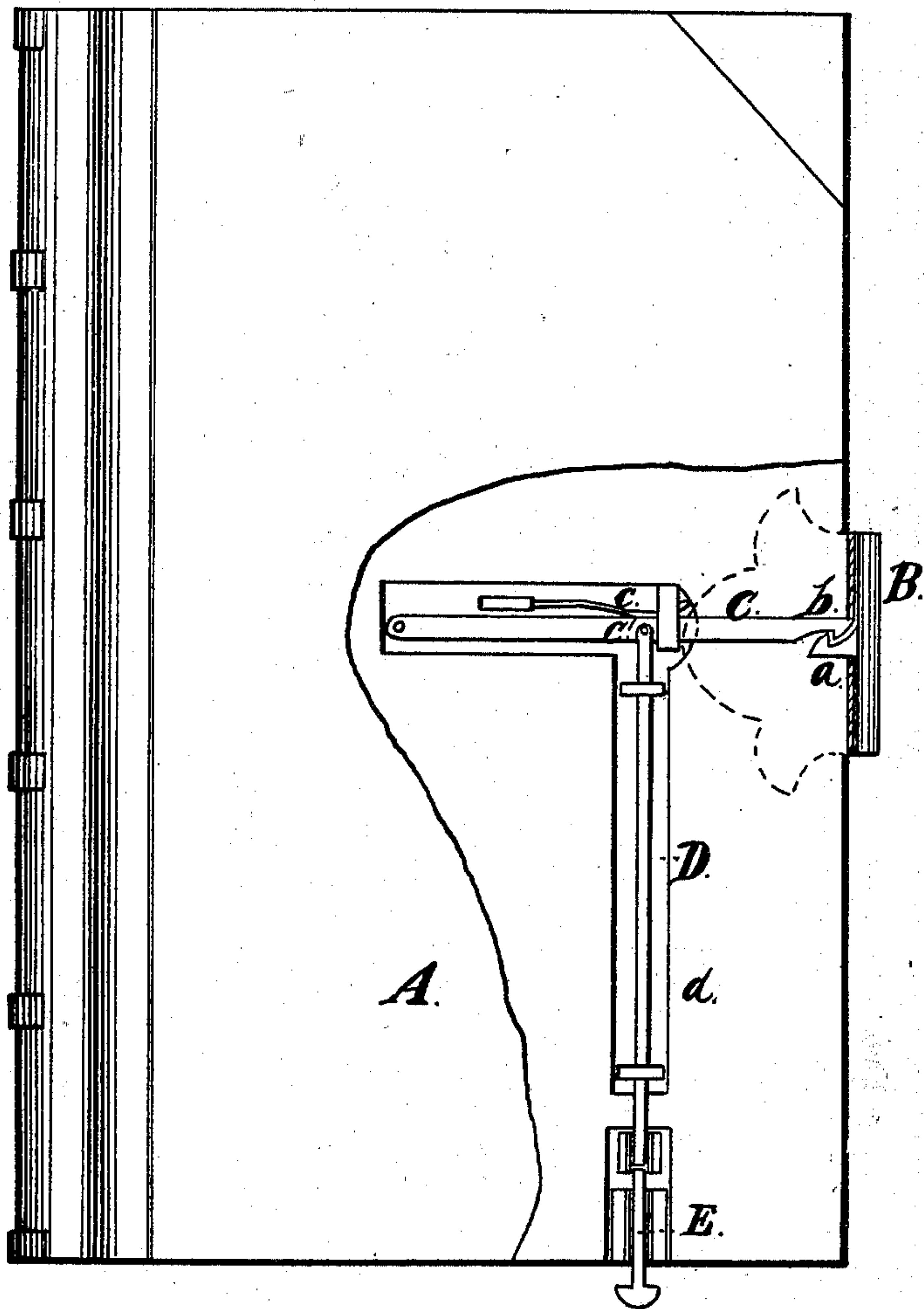


I. I. Call.

Clasp Lock for Books.

N^o 60017.

Patented Nov. 27. 1866.



Witnesses.

W B Huntington
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Inventor

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CLASP-LOCK FOR BOOKS, &c.

LEOPOLD LALL, OF NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 60,017, dated November 27, 1866.

SPECIFICATION.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, LEOPOLD LALL, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful improvement in Clasp-Lock for Books, Portfolios, &c.; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification.

The drawing represents a side view of a book, with the cover partly in section, and having my invention applied to it.

This invention consists in applying a lock to a book-clasp, in such a manner that when the clasp is closed, and the covers of the book secured, so that the book will be in a closed state, the clasp will be locked and rendered incapable of being opened without the aid of a key. The object of the invention is to prevent books being opened and their contents inspected by any except the proper persons; and it will prove to be a desirable device for account-books in counting-houses and other institutions, where curious visitors and customers have frequently the opportunity of looking at accounts not designed for their inspection.

A represents one of the covers of a book, and B is a clasp secured to one of the covers, D—the one not seen—by a hinge or joint, as usual. The free or disengaged end of the clasp B has a hook *a* projecting from it at right angles, and this hook, when the book is closed, and the free or disengaged end of the clasp pressed towards the edge of the cover, A, enters a recess in the edge of A, and engages with a hook *b*, at the outer end of a lever C, which has a spring *c* bearing against it, said spring having a tendency to keep the two hooks *a* *b* engaged with each other. The lever C has a rod D connected to it by a pivot *c'*, which rod extends nearly to the edge of the cover A, at one end of the book, the groove *d*, in which the rod D is fitted, extending to the edge of the cover. In order to unlock the clasp B, a key E is pressed in the edge of the groove *d*, and the rod D shoved back, which actuates the lever C and disengages the hook *b* from the hook *a*. In closing the clasp B, the hook *a* engages itself with hook *b*. Thus by this simple device the clasp will be locked whenever it is closed. The lever C and rod D are covered in the binding. The invention may be applied to any kind of book, portfolio, album, &c., which will admit of having a clasp attached.

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

A clasp for books, portfolios, albums, &c., having a lock applied to it, and inserted in the binding, substantially as shown and described.

LEOPOLD LALL.

Witnesses:

M. M. LIVINGSTON,
ALEX. F. ROBERTS.