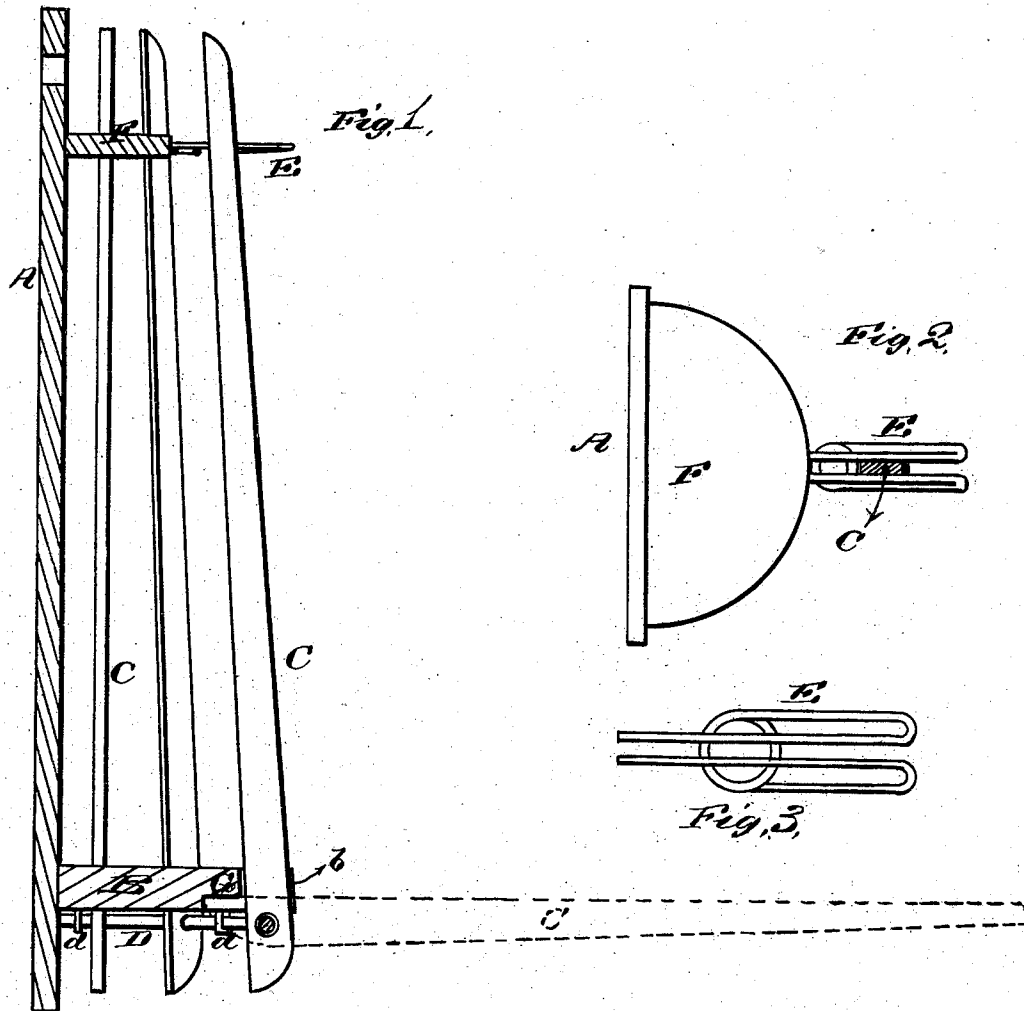


W. H. MERRITT & F. A. ECKENFELS.
TOWEL-RACK.

No. 191,989.

Patented June 12, 1877.



WITNESSES
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. MERRITT AND FRANK A. ECKENFELS, OF MANISTEE, MICH.

IMPROVEMENT IN TOWEL-RACKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **191,989**, dated June 12, 1877; application filed March 24, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WILLIAM H. MERRITT and FRANK A. ECKENFELS, of Manistee, in the county of Manistee and State of Michigan, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Towel-Racks; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

This invention relates to towel-racks; and consists in the construction and arrangement hereinafter fully set forth and claimed.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a representation of a longitudinal vertical section of our towel-rack, and Fig. 2 is a plan view thereof. Fig. 3 is a detail view of the same.

In the accompanying drawings, A designates the back or support of my towel-rack, and B a semicircular block, extending forward from the lower part of the same. Said block or half-disk B is provided on its periphery with radial recesses *b*, that allow the play of towel-supporting bars C, as the latter are raised from a horizontal into an upright position, or lowered from an upright to a horizontal position. Said bars C are pivoted at their lower ends on a bent rod, D, that is attached by eyes *d* to the under side of said block or half-disk B. When raised into an upright position their upper ends are grasped and held by spring-jaws E, formed of wire, and attached to the outer edge of a smaller block or half-disk, F, also secured to back A. There are a pair of these spring jaws or clamps, E, for each towel-holding arm or bar C, and they serve to retain said bars in such a position

that they will not interfere with passers-by, or occupy room unnecessarily.

Fig. 3 shows one of these pairs of spring clamps or jaws in detail. The dotted lines in Fig. 1 indicate the position of one of the bars C when turned down for holding towels. The rear end of each bar C, when in this position, engages with a shoulder, G, at the back of its recess *b*, so as to prevent said bar from falling below a horizontal position.

Back or support A may be attached to a wall or wash-stand, or arranged in any other convenient manner.

We are aware that a clothes-rack consisting of a back having an upper bracket, provided with spring-clips, and a lower bracket having arms pivoted to a wire, has heretofore been employed, and we therefore lay no claim to such invention.

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

A clothes-rack consisting of the back A, having the upper bracket F, provided with the spring wire clamps E, made in one piece, bent spirally at their middle parts with straight projecting ends, and the lower bracket B, having recess *b*, shoulders G, and bent rod D, to which the bars C are pivoted, the whole constructed, arranged, and operating in the manner and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that we claim the above we have hereunto subscribed our names in the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM H. MERRITT.
FRANK A. ECKENFELS.

Witnesses:

G. A. HART,
A. J. HAMMOND.