

EDWARD S. EARLEY

FASTENINGS for

BURIAL CASKETS, COFFINS, etc.

Fig. 1.

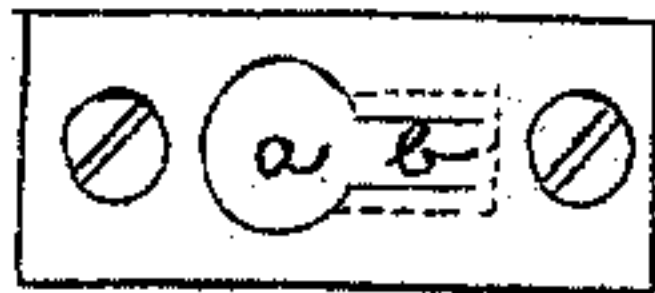
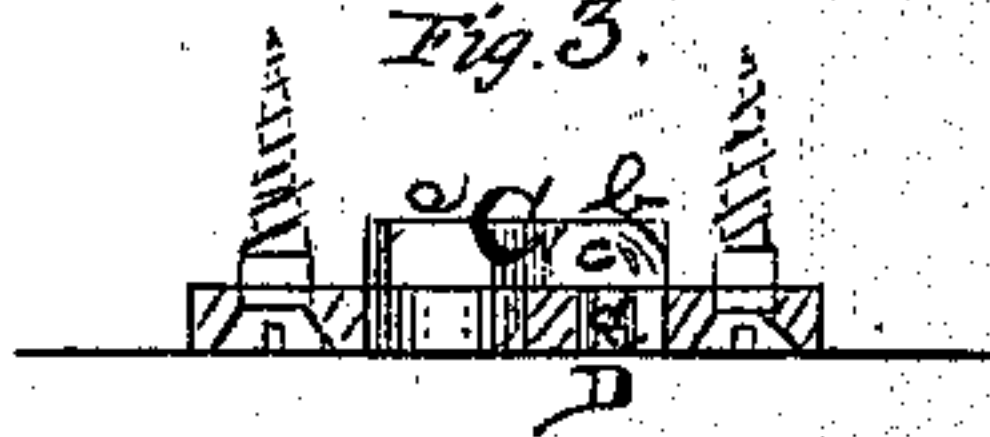


Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.



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Fig. 4.

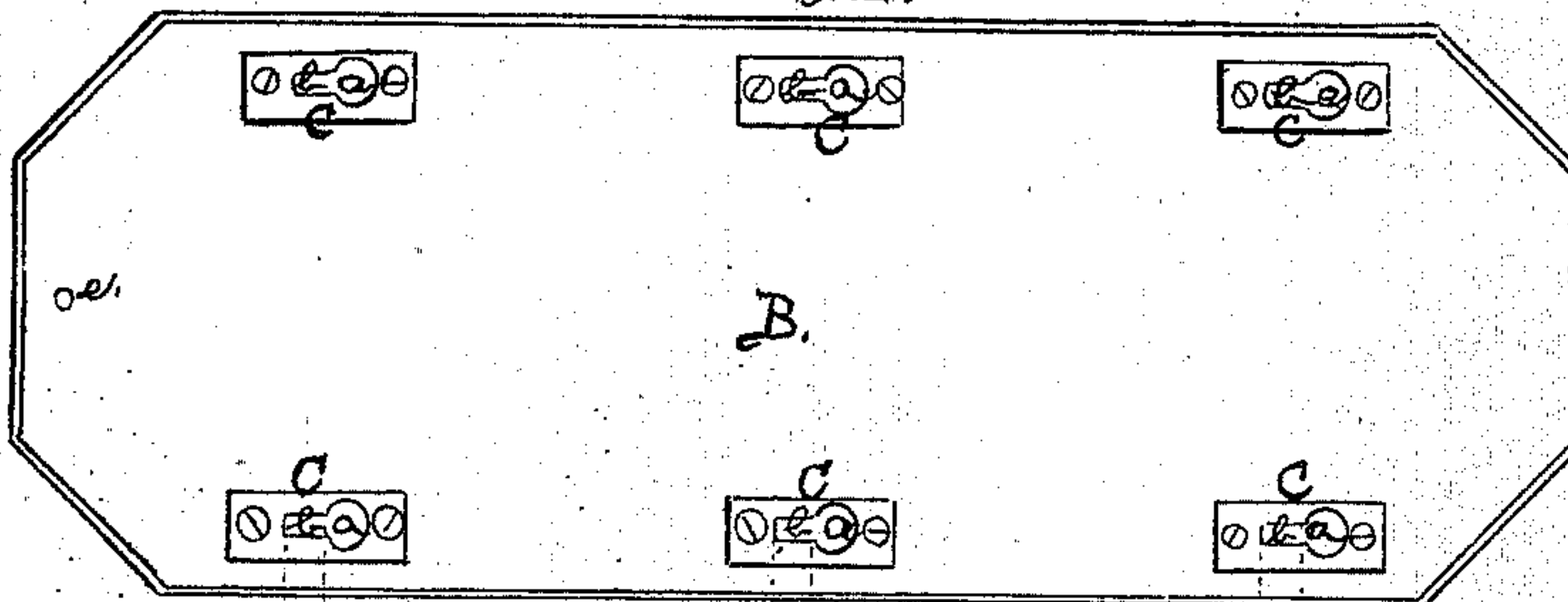


Fig. 5.

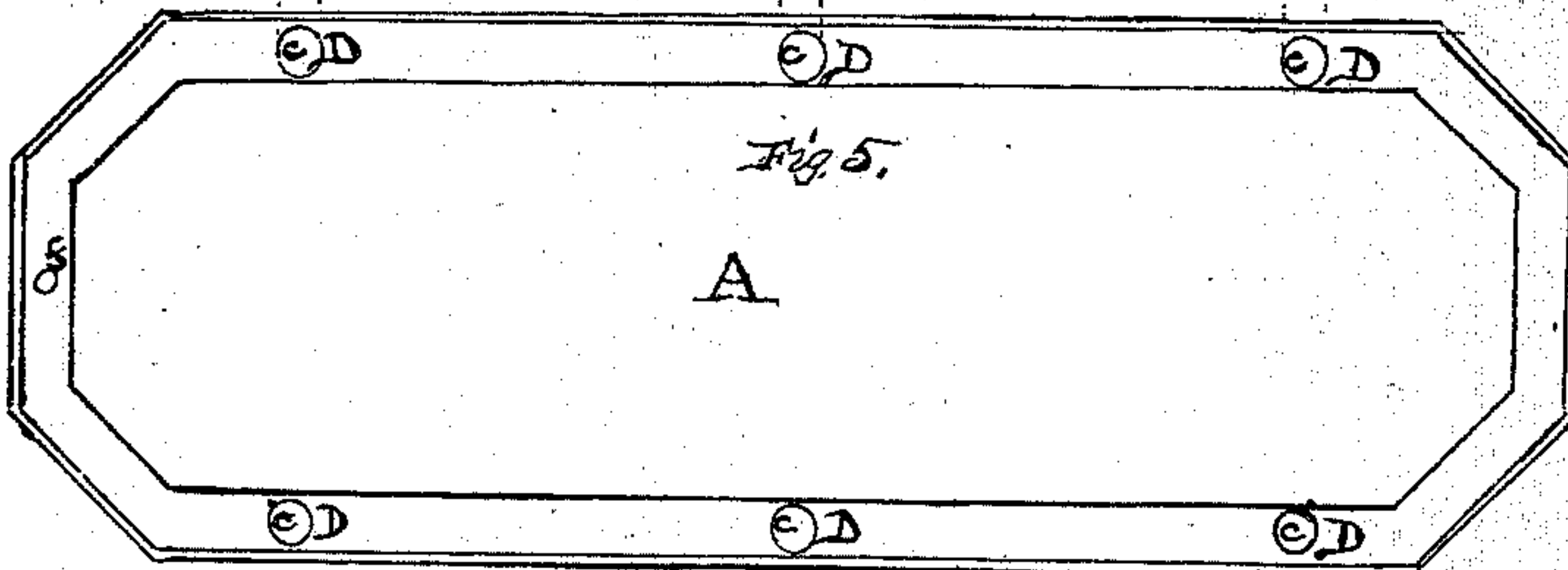
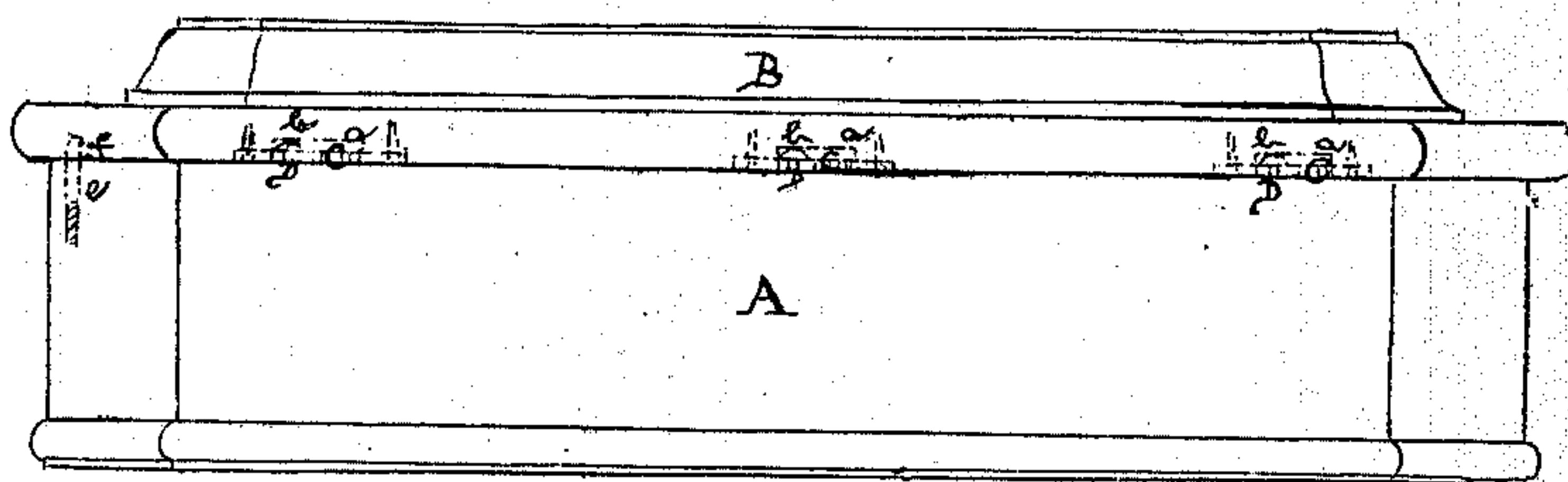


Fig. 6.



WITNESSES.

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Letters Patent No. 71,468, dated November 26, 1867.

FASTENING FOR BURIAL-CASKETS.

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, EDWARD S. EARLEY, of the city and county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Fastenings for Burial-Caskets, Coffins, and other receptacles; and I do hereby declare the following to be a clear and exact description of the nature thereof, sufficient to enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to fully understand and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of the specification, in which—

Figures 1 and 2 are detached views of the fastening illustrating my invention.

Figures 3, 4, and 5 show the application thereof.

Figure 6 is a side elevation of a coffin, showing the fastening in red.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

My invention is a novel concealed fastening for burial-caskets, coffins, and other receptacles; and consists in applying to the under side of the lid and the upper edge of the body respectively a slotted plate and a stud or button, so that the latter will enter the former, and by sliding the lid in the direction of the head or foot, the stud will be held in a narrow part of the slot in the plate, and thereby firmly lock and hold the lid on the body without the aid of the ordinary screws, as will be hereinafter more fully described.

In the drawings, A represents the body of a burial-casket, coffin, box, or other receptacle, and B is the lid thereof, both of ordinary form and construction. To the under side of the lid B, at points near the side edges thereof, I secure plates C, which are made of cast metal and set in the lid, so as to be flush with the surface of said under side. The plates C are slotted in the direction of their length with a square or rounded part, *a*, and a contracted or narrow continuation thereof, *b*. They are arranged on opposite places at corresponding points of the lower side of the lid. Any number thereof may be used, but it is desirable that three on each side should be applied. The space of the lid covered by the plate is cut out or grooved, so as to form a channel or passage which shall be of suitable depth, but of the length of the slot, and of the same form and dimensions as the rounded or square part *a*, but somewhat wider than the contracted part *b*. On the upper or top edge of the body A there are secured studs or buttons D of suitable metal, consisting of a flanged head, *c*, and a shank, *d*, which may be provided with a thread and screwed into the wood, or with a pointed end, and driven therein or riveted to a plate secured thereto. The head and shank must be of size to correspond with the slot *a b* respectively. The space between the lower side of the head and the top edge of the body of the coffin must be equal to the thickness of the plate C surrounding the slot *a b*. The studs or buttons D will be arranged on the body A relatively in place and number to the plates C on the lid B, so that when the lid is in place the shank of the stud will be at or near the end of the narrowed slot *b* of the plate C.

The operation is as follows: The lid is placed over the body A, with the studs D in the rounded or square slot *a*. The lid is now moved or slidden towards the foot of the coffin, when the narrow slot will receive the shank *d*, and the bottom side of the head will bear against the sides of the plate surrounding said narrow slot. When the shank reaches the end of the narrow slot the motion of the lid is checked, and it will be found that the lid cannot be raised from the body because the head of the stud is caught under the plate C. A spring-bolt, latch, or key, *e*, and a socket, notch, or opening, *f*, are placed at one end of the casket, so that when the opening *f* reaches the bolt, or *vice versa*, the latter will drop into the former, and thus prevent the lid from being moved or slidden back, or raised off from the body. The lid may be provided with the studs and the body with the slotted plates, and these fastenings may be placed on the sides and top and bottom ends of the lid and body, and so arranged that the lid may be slidden towards the head as well as to the foot, for the purpose of fastening it to the body. The studs may have a square, angular, or rounded slot, *a b*, it only being necessary that one part should be narrower than the other, so as to retain the stud after it has been inserted in the wide part and then moved into said narrow part.

Any suitable rigid material may comprise the fastening, but it is desirable to make it of cast metal.

By using my invention, the repulsive mode of screwing on the lid to the body of the casket or coffin in the presence of the mourners and witnesses, previous to removing the corpse to the hearse, is dispensed with. The lid B is first placed on the body A; a quick shove or push towards the head or foot will secure the parts, which

cannot be opened without destroying the receptacle. The means of fastening are entirely concealed, but sure in execution.

This fastening can likewise be applied to other receptacles and boxes of any kind, and it will be found to be simple, practical, and useful.

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

The concealed fastening herein described, the same consisting of the plate C, with slot *a b*, and the stud *D c d*, applied respectively to the under side of the lid B and top edges of the body A, and operating together, substantially as specified and shown, and for the purposes and uses herein set forth.

To the above I have signed my name this fifth day of November, 1867.

EDWARD S. EARLEY.

Witnesses:

JOHN A. WIEDERSHEIM,

WM. A. WIEDERSHEIM.