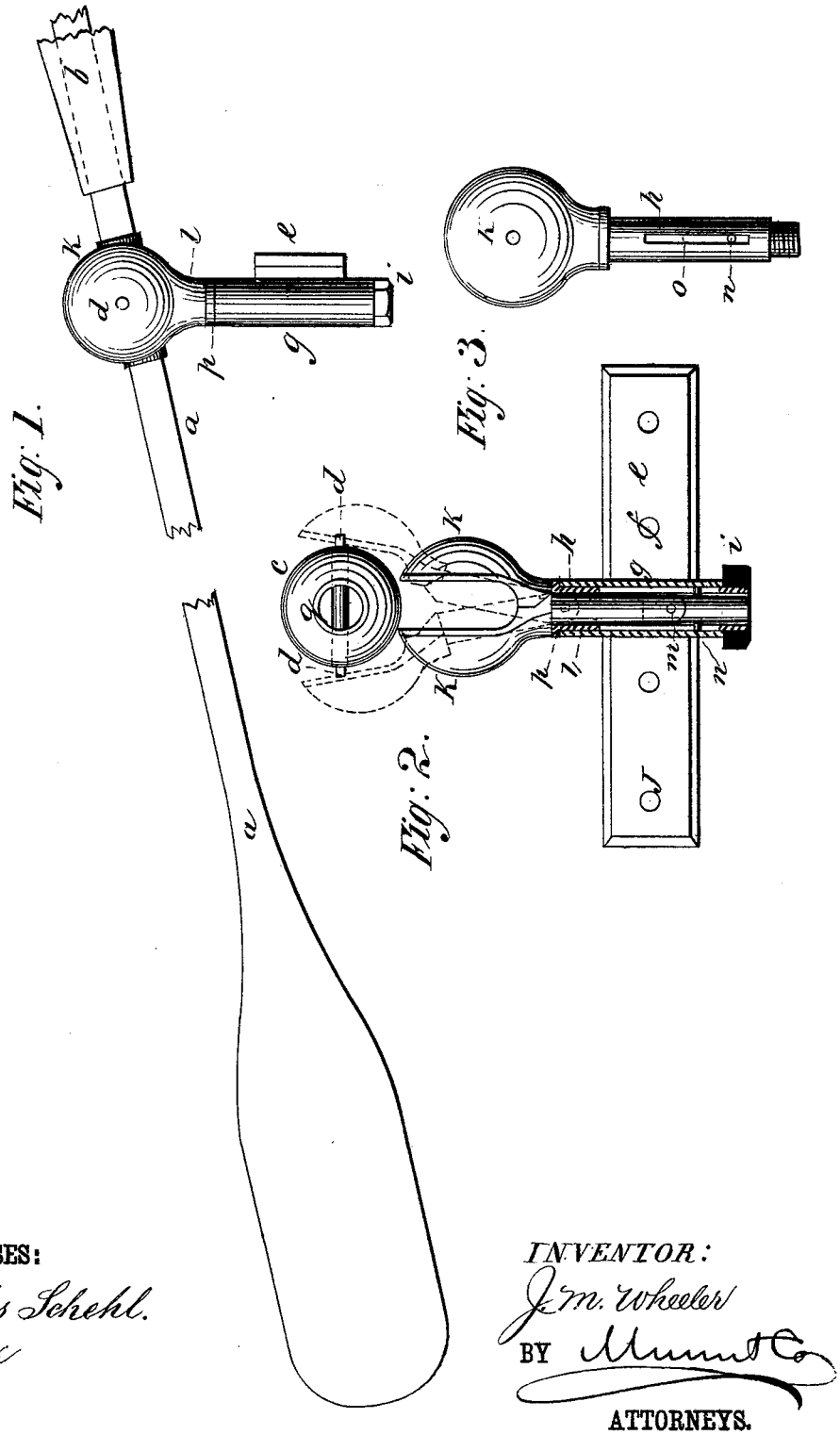
J. M. WHEELER.

Rowlock.

No. 206,757. Patented Aug. 6, 1878.



WITNESSES:

Achilles Schehl.

C. Sedgwick

INVENTOR:

J. M. Wheeler

BY Munn & Co

ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES M. WHEELER, OF FISH'S EDDY, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN ROWLOCKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **206,757**, dated August 6, 1878; application filed July 18, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES M. WHEELER, of Fish's Eddy, in the county of Delaware and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Rowlocks, of which the following is a specification:

My invention relates to rowlocks for boats, and its object is to furnish a simple and durable device which will work easily, and permit the oar to be connected or detached with great facility.

My invention consists of a ball upon the oar, working in clamps or sockets fitted upon the gunwale of the boat, which sockets are allowed an axial motion of their shanks, so that the oar may have the proper horizontal and vertical movements required for rowing, and the oar may also be feathered. The sockets which clasp the ball are pivoted, and when raised vertically in the sleeve that supports their shank may be spread apart to connect or remove the oar. I also provide a sliding counterpoise on the handle of the oar.

In the drawing, Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved rowlock with an oar connected therewith. Fig. 2 is a front view of the same, partially in section; and Fig. 3 is an elevation of the sockets and supporting-sleeve detached.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

a is an oar of any usual shape or size. The handle end of the oar *a* is provided with the counterpoise *b*, of wood or metal, sliding upon the handle, and which may be removed to permit the ball *c* to be slid to its position on the handle. The ball *c* is provided with a hole, *g*, through its axis in one direction, through which hole the handle of the oar is passed, and the ball *c* should fit tightly.

d is a pin passing through the ball *c* and oar *a*, at right angles to the oar, and projecting a short distance outside the ball *c* at each end. The ball *c* should be upon the oar *a* in such position that the pin *d* will pass in the opposite direction, or at right angles to the spread of the oar-blade.

e is a plate, which is to be permanently attached to the gunwale of the boat by screws put through the holes *f* in plate *e*. *g* is a short tube or sleeve, connected vertically upon the plate *e*, or formed in one piece with it. *h* is a tube placed inside of the sleeve *g*, and fitting loosely therein. The lower end of the tube *h* projects beyond the sleeve *g*, and is provided with a nut, *i*, and the upper end of *h* has a flange, *p*, which rests on the sleeve *g*. This construction prevents vertical motion of *h* in *g*, and secures them together.

k k are the sockets or clamps for the ball *c*. Each of these clamps *k* has shanks *l*, which are pivoted together at *m*, to permit the sockets to swing apart, and the shanks *l* pass into the tube *h*, so as to slide vertically therein. *n* is a pin passing through the lower end of one of the shanks *l*, and projecting at each side thereof into vertical slots *o* in the tube *h*. (See Fig. 3.) The pin *n* limits the vertical motion upward of the sockets *k*, to prevent the separation of the shanks *l* and tube *h*, and also causes *l* and *h* to turn together when the sockets are turned axially of their shanks *l* by the oar.

To spread the clamps *k* apart, they are raised vertically to draw the shanks *l* from the tube *h* as far as the pin *n* will permit, and the sockets may then be separated, as seen by dotted lines in Fig. 2, the ball *c* inserted, and the sockets permitted to drop and clasp the ball. The projecting ends of the pin *d* pass into holes in sockets *k*, when they close. The sockets cannot separate, except when raised, as described, as the hinged shanks *l* are held together by the tube *h*.

It will be seen that there is a space between the two sockets or clamps *k* when closed, which permits the oar to pass between them, and the turning of the ball in its socket, when the oar is moved vertically, is allowed by the pin *d*. The horizontal motions of the oar are permitted by the tube *h* turning in its sleeve *g*.

If it is desired to feather the oar when rowing against the wind, the pin *d* should be removed, and the ball and sockets then form a universal joint, which permits the oar to be feathered on the back stroke.

I do not limit myself to the details of construction set forth, as they may be varied without departing from my invention.

Having thus described my invention, I claim

as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. The swinging sockets or clamps *k*, supported in the sleeve *g*, substantially as described, in combination with the ball *c* upon the oar, substantially as set forth.

2. The adjustable counterpoise *b*, in combination with the oar, substantially as set forth.

3. The sleeve *g*, tube *h*, shanks *l*, and sockets *k*, combined and arranged substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

JAMES MADISON WHEELER.

Witnesses:
EDMUND FISH,
N. D. LA VALLEY.