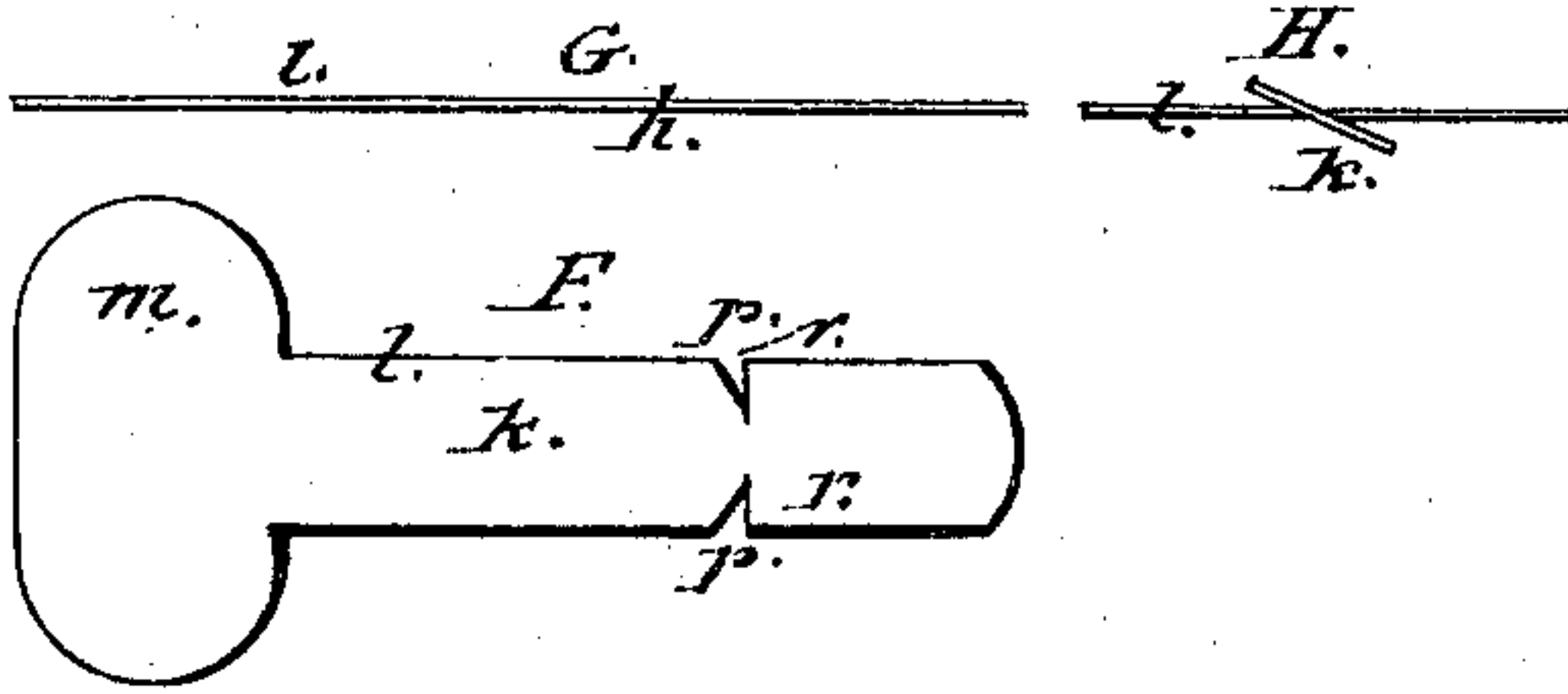
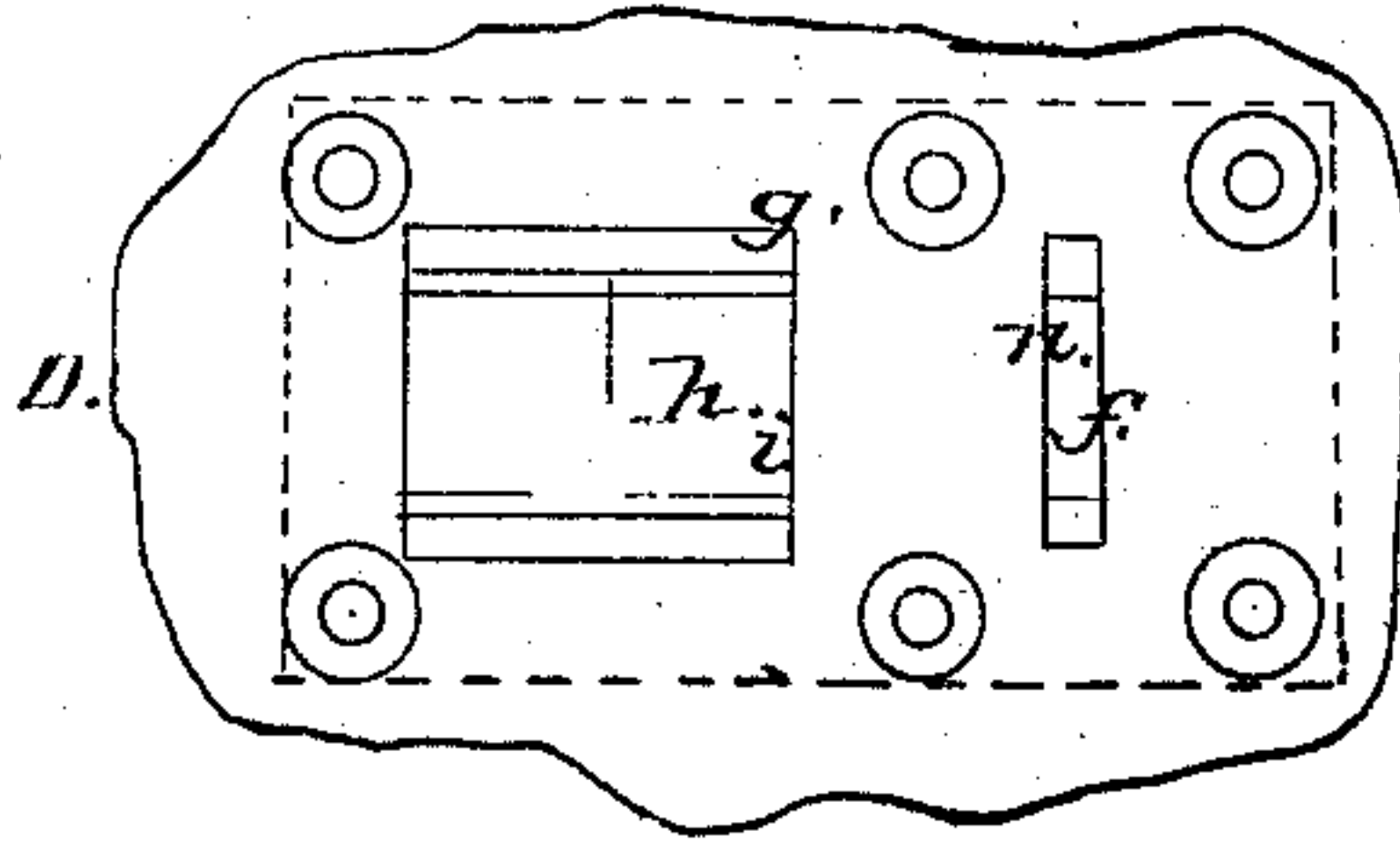
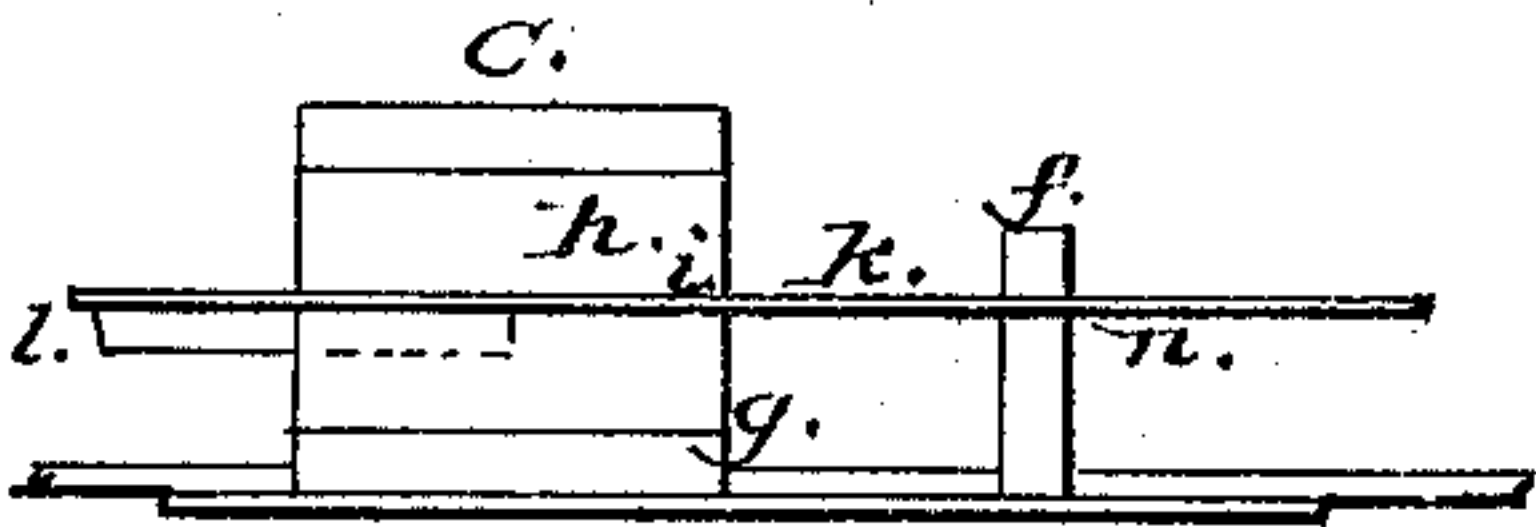
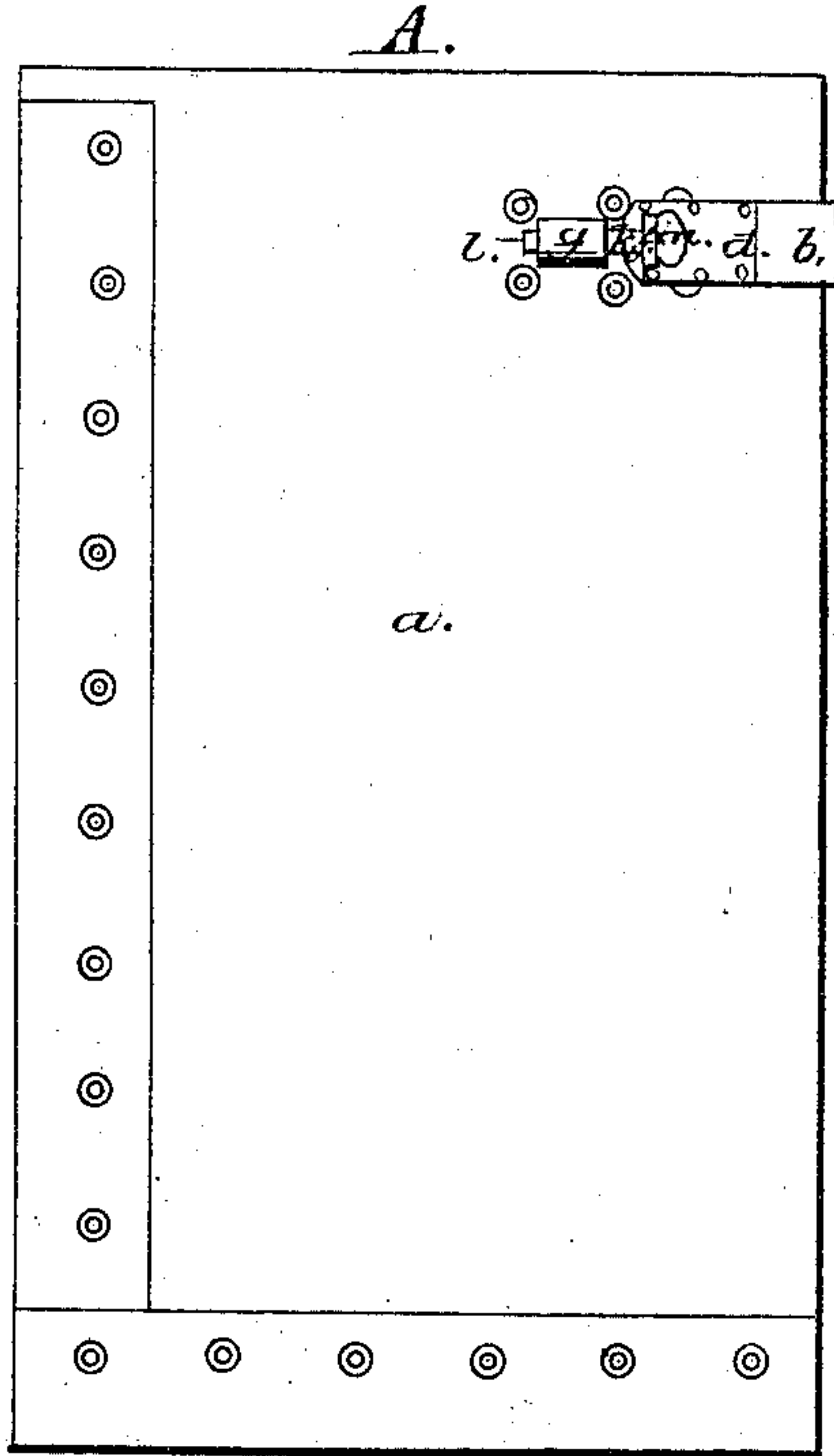
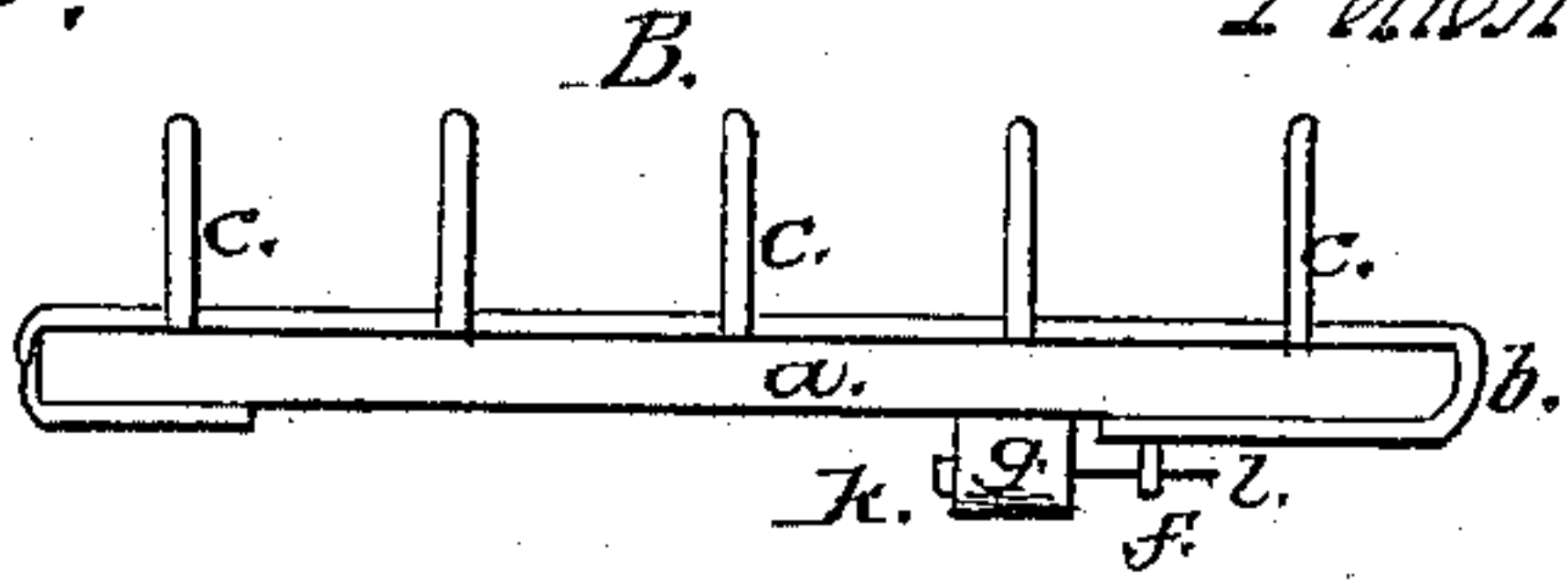



*Lucke & Mason,*

Seal Lock.

No. 86,560.

*Patented Feb. 2, 1869.*



Witnesses:   
W.B. Crosby  
Jm. A. Weedon

*Inventors:*  
Edmund A. Locke  
William B. Mason

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD A. LOCKE AND WILLIAM B. MASON, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

## IMPROVEMENT IN LOCKS FOR EXPRESS-BAGS, &c.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 86,560, dated February 2, 1869.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, EDWARD A. LOCKE and WILLIAM B. MASON, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Locking Express-Bags, &c.; and we do hereby declare that the following, taken in connection with the drawings which accompany and form part of this specification, is a description of our invention sufficient to enable those skilled in the art to practice it.

The invention relates to the construction of a lock or bolt for express-bags and similar articles, the device being so made and applied that, while the bolt may be readily slipped into position to securely fasten the bag, it cannot be slipped from position, and can only be removed by destroying it—that is to say, by first cutting it asunder, and then removing the two parts in opposite directions. It is in this construction that our invention consists.

A shows a side view, and B a top view, of a bag fastened with our improved lock or bolting device. C is a section on the line *x x*; D, a section on the line *y y*; E, a section on the line *z z*; F, a plan; G, an edge view, and H an end view of the bolt.

A denotes an ordinary express or mail bag, having a flap, which turns over the mouth of the bag, and a strap, *b*, passing through staples *c*, which project through slits cut in the bag. At the movable end of this strap is a plate, *d*, in which is a slot, through which projects a button, *f*, said button being turned into line with the slot to slip the end of the strap over and off from it, and at right angles to the slot to secure the strap to the button. The shank of this button projects from a plate riveted to the bag, and from the same plate (or from another plate riveted to the bag) projects a box, *g*, made of metal or other suitable material, which is bored or cut through from end to end for the reception of a plug, *h*, which is brazed or otherwise permanently secured in the box *g*. Lengthwise through this plug extends a thin slot, *i*, for reception of the shank *k* of a bolt, *l*. This bolt is made of thin sheet metal or other material, with a long strip of even width, *k*, and a head, *m*.

Through the button *f* is a slit, *n*, just long and wide enough to receive the bolt-shank *k*,

this slit being in the same plane with the adjacent end of the slot *i*, which passes through the plug *h*. The slot *i* is in two parts, the part next to the button *f* being in the plane of the button-slit *n*, as just named, and extending in this plane to the center of the plug, or partially through the plug, but the opposite part of the slot being in a plane angular to the first part, as seen at E, two shoulders, *o*, being formed in the plug at the junction of the opposite parts of the slot, by reason of this difference in the planes of the respective parts thereof, or the angular position of one relatively to the other.

When the bag is closed and to be locked, the end of the strap is carried over the button, the button is turned, the small end of the bolt is slipped through the button-slit, and thence into and through the slot in the plug. Now, the bolt-shank is made with two notches, *p*, on its opposite edges, as seen at F, these notches being situated at a distance from the head *m* of the bolt corresponding to the distance from the button *f* to the shoulders *o*. These notches reduce the width of the bolt-shank, so that the end of the shank beyond the notches is readily twisted or bent relatively to the rest of the shank, as seen at H, the pliability of the metal enabling the shank to be easily twisted.

When the shank is pressed through the plug its end readily slides through from one part to the other, there being no obstruction to its passage; but, as its end slides into the angular part of the plug-slot, it is bent thereby, and when the part beyond the notches *p* has passed the shoulders *o* any attempt to draw back the bolt brings the edges *r* against the shoulders, so that it is impossible to withdraw the bolt.

It will thus be seen that the bag cannot be unlocked without first destroying the bolt, the head *m* preventing further forward movement of the bolt, and the shoulders in the plug preventing its back movement.

To unlock the bag, the bolt is severed between the button and the plug, the headed end being then drawn back out of the button, and the notched end forward from the plug, the extreme end of the shank projecting beyond the plug, as seen at A. The bag is thus fastened only to prevent robbery by persons intrusted with the care of the same in transmis-



sion, it being, in fact, an identifying or detective lock, which, being fastened up before delivery for transmission, cannot be unlocked and then again locked by the carrier; and the bolts may not only be inaccessible to all but the party or parties for whom the bag is transmitted, but they may be consecutively numbered, or have other specific identifying characters marked or stamped thereupon.

The plug is made in halves, each half being made with the two inclines, to form upon the face of each the stop or shoulder *o*. I shows a side view of the two halves placed together.

We claim—

1. A plug or socket-piece made with the rela-

tively-inclined slots and the stops or shoulders, by means of which the end of the bolt passing through the plug is so twisted that if drawn back it will be arrested by the shoulders or stops of the plug, substantially as described.

2. We also claim a bolt which, by being slipped into such plug or socket, is so twisted and bent that it is prevented from being drawn back, substantially as described.

EDWARD A. LOCKE.

WILLIAM B. MASON.

Witnesses:

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