

United States Patent Office.

FRANCIS COLTON, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 110,438, dated December 27, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN FOLDING-CHAIRS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern :

Be it known that I, FRANCIS COLTON, of Brooklyn, Kings county, New York, have invented, made, and applied to use certain Improvements in Folding-Chairs; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and correct description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing making a part of this specification and to the letters of reference marked thereon, in which—

Figure 1 is a view of my improved chair partially folded.

Figure 2 is a view of the same when opened.

Figure 3 is a view of the same when folded.

In the drawing like parts of the invention are pointed out by the same letters of reference.

The nature of the present invention consists in certain improvements, as more fully hereinafter set forth, in the construction of folding-chairs, the object of the invention being the construction of a chair that can be easily folded for packing or transportation, and the cost of making which shall not, if possible, exceed the cost of the ordinary chair.

To enable those skilled in the arts to make and use my invention, I will describe the construction of the same.

A shows the frame of the chair, composed of the back B of the chair, and front legs C, which are made of one and the same piece of suitable wood, the rounds *b* for the back being inserted in position in the back.

D shows the seat for the chair, which may be of wood, cane, or any proper material, and is attached to the front legs C by the metal supports E, attached at one end to the seat D upon the sides of the same, while their opposite ends are attached to the legs C.

To the back of the seat D, near each end of the same, are attached the plates of metal *d*, beneath which the back ends of the buttons *e* are placed, and held, so that they can freely turn when necessary.

These buttons *e*, as already stated, have their forward ends held beneath the plates *d*, while the shanks of the same are passed through and move in the elongated slots *f* in the back of the frame A, the disks upon the shanks being outside of the frame A.

G shows the back legs of the chair connected together by a cross-brace, H, and having their upper ends secured to the front legs C at *g*, in any convenient way, care being taken that they (the legs G) shall be free to move upon the point *g*.

I and J show side braces for retaining the legs G in

position, when the same are unfolded and placed in position when the chair is opened. One of these, I, is attached to one of the front legs C, and the other, J, is attached at one end to one of the back legs G, while its opposite end is pivoted to the brace I. The brace J is slotted upon its under side, so that, when extended to its full length, the slotted portion will fall directly over the pin inserted in the brace I.

I² and J² show a second pair of braces, similar in construction, and attached upon the opposite side of the chair.

Such being the construction, the operation may be thus set forth:

The hind legs G of the chair may be folded within the front legs C of the chair by depressing the cross-braces I, I², J, and J², until the pin is removed from position within the slot, and the pressing forward and closing the legs G, the braces folding one over the other as the legs G are closed within the legs C.

The legs G can be readily opened by throwing or pressing them out to their full extent, and then extending the braces I, I², J, and J² until the pins upon one set of braces enter the slots in the other set of braces. The seat D can be folded into position (see fig. 3) by hinging it out of and from the horizontal position it occupies when the chair is opened into a nearly vertical position.

As the seat D is closed upon the back of the chair, the metal supports E are swung inward and toward the frame, and the guides or buttons, the front ends of which are attached to the back of the seat at each side, and are free to turn when necessary, slide freely up in the elongated slots in the back of the frame.

Thus it will be observed that, when closed, the chair will occupy but little space, and can be more readily transported and packed; and that, when opened and in use, it will be found sufficiently strong for all purposes.

Having thus set forth my invention.

What I claim as new is—

In combination with the frame A, provided with the elongated slots *ff*, the seat D, having attached to it the guides *e* and braces or supports E, and the rear legs G and braces I, I², J, and J², when the same shall be constructed and operate substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

FRANCIS COLTON.

Witnesses:

A. SIDNEY DOANE,
HENRY GOLDSMITH.