E. D. BALLOU.
Basket.

No. 217,572. Patented July 15, 1879.

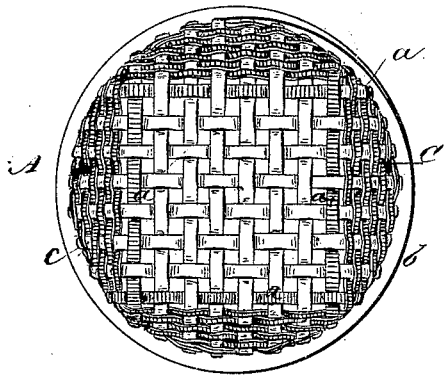

Fig. 1

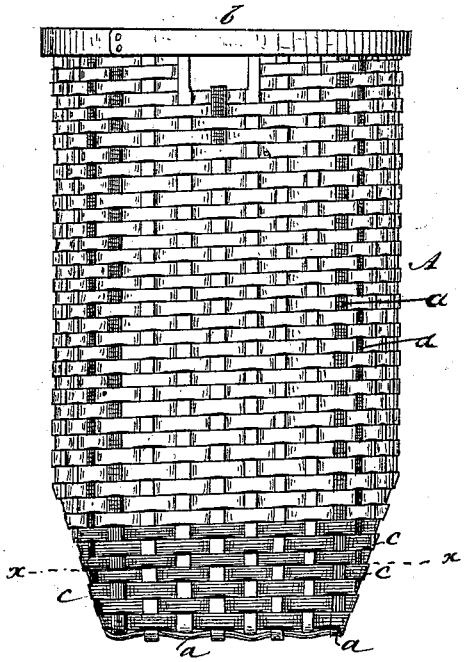

Fig. 2

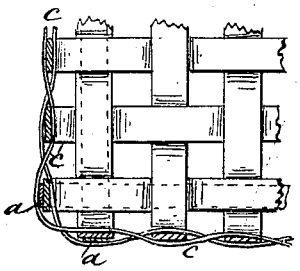

Fig. 3

WITNESSES:
C. Neveux
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BY
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELMER D. BALLOU, OF BECKET, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN BASKETS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **217,572**, dated July 15, 1879; application filed April 30, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ELMER D. BALLOU, of Becket, in the county of Berkshire and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Baskets, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to woven baskets of willow or other wood, and has for its object to strengthen and protect the lower portions of the basket.

Figure 1 is a bottom view of a factory-basket constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a section at the line *x x* of Fig. 2.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The basket A is a square-bottom factory-basket.

In the manufacture of the basket the strands of willow, ash, or other wood forming the bottom and lengthwise strips are laid together in the usual manner. The strips on the edge of bottom on which the weight rests are overlaid with strips *a* of metal, which extend across the bottom and up at the sides to the rim *b*.

The horizontal strips *c*, forming the sides next to the bottom, are of metal, interlaced with the lengthwise strips in the usual manner, and are continued as far up as desired, but need only to extend a short distance to give the required strength and durability to the basket.

The strips *a* and filling *c* are preferably galvanized iron, so as not to rust, but may be of other metal—such, for instance, as tin or tinned iron, if desired.

The basket is finished from the termination of the filling *c* to the top with wooden filling, as usual.

This construction gives stiffness and strength to the basket where it is most required, and renders the basket very durable. The strips *a* stiffen the sides and take the wear caused by drawing the basket over a floor; but they will not alone prevent the basket from breaking down.

The metal strips *c* render the sides next the bottom fully as durable as the other parts, and without adding materially to the weight.

I am aware that it is not new in baskets to make the bottom and sides of metallic strips laced or woven together, or to use metallic strips that pass under the bottom and up the sides, in connection with horizontal strips or hoops; but

What I claim as new and of my invention is—

The combination, with wooden strips on bottom and sides of basket A, of the metallic strips *a*, running under the bottom, up the sides of basket to rim *b*, and overlaid upon the wooden strips, and the horizontal strips *c*, running around the body of basket next to the bottom, as shown and described.

ELMER D. BALLOU.

Witnesses:

JULIUS E. MECUM,

MONROE E. BALLOU.