

M. B. Espy,

Stopper Fastener.

N^o 17,783.

Patented July 14, 1857.

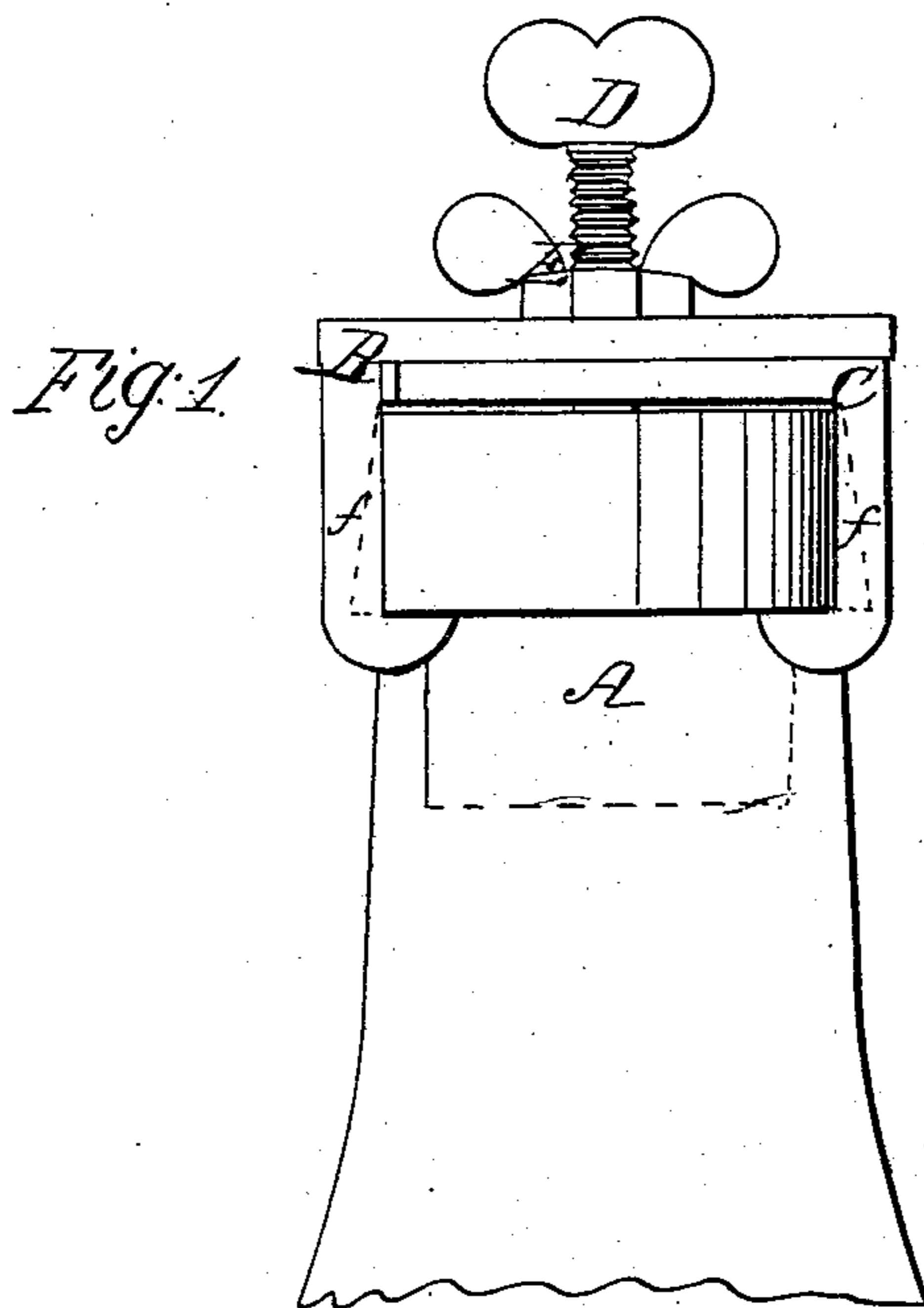
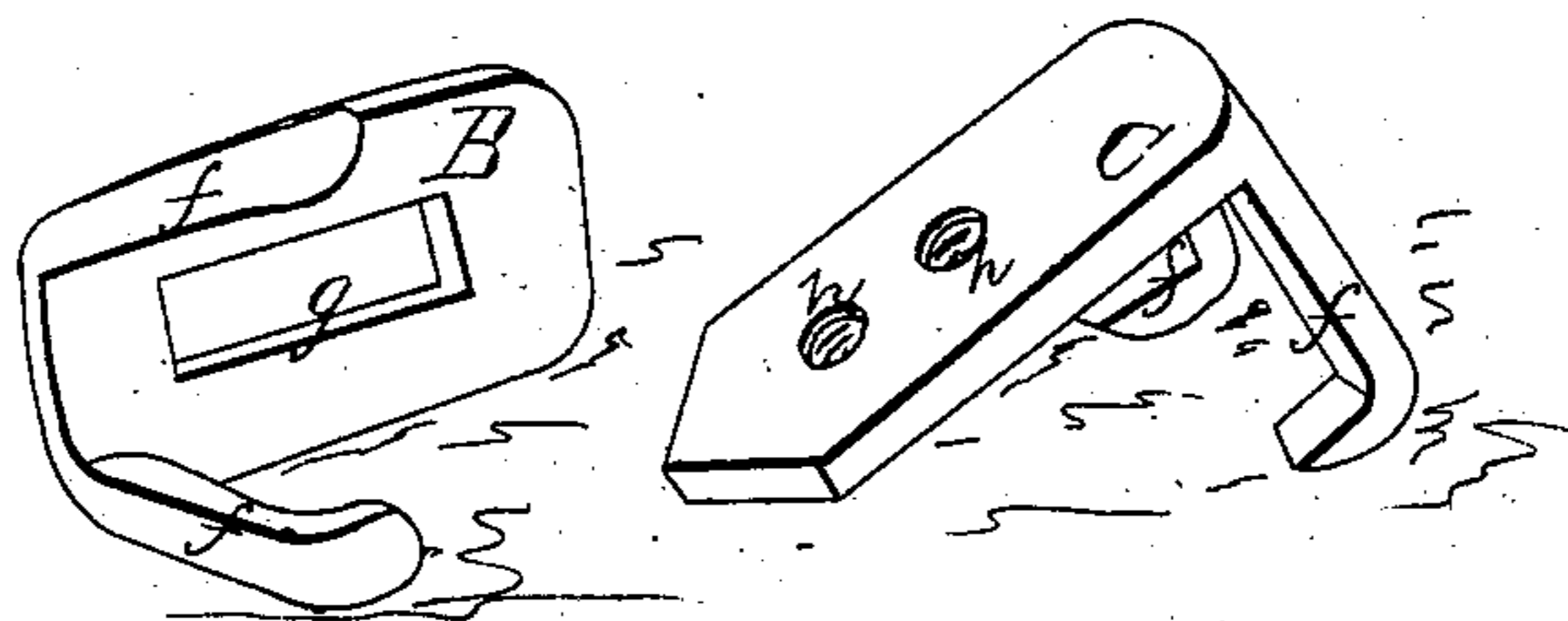


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.
Jas. C. Dunning
Wm. Monson

Inventor.
Mills B. Espy

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MILLS B. ESPY, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVED DEVICE FOR SEALING BOTTLES, CANS, &c.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 17,783, dated July 14, 1857.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, M. B. ESPY, of the city of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and improved bottling-clamp for holding the corks in bottles during the process of preserving succulent fruits, vegetables, &c., therein by heat; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a representation of the apparatus as applied to a bottle for the purpose; and Fig. 2, perspective views of the two hooked slides which, when coupled together by a screw-bolt and jam-nut, constitute the clamp, like letters in the two figures indicating the same parts.

The nature of my invention consists in constructing and adapting together two adjustably-sliding plate shaving hooked projections, so that by means of an attached thumb-screw and a jam-nut the said plates may be applied and adjusted over the mouth of a bottle or jar, and effectually prevent the cork from being forced out of the said bottle or jar by internal pressure.

In the drawings, A is the upper part of a bottle; B, the upper, and C the lower, sliding plate; D, the thumb-screw bolt; E, the jam-nut, and *f f* the four projecting and hooked parts of the slides. The plate of the upper slide, B, has a slot, *g*, made through it, and the lower slide two or more through-holes *h*, into either of which the thumb-screw D is adapted to work, so that when the two slides are placed together and the thumb-screw inserted through the slot in the upper into the lower slide, they may be adjusted over the mouth of a bottle or jar by hand in such a manner that the hooked ends of the four downward projections *f f* may catch under

the projecting lip or flange of the bottle or jar, and the thumb-screw D be screwed down into contact with the cork, and thus together serve the purpose of keeping the cork from being forced out by pressure from the inside of the vessel, when the jam-nut E is screwed down firmly against the upper plate, B, as seen in Fig. 1.

The whole apparatus is made of metal, light, and so as to fit readily and adjustably together, and to the mouth and lips of the bottle or jar.

In "putting up" succulent fruits, &c., in glass bottles and jars by the process which requires their subjection to the temperature at least of boiling water, it is necessary to have some mode of holding the cork within the mouth of the vessel during the expansion of its contents, but the "wiring," "cording," and other means heretofore used for this purpose are all more or less defective and troublesome, and also wasteful; hence a simple, easily-applied, and as easily-removed apparatus like the present one, and which is, moreover, capable of being repeatedly used for a long time for the purpose without getting out of order, is a device much required in the art.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination of the upper plate, B, having the slot *g*, and the two hooked projections, *f f*, the lower plate, C, having the screw-hole *h*, and the two hooked projections *f f*, with the thumb-screw D, and jam-nut E, the same being adapted and arranged together so as to be applicable to the mouth of a bottle or jar, substantially in the manner and for the purpose set forth and described.

MILLS B. ESPY.

Witnesses:

BEN. MORISON,

JAS. GLENDINNING.