

(No Model.)

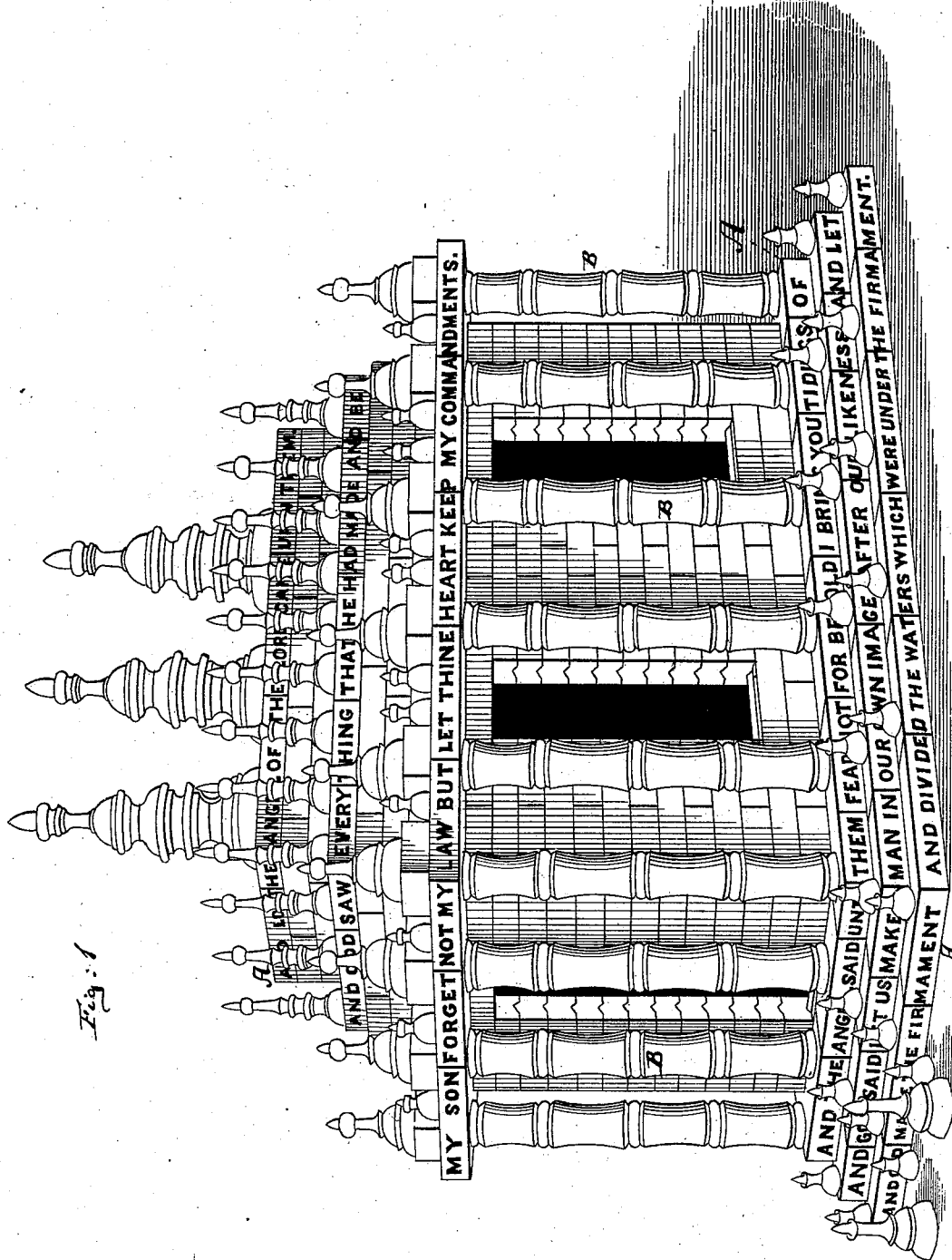
2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

J. A. CRANDALL.

TOY BUILDING BLOCKS.

No. 260,284.

Patented June 27, 1882.



Witnesses:
Henry Parker
John C. Timbridge.

Inventor:
Jesse A. Crandall
by his attorneys
Brisson & Betts

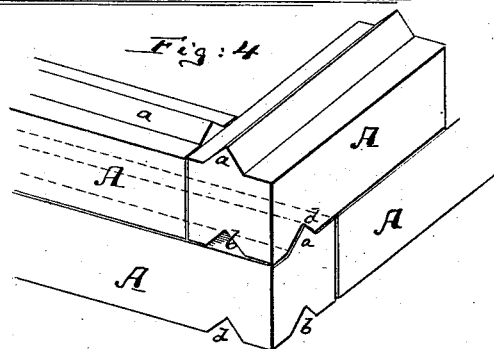
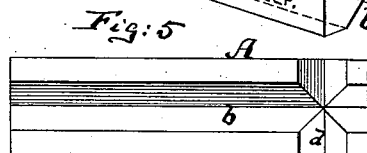
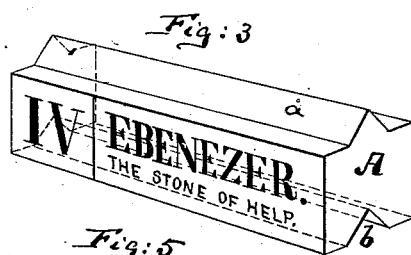
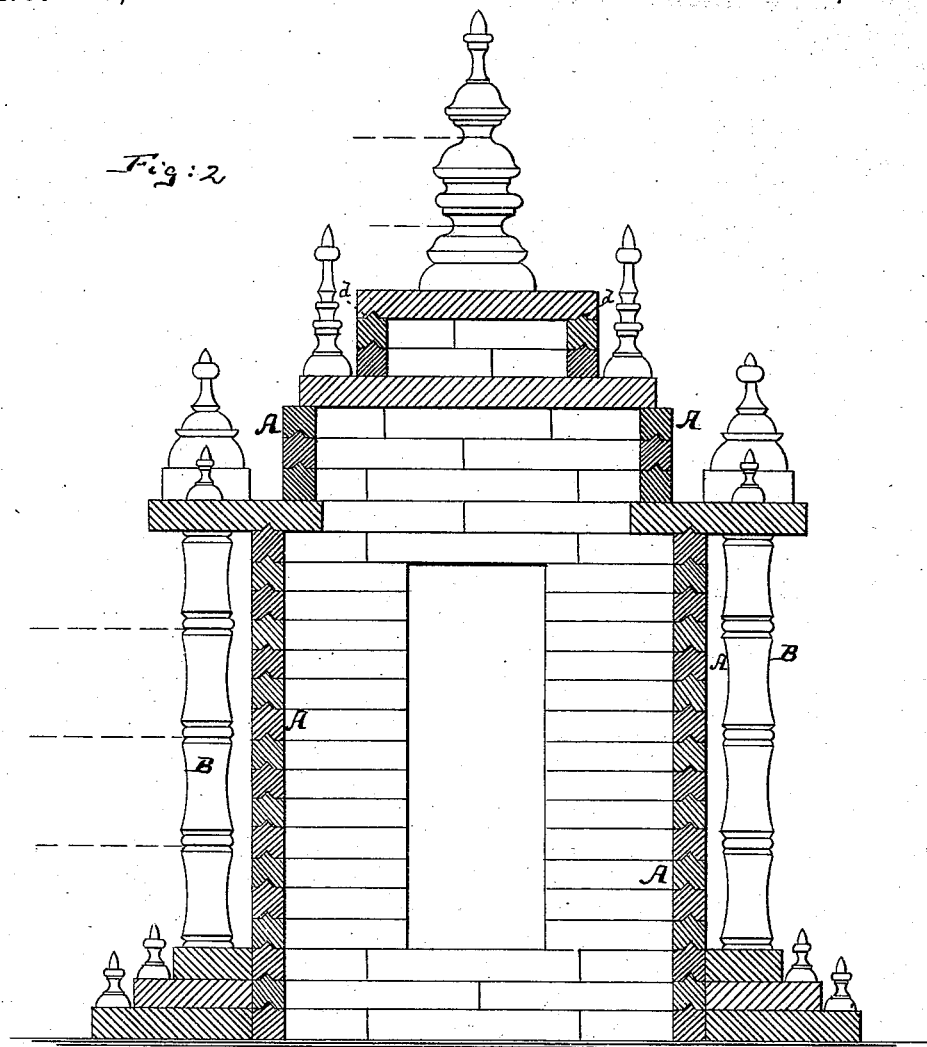
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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JESSE A. CRANDALL, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF
TO WALTER P. DENSLOW, OF SAME PLACE.

TOY BUILDING-BLOCKS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 260,284, dated June 27, 1882.

Application filed February 15, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JESSE A. CRANDALL, of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented an Improved Toy Building-Block, of which the following is a specification.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a temple composed of my improved building-block. Fig. 2 is a sectional elevation of the same; Fig. 3, a perspective view of one of the blocks; Fig. 4, a perspective view, showing the junction of several of the blocks; Fig. 5, a bottom view of one of the corner-blocks.

The object of this invention is to produce an instructive building-block for children, and one from which a great variety of structures can be produced, the structures being firm and well supported, owing to the peculiar form of the blocks.

The invention consists, first, in making each block with a projecting tapering rib on one side and with a corresponding groove on the other side, for the purpose of taking into and receiving the adjoining blocks and preventing lateral displacement thereof or thereon; also, in crossing the grooves near the ends of blocks that are intended as corner-blocks, and also in inscribing the outer faces of said blocks with sections of legends, so that by properly uniting them continuous sentences will be produced. Thus, in Fig. 1 of the drawings, the base and corners of the temple there shown, and also other parts, are made from sundry blocks, A, and contain, when the blocks are properly placed one next to the other, continuous quotations from the Bible, which will be instructive to children, and will impart to them, by way of play, knowledge which otherwise, in schools, is much more difficult to acquire. In like manner the single blocks, by which I mean those blocks that are placed between the columns of the structure, or any other isolated blocks, may have inscribed on them names, such as names found in the Bible, with translations thereof in the English language, showing their meaning—as is, for instance, indicated in Fig. 3, where the name "Ebenezer" appears on the block and beneath it the translation of the word Ebenezer—to wit, "The Stone of Help." These words or sentences

may be applied directly to the blocks by painting, branding, or stenciling, or may be printed on paper, which can be gummed or glued to the outer faces of the blocks, and each block may have its opposite faces inscribed in different ways, so that greater variety of reading-matter may be obtained by using either one or the other face of the block on the outside of the structure. For the purposes of amusement and the production of confused or funny sentences this reversal of the faces may be very desirable.

Each block A, as is more clearly shown in Fig. 3, is provided on one face—say the upper face—and made in one piece with a projecting preferably V-shaped rib, *a*, and on the opposite—say the lower—face with a corresponding V-shaped groove, *b*. When the blocks are placed one upon the other to produce a structure such as is shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the tapering ribs of one series or tiers of blocks will enter into the grooves of the next adjoining series or tiers of blocks, thus causing the blocks to interlock, giving the structure a greater degree of rigidity than can be found in the ordinary building-blocks. The blocks that are to come at the corners, as in Fig. 4, and those that constitute cross-braces, as shown at the top of Fig. 2, may also be provided with cross-grooves *d* to receive the projecting longitudinal ribs *a* of the blocks beneath them. The ends of the grooves which would be exposed in the finished structure—as is, for example, shown in Fig. 4—may be hidden by a covering of paper that may be placed over the blocks, or in any other suitable manner.

The building-blocks A, constructed as described, may be united in the structure itself with other building-blocks, B B, that will form sectional columns, pillars, pinnacles, and the like; and I do not limit myself to the use of blocks A in one set of building-blocks alone, as they may be combined with other blocks, B, or others of different form.

I do not claim joining blocks by tongues set in them and entering grooves in each of two adjoining blocks.

I claim—

1. The building-block A, made in one piece

with the tapering rib *a*, and provided with the groove *b*, substantially as described.

2. The building-block A, made in one piece with the tapering rib *a*, and provided with the 5 groove *b* and cross-groove *d*, substantially as described.

3. The combination of several building-blocks A A with each other, each building-block containing on its exposed face one or 10 more words forming a portion of a sentence which will only match a portion of the same sentence that is inscribed on only one of the

other blocks in the same series, substantially as specified.

4. The sectional pillar composed of detached 15 blocks B, in combination with building-blocks A, having ribs *a* and grooves *b*, substantially as described.

This specification of my invention signed by me this 9th day of February, 1882.

JESSE A. CRANDALL.

Witnesses:

HENRY B. PARKER,

WILLY G. E. SCHULTZ.