J. W. LATCHER.

WASH-BOARD.

No. 185,552. Patented Dec. 19, 1876.

Fig. 1

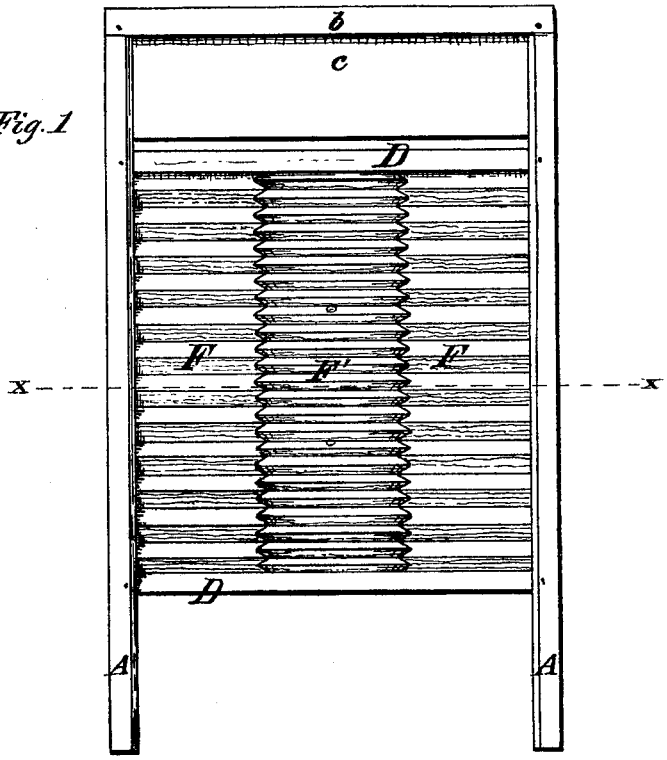

Fig. 2

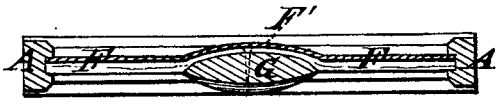

Fig. 3

Witnesses:
Thomas L. Connolly,
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Inventor,
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN W. LATCHER, OF JOHNSTOWN, ASSIGNOR TO CLOTILDA N. JENKINS, OF CONKLINGVILLE, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN WASH-BOARDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **185,552**, dated December 19, 1876; application filed November 16, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN W. LATCHER, of Johnstown, in the county of Fulton and State of New York, have invented a Wash-Board, of which the following is a specification:

This invention relates to that class of wash-boards having a raised central washing-surface, and is an improvement on the wash-board patented by me on the 27th day of January, 1874, and numbered 146,921; and consists in forming a raised central washing-surface on the one side, and a wooden corrugated strip, and on its reverse side of a sheet of zinc or metal having its central portion corrugated or ribbed differently from the washing-surfaces on either side of the center, as will be hereinafter more fully described, the said central portion of the zinc plate being raised, of course, above its lateral washing-surfaces, and secured to the corrugated wooden center-piece in a rigid manner by means of nails and the like, thus making a wash-board having one of its faces wholly of one sheet of metal, with a raised center, and on its reverse side two washing-surfaces, of zinc or metal, and a corrugated center piece of wood interposed between them, one sheet of metal only being required for the wash-board.

Figure 1 is a vertical side elevation of my wash-board. Fig. 2 exhibits an end sectional view of the same, taken in the line *x x*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal elevation of the inner face of the square cross-bar, exhibiting the groove which retains the top and bottom edges of the zinc plate.

A A represent the uprights or standards, the same being united at the top through the medium of the cap *b* and soap-board *c*, in the usual way. Gains or grooves are formed in the inner faces of the standards A A, for retaining the zinc plate, in the usual manner. Holes are bored in the inner edges of the standards A A, for the reception of the cross-bars D D, in the manner heretofore used. I cut a gain or groove in the cross-bars D D, as shown in Fig. 3, being curved in the center from a right line, as indicated at *e*, Fig. 3, for the reception and retention of the upper and lower edges of the zinc plate F F F′.

A peculiar and useful part of my invention consists in bending, crimping, corrugating, or stamping the zinc plate into two or more distinct forms, as follows:

The two side or lateral portions F F may be formed quite alike, while I emboss or stamp the central portion F′ in a convex or raised form, in order to give greater strength to the zinc plate when the same is to be used on its reverse side, in connection with a corrugated wooden center piece, as well as to admit of the close insertion and retention of the said double-convex wood center piece G, which is corrugated or fluted crosswise of its grain, and only on its outer convex or flat surface. I also crimp or corrugate the central portion F′ of the zinc plate with a smaller or different configuration from the side portions F F, as shown in the drawing, in order that laces and other fine articles may be washed on the same side of the zinc plate without the necessity of reversing the board to wash on the wood surface center piece G, which may, for certain purposes, be made of a much larger outline of configuration with respect to the lateral zinc surfaces. A saw-kerf is formed in the bar D, in the usual way; but I stamp or cut the curved groove *e* by means of a gouge corresponding to the stamped edge of the zinc plate at F′. The straight portions of the zinc plate F F are inserted in the saw-kerf or straight groove, while the curved portion of the zinc F′ enters the groove made for its reception, as will be understood. Copper or other non injurious or corroding nails may be securely driven through the zinc portion F′, and thence into the wooden center piece G, in order to hold them securely together, making thereby a mutual support.

In brief, this invention combines two essential elements in washing—to wit, first, an entire zinc surface having a raised center or central portion convex, in conjunction with a corrugated wooden center piece on its reverse side; second, a sheet of zinc having its central vertical portion crimped or stamped with a much finer or smaller configuration or conformation from the two side or lateral portions F F, whether said sheet be formed con-

vex or of a plain surface as regards its central portion.

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

1. The central portion of a zinc or metal plate for wash-boards, with smaller corrugations than the two lateral or side washing-surfaces, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. A wash-board having a corrugated sheet of zinc, and the same raised or convex in its central portion, in combination with the corrugated wooden center piece G, secured to its reverse side, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

JOHN W. LATCHER.

Witnesses:
THOMAS C. CONNOLLY,
A. E. BEECHER.