

E. F. TOWERS.  
Covering for Monumental Tombstones.

No. 198,712.

Patented Dec. 25, 1877.

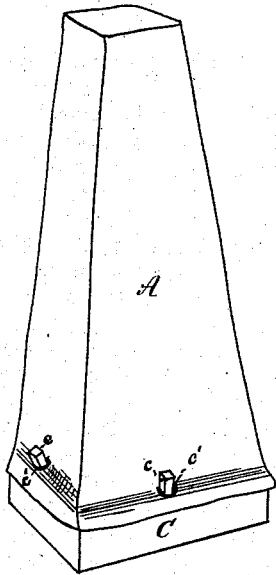


Fig. 1.

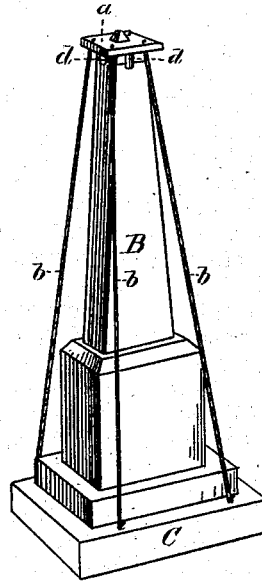


Fig. 2.

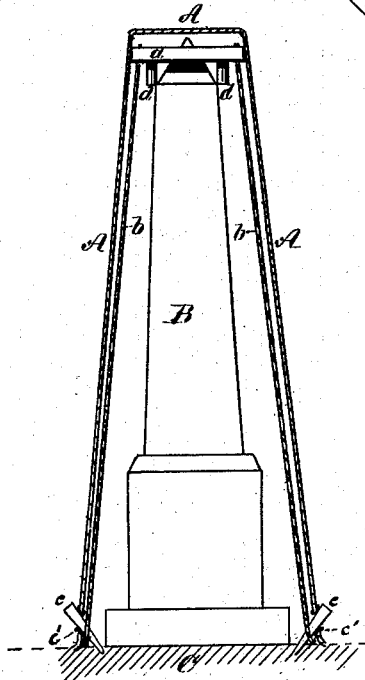


Fig. 3.

WITNESSES

*J. H. [Signature]*  
*John F. Mead*

INVENTOR

*Ellen F. Towers*  
by her attorney  
*J. L. Newton*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELLEN F. TOWERS, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

## IMPROVEMENT IN COVERINGS FOR MONUMENTAL TOMBSTONES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **198,712**, dated December 25, 1877; application filed December 8, 1877.

### *To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ELLEN F. TOWERS, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improved Covering for Monumental Tombstones, of which the following is a specification:

The invention relates to coverings for tombstones or monuments erected to perpetuate the memory of the dead.

Ornamental monuments and tablets are liable to injury by exposure to the frosts, ice, and storms of winter, and it is usual to protect them during the winter by coverings of frames and boards, which are expensive, and at the same time injury may result from the rust of nails, and from drippings from the structures upon the monumental works.

My invention is a covering made of india-rubber cloth or any equivalent water-proof fabric, made up with a suitable frame or cap, fitted to the monument so as to cover any monument or tombstone, and the cover part or bottom of said covering has holes, through which pins or pegs may be driven into the ground; or any suitable fastening may be attached to the lower part of said covering to keep the same from displacement by wind and storm.

The object of the frame or cap-piece is to keep the water-proof cloth or fabric from clinging to the monument; and the object of the invention is to furnish a neat, cheap, and perfectly water-proof covering for monuments; and in order that others may be able to understand more fully my invention, I will proceed to explain the same.

In the accompanying drawings, which are made a part of this specification, Figure 1 represents a monument covered with india-rubber cloth, and fastened to the ground by pins or pegs. Fig. 2 represents the monument with a cap-piece on the top, and said cap-piece has four cords attached to the same, one cord at each corner, going to the ground at the base of the monument, and is there fastened into the ground by means of pins or pegs, or any suitable fastenings. Fig. 3 is a vertical section of said monument so covered, as in Fig. 1.

The letter A represents the covering, and said covering is formed so as to fit the monument, and the edges of the fabric where they

come together are gummed, or are brought together and made impervious to water, and through the lower edges of the covering I have made eyelet-holes, through which pins *c c* fasten the covering to the ground; but any suitable fastening may be substituted in the place of the pins.

The letter B represents any monument or tombstone, whether its form is that of a shaft or column or slab, or whatever its form.

C I have represented as the ground at the base of the monument. *a* is a cap-piece, having, in a shaft of this description, a hole in its center for the point of the shaft or pyramid, and pins *d d*, &c., underneath, one on each side, projecting downward for the purpose of keeping the cap in position; and also I have fastened cords *b b*, &c., to said cap, one at each corner, and said cords are designed to extend to the ground, and are there fastened, serving both to keep the cap in place and to keep the covering from sticking to the monument, and also the covering in proper shape.

In place of the cap-piece, I may have any frame suited to the monument or tombstone to be covered, whether said frame is connected with the ground, as above described, or not; and the only object of the frame at all is to keep the covering from the surface of the monument, and may not be in all cases necessary or indispensable for that purpose. The covering should be thick and strong, and the edges of the fabric should be well gummed, so as to prevent any moisture from going through into the inner side of the covering, and when taken from the monument should be well dried before packing away.

Such coverings, well cared for, dealers in india-rubber goods think will last at least four years, and be much cheaper than wooden coverings, and will keep the monuments free from all discoloration incident to the covering by wood put together in the ordinary way.

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

1. For monuments and tombstones, a covering, A, made of india-rubber cloth or an equivalent water-proof fabric, which is provided with holes *c' c'* near its lower edge, through which pins *c c* are thrust to fasten the same to the ground, for the purpose shown and described.

2. The combination of the cap-piece *a*, having pegs or screws *ddd* underneath, or an equivalent frame-work, with the covering *A*, provided with holes *e' e'* near its lower edge, through which pins *c c* are thrust into the ground, all for the purpose shown and described.

3. The combination of the cap *a*, or an equivalent frame-work, having cords *b b b b*, substan-

tially as shown, with the covering *A*, which has near its lower edge holes in the same, and fastenings to the ground, for the purpose shown and described.

ELLEN F. TOWERS.

Witnesses:

J. L. NEWTON,  
ANNA M. RUGGLES.