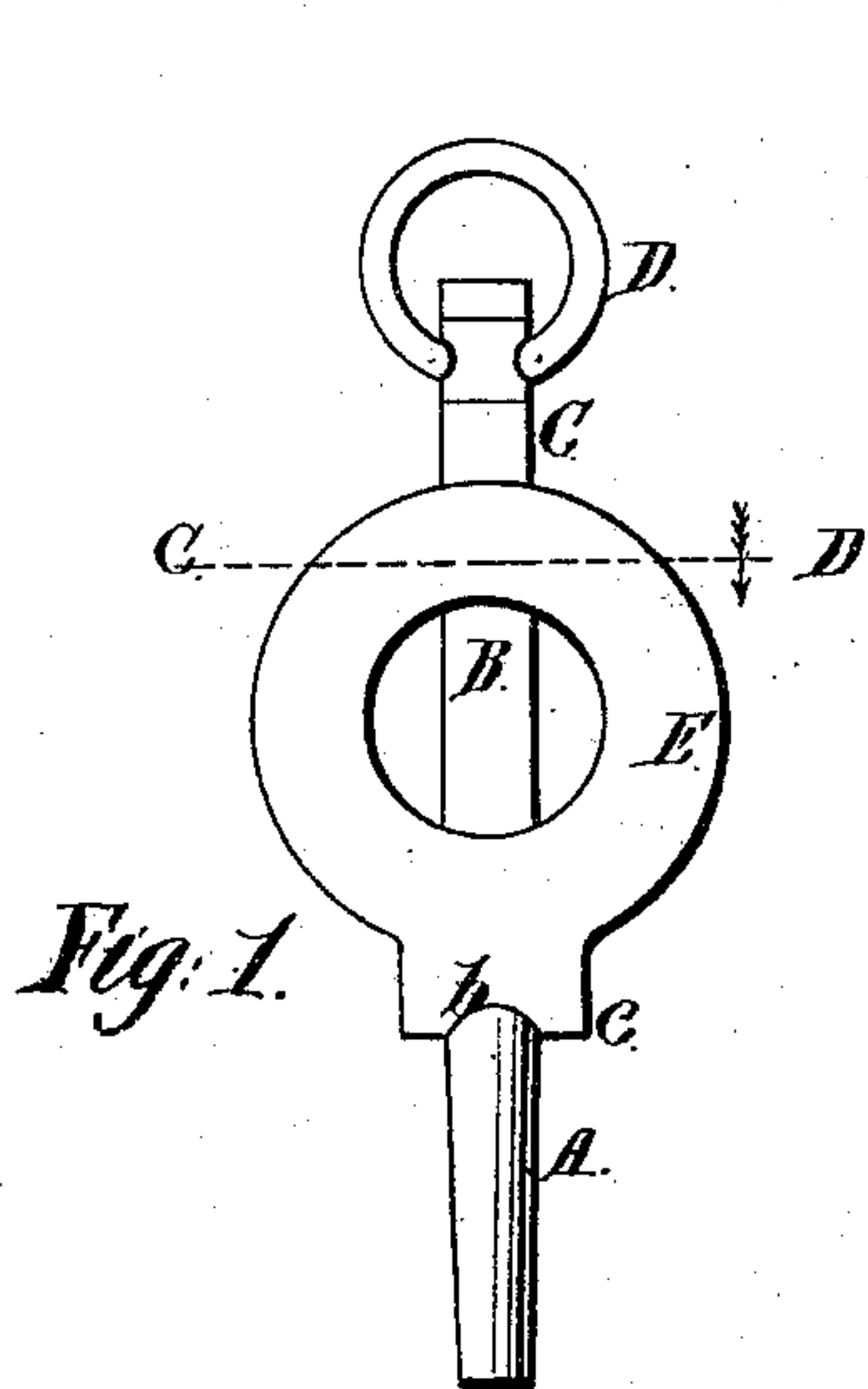


*P. Laflin,*

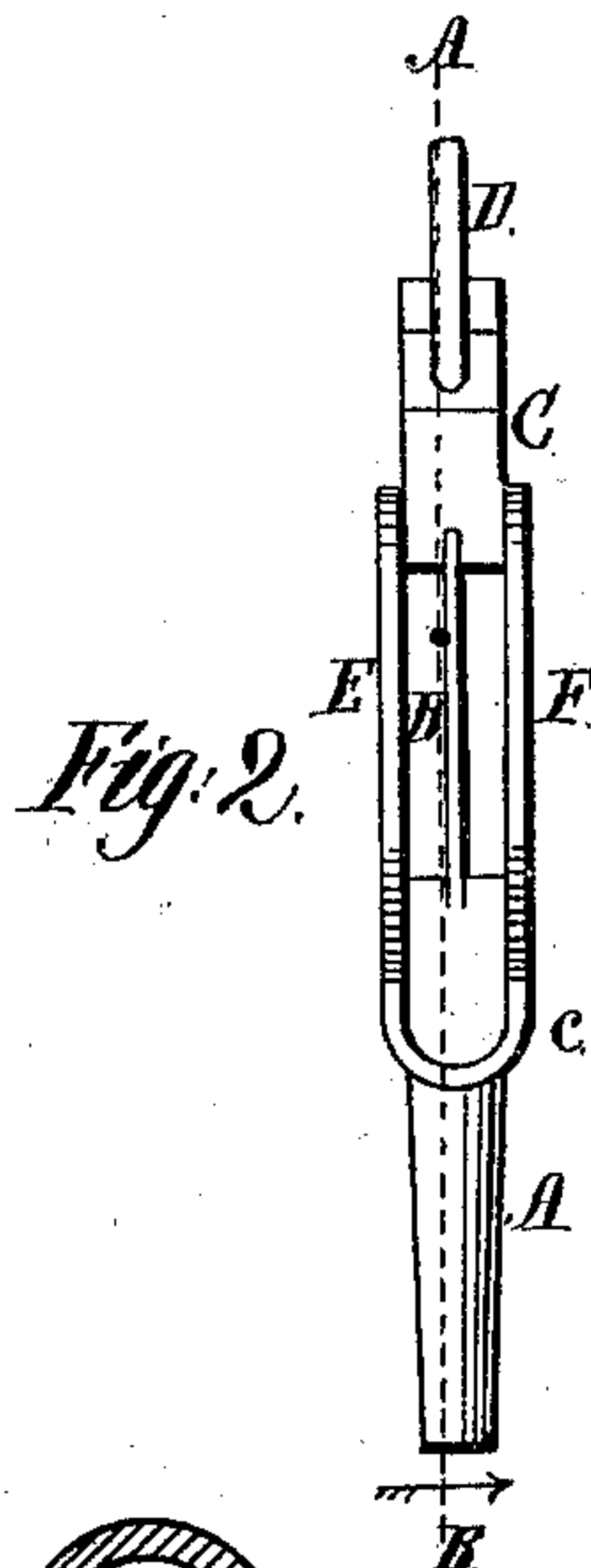
*Watch Key.*

*No. 86,844.*

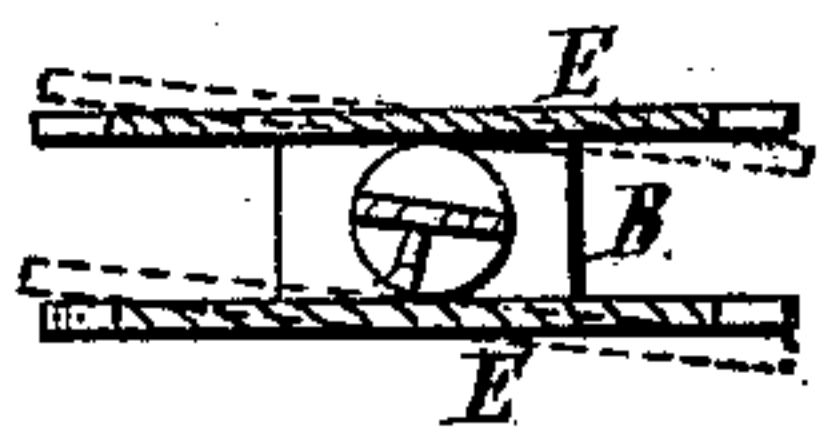
*Patented Feb. 9. 1869.*



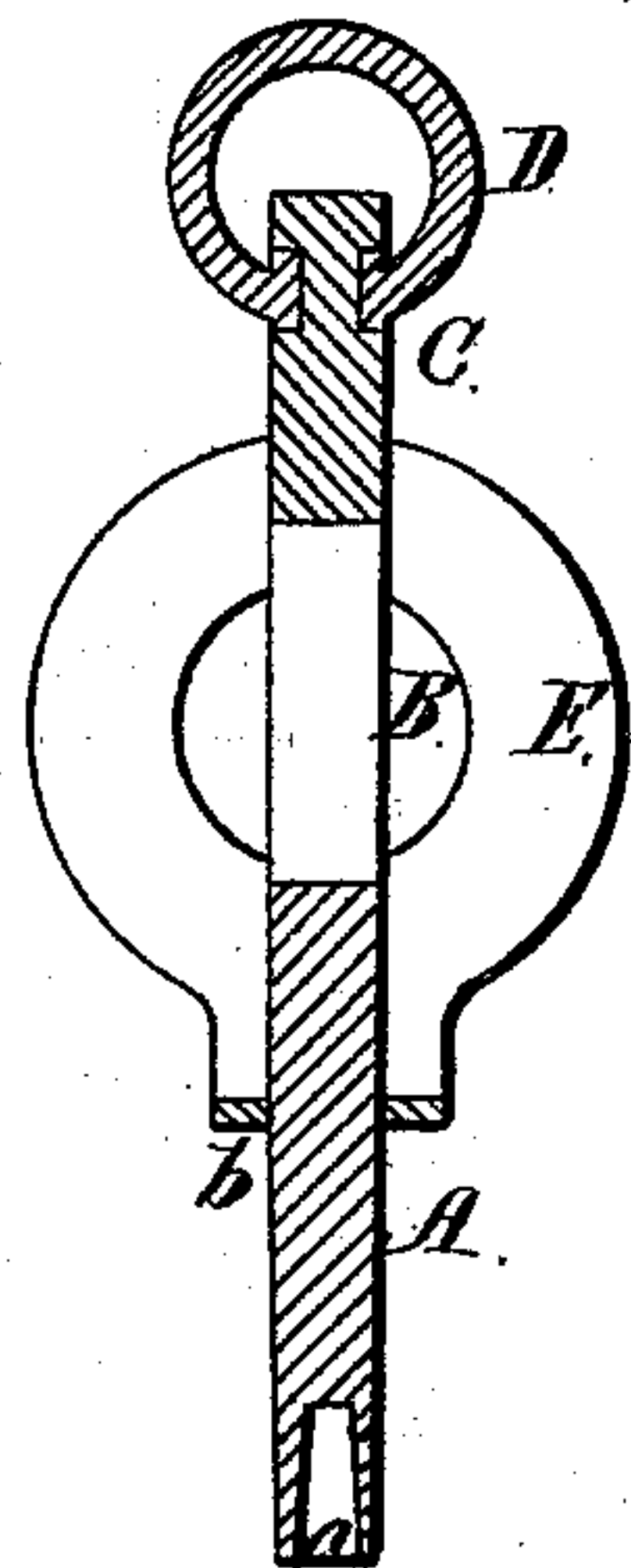
*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 4.*



*Fig. 3.*

*Witnesses:*

*J. H. Chadsey*  
*W. B. Chadsey*

*Inventor:*

*Perley Laflin*

# United States Patent Office.

PERLEY LAFLIN, OF WARREN, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND JOHN J. SPRAGUE, OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

*Letters Patent No. 86,844, dated February 9, 1869.*

## IMPROVEMENT IN SAFETY WATCH-KEYS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

### *Know all men by these presents:*

That I, PERLEY LAFLIN, of Warren, in the county of Worcester, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Watch and Clock-Keys; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a side view of a key, having my improvements applied thereto;

Figure 2 represents an edge view of fig. 1;

Figure 3 represents a vertical central section on line A B, fig. 2; and

Figure 4 represents a cross-section on line C D, fig. 1.

To enable those skilled in the art to which my invention belongs, to make and use the same, I will proceed to describe it more in detail.

The nature of my present invention consists in combining, with the socket or stem-end of the key, a spring and side pieces, for supporting the stem, as shown in the drawings, and in the manner hereinafter described, so that, when the chain, spring, or weight, of a time-keeping instrument is wound up, the spring will yield, and thus prevent that sudden strain upon the mechanism of the watch or clock, which results from the use of the common unyielding watch and clock-keys.

In the drawings—

The part lettered A is the stem, in which a socket, *a*, is formed to fit the square end of the ordinary stem or finger of the watch or clock.

To its upper end is fastened, in this instance, a flat spring, B, the upper end of the spring being fastened to the head C, to which the swivel-ring D is secured.

The stem A passes through a hole, *b*, in the curved

part *c*, which unites the side pieces E E, the upper edges of which are fastened to the head C.

The hole in the curved part *c* is made sufficiently large to permit of the free turning of the stem A, while, at the same time, the latter is properly supported by the curved part *c*.

From the foregoing description, it will be seen that, when the key is used, the spring B will yield when the watch-spring, or chain, and clock-spring, or cord, are wound up to their full extent, as indicated in red lines, fig. 4, and allow the part which is held in the hand to be turned slightly, while the stem A remains stationary, thus preventing the sudden jar or strain which would result to the working-parts of the watch or clock, if the part E, held in the hand, were arrested as suddenly as the stem A.

It is a well-known fact that many valuable watches and clocks are often broken or injured, by the use of the common unyielding key, when used even in the hands of careful persons, while it is equally well known, especially to those whose business it is to repair watches and clocks, that a great per cent. of the breakages is the result of a use of the common or unyielding key in the hands of inexperienced or careless persons.

Having described my improved watch and clock-key,

What I claim therein as new, and of my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination, with the stem A and head C, of the spring B and side pieces E E, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

PERLEY LAFLIN.

Witnesses:

J. W. CHADSEY,

N. B. CHADSEY.