

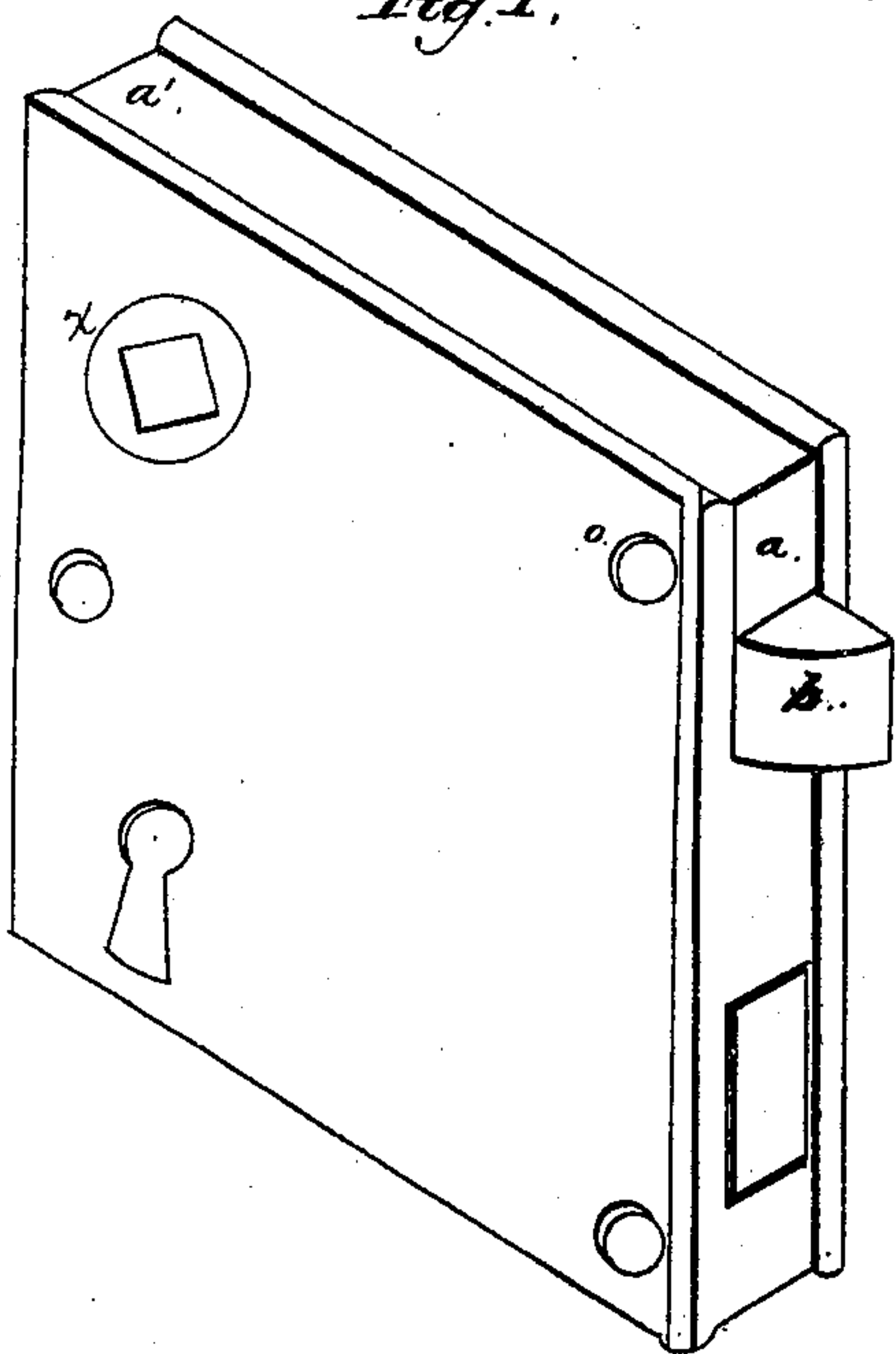
*B. Erbe.*

*Reversible Latch.*

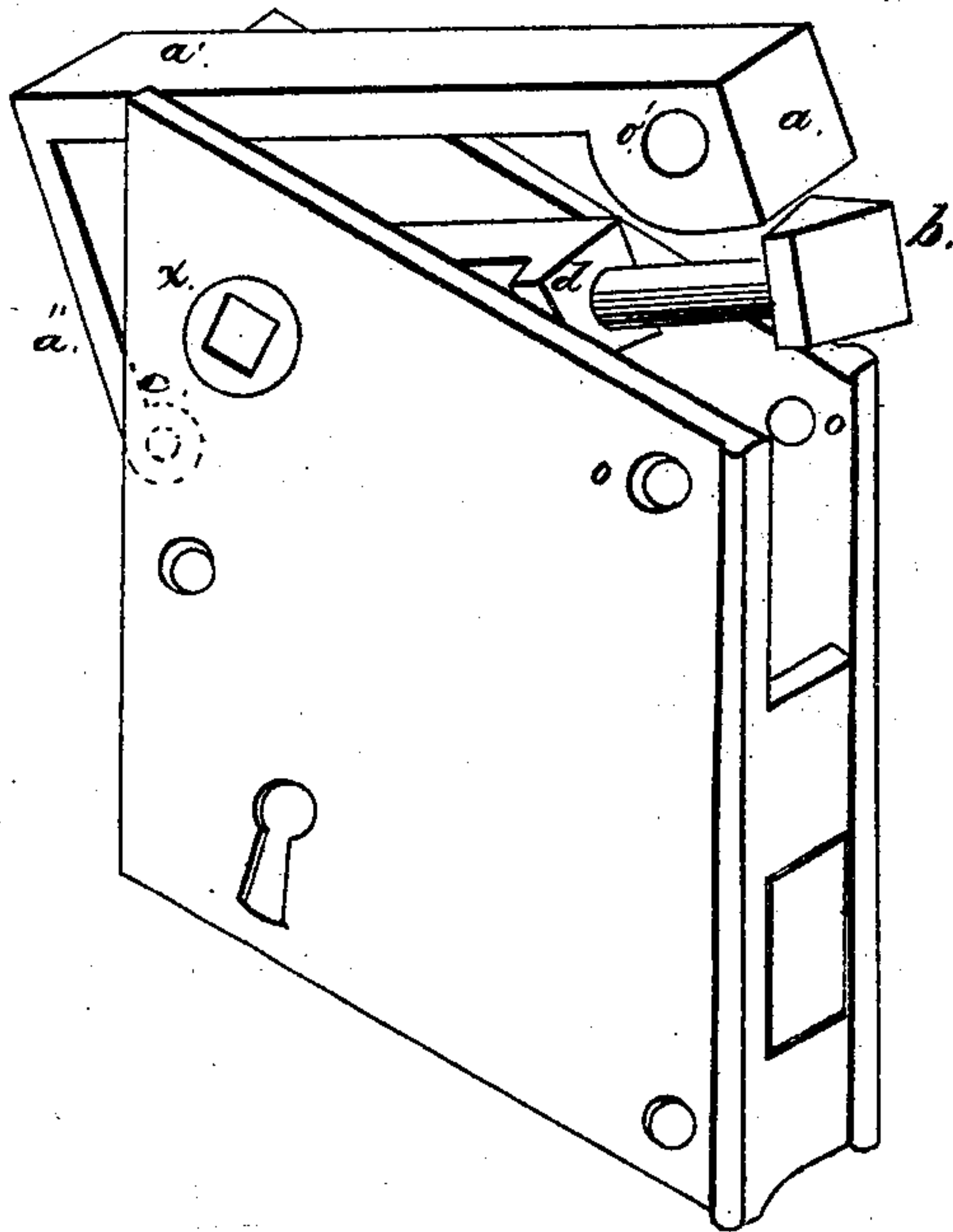
*N<sup>o</sup> 87,090.*

*Patented Feb. 23, 1869.*

*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Witnesses.*

*John C. Stearns.*  
*A. Patterson.*

*Inventor.*

*Barthel Erbe*



BARTHEL ERBE, OF EAST BIRMINGHAM, PENNSYLVANIA.

Letters Patent No. 87,096, dated February 23, 1869.

IMPROVEMENT IN REVERSIBLE KNOB-LATCHES.

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

Be it known that I, BARTHEL ERBE, of the borough of East Birmingham, Allegheny county, State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in the Manner of Constructing Reversible Door-Latches; and I hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates to that class of door-latches called "reversible," but is only applicable to what are technically called "rim"-latches, but not to mortise-latches.

It consists in so constructing the external case, that a section of the "rim" may be removed, so as to permit a vertical movement of the latch, sufficient to bring the head of the latch outside the case, so as to allow its being "reversed" without being disconnected from its internal attachments, and in arranging and constructing the latch so as to secure or permit such lateral movement and reversion.

To enable others to apply my improvement to all such locks or latches as it is adapted to, I will more fully describe it in view of the drawings, in all of which the same letters refer to the same parts.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a cased rim-lock, or latch, embodying my improvement, as it appears when ready to be applied to a door.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the same latch, with the parts in position to permit the reversion of the latch-head.

*a a' a''* is the removable part of the rim. It is hinged or pivoted between the two plates or faces of the case, as indicated by the dotted lines, at *c*, (fig. 2,) and fits snugly between when in position for use, as in fig. 1. It (*a a' a''*) is enlarged at the front end, so as to allow the hole *o'* through it. When in position for use, this hole coincides with the screw-holes *o o* in the case, and when in use, a wood-screw inserted therein, holds *a a' a''* securely in place as a part of the case.

The latch-head *b* is connected with the front end of an ordinary "yoke," at *d*, by a swivel-joint, so that it (the latch-head) may be revolved on its longitudinal axis, for the purpose of presenting the bevel side either to the right or left.

The entire body of the latch, including the yoke, moves vertically, (on the hub or follower *x*, for a centre,) so as to bring the head of the latch outside of the case when it is desired to reverse it. (See fig. 2.)

In what is commonly called a "lever"-latch, the latch can be readily connected to the "lever," so as to permit both the lateral and axial motions.

My improved latch being constructed as above described, and in position shown in fig. 1, is reversed from a right to a left-hand latch, or *vice versa*, by simply taking hold of the projecting end of the latch, and lifting it into the position shown in fig. 2, when it may be reversed on its axis, as before described.

The removable section of the case *a a' a''*, as will be seen, is displaced by the lifting of the latch.

These three things, the removable section of the case, the vertical movement of the latch, and the axial movement of the latch-head, are the only conditions involved in my invention, all other parts of the lock, or latch being of ordinary construction.

The axial movement of the latch-head I do not claim as new; nor do I claim broadly removing a portion of the case of a lock, to permit the reversal of the latch-head; but

I do claim, in combination with the removable section of the rim of the case, the reversible latch, so arranged as to be moved vertically, substantially as shown and described, for the purpose specified.

BARTHEL ERBE.

Witnesses:

A. PATTERSON,  
E. G. KREHNN.