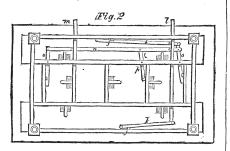
IMPROVED WOOL FOLDER.

The folding of the millions of fleeces of wool that are annually produced in the country is a labor of no small magnitude, and any apparatus which materially facilitates this labor is of corresponding value. Wool folders are not a new invention, and the one here illustrated of March, 1859, and further information in relation to

claims merely to be an improvement on those heretofore in use.

The general arrangement of this folder will be readily understood by a glance at the perspective view, Fig. 1. It consists of a table with folding leaves, which are pressed upward into a vertical position by spiral springs. These leaves are all folded down in a common plane with the surface of the table where they are held by spring catches; the fleece being then spread upon the table with the outside uppermost, and gathered into as small a compass as can be conveniently done with the hand, the two long leaves, A and B, are released from the catches which hold their outer edges down, when the spiral springs press them up into the vertical position represented in the cut. Three narrow leaves are arranged to rise into a vertical position between the long leaves, A and B, and after the latter have been turned up as described, and fastened together

the two outer ones, c and d, folding the ends of the fleece inward, and then the inner leaf, e, again rolling forward



the fold which has been turned upon it by the leaf, c. The fleece being thus compressed between the four leaves, A, B, e, and d, rests upon a movable platform which is supported by the rod, f, so that it may be pressed upward by placing the foot upon the treadle, g.

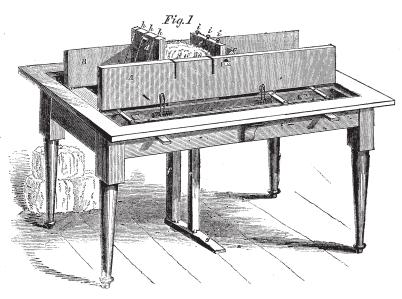
Before the fleece is placed upon the table, the twine for tying it is arranged through the holes, hh h, and i i, in the manner shown, so that as soon as the fleece is folded the twine is tied, and thus the wool is secured in a neat, snug bundle, ready for transportation to market.

The mode of releasing the catches from their hold upon the edges of the folding leaves is clearly represented in Fig. 2. The catches, jj, which hold down the edges of the large leaves, are fastened to the levers, k k, which are connected with the rod, I, so that by pressing this rod inward

towards the table, the catches, j j, are forced from their hold. The lever, m, is next pushed to the left, which, through the interposition of the rod, n, actuates the two levers, o o, and releases the catches, of the two outer narrow leaves. Then a pressure of the rod, m, in the opposite direction moves the lever, p, and draws the catch of the inner narrow leaf from its hold.

As soon as one fleece is folded, the leaves are pressed back into place by hand, the twine re-adjusted, another fleece laid upon the table, and the operation repeated.

The patent for this invention was granted on the 15th



EDWARDS' IMPROVED WOOL-FOLDER.

by hooks, the narrow ones are successively released; first | it may be obtained by addressing the inventor, Randolph M. D. Edwards, at Tecumseh, Mich.