(No Model.)

W. J. BUTLER.

ARM REST.

No. 281,338. Patented July 17, 1883.

Fig. 1.

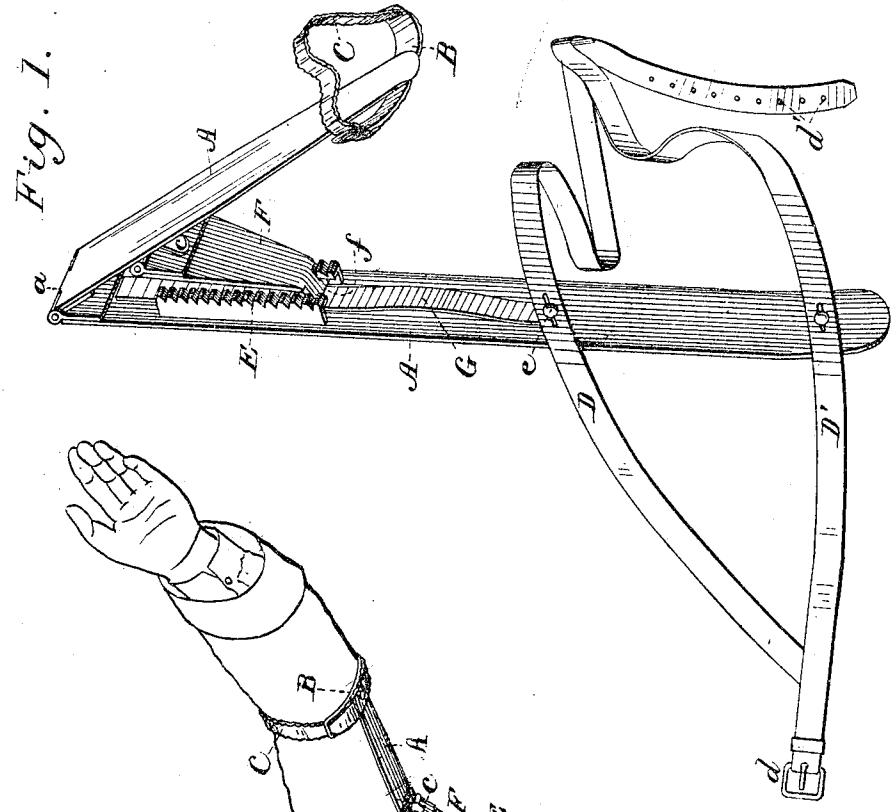
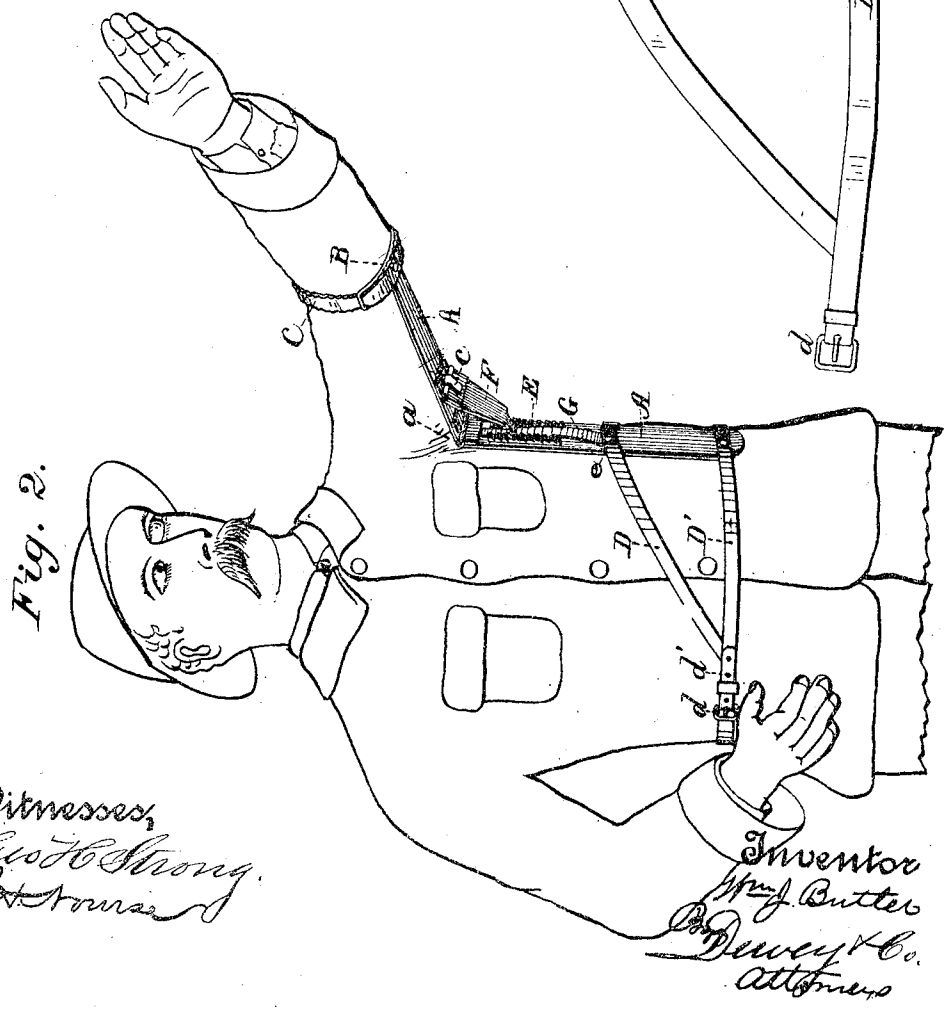


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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ARM-REST.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 281,338, dated July 17, 1883.

Application filed April 21, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM J. BUTLER, of Salinas city, county of Monterey, State of California, have invented an Improved Arm-Rest; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

My invention relates to a new and useful rest or support for the arm, the object of which is to enable one to steady his hand in aiming with a rifle or other fire-arm, or a bow of any description, or in sighting a telescope or spy-glass, or for any purpose which requires a firm and steady support.

My invention consists in sundry details of construction and combinations of devices, which are hereinafter fully described, and specifically pointed out in the claims.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my arm-rest. Fig. 2 shows the application of my device.

A is a bar or plate hinged or jointed at *a*, and forming a long and short arm. To the end of the short arm is secured a curved metal strip, B, to which is attached in any suitable manner an elastic band, C. To the longer arm, at about its center, is secured a strap, D, and another, D′, is secured to the lower end of the arm. The strap D is secured to strap D′ at both ends, and the latter is provided on one end with a buckle, *d*, and at the other end with a series of holes, *d′*. Upon the face of the long arm, near its hinge, is secured or formed a grooved or slotted ratchet, E. This is preferably made of two separated pieces of angle shape, in order to form guides, as will be explained. Hinged to the short arm, near its joint, is a pawl, F, having a T-shaped cross-head, *f*, which is adapted to engage with the teeth of ratchet E when passing over them, and to fit down from one end under and slide down in the channels or guides formed by the angled sides or strips of the ratchet. A small spring, *c*, operates to hold the pawl in engagement.

G is a spring-strip secured at one end to the long arm of plate A by the button *e*, which secures strap D. This spring extends through the slotted or grooved ratchet E, and its other end lies upon the plate A, near its hinge. The normal position of this spring is with its center raised on about a level with the top of ratchet E. Now, when the short arm is turned away from and toward a position in line with the long arm, the pawl F is moved free of the upper end of the ratchet. When the short arm is moved at right angles with the long arm, the pawl is moved down to fit its T-shaped head under the angled sides of the ratchet, and it rests upon the upper end of the spring G, which is flat at that point. Continued movement of the short arm toward the long arm, making its angle therewith more acute, moves the pawl down toward the lower end of the ratchet. It slips along easily under said ratchet, forcing the spring G down flat until it clears itself of the ratchet at its lower end. Then the spring, relieved, throws up the pawl on a level with the ratchet-teeth. Now, when the short arm is moved away from the long arm, the pawl-head *f* travels over the teeth and engages with each, to prevent the return of the short arm. When the pawl is thus in engagement, the teeth of the ratchet are so inclined that the angle formed by the two arms of the jointed plate A may be rendered more and more obtuse, but cannot be made more acute until the pawl has traveled over the ratchet and has left its top.

With this explanation of the construction of the device, its operation when applied will be readily seen. The left arm (supposing the wearer to be right-handed) is fitted through the elastic band C up to a point just above the elbow. The arm is turned with the palm of the hand up, to grasp the rifle underneath, and the curved metal strip B bears under the arm. The short arm of plate A extends along the under side of the arm to the body, and the lower arm of the plate passes down the left side of the body, being secured firmly thereto by the straps D D′. By raising the arm the pawl F is lifted above the ratchet, and its springs *c* force its head down on the plate A, in which position, when the arm is brought down, it enters under the ratchet sides and moves down without difficulty, thus enabling the arm to be lowered; but, as I have heretofore described, the pawl is thrown up by the

spring G, when it is freed from the lower end of the ratchet, so that it is in position to engage therewith when the arm is raised. By raising the arm the pawl F slides up over the ratchet and engages with it to hold the arm at any desired inclination. The arm may be moved up, but not down. It is supported at any inclination firmly and rigidly by the curved strip B, embracing its under portion.

The device is particularly useful as a rifle-rest, though it may be applied to any use which requires a steady extended arm.

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

1. The bar or plate A, hinged at *a*, and means for securing its top to the arm and its bottom to the body, in combination with the means for fixing the two portions of the bar or plate at various angles of elevation, consisting of the ratchet E, with teeth in a plane transverse to the supporting-bar upon one portion and the swinging spring-pawl F upon the other, substantially as herein described.

2. The bar or plate A, hinged at *a*, and means for securing its top to the arm and its bottom to the body, in combination with the slotted or grooved ratchet E, formed with angled guide sides, as shown, the spring G in said ratchet, and the swinging spring-pawl F, having a T-shaped cross-head, *f*, all arranged and operating substantially as and for the purpose herein described.

3. A rest or support for the arm, consisting of the hinged or jointed bar or plate A, the curved arm-strip B, having an elastic band, C, for encircling the arm, the straps D D′, for securing the plate A to the body, and the means for fixing the angle between the two portions of the plate, consisting of the slotted or grooved ratchet E, having angled guide sides, the spring G in said ratchet, and the swinging spring-pawl F, having a T-shaped cross-head, *f*, all arranged and operating substantially as and for the purpose herein described.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand.

WILLIAM JOEL BUTLER.

Witnesses:
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