C. K. WHITTIER.

Meat-Tenderer.

No. 210,652. Patented Dec. 10, 1878.

Fig. 1.

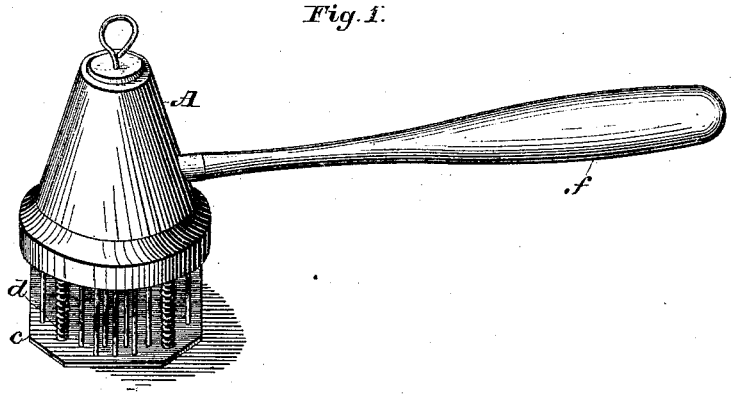


Fig. 2.

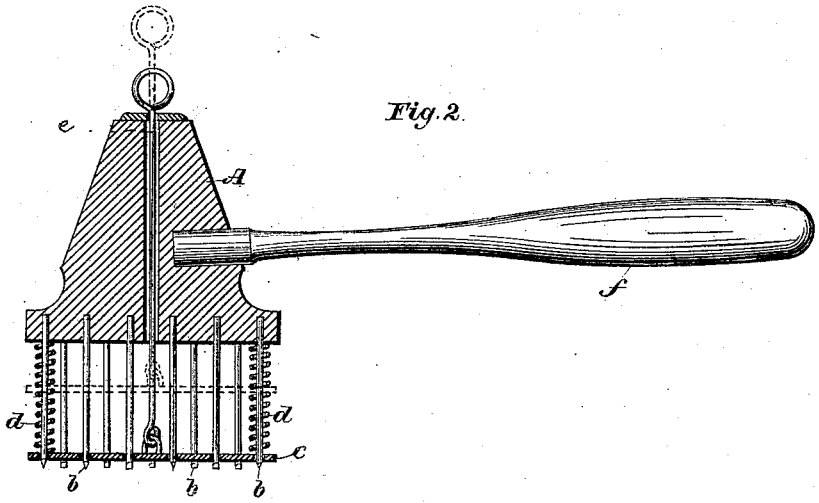
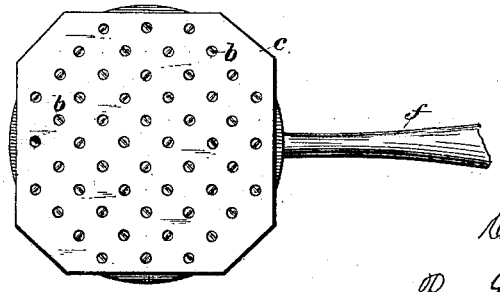


Fig. 3.



Attest.

J. H. Kaiser

Wm. M. Bell

Inventor.

Cullen K. Whittier

By L. W. Vale & Co.

his Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CULLEN K. WHITTIER, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN MEAT-TENDERERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **210,652,** dated December 10, 1878; application filed September 7, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CULLEN K. WHITTIER, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Meat-Tenderers, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to a class of instruments known as "meat-tenderers," which have numerous awls or like cutting-edges, and a spring-plate, through which they pass; and it consists in connecting the said plate to the instrument, and holding it in place, and providing for retraction of the plate by means of a rod passing through the head and attached to the plate.

In the drawings which accompany and illustrate this specification, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved utensil. Fig. 2 is a vertical section through the head thereof. Fig. 3 is a view of the face, showing the cutting-edges of the perforating or cutting instruments projecting through the face-plate.

The head of the utensil is represented at A. It consists, preferably, of a block of wood, which may be turned in any shape, as fancy or convenience may dictate. On the plane face of the head are inserted the awls *b b b*, the cutting-edges of which may be arranged, as shown in Fig. 3, with the cutting-edges of one row in one direction, and those of the adjacent row in a direction at right angles to the first, in order to sever the fiber more effectually. This, however, may be varied. The awls *b b b* pass through the perforated face-plate *c*, the holes in the said plate being made sufficiently large to allow free motion without binding. The plate *c* is held, when in normal position, near the ends of the perforating devices, by means of spiral springs *d d d*, which are supported on the awls *b b b*, and bear at one end against the face of the head A, and at the other upon the plate *c*. These springs are made of such strength as to yield under an ordinary blow of the implement wielded by the hand and struck upon substances such as meats, which permit the free penetration of the puncturing devices. At the same time, when the force of the blow is spent, the force of the spring, compressed by the blow, reacts to push the plate forward or downward upon the meat and draw out the teeth without any disturbance whatever of the meat, and without the necessity of taking hold of it with the hand. In fact, the instrument itself rebounds from the surface of the meat and permits rapid and regulated blows, the amount or depth of the penetration depending on the force of the blow, but not exceeding the limit of compression of the springs.

A rod, *e*, extending through the head, is provided with a ring, by which the plate may be drawn directly back for cleaning. This rod, being attached to the plate on the inner surface, serves to hold it in place, as well as to draw it back, and renders the structure simple and cheap.

A handle, *f*, of suitable length, may be provided, and is preferable, though the head A may be extended to serve as a handle.

I have shown the cutting devices in the form of awls; but it is manifest that their shape may be changed without departing from the spirit of the invention, the main feature in their shape and arrangement being that they sever the meat with short and separate incisions, leaving it continuous in appearance, but at the same time rendered more tender by the numerous small cuttings throughout the mass. These small incisions also serve to hold the juices and gravy or butter in which the meat is served.

The plate and cutting devices may be made of steel or any suitable metal, and the size of the instrument may be varied to suit the requirements of the trade.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

The described utensil consisting of the head, the awls inserted therein, the plate moving upon the awls, the springs, and the rod *e*, passing through the head, all combined and arranged as set forth.

CULLEN K. WHITTIER.

Witnesses:
D. S. PARTILLO,
JNO. W. CORSON.