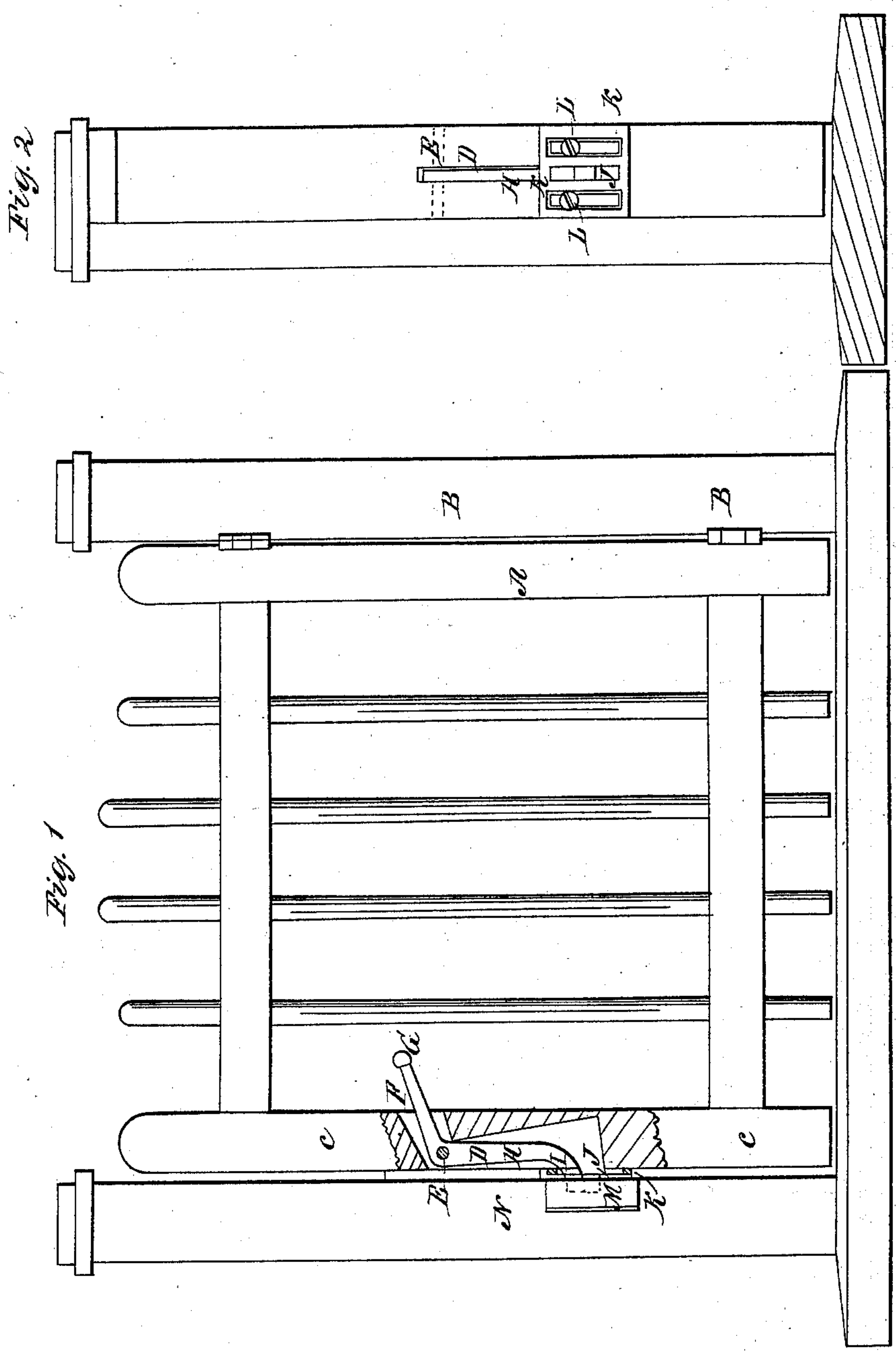


*W. T. Wells,*  
*Gate Latch,*  
*No 62,102,                      Patented Feb. 12, 1867.*



Witnesses;  
*Jos. A. Service*  
*J. W. D. Livingston*

Inventor;  
*W. T. Wells*  
*Per Munnings*  
*Attorneys*

# United States Patent Office.

W. T. WELLS, OF DECATUR, ILLINOIS.

*Letters Patent No. 62,102, dated February 12, 1867.*

## IMPROVEMENT IN LATCHES FOR GATES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

### TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, W. T. WELLS, of Decatur, in the county of Macon, and State of Illinois, have invented new and useful Improvements in "Latches for Gates;" 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 drawings, forming part of this specification.

The present invention consists in so hanging the latch upon the gate that it can be adjusted to be thrown more or less into the catch or keeper provided for it, according as may be desired or deemed necessary to accommodate it to the gate as it sags or shrinks; and also in so forming the latch as to render it susceptible of the above adjustment. In accompanying plate of drawings my improvements in latches for gates are illustrated—

Figure 1 being an elevation of a gate with it applied thereto, and showing the latch and a portion of the gate-post in section.

Figure 2, an end view of the gate-post having the latch hung in it.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

A, in the drawings, represents a gate, which may be of any of the ordinary forms and styles, and made of any desired material. This gate, at one side, is hinged to a post, B, and in its other side, C, is hung a latch, D, upon a fulcrum-pin, E. This latch is made of an angular shape, with its short arm, F, projecting from the inside edge of the post, and with a knob or handle, G, upon its outer end, and its long arm, H, extending down the post, (that to receive it, as well as the shorter arm, is suitably cut out,) and projecting by its bent or curved end, I, through the vertical slot J in the plate K, secured to the posts by screws, L, in such a manner as to be susceptible of adjustment thereon in a vertical plane, for a purpose to be hereinafter explained; this curved or bent end of the latch interlocking with the notch or keeper M, formed in the proper place of the fence-post N, as the gate is shut or closed, and from which it is withdrawn by raising the handle end of the latch, as is manifest by an inspection of fig. 1 in the drawings. The distance to which the curved end of the latch can project from the gate-post is limited by its abutment against the upper end of the slot J in the slotted plate, as plainly shown in fig. 1; so that, as is obvious, if such plate be either raised or lowered in position upon the gate, the projecting of the latch therefrom will be correspondingly increased or decreased, as the case may be, and thus the latch adjusted to the requirements of the gate, if it should become sagged or sunken, a quite important advantage; the keeper for the latch being made sufficiently elongated in a vertical direction to accommodate the different positions of the latch.

I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The combination, with a latch, of a slotted plate or its equivalent, when the two are so constructed and arranged together as to operate substantially in the manner described and for the purpose specified.

W. T. WELLS.

Witnesses:

G. E. MOREHOUSE,  
S. P. MOREHOUSE.