

W. H. Plumb.

Hats & Caps.

N<sup>o</sup> 68899

Patented Sep. 17, 1867.

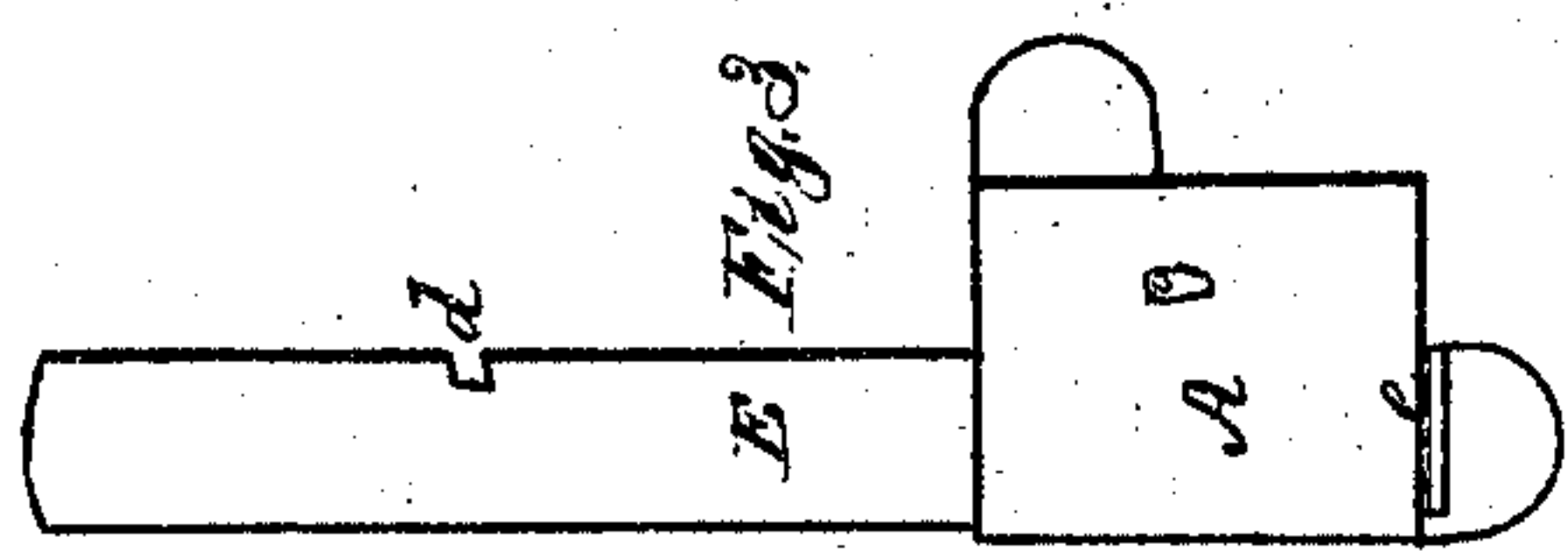


Fig. 3.

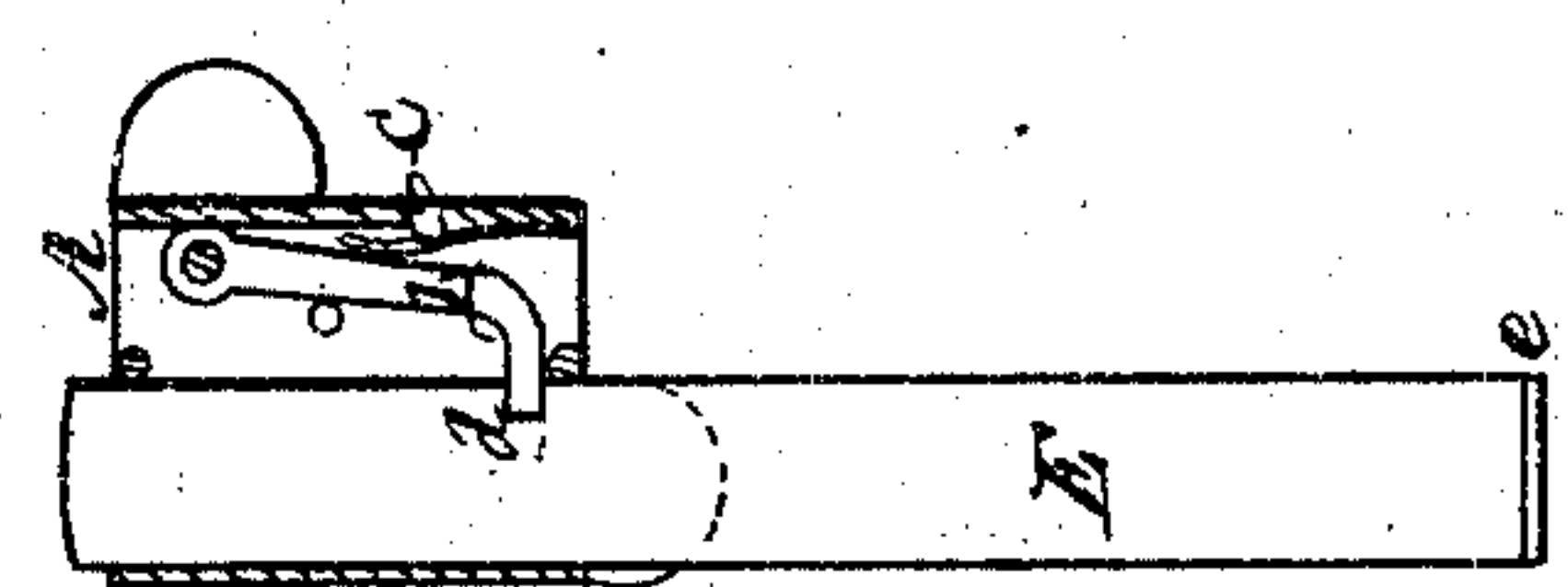


Fig. 2.



Fig. 4.

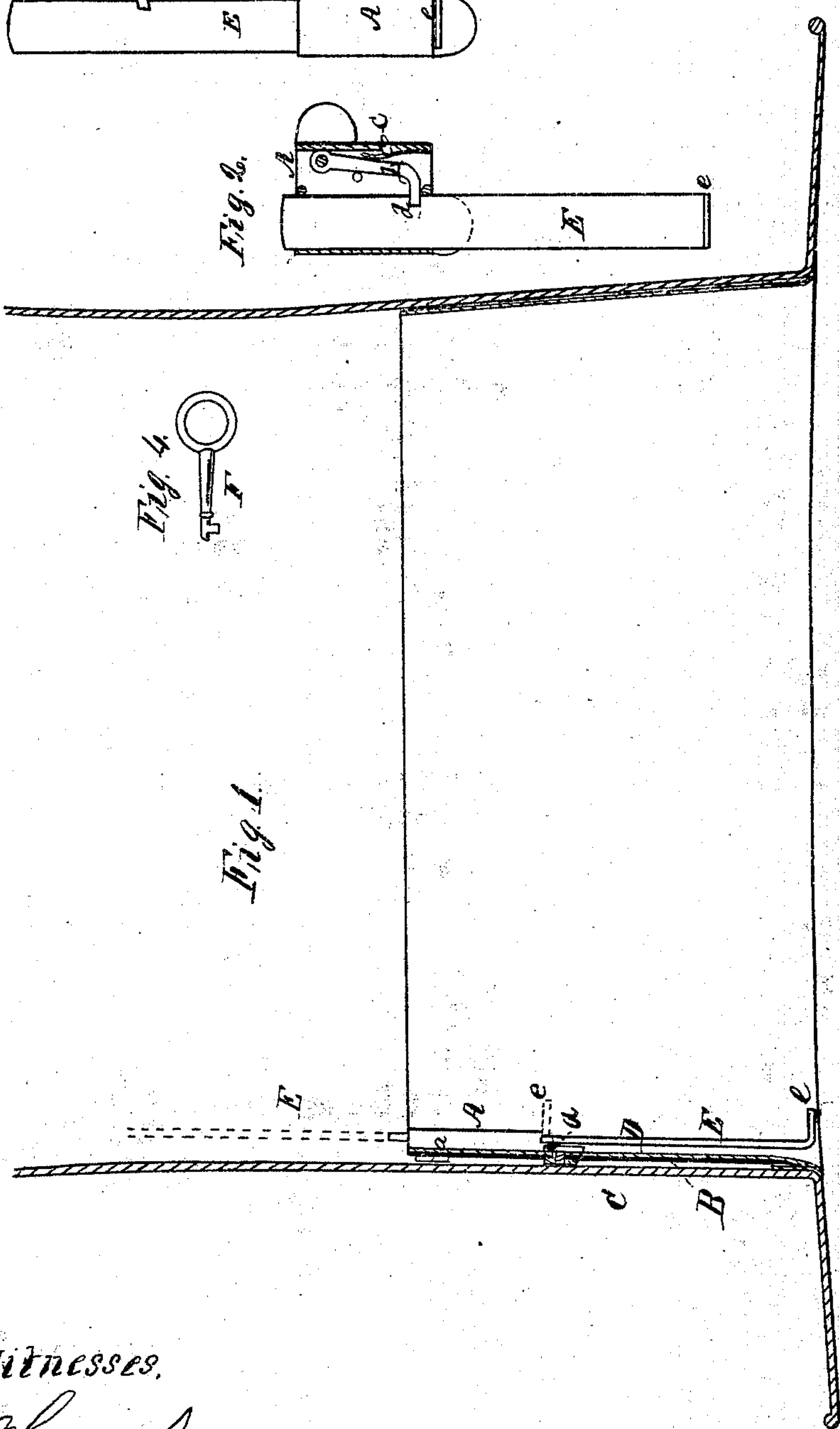


Fig. 1.

Witnesses,

Wm. M. Reed

Inventor.

W. H. Plumb



# United States Patent Office.

W. H. PLUMB, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO HENRY DE ZAVALA,  
OF SAME PLACE.

*Letters Patent No. 68,899, dated September 17, 1867; antedated September 4, 1867.*

## IMPROVEMENT IN HATS.

*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. H. PLUMB, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Hat-Lock, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 represents, in vertical section, a locking obstruction as applied to a hat, in illustration of my invention, and

Figures 2, 3, and 4, views of details constituting said locking obstruction and its key detached.

The object of this invention is to secure the owner against loss, by unintentional misappropriation or theft, of his hat or other like head-cover, by applying to it an obstruction which shall impede or prevent its wear excepting at the will of the person to whom said head-cover belongs; and the nature of the invention consists in any suitable locking obstruction so applied to the hat as to restrain the latter from being worn till such obstruction is removed or sufficiently displaced by unlocking it.

Referring to the accompanying drawing, A represents a lock-case having attached to it, by projections on pins and nuts *a*, an independent leg or plate, B, arranged to lie between the body C of the hat and sweat-leather D, to which latter the leg B serves to secure the case A in a raised position on the opposite side thereof, by the pins above referred to passing through the sweat-leather and being secured by the nuts under cover of said leather. E is a slide arranged to pass vertically through the case A, and so as, when fully depressed, to be locked in or with said case by a catch or tumbler, *b*, acted upon by a spring, *c*, shooting into a notch, *d*, of the slide, which has projecting from it, at or near its bottom, a branch or arm, *e*, that being of suitable stiffness or hardness, and, if necessary, pointed or sharpened, operates to impede or prevent the hat being worn till the slide is unlocked by a key, F, acting on the tumbler *b*, when the slide may be pushed upwards, as represented in red lines, fig. 1, to place the obstacles formed by the branch *e* out of contact with the head, thereby allowing the hat to be worn as if no such obstruction as here described were provided it. This slide E, that may be referred to as a locking obstruction on the inside of the hat, should have a sufficiently tight play through its case, or be otherwise provided or constructed, to insure its being held up when raised, yet admitting of every facility, on drawing it down, to lock itself with the case, so that the application of the key is only necessary to unlock it for removal of the obstruction.

A hat-lock constructed as here represented and described may be removed when necessary, as, for instance, to change it to a new or other hat, but only at the expense of such time and trouble as would deter a thief in any exposed place resorting to. It may, however, be applied so as not to be detachable, excepting by cutting or otherwise injuring the hat. But my invention, thus illustrated, is not restricted to any particular form of locking obstruction or mode of attaching it to the hat, as it will be obvious such may be greatly varied, as, for instance, a cross-bar or bars secured to the inside of the hat at their one end and locking at their other end or ends, to form a like obstruction, or, instead thereof, springs attached to opposite sides of the hat, and locking in the middle, but springing out of the way when unlocked, and various other contrivances may be used to afford substantially the same or like protection against wear of the hat, excepting with consent of the owner.

In hotels and other crowded places of public resort, or on board steamboats or other vehicles of travel, where total loss by theft or taking of a wrong hat is no uncommon occurrence, this invention will be found a desideratum. The lock itself may be of a permutation character, where the carrying of a key, that, however, may be made to form an ornamental appendage to the watch-guard, is objected to.

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

A locking obstruction applied to the interior of the hat, operating, till unlocked and displaced or removed, to impede or prevent the wearing of the hat, substantially as specified.

W. H. PLUMB.

Witnesses:

A. LE CLERC,

J. W. COOMBS.