A. G. HULBERT.

Fence.

No. 218,747. Patented Aug. 19, 1879.

Fig. 5.

Fig. 8.

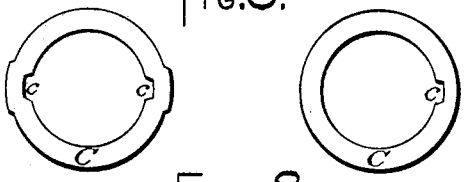


Fig. 1.

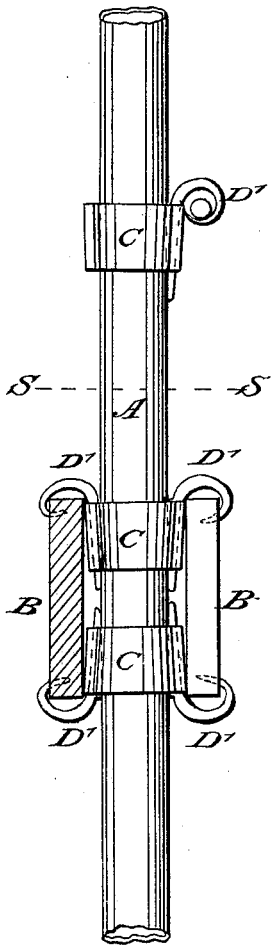


Fig. 2.

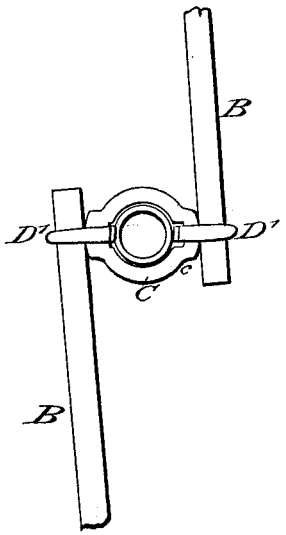


Fig. 3.

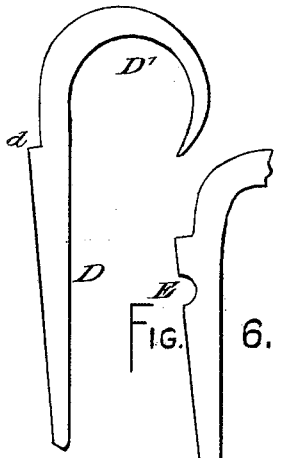


Fig. 6.

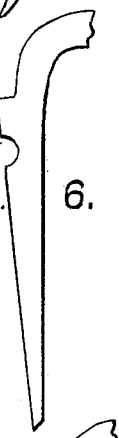


Fig. 4.

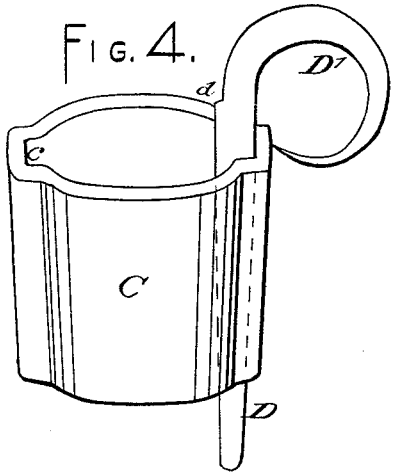
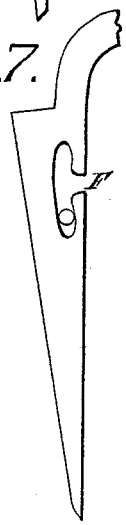


Fig. 7.



Witnesses:

E. R. Bolton

C. C. Stetson

Inventor:

A. G. Hulbert

by his attorney

Thomas L. Stetson

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ARTHUR G. HULBERT, OF MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA.

IMPROVEMENT IN FENCES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **218,747**, dated August 19, 1879; application filed December 4, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ARTHUR G. HULBERT, of Marshalltown, Marshall county, and State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fastening-Clips for Fences, of which the following is a specification.

I have devised an improved means of attaching the boards and wires or other longitudinal parts to the uprights or posts at any required height.

I employ metallic posts of uniform section. I employ clips or bands embracing the post, having one or more keyways on their inner faces, which receive tapering keys or hooks. I use these keys or hooks, which are peculiarly formed, to confine the longitudinal parts of the fence to the posts.

The keys each have a curved prong or arm, which, after the key is driven, may be forced into the board or bent around to form a proper support for a wire. I can use boards without wires or wires without boards.

When desired, boards and wires may be attached to the same post, as shown in Fig. 1, making a combined board and wire fence.

The accompanying drawings form a part of this specification, and represent what I consider the best means of carrying out the invention.

Figure 1 is an elevation of the posts and attachments with my invention applied in two forms, the uppermost holding a wire and the lowermost holding the ends of two boards. Fig. 2 is a horizontal section on the line S S in Fig. 1. The remaining figures represent details detached. Fig. 3 shows the key alone ready for use. Fig. 4 is a perspective view, showing the key and clips alone as applied to hold the wire. Fig. 5 is a plan view on a smaller scale, showing the arrangement of the boards and confining parts. Figs. 6 and 7 represent modifications of the keys, and Fig. 8 represents two ways in which I may make my clips.

The drawings represent the post as a tube. I prefer to use such posts with suitable cast bases; but this is not essential.

Similar letters of reference represent corresponding parts in all the figures.

A is the body of an upright post, and B is a board, which forms one of the longitudinal stretchers of the fence.

C C are hooks or clips loosely embracing the post, each formed with a keyway, *c*, or with two keyways, *c c*.

D D′ *d* represent one of my keys. It has a shoulder, *d*, to allow it to be driven forcibly by percussion applied through any suitable "set." The tapering part D applies in the key-seat *c*, and confines the clip C firmly to the post A at the desired elevation.

In securing boards, after the key is driven, the board B is applied in the desired position, and one or more blows on the curved part D′ forces its pointed end into the board and holds it firmly. If the boards are wide, a similar clip, C *c*, with a similar key, D D′ *d*, is applied in the reverse position to hold the lower edge of the board. This condition is shown in Fig. 1.

The arm D′ of the key should be made sufficiently stout and sharpened.

When boards are used I can apply the boards in the ordinary manner, and with their ends abutting, and confine the ends of each by a single prong, D′, made of considerable width; but the hold thus obtained would be obviously slight. I can make special keys with two arms, D′, spread apart, so as to get a stronger hold on the two abutting boards.

A better hold can be obtained by abutting the boards considerably one upon the other, and using keys with sufficiently long prongs D′ to reach over both, and when driven home to penetrate the outer one and engage with the inner one.

What I consider a better plan is that shown in Figs. 1 and 2, where the ends of the two boards are represented as applying on opposite sides of the post. This requires two key-seats, *c c*, and two of my keys, D D′ *d*.

Modifications may be made. When the longitudinal stretcher is a wire, the wire is applied in the desired position, and the curved part D′ of the key is curled quite around. This condition is shown in Fig. 4. As a further modification the wire may be secured by an indentation, E, in the side of the key next to the post, as shown in Fig. 6, or by a slot, F, on the opposite side of the key partially open-

tirely closed after the wire is inserted, as indicated in Fig. 7. In these instances the keys may be also made with the curved part D′, to enable them to hold boards when required, or the curved part D′ may be omitted.

Should it be desired to bind the wires at each post, so as to prevent its drawing through the fastener, the indentation E may be made sufficiently small, so that when the key is driven the wire will be held firmly clasped between the key and the post: or in using the hook D′ it may be closed tightly to prevent the wire from drawing through.

I claim as my invention—

1. The combination, with a fence-post, of a key having a curved prong or recessed portion for supporting a board or wire, and a clip surrounding the post, and sustained in position by the aforesaid key, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, in a fence, with the posts, of the boards sustained on opposite side thereof by keys binding in the same clip or clips, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of November, 1878, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

A. G. HULBERT.

Witnesses:

OBED CASWELL,

J. F. MEEKER.