. 1.

Figure 3 is a horizontal section of fig. 2, taken through the fastenings of the bedstead.

Figure 4 is a horizontal section through one angle of the mattress-holder.

Figure 5 is a vertical longitudinal section of one of the slats, showing the mode of stiffening the same.

Figure 6 is another modification of the same.

The same letters occurring on the several figures indicate like parts.

My invention consists in adapting to an ordinary bedstead a mattress-frame, which shall serve to retain the mattress within its original dimensions, and thus prevent to a great extent its flattening down and overspreading the side rails of the bedstead, which is commonly the case as bedsteads are ordinarily constructed, and by thus preserving the thickness of the mattress it retains its softness and renders one more serviceable and comfortable than two would be under ordinary circumstances, after having been used for a short time.

The mattress-holder furthermore provides for the elevation of a single mattress to have the appearance of two or more.

Referring to the drawing—

A represents the posts;

B, the side rails; and

C, the head and foot-boards, and their respective rails, of an ordinary bedstead, which are secured together at the corners by bolts, D.

To this stead I adapt a mattress-holder, consisting of the side boards E and end boards F, connected at the corners by pins G, passing through eyes, *a*, or any

equivalent device, and provided with a bottom, composed of slats *b* of novel construction, which will be more particularly described hereinafter.

This mattress-holder is of a depth about or nearly equal to the thickness of the mattress to be used in it, and effectually prevents the lateral spread of the latter.

It is so formed and proportioned on its exterior as to fit within the side rails B and head and foot-boards C of the stead, and be capable of vertical play therein on its spring supports, *d*, which rest on projections, *e*, on the inner side of the rails B.

The slats *b* are stiffened by a bar, *c*, preferably of flat iron or steel, which, when applied to the upper side of the slat, as represented in fig. 5, is slightly curved upward at its center, so that any depression of the slat, by the weight of the mattress or the occupant of the bed, will cause said bar to curve upward and thus relieve the slat of part of its load.

A modification of this stiffening bar is shown, in fig. 6, applied to the under side of the slat with its convex side to the wood, the two ends being closed up and secured, as represented in dotted outline, thus giving stiffness to the slat.

The ends of these slats and the recesses in which they rest are faced with sheet metal, as represented at *m n*, to prevent the harboring of vermin; and the angles of the frame and stead, where two parts are connected, may also be faced in like manner for the same purpose.

This mattress-holder may be applied to berths of vessels, sleeping-cars, and sofas or other seats.

What is here claimed as new, and desired to be secured by Letters Patent, is—

1. The separate or independent mattress-holder E F *b*, in combination with the bedstead, said holder being supported on springs *d*, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In combination with the above, the slats *b*, stiffened with braces *c*, and faced on their ends with sheet metal, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

FREDERIC G. FORD.

Witnesses:

SYDNEY E. SMITH,
W. MORRIS SMITH.