



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE J. REED, OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, ASSIGNOR OF THREE-FOURTHS TO WILLIAM J. CLEVELAND AND FRANK D. PELLETIER, OF SAME PLACE.

## CLOTHESLINE-FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 507,593, dated October 31, 1893.

Application filed June 10, 1893. Serial No. 477,138. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE J. REED, of Kansas City, Jackson county, Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clothesline-Fasteners, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part hereof.

My invention relates to improvements in clothes line fasteners; and the objects of my invention are to produce a fastener which is simple, strong, durable and inexpensive of construction, whereby any slack in the line may be taken up easily and quickly and whereby the line may be held firmly at any desired tension.

With these objects in view my invention consists in certain peculiar and novel features of construction and combinations of parts, as will be hereinafter described and claimed.

In order that my invention may be fully understood, I will proceed to describe it with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1, is a perspective view of a clothes line fastener constructed in accordance with my invention, and showing the line connected thereto in operative position. Fig. 2, is a vertical central sectional view of the same. Fig. 3, is a detail perspective view of the guide bars or blocks, and Fig. 4, is a detail perspective of the slide clamping plate.

In the drawings, 1 designates a pair of guide bars or blocks, these bars being adapted to be arranged a suitable distance apart and parallel with each other and secured vertically to a fence, post, or any other suitable device of sufficient height to support the line as required.

3 designates the front plate, this plate being placed against the front side of the guide-bars or blocks, and is formed in its upper side with the central bifurcation 4, this bifurcation being preferably V-shape, and having its lower end located about centrally of the plate. This plate 3 is preferably secured permanently to the front side of the guide-bars or blocks 1 by the same screws or other means which secure the guide-bars or blocks in position; these screws being adapted to pass

through the holes 5 of said plate which align with similar holes 6 near the upper and lower ends of each guide bar or block. A slide clamping plate 7 is formed in its front and outer sides with the vertical recesses or grooves 8 to form tongues or ribs which engage and are adapted to slide in the recesses 2—2 of the guide-bars or blocks 1. This slide plate or block 7 is also formed in its lower end with the inverted V-shaped groove or notch 9 which extends upwardly for a suitable distance and connects with the vertical and centrally arranged groove or recess 10 in the rear side of said sliding plate or block, and this groove or recess 10 extends upwardly for a suitable distance and centrally of the block and communicates with the rear end of a horizontal passage or hole 11 formed through the block from front to rear.

Now in operation, one end of the line A is passed from front to rear through the passage or hole 11 and is then carried downwardly in the groove 10 at the rear side of said block until the upper end of the inverted V-shaped recess is reached. The line is then carried forward as shown clearly in Fig. 2, the sliding block in the meantime being either disconnected from the guide-bars 1 or else moved upwardly sufficient to leave a considerable space between the upper end of the notch or recess 9 and the lower end or crotch of the recess 4 of the front plate. The line is now drawn taut or tensioned, and the block 7 is pushed or forced downward into the guide grooves of the bars 1 until the line A is clamped firmly between the lower and front and rear and upper margins respectively, of the sliding block 7 and the stationary front plate 3, thus firmly securing the line A in position.

It is to be understood that these clothes line fasteners are adapted to be used in connection with awning lines, on ship board, and in any other place or position where it is necessary and desirable to firmly secure one end or both ends of a line, so that it may be easily unfastened when desired.

From the above description, it will be seen that I have produced a simple, strong, durable and inexpensive clothes line fastener,

which comprises practically only two parts, as the front plate and the side bars may be formed in one piece if desired; these parts consisting of a fixed or immovable jaw, and  
5 a sliding or movable jaw, and a fastener which is applicable for various purposes.

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

10 1. A line fastener, comprising a fixed or stationary jaw forked or recessed at its upper end, and provided with guide-grooves in its rear side, in combination with a slide-block fitting in said grooves, and having its lower  
15 end forked or recessed, and having a hole or aperture through its upper end, substantially as set forth.

20 2. A clothesline fastener, comprising a pair of vertical guide strips adapted to be secured to a wall, post or other suitable place, and having vertical guide grooves in their inner

and adjacent sides, and a face or front plate fixed upon the front sides of and connecting said guide bars, and having a bifurcated or recessed upper end, and a sliding jaw verti- 25 cally grooved in its outer sides, and adapted to be adjusted longitudinally within the guide bars, and a hole or passage in the upper end of said slide plate or block, and having its lower end formed with a bifurcation or re- 30 cess, and a groove in the rear side of said slide-block or plate communicating at its upper and lower ends with the hole or passage and the recess respectively, substantially as set forth.

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

GEORGE J. REED.

Witnesses:

MAUD FITZPATRICK,  
M. P. SMITH.