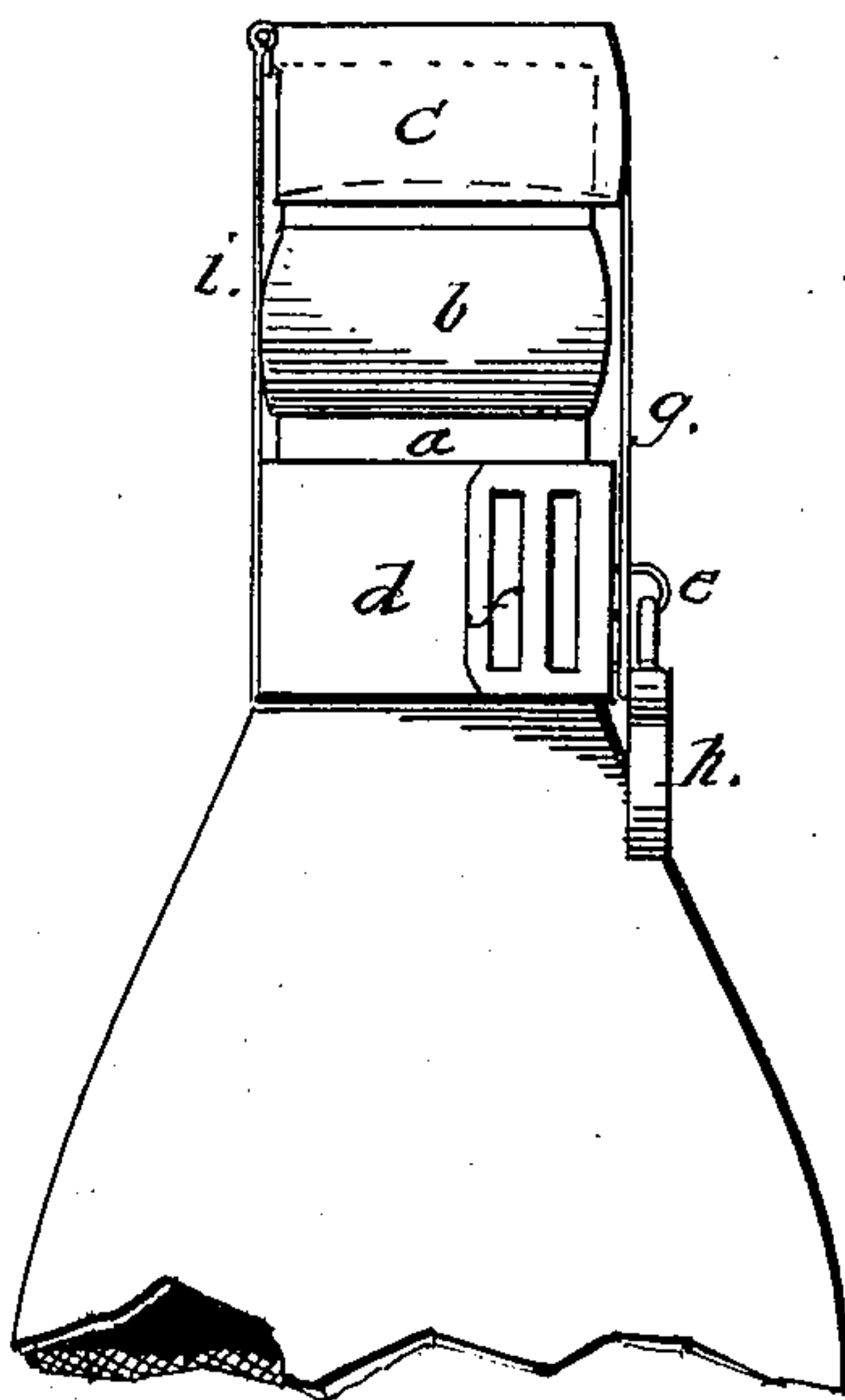


W. H. Richards.

Securing Stoppers to Bottles.

N^o 73043

Patented Jan. 7, 1868.



Witnesses;
M^r. W. Frothingham.
L. B. Kidder

W. H. Richards
by
Crosby & Gould
Attys

United States Patent Office.

WILLIAM H. RICHARDS, OF AUBURNDALE, MASSACHUSETTS.

Letters Patent No. 73,043, dated January 7, 1868.

IMPROVED DEVICE FOR SECURING STOPPERS TO BOTTLES, &c.

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, WILLIAM H. RICHARDS, of Auburndale, in the county of Middlesex, and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improved Device for Securing Stoppers to Bottles, &c.; and I do hereby declare that the following, taken in connection with the drawings which accompany and form part of this specification, is a description of my invention sufficient to enable those skilled in the art to practise it.

In the transportation of demijohns by express, and in keeping bottles of choice or valuable liquids in houses, offices, and other places frequented by other persons than the owners thereof, great annoyance and serious losses often occur from the abstracting disposition evinced, both by those into whose charge such vessels are delivered for transportation or safe-keeping, and by others who happen to have access thereto. To remove a cork is so easy a matter, that the ability so to do seems often to be provocative of the inclination.

The object of my invention is to provide a bottle, demijohn, or other similar vessel, with a device through which the cork or stopper may be secured in place by a lock, in such manner that access may only be had to the contents by means of a key to remove the lock or bolt; and it is in such a device that my invention consists. The drawing represents the top of a bottle having its cork or stopper so secured.

a denotes the neck of a common bottle; *b*, the bead or projecting surface usually formed thereupon; *c*, a cap, made large enough to fit over or receive the top of the cork or stopper, this cap being secured or connected to a band or strap, *d*, which is wound around the bottle below the bead *b*. One end of the band has a staple, *e*, and the other end one or more slots, *f*, through either of which the staple may be slipped. A tongue or hasp, *g*, extends down from the cap, this part also having a slot, through which the staple may slip.

The cork or stopper being in the bottle, the cap is slipped over it, and the band is wound around the neck, so as to fit against the neck under the bead, the staple being slipped through the proper slot in the band, to hold the band in this position. Then the hasp-slot is slipped over the staple, and a padlock, *h*, is applied to the staple, to secure the cap to the bottle, as seen in the drawing, the cork being now inaccessible, excepting by unlocking and removing the padlock. The cap is shown as hinged to the connecting-piece *i*, but the cap, band, hasp, and connecting-plate may all be made in one piece, or may be riveted or otherwise secured together, and the cap may be made in various other forms, the essence of my invention only requiring that the device shall be so constructed that when applied to the bottle over the cork, and its parts are locked together, the device shall afford an effectual instrumentality to prevent the removal of the cork, excepting by unfastening the lock.

I claim a device for securing corks or stoppers to bottles, demijohns, &c., substantially as described.

WM. H. RICHARDS.

Witnesses:

F. GOULD,

J. B. CROSBY.