J. C. PEPPLER.
Hitching-Posts.

No. 209,288. Patented Oct. 22, 1878.

Fig. 1

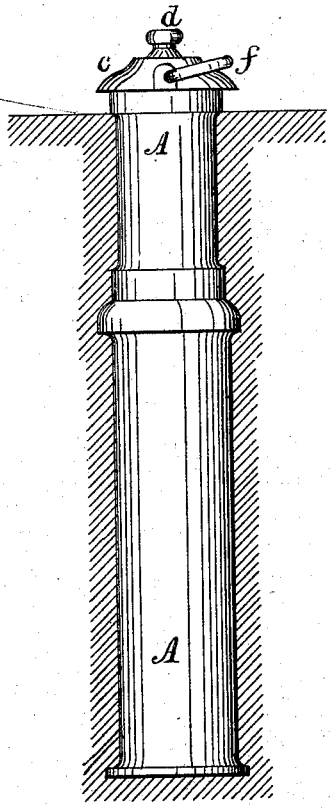


Fig. 2.

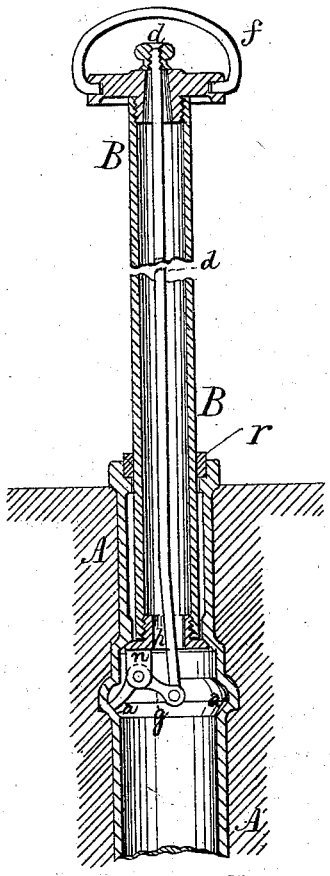
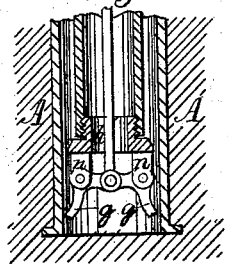


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:
F. W. Burnham
F. W. Howard

Inventor:
John C. Peppler
by
W. A. Babcock
Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN C. PEPPLER, OF COLUMBUS, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN HITCHING-POSTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **209,288**, dated October 22, 1878; application filed July 8, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN C. PEPPLER, of the city of Columbus, in the county of Franklin and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Hitching-Posts; and I do hereby declare the following specification to be a full, clear, exact, and particular description of the same, reference being had to the drawings accompanying the same, and forming a part thereof, and to the letters and figures marked thereon.

This invention relates to that class of hitching-posts which may be lowered at will into sockets set in the ground, so as to be out of the way.

The object of this invention is to provide such posts with convenient devices, easily manipulated from above, whereby the said posts can be locked in their upwardly-extended or raised position, or allowed to telescope within the socket. Other devices have been used for the same purpose; hence my claim is confined to the improvement used by me, or its substantial equivalents.

Another object of my invention is to prevent sudden shocks on the upper end of the socket. These objects and others are accomplished by the employment of the devices hereinafter described, constructed and combined substantially as set forth and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a side elevation of my socket and hitching-post, when the latter is in its lowest position. Fig. 2 represents a vertical section (broken away at the bottom) of the hitching-post and socket, when the former is locked in its raised position; and Fig. 3 represents a vertical section of the lower part of the socket, showing a modification of the locking device in its lowest position.

In said drawings, A designates the cylindrical socket or tubular casing, within which slides similarly-shaped hollow hitching-post B, provided at its upper end with cap *c*, and at the lower end with annular flange *h*. Said cap and flange are detachable, allowing the separation of said post for repairs, &c. Both the said cap and flange are provided with screw-threaded extensions, which screw into threads on the inside of the ends of said tubular post, though other means of attachment may, obviously, be used. Cap *c* is extended and ridged on the under side of its periphery, so as to overlap and protect the upper edge of socket A when in its lowest position. It is also provided with ears for the attachment of bail *f*, whereby said post B can be raised at will. Said cap is also provided with a central aperture for the passage of vertical rod *d*, which is provided on its upper end, above said cap, with a knob that prevents it from falling too far. The lower end of said rod is connected to and operates the inner end of bell-crank locking-lever *g*, the outer end of which sets within a groove, *a*, of said socket A when said lever is in its outward or locking position. The said locking-lever is pivoted by its angle to a lug, *n*, pendent from stop-flange *h*, which, as already stated, is attached to the post B, and therefore the said post is locked in its raised position when the said locking-lever is thrown into the position stated. The flange *h* engages with an offset of socket A, and thus prevents said post from being raised too high for firm support.

When it is desired to lower said post, the same is first slightly lifted, and then rod *d* is drawn upward, so as to free the outer end of lever *g* from engagement with groove *a*. The outer end of said lever is then nearly vertical, and the weight of said post causes it to descend to the bottom of the socket A without impediment. When said post is raised to its uppermost position, the weight of rod *d* and the inner end of lever *g* will operate so as to throw the outer end of said lever upward and outward into groove *a*, thus automatically locking the devices, as above stated. The knob on the upper end of rod *d* insures this locking action by preventing said rod from passing down within the post.

Instead of a single locking-lever, I may use a pair of them, operating in opposite directions, but in the same vertical plane, as shown in Fig. 3. Various other changes may be made without departing from the spirit of my invention.

To prevent cap *c* and socket A from being injured by the sudden shock of the fall of post B, I insert an annular pad or cushion, *r*, preferably of india-rubber, in a recess in the upper end of socket A, surrounding post B.

This pad extends sufficiently above the upper end of said socket to receive the impact of head *c* when said post falls, and break the shock.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a hitching-post, the combination of socket A, having groove *a*, with tubular post B, locking bell-crank lever *g*, and rod *d*, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The stop-flange *h*, in combination with post B and socket A, said socket being provided with an offset or shoulder for engagement with said flange, as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In combination with a sliding post and recessed socket, an annular cushion fixed in the upper end of said socket to prevent shocks.

4. In combination with socket A and sliding post B, cap *c*, and flange *h*, detachable at will from said post, so as to allow its removal for repairs and cleansing and the separation of the parts.

JOHN C. PEPPLER.

Witnesses:
JOHN P. REMMY,
H. SCHMIETT.