(No Model.)

E. V. D. MILLER.

HAND COTTON PICKER.

No. 280,651. Patented July 3, 1883.

Fig. 2.

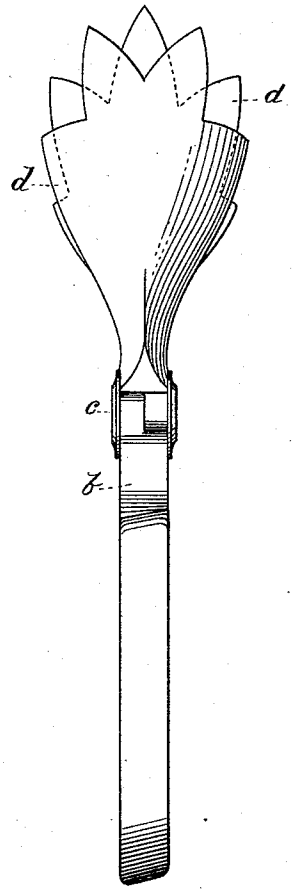


Fig. 1.

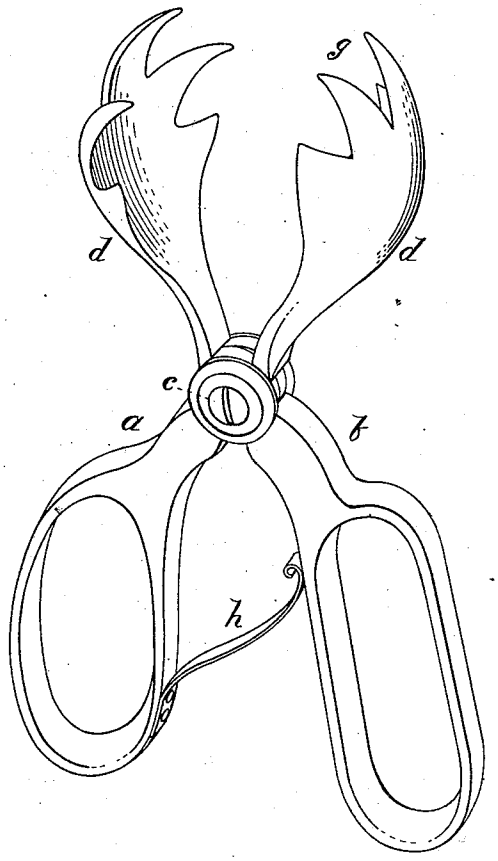
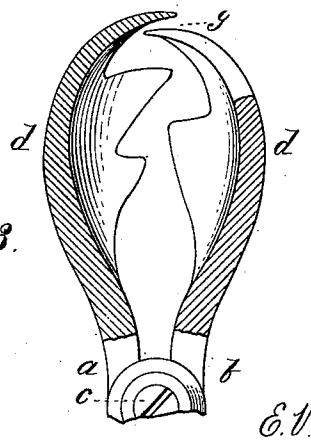


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EMILY V. D. MILLER, OF VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI.

HAND COTTON-PICKER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 280,651, dated July 3, 1883.

Application filed June 4, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, E. V. D. MILLER, a citizen of the United States, resident at Vicksburg, in the county of Warren and State of Mississippi, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hand Cotton-Pickers; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a representation of this invention, and is a perspective view. Fig. 2 is a side view. Fig. 3 is a vertical section of the upper part, the handles being broken away.

This invention has relation to hand-instruments for picking cotton; and it consists in the construction and novel arrangement of the pivoted shanks, having at their ends spread claws of size and form adapted to operate in the calyx of the cotton-plant, and, in connection therewith, an opening-spring between the shanks, all as hereinafter set forth.

In the accompanying drawings, the letters *a* and *b* designate the shanks of the instrument, which are pivoted together at *c*. Each shank is provided at its end with the curved spreading claws *d*, which are of tapering form, and of a size to enter easily the calyx of the cotton-plant. Usually it is preferred to make the claws of one of the shanks even in number and of the other odd, the central claw of the latter fitting into the central interval, *g*, between the two outermost claws of the former.

Between the shanks of the instrument is arranged a spring, *h*, the office of which is to open the instrument and hold it fully open at all times, except when it is closed by the hand of the operator.

This instrument is designed to facilitate materially the labor of cotton-picking, as it enables the operator to reach farther over and into the plant than when picking without it. The instrument also protects the hands from the sharp points of the calyx, which are apt to injure the fingers, especially during frost.

Having described this invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A cotton-picking instrument consisting of pivoted shanks having at their ends spread claws *d*, of size and form adapted to the calyx of the cotton-plant, and, in connection therewith, an opening-spring between the shanks, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

E. V. D. MILLER.

Witnesses:
THEO. MUNGEN,
PHILIP C. MASI.