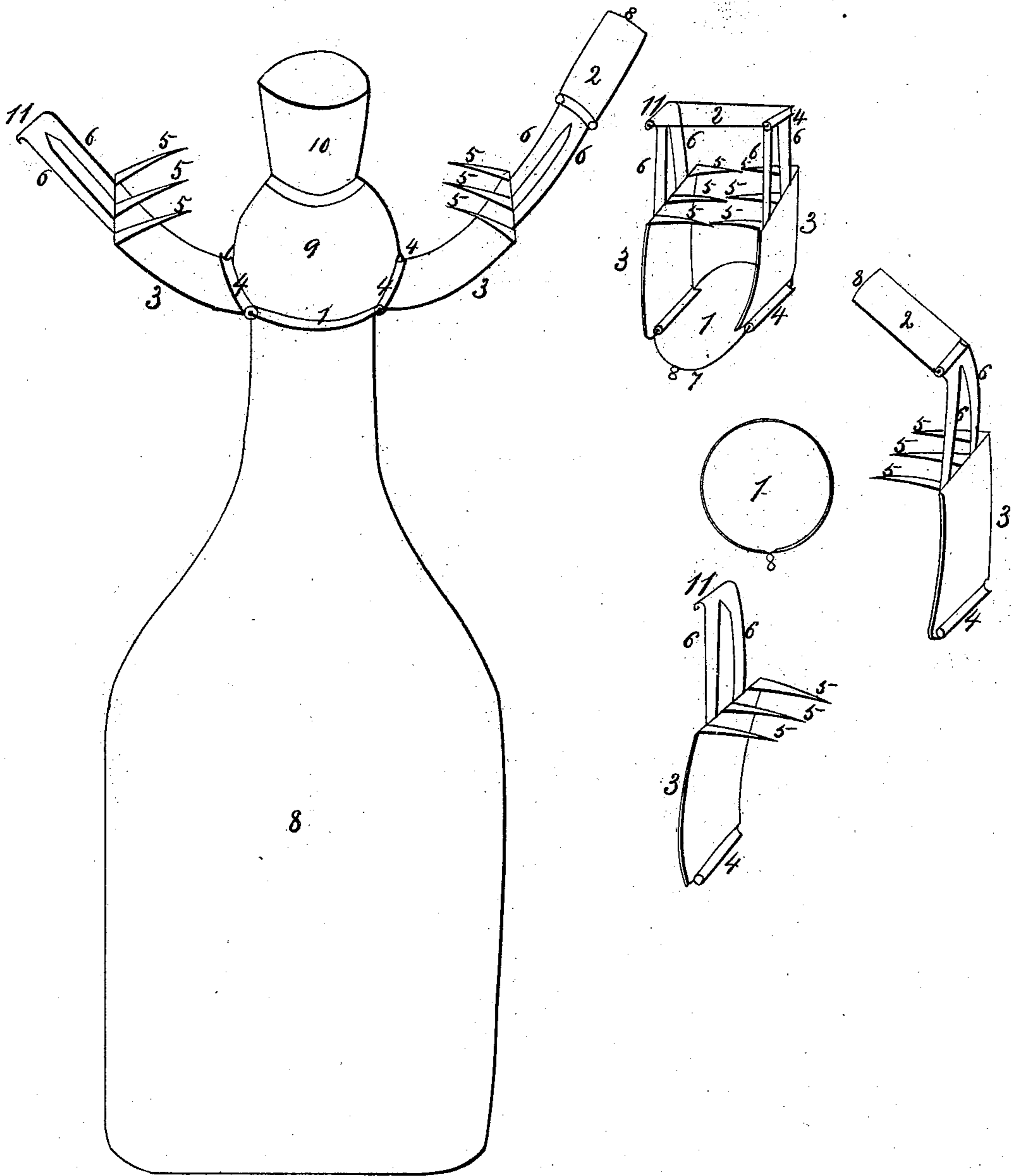


R. W. Huston,

Stopper Fastener.

No 24,215.

Patented May 31, 1859



Witnesses;
Edgar Middleton
& Co.

Inventor;
R. W. Huston.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT W. HUSTON, OF CALAIS, MAINE.

IMPROVED MODE OF SECURING CORKS IN BOTTLES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **24,215**, dated May 31, 1859.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT W. HUSTON, of Calais, in the county of Washington, in the State of Maine, have invented a new and Improved Mode of Securing Corks in Bottles; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, and to the figures of reference marked thereon.

The nature of my invention consists in the arrangement and employment of those parts which will be hereinafter particularly described.

In the annexed drawing, 8 represents a bottle, which is provided with a cork, 10. The neck of the bottle is provided, as is usually the case, around its neck, near the top, with an enlargement, 9. Below this enlargement a wire, 1, surrounds the neck of the bottle. On two sides of the bottle-neck and to this wire 1 are secured two pieces of metal, marked 3 3. These pieces of metal turn over the wire at their lower end, and thus form a hinge with said wire. The upper extremities of these pieces of metal turn over at right angles, or nearly so, about half an inch, and are divided each into three or more forks or teeth, 5 5 5. Two strips are secured to each of the pieces 3 3 and extend up a short distance above the tops of said pieces. To the strips on one side is secured a wire, 2, which is provided with a clasp. This wire extends across the cork when desired, and the clasp catches in a roll on the top of the strips on the other side of the bottle.

In operating this holder it will be seen that when the cork is pressed into the bottle-neck and a portion of it extends above the bottle the pieces 3 3 are raised and the teeth on each side are pressed firmly into the cork. The wire 2 then drops across the top of the cork and clasps at 11 to the roll on the strips. It will be readily seen that when the teeth have once entered the cork the upward pressure caused by the gas in the bottle has a tendency rather to tighten than loosen the fastenings. The wire which clasps above the cork is not essen-

tially necessary in all cases—for instance, when the bottle is in a state of rest—but when the bottles are to be moved or packed away for transportation the clasp is necessary in order to prevent the teeth from being forced out by any casualty.

The great advantage of this fastener over any other now in use is that it is not necessary in stopping bottles to have the corks always of one length and size. With all of those fasteners which are now used it is necessary that that all of the corks should be of one length. In the cases of Allender and Ashburner it is necessary that the corks should all be cut one length and cut so as not to extend above the top of the bottle, and even when the corks are all driven into the bottles so that their upper ends will be even with the tops of the bottles the fasteners cannot cover the corks until the plunger which forces them in is removed from the cork; but as soon as the plunger is removed the cork is forced up by the gas, and then the fastener cannot be forced on. This difficulty is entirely obviated in my fastener, for as soon as the plunger stops the teeth may be driven into the cork on both sides, and it is thus held firmly in its place. The plunger is then removed and the clasp secured.

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

The within-described fastener, which consists of the metallic pieces 3 3, which are hinged on a wire secured below the enlargement on the bottle-neck, and which are provided with teeth 5 5 5, with the strips 6 6, and with the wire 2, and clasp 11, the several parts being arranged substantially in the manner and for the purpose herein specified.

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name the 8th day of March, 1859.

R. W. HUSTON.

In presence of—

EDGAR WHIDDEN,
E. C. YOUNG.