

G. P. GORDON.
STAGE SCENERY.

No. 171,221.

Patented Dec. 21, 1875.

FIG. 1.

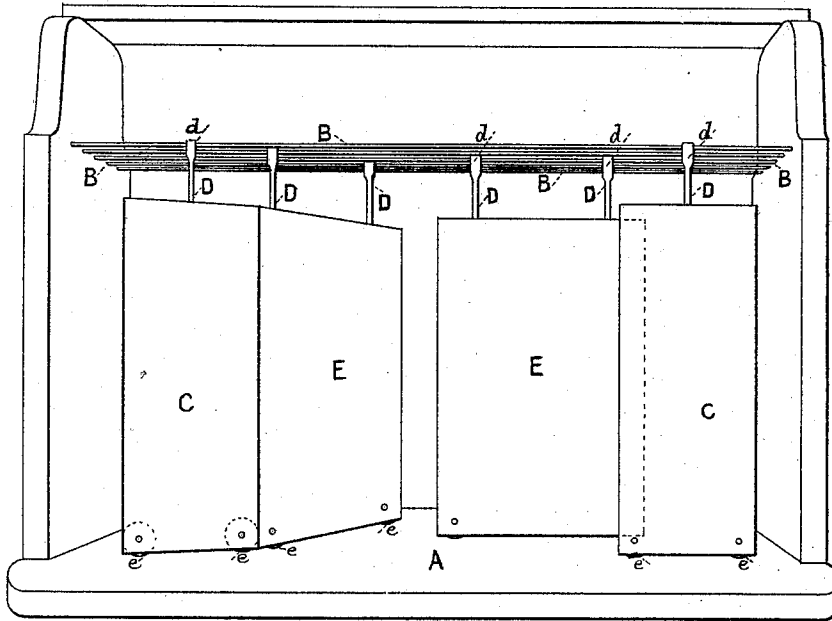
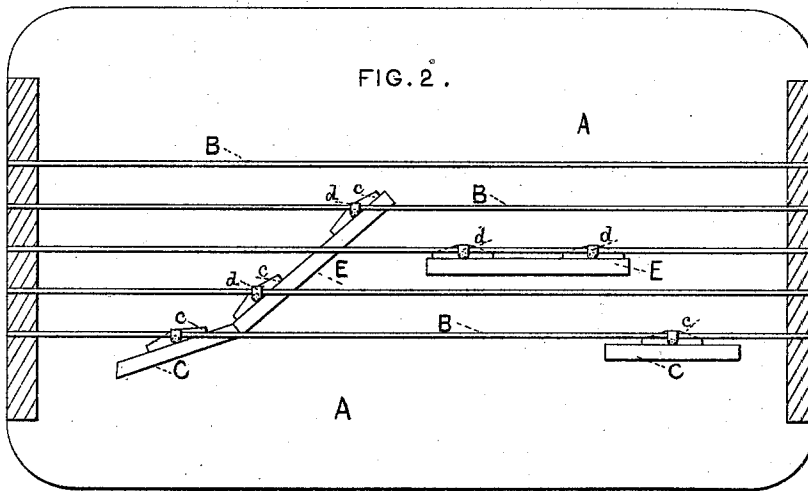


FIG. 2.



WITNESSES.

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George P. Gordon by A. Sidney Doan atty

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FIG. 3.

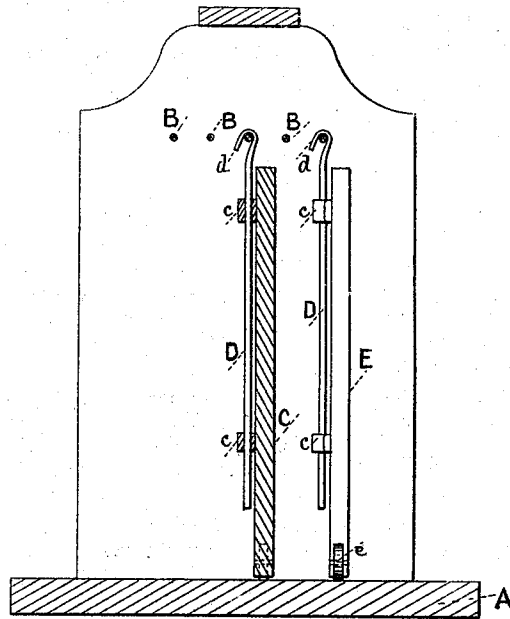


FIG. 4.

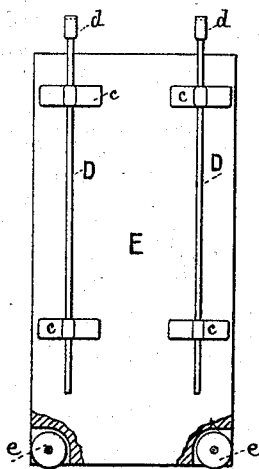
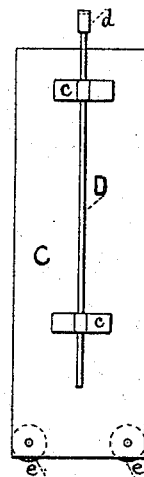


FIG. 5.



WITNESSES.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE P. GORDON, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN STAGE-SCENERY.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 171,221, dated December 21, 1875; application filed November 10, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE P. GORDON, of Brooklyn, Kings county, New York, have invented, made, and applied to use Improvements in the Construction of Stage-Scenery; and that the following is a full, clear, and correct description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my invention. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the same. Fig. 3 is an end view of the same. Fig. 4 is a rear view of a "flat" constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 5 is a rear view of a "wing" constructed in accordance with my invention.

In the drawing, like parts of the invention are indicated by the same letters of reference.

The nature of the present invention consists in improvements in the construction of stage-scenery, as more fully hereinafter set forth; the object of the invention being the construction of stage-scenery so that the grooves in the stage and above the same, now rendered necessary in the operation of stage-scenery, may be dispensed with, the scenes or scenery may be expeditiously and easily operated, and much time now consumed in properly supporting scenery, as at present constructed, may be saved or economized.

To enable those skilled in the arts to make and use my invention, I will describe the construction and operation of the same.

A shows the stage of a theater, constructed in the usual way, except that the grooves to form ways in which the flats or wings shall be moved to and fro, as desired, are dispensed with. The grooves also usually placed over the stage to form ways for the upper portions of the flats or wings to be received in are dispensed with, and in their stead I employ a series of bars or rods, B, extending across the stage and behind the "borders," which bars or rods B are securely fastened at their ends in a proper manner, and are placed a sufficient distance apart from each other to answer the purpose for which they are intended. Upon the rear of the wings C are placed the cleats *c*, provided with openings, through which is inserted a rod, D, having its upper

end turned over to form a hook, *d*. This rod is free to move up and down in the cleats *c*. The flats E are constructed similarly to the wings C, save that, being generally twice the width of the wings C, two hooked rods, D, moving freely in twice the number of perforated cleats, are employed. In addition to the rods D, I employ a series of castors or rollers, *e*, inserted in the slotted lower ends of the wings C and flats E, and free to revolve upon spindles passed through them centrally, although I am well aware that my invention can be carried out without employing them; yet, in many cases, particularly in the manipulation of the flats E, they will be found efficient and labor-saving.

Such being the construction, the operation may be thus set forth. The wings or flats to be used are placed in their proper position upon the stage, the hooked rods are raised up so as to bring the hooks over the proper bars or rods B, and the hooked rods are then drawn down until the hooked ends are securely passed over the rods or bars B: The wings or flats may then be moved easily to and fro across the stage, and as the rods are free to turn in the cleats upon the back of the wings or flats, the same may be placed in any position desired, either vertical or at any desired angle. When desired to place a flat at an angle, one of the hooked rods by which it is held is placed over one of the bars or rods, and the other hooked rod is placed over the next or any one bar or rod back of it, the desired angle at which the flat shall stand being determined by the hooked rods passed over the rods or bars.

It will be observed that the shifting of the flats or wings can be thus expeditiously and easily accomplished; that the necessity of employing, in certain cases, props or supports for the same is dispensed with; that the grooving of the stage is rendered unnecessary, thus allowing the stage to be used for purposes where scenery is not required; and that what is known in theaters as a "box" scene can be formed by combining any of the flats or wings, and without the employment of scenery specially designed for the purpose, and without the use of braces, nails, screws, &c., or the use of the hammer. The cost, too, of

manipulating and sustaining the scenery employed is materially lessened, and the work is greatly expedited.

Having now set forth my invention, what I claim as new is—

1. The combination, with one or more bars or rods, B, of a wing, C, or flat E, and hooked rod D, substantially as and for the purposes described.

2. The combination of one or more bars, B, a wing, C, or flat E, hooked rod D, and the casters or rollers e, substantially as and for the purposes indicated.

GEO. P. GORDON.

In presence of—

A. SIDNEY DOANE,
W. E. WINSLOW.