MARY NOLAN.

BUILDING-BLOCKS.

No. 186,604. Patented Jan. 23, 1877.

Fig 1

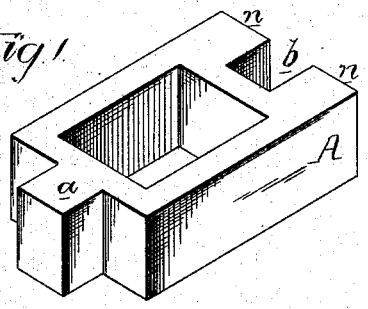


Fig 2

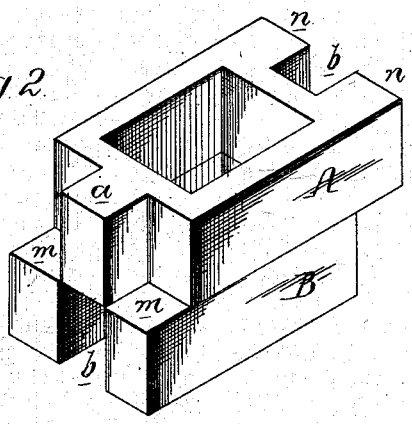


Fig 3

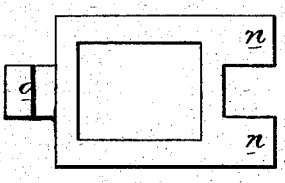
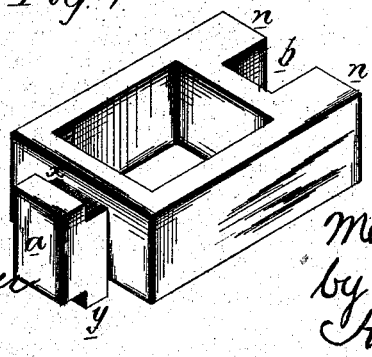


Fig 4



Witnesses.
Hermann Moessner
Harry Smith

Mary Nolan
by her Attorneys.
Howson and Sons

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARY NOLAN, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

IMPROVEMENT IN BUILDING-BLOCKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **186,604**, dated January 23, 1877; application filed December 20, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARY NOLAN, of St. Louis, Missouri, have invented an Improved Building-Block, of which the following is a specification:

The object of my invention is to so construct building-blocks, that in laying them to form a wall, the blocks of each course shall be laterally locked together, and to the blocks of the other course.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 is perspective view of the building-block; Fig. 2, a perspective view, showing the mode of laying the blocks; Fig. 3, a plan view, and Fig. 4 a modified form of block.

The block has a tenon, *a*, at one end, a mortise, *b*, at the opposite end, both mortises and tenons having parallel sides, and extending from top to bottom of the block, and the tenon of one block being arranged to fit snugly, but freely, in the mortise of another block.

The manner of laying the blocks so as to break joints, is shown in Fig. 2, where it will be observed that the mortises of all the blocks of one course are on the left, and the tenons on the right, while in the next course the tenons are on the left, and the mortises on the right. By this arrangement the tenon *a* of the block A of the upper course is directly above and coincides with the mortise *b* of the block B of the lower course, but the lower block presents two ledges, *m m*, one on each side of the tenon of the upper block, and on these ledges bear the projections *n n* of a third block, in the mortise of which fits the tenon *a* of the block A.

In a wall thus built, the blocks of one course not only break joints with those of the other, but the blocks of each course are laterally locked together.

The several courses are locked together by making each block in the manner shown in Fig. 4, in which each tenon of each block has a recess, *x*, above, and a corresponding projection, *y*, below, so that on laying the blocks, the projections *y* of one course will enter the recesses of the course below, the projections being within the mortises of the lower course, so that the two courses will be laterally locked together.

The blocks are so intimately connected together that the wall will present an uniform surface of finished appearance, so as to render the use of plaster unnecessary for the inner walls of buildings, and when used for this purpose the blocks may be enameled or otherwise ornamented on the edges for decorative effects.

My plan of interlocking the blocks enables me to make a hollow wall without detracting from its permanency and solidity.

I prefer to make a rectangular opening through each block, as shown in the drawing, but the openings may be of different shapes, provided those in the blocks of one course communicate with those of the adjoining courses.

In the present instance the openings in the blocks are such as to form within the wall, a series of vertical passages, which may be used as flues, or for ventilating purposes, or simply to insure a dry wall.

It will be understood that some of the blocks should be plain at one end for the ends of the walls.

I am aware that it has been proposed to build walls of blocks joined together by means of dovetailed joints. This I do not desire to claim, therefore; but

I claim as my invention—

1. A wall composed of building-blocks, each having a flat top and bottom, a mortise having parallel sides at one end, and a tenon having parallel sides at the opposite end, when the blocks of adjoining courses are arranged in opposite directions, so as to break joints, in the manner described and illustrated in Fig. 2.

2. The within described building-block, made with a mortise at one end, and at the other with a tenon, having formed on it a recess, *x*, and projection *y*, as set forth, for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

MARY NOLAN.

Witnesses:

HERMANN MOESSNER,

HARRY SMITH.