E. B. GILDERSLEEVE.

DEVICES FOR SUPPORTING AND PROTECTING CLOTHES.

No. 194,083. Patented Aug. 14, 1877.

Fig. 1

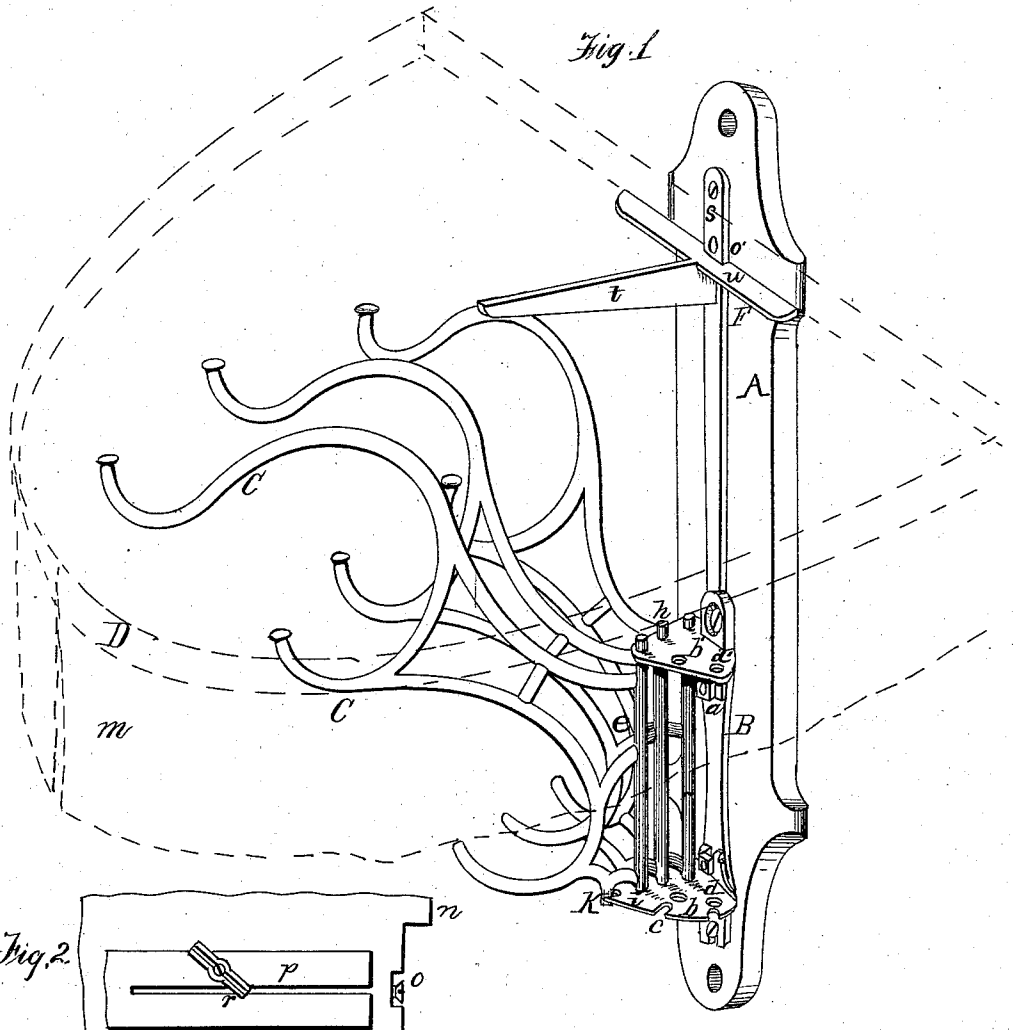


Fig. 2

Witnesses;
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EZRA B. GILDERSLEEVE, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN DEVICES FOR SUPPORTING AND PROTECTING CLOTHES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **194,083**, dated August 14, 1877; application filed January 12, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EZRA B. GILDERSLEEVE, of New York, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Devices for Supporting and Protecting Clothes, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

The invention relates to improvements in devices for supporting and protecting clothes; and consists in a new and useful adaptation of clothes-hooks in combination with a removable canopy, as hereinafter set forth.

The novelty of the invention consists, first, in the construction and arrangement of the clothes-hooks; second, in the manner of applying the canopy; and, third, in the combination of the hooks and their incidental parts with the canopy, as set forth.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a device embodying the elements of the invention. Fig. 2 is a bottom view of the mechanism by which the canopy is attached.

A denotes the wall-piece, which is of any convenient shape and dimensions adapted to support the parts hereinafter described, and it is to be secured in a vertical position by means of screws or nails, or otherwise. B is the bracket which sustains the hooks C. It consists of a wall-plate, *a*, which is secured to the piece A, and two soles, *b b'*, which are secured, after the hooks have been inserted, by means of a screw and nut or otherwise, to the plate *a*, as shown in Fig. 1.

The shape and construction of the soles *b b'* are shown in Fig. 1. They are of any convenient shape, and the lower one, *b*, for the purposes hereinafter set forth, is provided with the notches *c* and holes *d*, which are in proximity to each other, as shown.

The hooks C are constructed with a vertical part, *e*, having the upper and lower projections *h i*, which are adapted to turn in the holes *d*, the length of the part *e* being such as to fit between the soles *b* and *b'*. Adjacent to the lower projections *i* are the projections K, the distance between the two being substantially the same as the distance between the holes and notches in the lower sole.

By this construction important objects are effectuated, it being practicable to carry all the hooks together toward the center of the device, or to separate them and secure each one in place. The former object is attained by moving the hooks so as to free the projections K, and folding them together upon the middle hook, when they may be made fast together in any convenient manner. The latter object is attained by separating the hooks and permitting the projections K to occupy their respective notches, when they will be securely held in place.

The hooks may be of any approved construction in respect to their prongs and similar details, although I prefer to form them as shown in the drawings, as I thereby economize space, which is one of the advantages of the invention.

D is the canopy, which is of any appropriate shape, and provided with the curtain *m*, its dimensions being such that the curtain will protect the clothing that may be hung upon the hooks.

The frame of the canopy is so formed that its upper surface fulfills the offices of a shelf, consisting, preferably, of a semicircular piece of wood of suitable proportions. The central or middle interior part of the frame is provided with the projections *n* and stud *o*, and in line with the stud the elongated slot *p*, adjacent to which is the button *r*, these parts being provided to secure the canopy in place, and adapted to the bracket F, hereinafter described. By preference the elongated slot *p* is formed by attaching a supplemental piece upon the lower surface of the frame, as shown in the drawings.

F is the bracket provided to support the canopy. It consists of a wall-piece, *s*, provided with the aperture or seat *o'*, and the soles or supports *t u*, which are conformed with relation to the proper support and adjustment of the canopy, the sole *t* being adapted to fit in the slot or groove *p*, and being of such size as to permit of the operation of the button *r*, and the sole *u* conformed to assist in supporting the canopy.

The construction and operation of these parts are clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and will be readily understood by persons skilled in the art to which the invention relates. In

adjusting the canopy the stud *o* is placed in its seat *o'*, the sole *t* fitted into the groove or slot *p*, and the button *r* turned, the whole being thus securely fastened in place.

It is obvious that the parts may be modified in many respects without affecting the invention.

I do not therefore limit myself to the exact construction described; but

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a clothes-rack, the combination of the canopy D, bracket F, wall-piece A, bracket B, provided with the soles *b* and *b'*, the sole *b* having the apertures *d* and notches *c*, and hooks C, provided with the projections *i* K, substantially as described.

2. The combination of the soles *b b'*, the former having the holes *d* and notches *c*, and the latter the holes *d'*, with the hooks C, having the projections *h*, *i*, and K, substantially as shown and described.

3. The combination of the canopy D, provided with the slot *p*, stud *o*, and bracket F, having the sole *t* and seat *o'*, with the wall-piece A, bracket B, having the soles *b* and *b'*, the sole *b* being furnished with the holes *d* and notches *c*, and hooks C, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing improvement in devices for supporting and protecting clothes, as above described, I have hereunto set my hand this 28th day of December, 1876.

EZRA B. GILDERSLEEVE.

Witnesses:

JOHN GARDNER,

RIDER JOHNSTON.