

W. Minor.

Cotton Bale Tie.

N<sup>o</sup> 18,514.

Patented Oct. 27, 1857.

Fig. 1.

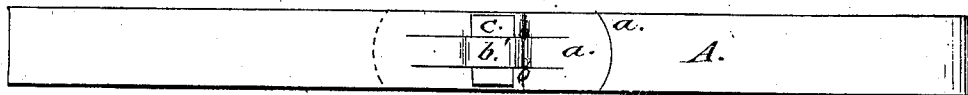


Fig. 2.

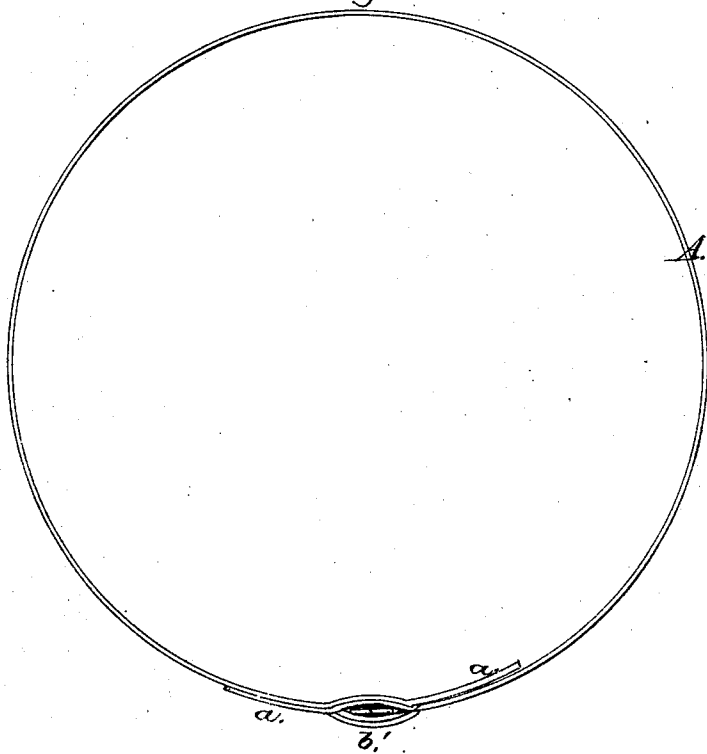
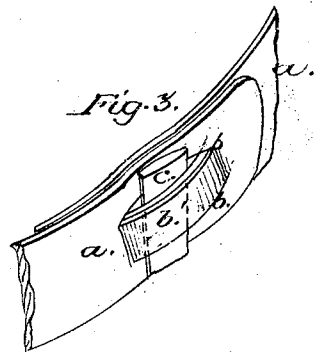


Fig. 3.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WM. MINOR, OF HOUMA, LOUISIANA.

IMPROVEMENT IN FASTENINGS FOR METALLIC BANDS FOR COTTON-BALES, &c.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 18,514, dated October 27, 1857.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM MINOR, of Houma, in the parish of Terre Bonne and State of Louisiana, have invented a new and improved fastening for securing the ends of metal straps or hoops used in baling cotton, hemp, and other articles which are compressed and bound in bale form; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is an edge view of the two ends of a strap or bale-hoop connected by my improved fastening. Fig. 2 is a side view of the same. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the two ends of a hoop or bar, the ends being fastened according to my improved mode.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

My invention consists in securing the ends of metal bale-hoops together by forming loops or eyes in the ends of said hoops by cutting parallel slits through them and bending outward the intervening portions, the loops overlapping each other as the ends of the hoops are overlapped, and a transverse wedge or key being passed through the loops, substantially as shown and described.

To enable those skilled in the art to fully understand and construct my invention, I will proceed to describe it.

A represents a metal strap or bale-hoop, and *a a* are its two ends. Through each end of this strap *A* slits *b* are cut, the slits being cut in pairs parallel with each other and a suitable distance allowed between each pair of slits. The metal *b'* between each pair of slits *b* is raised up, so as to form a loop or eye, as shown clearly in Figs. 2 and 3, and when

the ends of the strap or hoop are overlapped the loops at each end are also overlapped, and by passing a wedge or key, *c*, through either of the loops the two ends of the strap or hoop will be secured firmly together. By having several or a series of loops or eyes formed at the ends of the straps or hoops the ends of the straps or hoops may be overlapped more or less in order to have the hoops of the requisite size. The wedge or key *c* may be made of wood or metal. The hoops may be made of any proper metal. Iron, however, is generally used. There is no peculiarity in the construction of the hoops.

This fastening is extremely simple, and far superior to rivets which have been generally used for connecting the ends of the hoops.

There have been several plans devised for fastening the ends of hoops by means of locks or loops, so arranged as to catch one over the other; but I am not aware that any mode has been adopted to any extent on account of the time expended in connecting the ends of the hoops and their liability to separate.

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

Securing the ends of metal bale-hoops together by forming loops or eyes in the ends of said hoops by cutting parallel slits *b* through them and bending outward the intervening portions *b'*, the loops overlapping each other as the ends of the hoops are overlapped, and a transverse wedge or key, *c*, passed through the loops, substantially as shown and described.

WM. MINOR.

Witnesses:

W. I. MINOR,  
MORTON C. MACMICHAEL.