(No Model.)

# H. WILLSON.

## CHAIN FOR PORTABLE SIGNS.

No. 354,293. Patented Dec. 14, 1886.

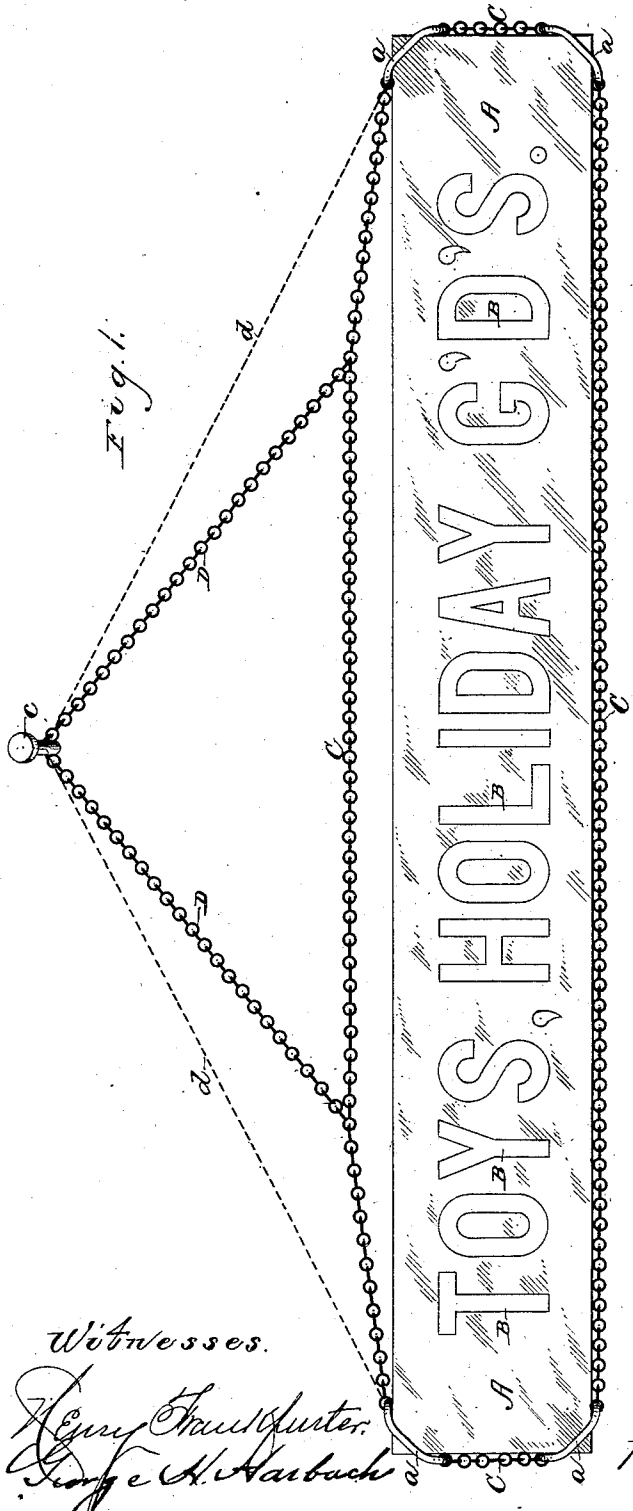



Fig. 1.

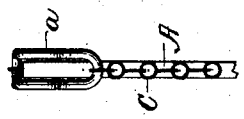



Fig. 3.

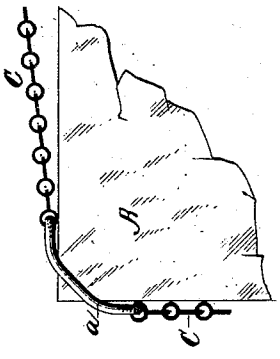



Fig. 2.

Witnesses.
Henry Staudinger.
George H. Harbach

Inventor.
Henry Willson.
per F. F. Warner
his Attorney.

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

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY WILLSON, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## CHAIN FOR PORTABLE SIGNS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 354,293, dated December 14, 1886.

Application filed April 26, 1886. Serial No. 200,129. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HENRY WILLSON, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Chains for Suspending Portable Signs, of which the following, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of a sign embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a like representation of a portion enlarged, and Fig. 3 is an edge view or corner view of the parts shown in Fig. 2.

Like letters of reference indicate like parts.

The object of my invention is to provide a cheap, simple, and durable means for suspending portable signs, transparencies, or other ornamental slabs or plates of like character, so that it may be unnecessary to form perforations therein or to provide frames therefor; and to this end my invention consists in a chain having certain of its links so constructed as to receive and support the corners or projections of the slab or plate to which the same is attached, all of which is hereinafter more particularly described, and definitely pointed out in the claims.

A represents a slab, strip, or sheet of glass, and B B are letters painted thereon or applied thereto in any well-known way.

C is a chain arranged about the edges of glass A. In this chain are links *a a*, arranged at the corners of the glass, and these links are sufficiently long and open, and are, if need be, so bent as to allow the corners of the glass to project through them, as is clearly indicated in Figs. 1 and 2. I desire, however, to state that it is not absolutely essential to bend these links in the manner shown, as a link of suitable length and sufficiently open will permit the corners of the glass to enter them sufficiently for the purpose of attaining the object of my invention. The remaining part of the chain may be made in any well-known way, it being understood that the design or configuration, excepting, as described, at the corners of the sign, is not essential.

This chain I arrange upon the sign or about its edges in such a manner as to permit the corners of the sign to project through or into the corner links, as shown, and I make the chain C sufficiently slack to permit this to be done with facility. To hang the sign, the chain, extending along the upper edge thereof, may be sufficiently slack to be either looped or suspended on one or more pins or hooks, *c c*, as indicated by the dotted lines shown at *d d*, Fig. 1; or a supplemental suspending-chain, D, may be connected to the upper part of the chain C, and the chain D may be hung upon a pin or hook.

It will be perceived from the foregoing description, and from reference to the drawings, that no holes or perforations need be made in the glass, as heretofore, for the purpose of suspending it. It will also be perceived that the glass A may be easily applied to and removed from the suspending-chain.

This chain may be furnished in lengths suitable to the size of the signs, and where signs vary only to a comparatively small extent a number of the links may be added or detached from any chain, in order to make it applicable to the sign with which it is intended to be combined.

It will also be perceived that the principle of my invention may be utilized whether the glass strip or plate has upon it letters or sign-characters, or whether it has thereon any ornamental design or configuration intending to be exhibited in some conspicuous place. I desire, furthermore, to state that it is not absolutely essential that the sign should be made of glass, as it may be made either of tin or other metal, or of wood. Shelves may be hung in like manner, two suspending-chains D being employed—one at the front and one at the rear part of the main chain C. It is the slack of the chain last referred to which renders the chain easily detachable from the part supported by it, and the weight of the part supported prevents accidental separation of that part from the chains.

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

1. As a new article of manufacture, to be attached to portable signs, ornamental transparencies, and the like, a chain provided with a series of elongated links placed at suitable distances from each other, and arranged at

right angles to the plane of the slab, to receive therein, respectively, the corners of said slab, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. A slab of glass or other material, in combination with a chain provided with elongated links located sufficiently distant from each other, and in a plane perpendicular thereto, to receive the corners of said slab, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. A portable glass sign consisting of the combination of a sheet or plate of glass having sign-characters thereon and a suspending-chain having links arranged at the corners of the glass, said links being sufficiently open to receive the said corners, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I hereunto affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

HENRY WILLSON.

Witnesses:
HENRY FRANKFURTER,
WM. H. KING.