

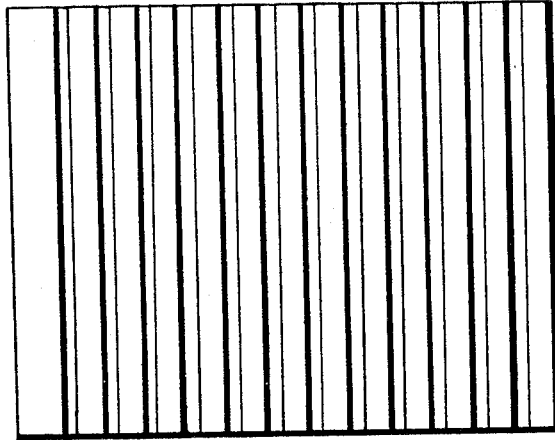
G. C. SETCHELL.

ORNAMENTAL AND FLEXIBLE LUMBER.

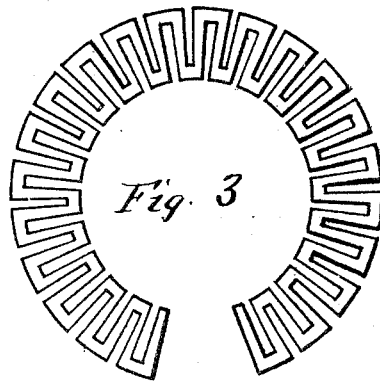
No. 183,073.

Patented Oct. 10, 1876.

*Fig. 1*



*Fig. 2*



*Fig. 3*

WITNESSES—

*Webster Park*  
*& Co. Park*

INVENTOR—

*George C. Setchell*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE C. SETCHELL, OF NORWICH, CONNECTICUT.

## IMPROVEMENT IN ORNAMENTAL AND FLEXIBLE LUMBER.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 188,078, dated October 10, 1876; application filed March 10, 1876.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE C. SETCHELL, of Norwich, in the county of New London, State of Connecticut, have invented certain improvements in Ornamental and Flexible Lumber, of which the following is a specification:

The object of my invention is to provide lumber or boards, both ornamental and flexible, to be used for forming round corners, in the construction of houses, railroad-cars, steamboats, and similar objects, or for covering posts and columns, in which uses the lumber remains permanently curved after being secured in place. Or it may be used for cylindrical or semi-cylindrical doors or lids, for various articles of household or office furniture, in which case it may be either in a plane or in a cylindrical form, according as the door is open or closed, it being readily closed up as a cylinder, or slid back into a plane. It is also suitable for table-mats, as it is very light and elastic; offers free ventilation throughout its whole extent, and is not liable to warp either from moisture or heat; and for many other analogous uses.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 represents a face view of my improved lumber; Fig. 2 an end view, and Fig. 3 an end view when bent into a cylindrical form.

My improved lumber is prepared by cutting a board of any kind of wood, and of any breadth and thickness, longitudinally, by a gang of cutters or saws, into a series of par-

allel kerfs, nearly through its thickness. The board is then turned over, and again cut precisely as before, so that the second kerfs are made midway between the first. It is found that the board still possesses a large part of its original strength longitudinally, but transversely it is exceedingly elastic and flexible, being readily conformed to any shape desired, and admitting of being bent into cylinders of even one or two inches internal diameter, thus being remarkably adapted for all the uses above mentioned.

Both the outside and the inside kerfs contribute to the flexibility of the wood. The outside kerfs, though very neat and ornamental in themselves, may be made more so, if desired, by rounding their outer corners, or adding a bead to them.

It is evident that more or less flexibility is attained, according to the depth of the kerfs; also, that one set of kerfs may be a little deeper than the other, and that the distance between the kerfs may be varied, according to the various requirements of use.

I claim as my invention—

The ornamental and flexible lumber, having parallel longitudinal kerfs in both sides, nearly through its thickness, the kerfs of one side being midway between those of the other, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

GEORGE C. SETCHELL.

Witnesses:

WEBSTER PARK,  
E. R. PARK.