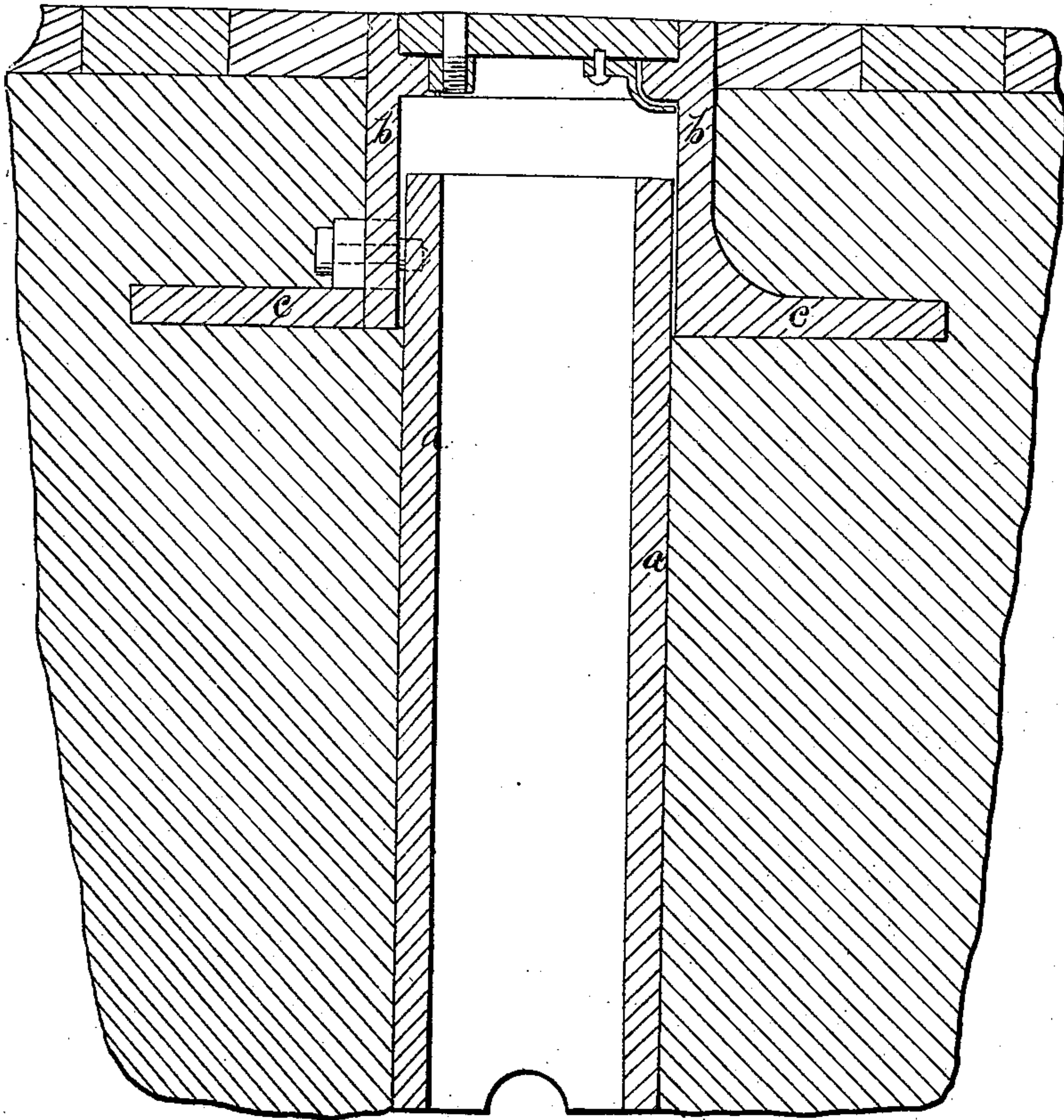


*J. A. Finnegan,*

*Curb for Hydrants.*

*N<sup>o</sup> 81,266.*

*Patented Aug 18, 1868.*



*Witnesses:*

*J. B. Crosby*  
*Frederic Gould*

*Inventor:*

*John A. Finnegan*



# United States Patent Office.

JOHN A. FINNEGAN, OF CHARLESTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS.

*Letters Patent No. 81,266, dated August 18, 1868.*

## IMPROVEMENT IN SELF-ADJUSTING CURBS FOR HYDRANTS.

*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, JOHN A. FINNEGAN, of Charlestown, in the county of Middlesex, and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improved Self-Adjusting Curb for Hydrants, &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.

There are many situations where it is desirable to make use of a curb, provided with a cover located flush or level with the surface of the ground, or with the surface of the pavement of a street, or the surface of a sidewalk or path, to keep the earth from closing in upon a pipe or box leading to the gate or valve of a water or gas-pipe, or the passage to a coal-bin, or to a cess-pool, &c.

Such curbs should always have their upper surfaces on a level, or nearly on a level, with the adjacent surrounding surfaces for safety and convenience of pedestrians, animals, and vehicles, and as the relative position of said surfaces is often changed by the action of frost and the settling of the surrounding earth, it is a desideratum to make such curbs with a construction such as will secure a self or automatic adjustment between their upper surfaces and the surfaces which surround them, and so that their relative adjustment will not be disturbed by any absolute changes in the level of either.

To effect this purpose, I make use of a curb, constructed substantially as shown in the drawing, which exhibits in vertical section a construction of a curb embodying my invention.

$a$  is a pipe, well, or passage, which may be of any suitable material, and may protect a water or gas-valve or gate, or may lead to a reservoir of any kind. The curb itself is a box,  $b$ , of such size and form as to slip easily over the upper end of pipe  $a$ , the box being provided with flanges  $c$  at its lower end. The upper end of the box is arranged as shown in the drawings, or in any other suitable way to receive a cover or grating.

It will be obvious on inspection of the drawing that the curb is supported by its broad flanges on the earth, so that it will not settle materially by its weight, and it will also be seen that if the earth settles, the curb being supported on the earth near its surface will settle with the surface-earth, so that the relation between the upper surface of the curb and the surface of the earth will remain unchanged.

Heretofore the curb has been supported directly on the pipe  $a$ , which, reaching below the action of frost, has not been changed in its absolute position, and hence, when the earth settled, the curb has been left-projecting above the surface of the ground or pavement. In other cases, which are less common, if the pipe settles, then the condition may be such when the curb is fixed to or forms part of the pipe, as to draw the mouth of the curb below the surface of the ground, or where the pipe remains with its absolute position unchanged, the ground may be upheaved by frost above the mouth of the curb. All these relative changes of position between the mouth of my improved curb and the surface surrounding it, are avoided by the use of my invention.

On the left of the drawing the flange is shown as removable, which is of use where it is desirable to locate two curbs side by side, for on removal of the flanges, the adjacent sides of the curbs may be brought into contact and the curbs may be bolted together.

The curb may be made of any suitable material, though cast iron will generally be used.

I claim a curb made with a flange, and arranged relatively to the pipe or well, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

JOHN A. FINNEGAN.

Witnesses:

J. B. CROSBY,

FRANCIS GOULD.