G. TOPPING.

Clothes-Pins.

No. 166,160. Patented July 27, 1875.

Fig. 1

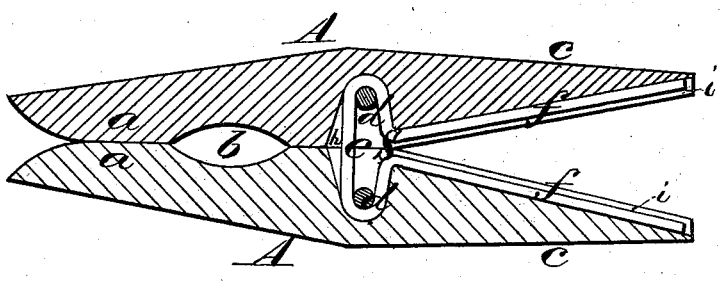
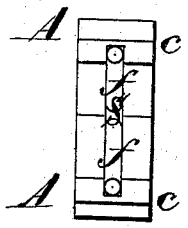


Fig. 2



WITNESSES

E. H. Bates

F. J. Masi

INVENTOR.

George Topping

Pierce and Fosmer & Co

ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE TOPPING, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

IMPROVEMENT IN CLOTHES-PINS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **166,160**, dated July 27, 1875; application filed January 30, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE TOPPING, of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Clothes-Pins; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawing is a representation of a longitudinal vertical section of my clothes-pin, and Fig. 2 is an end view of the same.

This invention has relation to clothes-pins which are designed for holding washed clothing upon a drying-line; and the nature of the invention consists in the novel construction of the parts, as will be hereinafter more fully described.

In the annexed drawings, A A designate the two wooden parts of a clothes-pin, of which *a a* are the griping ends, and *c c* the handles, a notch, *b*, being cut transversely across the inner contiguous surfaces of the said griping ends for the purpose of receiving the line.

At the point where it is customary to hinge these wooden arms together—that is to say, at or near the center of their length—a deep longitudinal recess, *h*, is cut into their inner faces, and a groove, *i*, extending outwardly therefrom to the extremity of handles *c*, which recesses and grooves are each respectively designed to receive one end of a loop, *e*, and a leg, *f*, of a metallic spring, S, preferably of wire, and greatly resembling the well-known sugar-tongs in its general form and appearance. This spring is secured in place by means of strong metallic pivots *d* passing transversely through the body of parts A into the opposite ends of loop *e*, fitting snugly therein, as shown in Fig. 1. These pivots are cylindrical in shape, with a view to preventing undue friction. By this peculiar construction loop *e* is made to perform, in connection with pivots *d*, the function of a hinge, the power whereby the griping ends *a a* of arms A are actuated being produced by the resistance to compression of legs *f*; and as the ends of the said loop fit snugly into the recesses above described, and are prevented from escaping therefrom by pivots *d*, a hinge-spring of exceptional excellence is the result, which, while allowing the wooden parts of the said spring to expand freely without danger of tearing them away from each other, will yet hold them rigidly against relative endwise displacement.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In a clothes-pin, the jaws A, having the recesses *h*, grooves *i*, extending outwardly to the end of the handles, and pivots *d*, in combination with the spring S, having loop *e* and legs *f*, arranged respectively in said recesses and grooves, as shown and described.

In testimony that I claim the above, I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

GEORGE TOPPING.

Witnesses:

J. B. ROCKAFELLOW,

W. B. BRADFORD.