

THE DETACHABLE HANDLE PARASOL AND UMBRELLA.

The annexed engraving illustrates a novel, simple, and useful improvement in this staple article of trade. The invention may be described either, *firstly*, as an improvement on the common style of parasol or umbrella, where the handle is at the "right" end of the stick, as seen in Figs. I and IV; or, *secondly*, as an improvement on the walking-stick or Alpine style of parasol, where the handle is at the "wrong" end of the stick, as seen in Figs. II and III.

The invention consists in making both ends of the stick alike, and in providing a detachable handle, capable of fitting on either of said ends; so that a lady can adjust the handle at pleasure, on either end of the stick, as quickly, and with as much ease, as she could expand or close the parasol.

The invention is, *first*, an improvement on the common style of parasol or umbrella (Figs. I and IV) in respect that—the handle being reversible—the improved article combines in itself the two styles, namely, the common and Alpine; in short, the improved parasol can be adjusted to either of the *four* different positions represented in Figs. I, II, III, and IV. *Secondly*, the invention is an improvement on the walking-stick or Alpine style of parasol (Figs. II and III) in respect that it effectually overcomes the objections to the Alpine style, which are these, namely, that the lady must, when desiring to hold the parasol overhead, take in the hand that end of the stick which had previously been in contact with the not-over-clean sidewalk, thus rendering the hand or glove liable to be soiled; and that, when being so held overhead, a substantial hold for the hand is not afforded, the parasol having to be held by the slender stick alone. A glance at the engravings, however, will show that, in the improved parasol, these two objections are effectually overcome; for the handle, as it has been seen, can readily be changed from one end of the stick to the other.

Fig. VI shows a plain handle, in section, containing an end of a parasol stick, and secured to the stick by a bayonet joint. Figs. V and VII are modifications of the same, the handle in Fig. V being secured by a screw, and in Fig. VII by a spring-catch. In Fig VII the spring, *a*, pressing against the end of the stick, *c*, throws the tooth of the catch into the shallow groove in the stick and holds it in that position till released by pressure of the thumb on the knob, *b*. The above methods of securing the handle, however, are shown merely as a few of the many ways of doing so, the Patent allowing the handle to be secured to the stick by any suitable fastening device.

Regarded, then, as an improvement on the common style, or as an improvement on the Alpine style of parasol, the invention presents the following merits and advantages—it combines, in one article, the common and the Alpine styles; it effectually overcomes the objections to the Alpine parasol; and, further, it allows a lady, when choosing a parasol, to select also a handle to her taste, which can be furnished of the necessary gage. The invention is simple and effective; and, we are informed, the improved article can be manufactured at a price to compete with the unimproved article. We think the invention a practical one, and we augur for it much and lasting success.

Letters Patent for this invention were issued jointly to

Messrs. George Yule, and William M. Henderson, of Pennsylvania, on the 24th November, 1874.

For information as to rights, licenses to manufacture, etc., address, by letter, Mr. George Yule, care of The Henderson Co., 258 South Third Street, Philadelphia, Penn.

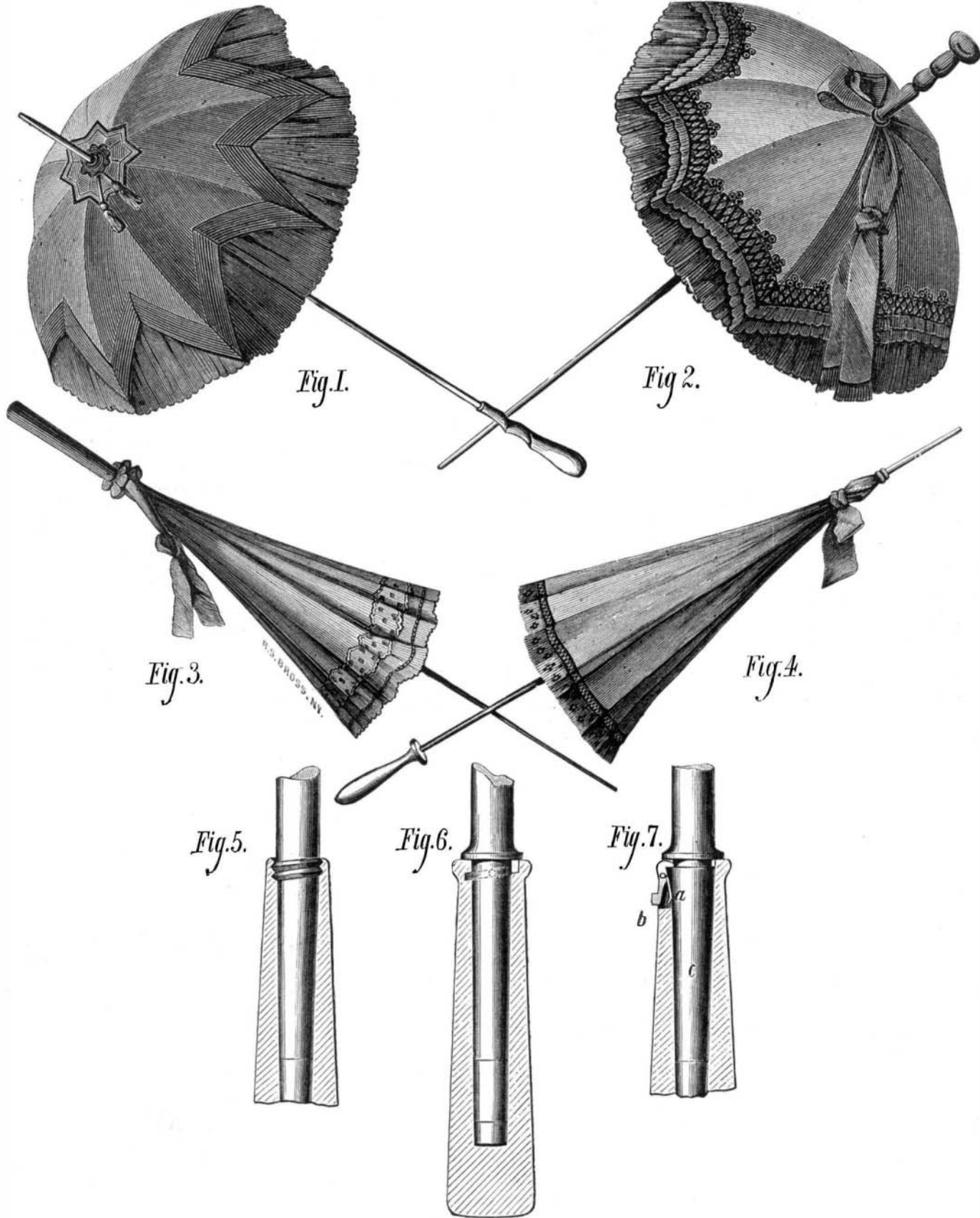
Why Not?

"Can any one give a sensible reason why a person who devises a new and patentable idea should not secure a patent upon it? I have ransacked the entire field of opposition without discovering a single reason that cannot be demolished by one whisk of the horse tail of common sense. Granting that all patents are not profitable, we must acknowledge that the expense of obtaining them, especially in the United States, is quite moderate, and that the chance of realizing from a patent is always worth the amount it costs to secure it; and I might state, as a rule, that the exclusive monopoly

how often is it that we run across persons who regret that they did not secure patents upon their inventions or discoveries when they first made them. Many an originator of an idea has failed to secure himself by a patent when he might have done so, and has seen his ideas appropriated, and the invented device finally become a standard article of commerce and trade. As likely as not, the dilatory individual spends the balance of his life in useless regrets that he missed a chance for securing a competence and probably a fortune. It was a neglected opportunity not only to become rich but to enroll his name among the list of men of genius. A few such instances as these are necessary and valuable to point a moral to our tale. Their experience is a living example to other inventors, and is one of the strongest arguments to support our 'Why Not?'

"Again, leaving profit entirely out of the question, a patent is a national record of the genius of the people, and every man who can do so should be proud to have his name placed upon the record. Is it not a fact that we feel a glow of pride when we run across the name of some ancestor among the names of patentees in the patent record? We at once feel that we have inherited the national Yankee characteristic of an American, and we grow tenderer and more sympathetic with our next door neighbor who has been spending all his time and money for years in a vain endeavor to invent a perpetual motion machine. It is the only chance a great many of us have to send our names down to posterity linked with a noble and public ambition to help ourselves and the world along. If the invention does not promise to be speedily remunerative when it is made, it should be patented nevertheless, as we do not know how soon the necessity may arise that will call for such a device. Most of the devices which the originators failed to patent and which afterwards went into general use have just such a history.

"Many people are so constituted that they never pay out a dollar unless they see an immediate prospect of two dollars being returned for it. Such persons will most generally miss the main chance and have the pleasure of regretting their folly ever afterwards. I therefore ask again, why not patent your inventions? And I am sure every sensible person will reply



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of any invention for seventeen years (the term for which patents are issued) is worth the price of a patent whatever may be its character, unless it is based upon a foolish or incorrect theory, or is practically inoperative. I do not intend by this statement to be understood that every such patent will yield a fortune, or even an independence for its owner, but that as an investment of so much money it cannot be regarded as a bad investment. Apathy, or rather a failure to properly put the patented article upon the market, and exaggerated ideas of its value, which lead to exorbitant demands from any one who might desire to purchase, are the principal causes of inventors failing to realize from their patents. Many patentees prefer to let their patents lie un introduced rather than dispose of them at sensible prices, when often these figures would yield a fair profit. Many a good patent is buried and forgotten until it runs out, and then some one, more sensible in such matters, as likely as not picks up the idea, manufactures the article, puts it upon the market, and grows wealthy upon the profits. Again,

'why not?'"—*Mining and Scientific Press.*

Errata.

Messrs. S. C. Forsaith & Co., Manchester, N. H., desire us to correct an error in the description of their hand fire engine, published on page 127 of our current volume, by stating that four men, instead of fourteen, were able to throw a half inch stream 186 feet, instead of 156 feet, as printed on the page referred to. The initials of the patentee, Mr. Hall, are J. M., not A. M.

Messrs. J. A. Fay & Co.'s planer, matcher, and beader, illustrated on page 147, current volume, was entitled, by a typographical error, a planer, matcher, and bender.

THE value of the Centennial buildings is put at \$5,949,000, and of their contents, \$104,820,340. A large portion of the exhibits, which are not taken into account, are not of intrinsic value, though probably they could not be purchased for all that the rest of the exhibition is worth.