

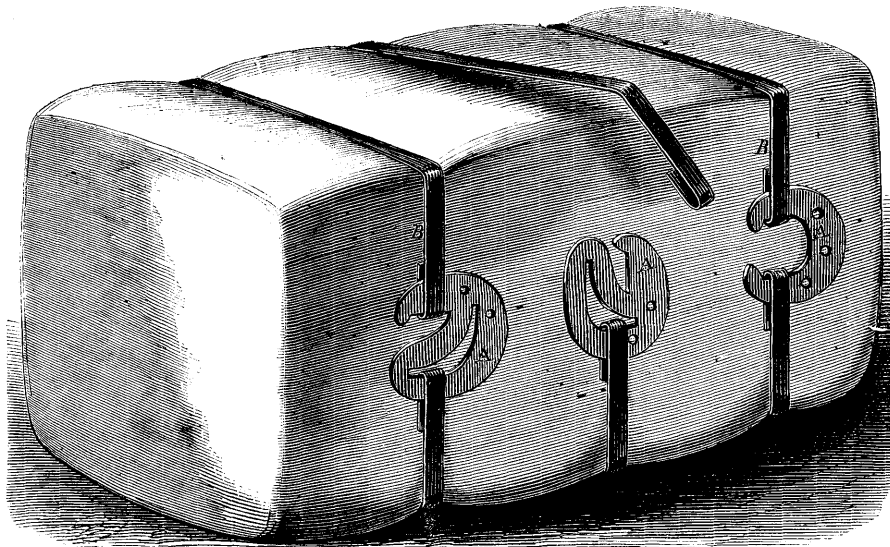
Improved Metallic Cotton-bale Fastener.

Metal bands are fast superseding the use of ropes to fasten bales of goods, and especially for the purpose of securing raw cotton. It is well known that a bale of cotton as usually compressed is not readily combustible. It is only when the fastenings become loosened, allowing the cotton to spread and the air to permeate its mass, that free combustion is possible. If the fastenings are of rope—often tarred, or if not, of a loose texture—they soon burn away and allow the elasticity of the cotton to open its fibers to the flame. When the bale is opened the rope is frequently unfit for using again, and as junk, is worth only about 33 per cent of the value of the iron bands. But metallic bands, as used with this fastener, it is claimed, can be used over and over again.

The device consists of clasps, A, of metal—malleable iron being most suitable—in combination with bands, B, of hoop iron. The clasps may be of two forms as shown. Each has its peculiar advantages, although both are constructed on the same principle. In one form one end of the strap is passed through a curved slot, and in this the clasp can be removed by turning only one way. In the other, the perfect C-shaped, both jaws are alike and it can be turned either way, opening from either end of the strap.

The bale, being under pressure, one end of the band is passed around it and bent as shown at C, the other being bent at the proper point when the jaws are slipped through the loop. These loops may be riveted if desired, although the grasp of the fasteners is such that it is not considered necessary. The bearing of each jaw on the loop is perfectly square, as seen, preventing any accidental disengagement. When it is required to loosen the bands to open the bale, it can be done by means of the holes seen in the face of the couplers. By inserting a cotton hook in these the fastener may be easily slipped, when it and the band are ready to again do duty as fasteners.

The device is the subject of patents in this country and Great Britain, a United States patent having been obtained Oct. 20, 1866, and an English patent Oct. 29th, same year. The patentee is desirous of disposing of the entire right, Address Arthur Barbarin, Lock Box 691, P. O., New Orleans, La.



BARBARIN'S METALIC COTTON-BALE FASTENER.