

REPERTORY
OF
ARTS AND MANUFACTURES.
NUMBER XXVII.

XVIII. *Specification of the Patent granted to Mr. WILLIAM NICHOLSON, of New North-street, Red Lion-Square; for a Machine or Instrument for printing on Paper, Linen, Cotton, Woollen, and other Articles, in a more neat, cheap, and accurate Manner, than is effected by the Machines now in Use.*

WITH THREE PLATES.

Dated April 29, 1790.

TO all to whom these presents shall come, &c.
Now KNOW YE that, in compliance with the said
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provifo, I the faid William Nicholfon do hereby declare, that my faid invention is defcribed in the plan hereunto annexed, and the defcription thereof hereunder written, and in manner following; that is to fay, my invention confifts in three parts or particulars; namely, firft, the manner or method of making, preparing, or placing, the original model, models, cafts, types, engravings, carvings, or fculptures from which the impreffion is to be made. Secondly, in applying the ink, or colouring-matter, to fuch models, cafts, types, engravings, carvings, or fculptures. And, thirdly, in taking off the impreffion, or transferring the ink, or colouring-matter, from fuch models, cafts, types, engravings, carvings, or fculptures, to the paper, cloth, or other material upon which it is intended it fhould remain.

I. In the firft place then, I not only avail myfelf of all the methods of making, preparing, and placing, the original models, cafts, types, engravings, carvings, or fculptures which have hitherto been known or ufed in printing, and do myfelf make ufe of them in conjunction with my newly-invented method of applying the ink, or colouring-

colouring-matter, to such original models, casts, types, engravings, carvings, or sculptures, and also with my newly-invented method of taking off the impressions, but I do likewise make, put together, and arrange them in a new manner, as occasion may require ; that is to say,

II, I make my moulds, punches, and matrices, for casting letters, in the same manner, and with the same materials, as other letter-founders do, excepting that, instead of leaving a space in the mould for the stem of one letter only, I leave spaces for two, three, or more letters, to be cast at one pouring of the metal ; and at the lower extremity of each of those spaces (which communicate by a common groove at top) I place a matrix, or piece of copper with the letter punched upon its face in the usual way. And moreover, I bring the stem of my letters to a due form and finish, not only by rubbing it upon a stone, and scraping it when arranged in the finishing-stick, but likewise by scraping it, on one or more sides, in a finishing-stick whose hollowed part is less deep at the inner than the outer side. I call that side of the groove which is nearest the face of the disposed

U 2

letter,

letter, the outer side; and the purpose accomplished by this method of scraping is, that of rendering the tail of the letter gradually smaller the more remote it is, or farther from the face. Such letter may be firmly imposed upon a cylindrical surface, in the same manner as common letter is imposed upon a flat stone. I specify and affirm that the above described methods of casting two or more letters at once, and of chamfering or sloping their tails, are parts of my new invention.

III. I impose or dispose my letter for printing in the common manner, to be used in conjunction with my newly-invented improvements. And I likewise impose it in frames or chases adapted to the surface of a cylinder of wood, or metal, and fasten it to the said surface by screws, or wedges, or in grooves, or by other methods well known to workmen; and this imposing letter upon a cylinder I state and affirm to be part of my new invention.

IV. I cut, carve, engrave, chase, cast, model or make, (in the usual manner of performing those operations,) blocks, forms, plates, types, or originals,

ginals, to be used for printing, either of wood, metal, or other materials; and these I use in conjunction with my other newly-invented improvements. I likewise, for other kinds of work, do fasten with glue, cement, screws, wedges, or by other known methods, such blocks, forms, plates, types, or originals, as aforesaid, to the surface of a cylinder. I likewise, for other kinds of work, do cut, carve, engrave, chase, cast, model or make, blocks, forms, plates, types, or originals, as aforesaid, of a cylindrical form, of wood, metal, or other materials. And I state and affirm that this disposition of blocks, forms, plates, types, or originals, upon a cylinder, and also that the cutting, carving, engraving, chasing and casting, modelling or making, blocks, plates, types, or originals, of a cylindrical form, as aforesaid, are parts of my new invention.

V. In the second place, I distribute or apply the ink, or colouring-matter, upon the surface, or in the interstices, of the blocks, forms, plates, types, or originals aforesaid, by causing the surface of a cylinder, smeared or wetted with the colouring-matter, to roll over, or successively

apply itself to, the surfaces of the said blocks, forms, plates, types, or originals, of whatever figure or construction such blocks, forms, plates, types, or originals, may be. Or else I cause the said blocks, forms, plates, types, or originals, successively to apply themselves to the said cylinder. I call the said smeared or wetted cylinder, the colouring-cylinder. Its surface is covered with leather, or the dressed skins which printers call pelts, or else it is covered with woollen, or linen, or cotton cloth. When the colour to be used is thin, as in calico-printing, and in almost every case, the covering is supported by a firm elastic stuffing, consisting of hair, or wool, or woollen cloth wrapped one or more folds round the cylinder. When the covering consists of woollen cloth, the stuffing must be defended by leather; or oilskin, to prevent its imbibing too much colour, and by that means losing its elasticity. It is absolutely necessary that the colouring-matter be evenly distributed over the surface of the cylinder; for this purpose, when the colour is thick and stiff, as in letter-press printing, I apply two, three, or more small cylinders, called

called distributing-rollers, longitudinally against the colouring-cylinders, so that they may be turned by the motion of the latter; and the effect of this application is, that every lump or mass of colour which may be redundant, or irregularly placed upon the face of the colouring-cylinder, will be pressed, spread, and partly taken up, and carried by the small rollers to the other parts of the colouring-cylinder; so that this last will very speedily acquire and preserve an even face of colour. But if the colouring-matter be thinner, I do not apply more than one or two of these distributing-rollers; and, if it be very thin, I apply an even blunt edge of metal, or wood, or other material, or a straight brush, or both of these last, against the colouring-cylinder, for the purpose of rendering its colour uniform.

VI. When I apply colour to an engraved plate, or cylinder, or apply the colour through the interstices of a perforated pattern, or cylinder, as in the manufacturing of some kinds of paper-hangings and floor-cloths, I use a cylinder entirely covered with hair or bristles, in the manner of a brush.

VII. The

VII. The whole of the manipulations or practices described in the two preceding paragraphs (numbers V. and VI.) are parts of my new invention.

VIII. In the third place, I perform all my impressions by the action of a cylinder, or cylindrical surface; that is to say, I cause the paper, or cloth, or other material intended to be printed upon, (and previously damped if necessary,) to pass between two cylinders, or segments of cylinders, in equal motion; one of which has the block, form, plate, assemblage of types, or originals, attached to, or forming part of, its surface, and the other is faced with cloth or leather, and serves to press the paper, cloth, or other material, as aforesaid, so as to take off an impression of the colour previously applied. Or otherwise, I cause the block, form, plate, assemblage of types, or originals, previously coloured, to pass in close and successive pressure or contact with the paper, or cloth, or other material, wrapped round a cylinder with woollen. Or otherwise, I cause the last mentioned cylinder, with the paper, or cloth, or other material wrapped round it, to roll along the face of the block, form, plate, assemblage

asssemblage of types, or originals, previously coloured. Or otherwise, I cause a cylinder having the block, form, plate, asssemblage of types, or originals, attached to, or forming part of, its surface, to roll along the surface of the paper, cloth, or other material intended to be printed, and previously spread out upon an even plane covered with cloth or leather; the said cylinder being supplied with colour by means of a colouring cylinder herein before described, and herein after more particularly to be noticed.

IX. The foregoing description shews the nature of my invention; which may be applied to a great variety of uses, and constructed or put together in a great variety of forms. Its uses consist in the printing of books in general, the printing of paper-hangings, floor-cloths, cottons, linens, woollens, silks, ribands, laces, leather, skin, and every other flexible material whatever. And its form or construction, being no essential part of the invention, may without difficulty be obtained and carried into effect, by any workman, possessed of common skill and ability. Nevertheless, as there may be some artists of such a mode-

rate capacity as to find the foregoing instructions not sufficient to enable them to construct my machines, I shall proceed to exhibit drawings, and describe several methods of constructing them. But, at the same time, I think it pertinent to take notice, that as the following constructions cannot be exclusively claimed by me by virtue of his Majesty's letters patent granted unto me, excepting so far as the same include or contain my new improvements and inventions, so, on the other hand, I do not exhibit the same as the only practicable methods of carrying my invention into effect, but I claim the general and universal application of the principles discovered and brought into practice by me, as before described; and do here proceed to exhibit and describe certain specific applications of those principles, chiefly from a conviction that it is my duty to render this present specification clear and intelligible by every means in my power. And moreover, since in the following applications or particular methods there are, and may be found, several contrivances resulting from a considerable share of deliberation, labour, and expence, and tending to facilitate the practice

practice of my said inventions, I do not by any means hereby exclude the following descriptions and drawings from my present specification; for I do not consider them as being merely illustrative of the general principles herein before described and explained, but do hereby assert and maintain, that all and every parts and part of the machines herein after described, which have not hitherto been used as parts of some other machine, or in combination directed to the accomplishment of the like purpose of printing, are stated and claimed by me as parts of my said invention; for the exclusive enjoyment of which, as well as of every other part of the said invention hereby specified by me, I claim all protection and every advantage which, by his Majesty's letters patent, I may lawfully be entitled to.

EXPLANATION OF THE ANNEXED DRAWINGS.

(See Plates VIII, IX, and X.)

Fig. 1 (Plate VIII.) represents a printing-press, more especially applicable to the printing of sheets of paper, or books. A and E represent two cylinders,

ders, running or turning in a strong frame of wood, or metal, or both. The cylinder A is faced with woollen cloth, and is capable of being pressed with more or less force upon H I, by means of the lever M. H I is a long table, which is capable of moving endways, backwards and forwards, upon the rollers E and K. The roller A acts upon this table by means of a cog-wheel, or by straps, so as to draw it backwards and forwards by the motion of its handle L. The table is kept in the same line by grooves on its sides, which contain the cylinder A. D is a chafe, containing letter set up and imposed. B is a box, containing a colouring-roller, with its distributing-rollers C C; it is supported by the arm N. O is a cylinder faced with leather, and lying across an ink-block; this cylinder is fixed by the middle to a bended lever movable on the joint Q.

The action. When D, or the letter, is drawn beneath the cylinder B, it receives ink; and when it has passed into the position R, a workman places, or turns down a tympan with paper upon it; (this tympan differs in no respect from the usual one, except that its hinge opens sideways;) it then
proceeds

proceeds to pass under the cylinder A, which presses it successively through its whole surface. On the other side, at S, the workman takes off the paper, and leaves the tympan up. This motion causes the cylinder B to revolve continually, and consequently renders its inked surface very uniform, by the action of its distributing-rollers CC; and, when the table has passed to its extreme distance in the direction now spoken of, the arm G touches the lever P, and raises the cylinder O off the ink-block, by which means it dabs against one of the distributing-rollers, and gives it a small quantity of ink. The returning motion of the table carries the letter again under the roller B, which again inks it, and the process of printing another sheet goes on as before. N.B. The table in this drawing is not quite long enough in its dimensions, compared with the inking-roller.

Fig. 2 is another printing-press; in this, B is the inking-roller; A is a cylinder, having the letter imposed upon its surface; and E is a cylinder, having its uniform surface covered with woollen cloth; these three cylinders are connected, either by cogs or straps at the edges of

of each. The machine is uniformly turned in one direction by the handle L. The workman applies a sheet of paper to the surface of E, where it is retained, either by points in the usual manner, or by the apparatus to be described in treating of Fig. 4. The paper passes between E and A, and receives an impression; after which the workman takes it off, and applies another sheet; and in the mean time the letter on the surface of A passes round against the surface of B, and receives ink during the rotation of B. The distributing-rollers CC do their office as in the machine Fig 1; and once in every revolution the tail F, affixed to B, raises the inking-piece G, so as to cause it to touch one of the distributing-rollers, and supply it with ink. In this way therefore the repeated printing of sheet after sheet goes on.

Fig. 3 is a printing-press, more particularly adapted to print cottons, silks, paper-hangings, or other articles which run of a considerable length. A is a cylinder covered with woollen cloth, or other soft substance. The web or piece of cotton, or other goods, is passed round this cylinder, from the carrying-roller F to the receiving-

ving-rollers GH; which are connected by a piece of linen, woollen, or hair-cloth, in the manner of a jack-towel sewed round them; the rotation of this towel carries away the printed stuff or goods, and deposits them at I. KL is a movable box, containing three rollers, which move against each other in rotation. The lowest roller C revolves in a mass of colour, contained in a trough or vessel in the bottom part of the box KL; the surface of this colour is represented by the line MN. The next roller B is stuffed and covered, as described in paragraph V. The pressure of B against C prevents the cylinder B from receiving too much colour. D is the carved or cut cylinder mentioned in paragraph IV. or any other of the cylindrical contrivances there mentioned; it receives colour, during the rotation, from the roller B, and impresses it upon the web as it passes round the cylinder A; in this way the constant and effectual action of the machine is sufficiently obvious. It must be observed, that the cylinders ADB and G are connected together by cog-wheels, straps, or other well-known equivalent contrivances; so that the handle P drives

drives the whole, without their necessarily depending on any adhesion or friction at their surfaces. The pressure of B against D is governed by an adjustment of the axis of D, whose sockets are capable of a small motion; and the pressure of D against A is governed by the position of the whole box K L. There are many other well-known ways of thus communicating the motions, and of regulating the pressures; but as they are in general use in mills, and other rotary machines of various kinds, I do not consider it to be necessary, in this place, to say more than that I also use them in the construction of my new machines. When it is required to print more than one colour upon a piece, I cause it to pass two or more times through the machine; or, in those cases where the materials are liable to change their dimensions, I apply, at one and the same time, two or more such boxes as K L, with their respective cylinders, so that the pattern-cylinder of each may make its impression upon the web or material to be printed on. In this operation I am particularly careful to adjust the respective pattern-cylinders to each other, by trials on a waste piece

piece of the material, before I proceed to operate upon goods for sale; and in this way a variety of colours are impressed at one and the same time.

Fig. 4 (Pl. IX.) is a printing-press, chiefly of use for books and papers. 1 2 3 4 represents a long table, with ledges on each side; so that the two cylinders A and B can run backwards and forwards without any side shake. In one of these ledges is placed a strip or plate of metal cut into teeth, which lock into correspondent teeth in each cylinder; by which means the two cylinders roll along, without the possibility of changing the relative positions of their surfaces at any determinate part of the table. This may also be effected by straps, and may indeed be accomplished, with tolerable accuracy, by the mere rolling of the cylinders on the smooth or flat ledges without any provision. A is the printing-cylinder, covered with woollen cloth, and B is the inking-cylinder, with its distributing-rollers. The table may be divided into four compartments, marked with a thicker bounding-line than the rest, and numbered 1 2 3 4. At 1 is placed a sheet of paper;

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at 2 is the form or chase, containing letter set and imposed; at 3 is an apparatus for receiving the printed sheet; and 4 is employed in no other use than as a place of standing for the carriage E, after it has passed through one operation, and when it takes ink at F. Its action is as follows: the carriage is thrust forward by the workman, and as the roller A passes over the space numbered 1, it takes up the sheet of paper previously laid there, while the roller B runs over the form and inks the letter. The sheet of paper, being wrapped round the cylinder A, is pressed against the form as that cylinder proceeds, and consequently it receives an impression. When A arrives at the space numbered 3, it lets go the sheet of paper, while the prominent part of the carriage, G, strikes the lever P, and raises the inking-piece, which applies itself against one of the distributing-rollers. In this manner therefore the cylinder A returns empty, and the cylinder B inked, and in the mean time the workman places another sheet of paper ready in the space numbered 1. Thus it is that the operation proceeds in the printing of one sheet after another.

The preceding description is not incumbered with an account of the apparatus by which the paper is taken up and laid down. This may be done in several ways: Figs. 9 and 10 represent one of the methods. D E is a lever, moving on the centre pin C, and having its end D pressed upwards by the action of the spring G. The shoulder which contains the pin C is fixed in another piece F, which is inserted in a groove in the surface of the cylinder A; (Fig. 4;) so that it is capable of moving in and out, in a direction parallel to the axis of that cylinder. As that cylinder proceeds, it meets a pin in the table; which, (letter P, Fig. 9,) acting on the inclined plane at the other end of the lever, throws the whole inwards, in the position represented in Fig. 10; in which case the extremity D shoots inwards, and applies itself against the side of the cylinder.

In Fig. 11 is a representation of part of the table; the dotted square represents a sheet of paper, and the four small shaded squares denote holes in the board, with pins standing beside them. When the lever D E (Fig. 10) shoots forward, it is situ-

Y 2

ated

ated in one of these holes, and advances under the edge of the paper, which consequently it presses and retains against the cylinder with its extremity D. Nothing more remains to be said respecting the taking up, but that the cylinder is provided with two pair of these clasps or levers, which are so fixed as to correspond with the four holes represented in Fig. 11. It will be easy to understand how the paper is deposited in the compartment N°. 3. (Fig. 4.) A pin P, (Fig. 10,) rising out of the platform or table, acts against a pin E, projecting sideways out of the lever, and must of course draw the slider and its lever to the original position; the paper consequently will be let go, and its disengagement is rendered certain by an apparatus fixed in the compartment numbered 3, (Fig. 4.) of exactly the same kind as that upon the cylinder, and which, by the action of a pin duly placed in the surface of the cylinder A, takes the paper from the cylinder in precisely the same manner as that cylinder originally took it up in the compartment numbered 1. (Fig. 4.)

Figs.

Figs. 5, 6, and 7, (Pl. X.) represent a simpler apparatus for accomplishing the same purpose. If *A a B b* (Fig. 7) be supposed to represent a thick plate of metal of a circular form, with two pins *A* and *B* proceeding sideways or perpendicularly out of its plane, and diametrically opposite to each other, and *G* another pin proceeding in the direction of that plane, then it is obvious that any force applied to the pin *A*, so as to press it into the position *a*, (by turning the plate on its axis or centre *X*,) will at the same time cause the pin *G* to acquire the position *g*; and, on the other hand, when *B* is at *b*, or the dotted representation of the side-pin, if any pressure be applied to restore its original position at *B*, the pin *g* will return back to *G*. Now the figures 5 and 6 exhibit an apparatus of this kind, applied to the cylinder *A*; and that cylinder, by rolling over the pins *P* and *p*, properly fixed in the table to react upon the apparatus, will cause its prominent part *G*, either to apply to the cylinder and clasp the paper, or to rise up and let it go. The compartment numbered 3 (Fig. 4) must of course have an apparatus of the same kind, to be acted upon

upon by pins from A, in order that it may take the paper from that cylinder.

There is one other circumstance belonging to this machine which remains to be explained. When the carriage E (Fig. 4) goes out in the direction of the numbers 1 2 3 4, both rollers, A and B, press the form of letter in their passage; but in their return back again the roller A, having no paper upon it, would itself become soiled, by taking a faint impression from the letter, if it were not prevented from touching it: the manner of effecting this may be understood from Fig. 12. The apparatus there represented is fixed upon the outside of the carriage E, near the lower corner, in the vicinity of the roller A; the whole of this projects sideways beyond the ledge of the table, except the small truck or wheel B. The irregularly-triangular piece, which is shaded by the stroke of the pen, carries this wheel, and also a catch movable on the axis or pin E. The whole piece is movable on the pin A, which connects it to the carriage. CD, or the part which is shaded by dotting, is a detent which serves to hold the piece down in a certain position. It may
be

be observed, that both the detent and the triangular piece are furnished each with a claw, which holds in one direction, but trips or yields in the other, like the jacks of a harpsicord, or resembling certain pieces used in clock and watch making, as is clearly represented in the drawing. These claws over-hang the side of the table, and their effect is as follows. There is a pin C (Fig. 4) between the compartments of the table numbered 2 and 3, but which is marked F in Fig. 12, where G H represents the table. In the outward run of the carriage these claws strike that pin, but with no other effect than that they yield for an instant, and as instantly resume their original position by the action of their respective slender back-springs. When the carriage returns, the claw of the detent indeed strikes the pin, but with as little effect as before, because its derangement is instantly removed by the action of the back-spring of the detent itself; but, when the claw of the triangular piece takes the pin, the whole piece is made to revolve on its axis or pin A, the wheel B is forced down, so as to lift that end of the carriage, and the detent, catching
on

on the piece at C, prevents the former position from being recovered. The consequence of this is, that the carriage runs upon the truck B, (and its correspondent truck on the opposite side,) instead of the cylinder A, which is too much raised to take the letter, and soil itself; but, as soon as the end of the carriage has passed clear of the letter, another pin R (Fig. 4.) takes the claw of the detent, and draws it off the triangular piece; at which instant the cylinder A subsides to its usual place, and performs its functions as before. This last pin R does not affect the claw of the triangular piece, because it is placed too low; and the claw of the detent is made the longest, on purpose that it may strike this pin.

Fig. 8 represents an instrument for printing floor-cloths, paper-hangings, and the like, with stiff paint and a brush. D is a copper or metallic cylinder fixed in a frame A, like a garden-roller; its carved part is thin, and is cut through in various places, according to the desired pattern. A strong axis passes through the cylinder, and its extremities are firmly attached to the frame A. To this axis is fixed a vessel or box of the same kind,

kind, and answering the same purpose, as the box K L in Fig. 3. It carries a cylinder P, which revolves in the colour; another cylinder E, which revolves in contact with P; and a third cylinder B, whose exterior surface is covered with hair, after the manner of a brush, and revolves in contact with E. This cylinder B is adjusted by its axis, in such a manner that its brush-part sweeps in the perforated parts of the metallic cylinder D. The circle C represents a cog-wheel, fixed concentric to the cylinder D, and revolving with it; this wheel takes another wheel concentric to, and fixed to, B: hence the action is as follows. When the metallic cylinder is wheeled or rolled along any surface, its cog-wheel C drives the brush B in the contrary direction; and this brush-cylinder, being connected by cogs or otherwise with E and P, causes those also to revolve and supply it with colour. As the successive openings of the cylinder D, therefore, come in contact with the ground, the several parts of the brush will traverse the uncovered part of that ground, and paint the pattern upon it. The wheel G, being kept lightly on the ground, serves to determine

the line of contact, that it shall be the part opposite to B, and no other.

Lastly, I must take notice, that in these and every other of my machines, as well as in every machine whatever, the power may be wind, water, steam, animal strength, or any other natural change capable of producing motion; and that the mechanism by which such powers may be applied to produce a regular unceasing, or an intermittent motion, as circumstances may require, may be used with these machines, though I have held it totally unnecessary either to specify or annex those methods. The materials, the adjustments, the fittings, and that degree of accuracy necessary to the perfection of every machine, have likewise made no part of my specification, because every workman must know that no mechanism can be completed without a due attention to these well-known particulars. In witness whereof, &c.

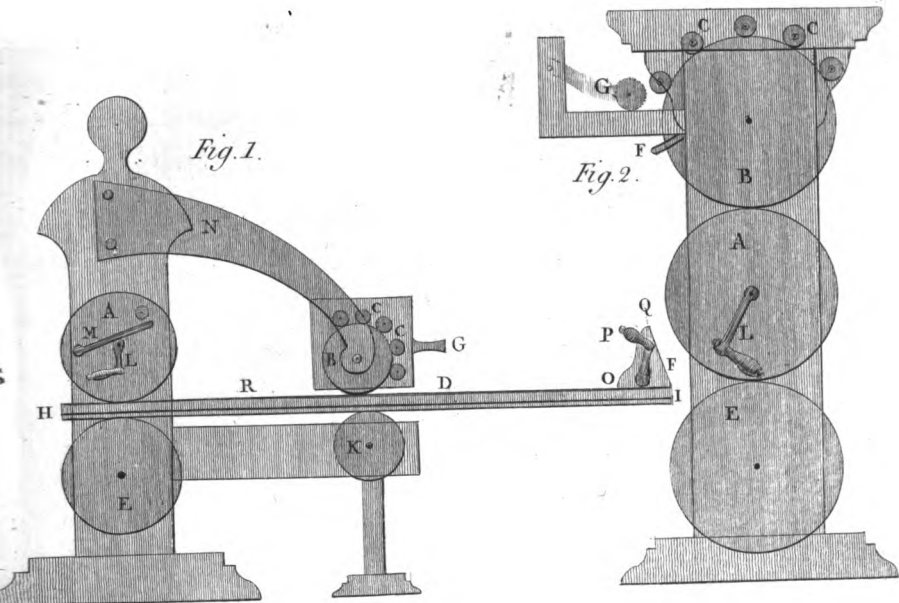
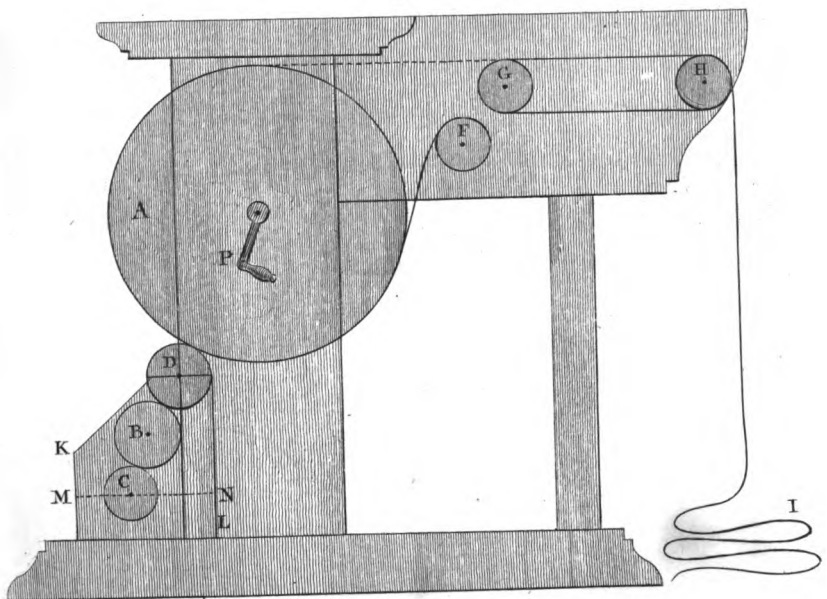


Fig. 3.



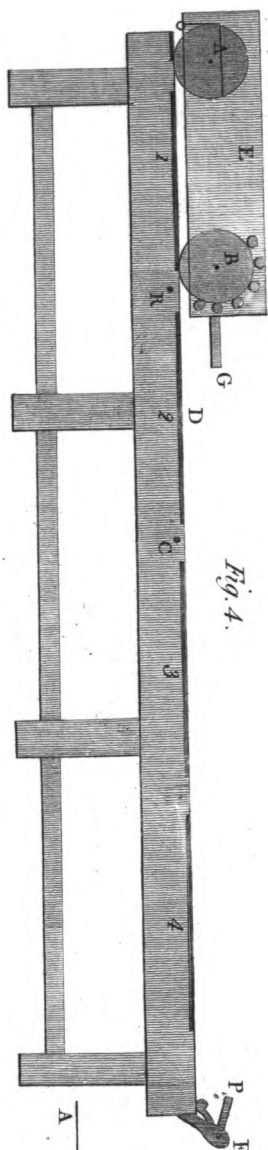


Fig. 4.

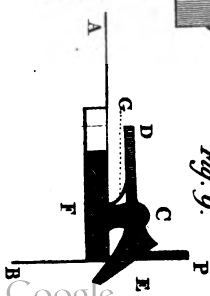


Fig. 9.

Fig. 11.

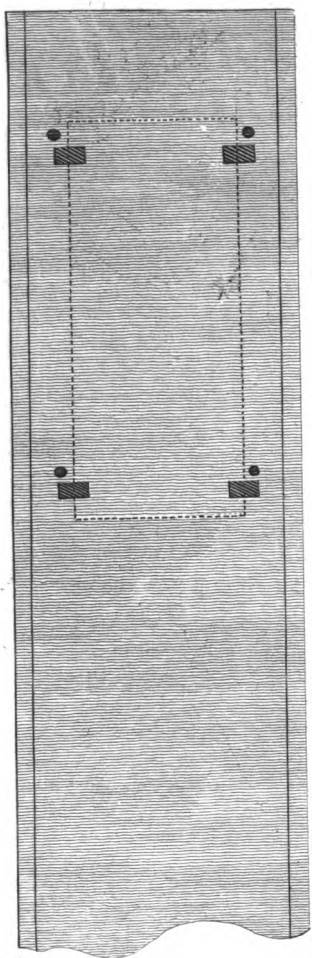


Fig. 10

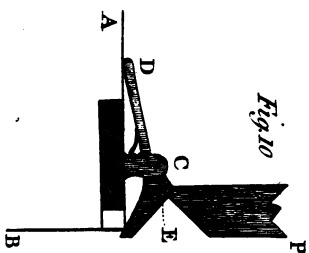


Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.

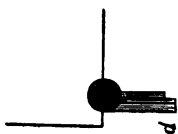


Fig. 7.

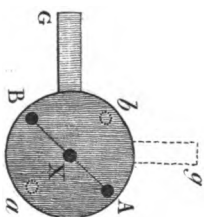


Fig. 8.

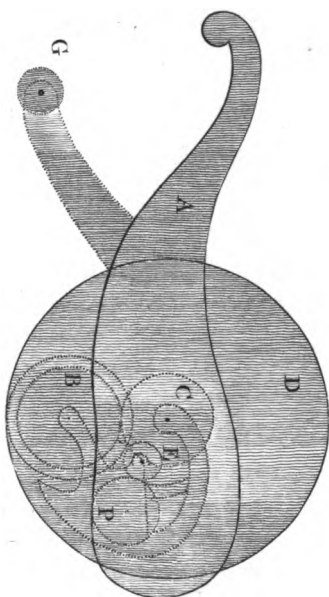


Fig. 12.



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