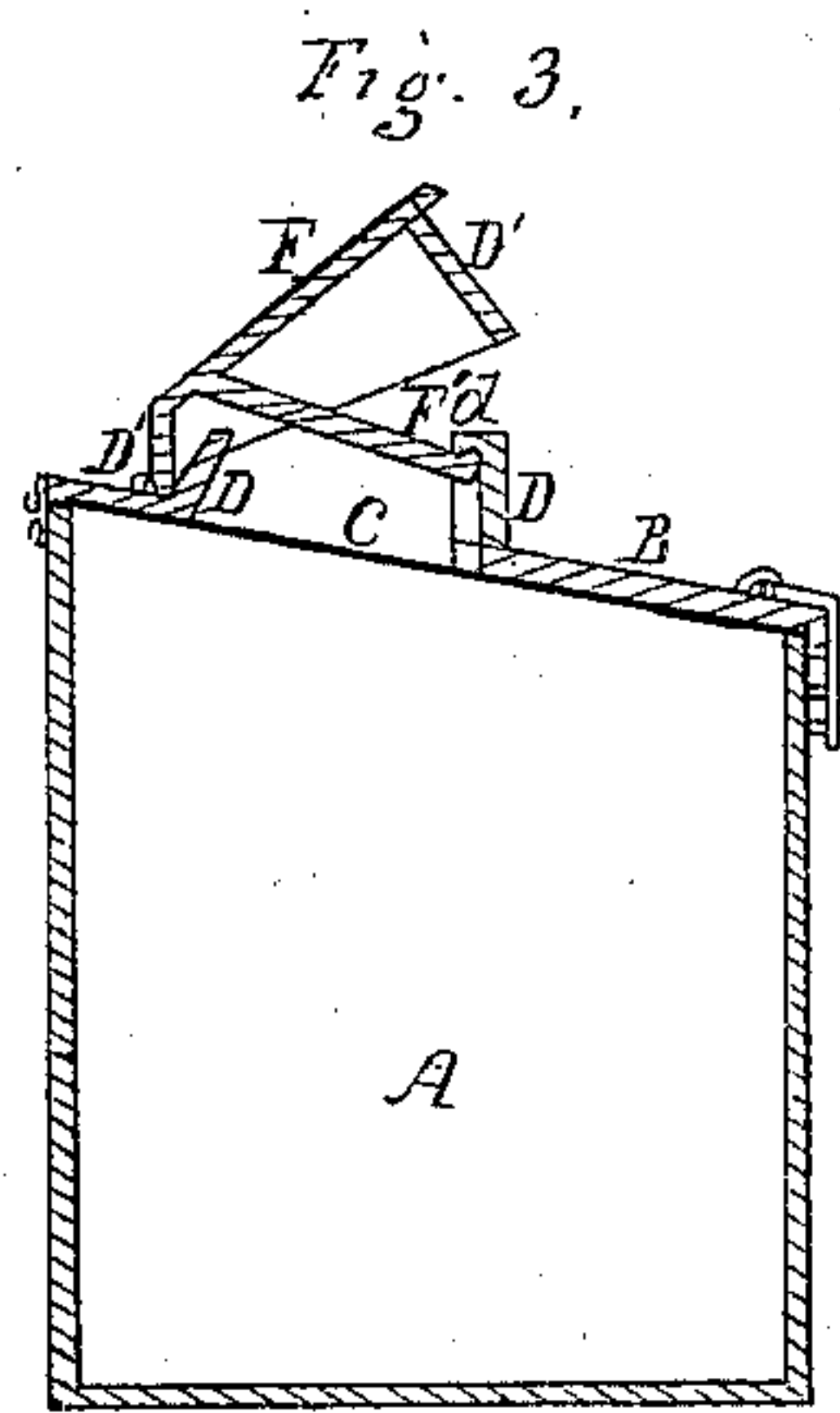
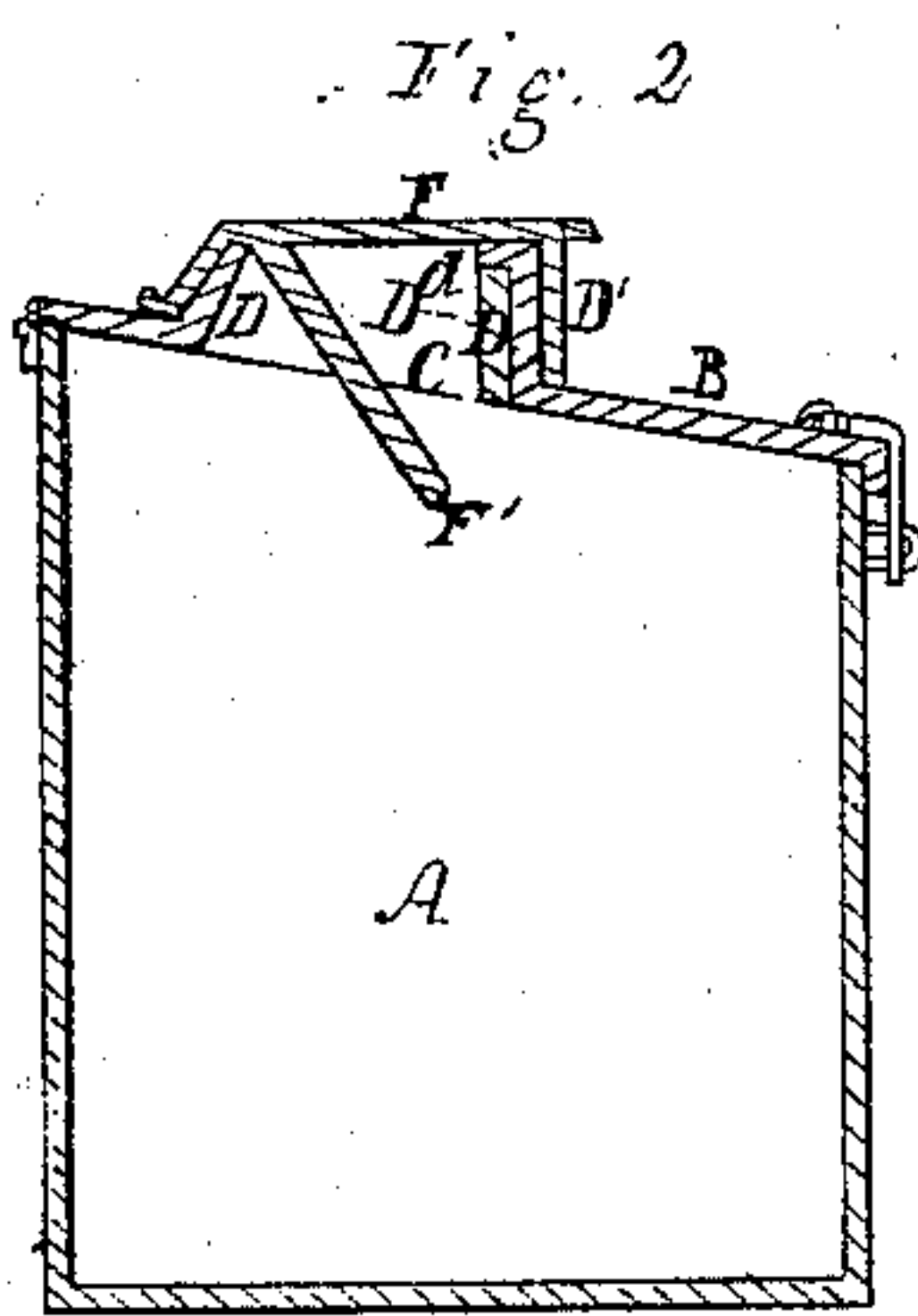
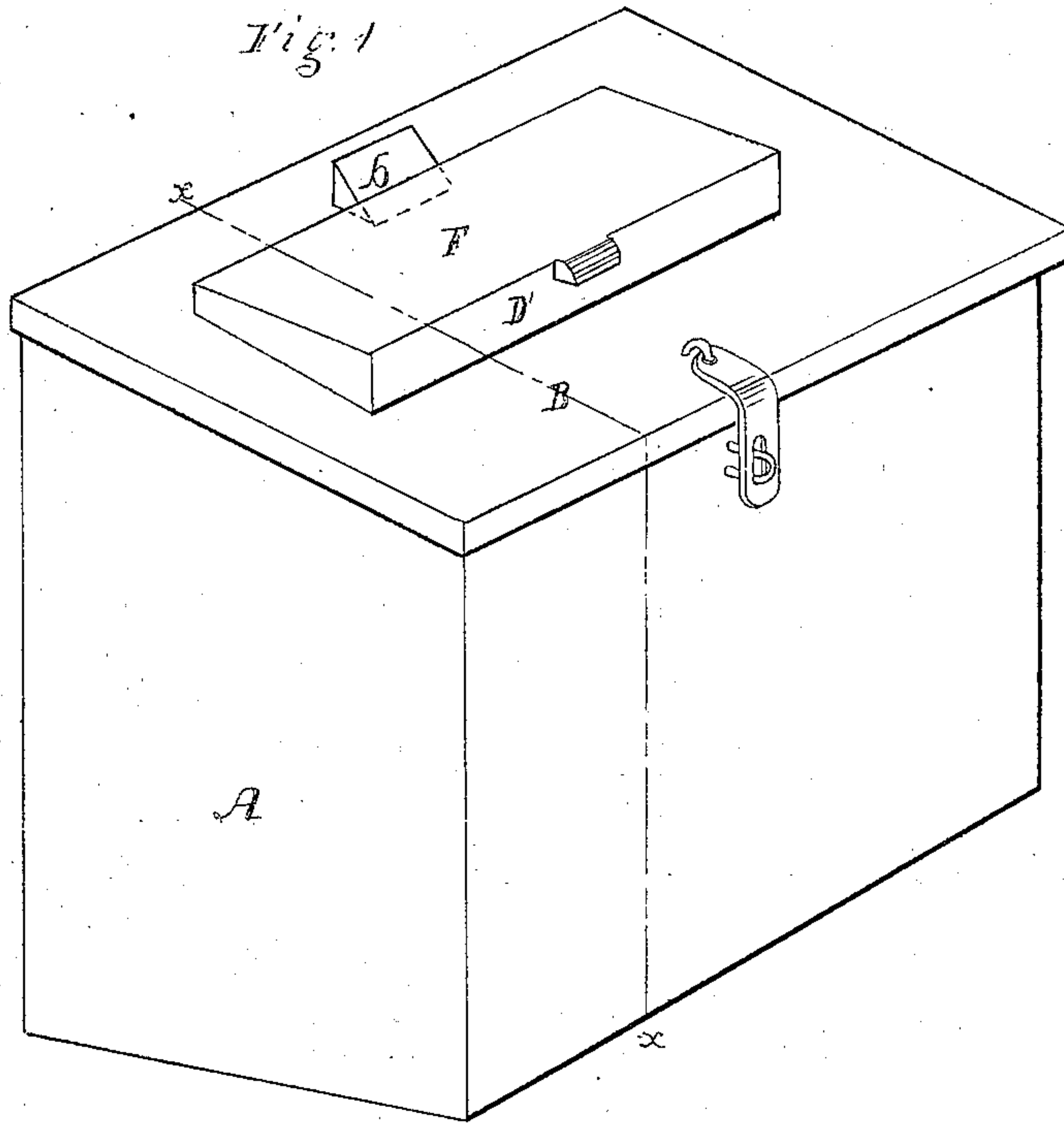


# S. Strong, Letter Box.

No. 88528.

Patented Mar. 30/1869



Witnesses.  
J. J. Hoomby  
R. Leach

Inventor.  
Samuel Strong



SAMUEL STRONG, OF WASHINGTON CITY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Letters Patent No. 88,528, dated March 30, 1869.

IMPROVEMENT IN STREET LETTER-BOXES.

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, SAMUEL STRONG, of Washington City, in the county of Washington, and District of Columbia, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Street Letter-Boxes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation, in perspective, of a letter-box made in pursuance of my invention, and

Figures 2 and 3 are sections in line *xx*, fig. 1; fig. 2 showing the drop-lid closed, and fig. 3, showing it open.

The nature of my invention consists in so constructing a drop-letter box, that when a letter or package has been deposited therein, it will be impossible to extract it without unlocking or breaking the box.

In the accompanying drawings—

A is the box, in which the letters are deposited, and B, the lid, which must be opened to remove the contents of the box.

This lid is hinged to the back part of the box, and its front edge is provided with a hasp, or other suitable device, for locking it to the box A.

In this lid B there is a rectangular aperture, C, which is surrounded by a vertical flange, D.

This aperture C is covered by a hinged lid, F, which has a flange, D', around its edge, projecting downward, and fitting, when the lid F is closed, closely around the flange D, which surrounds the aperture in the lid B.

Rigidly attached to the back part of the lid F, is an inclined plate, F', of the same form as the aperture C, and of such size that it will practically close the aperture C when the lid F is raised.

On the upper edge of the front part of flange D, is a ledge, *d*, projecting inward, which limits the extent to which the lid F may be raised, by arresting the ascent of the inclined plate F'.

The flange D is of such height that as the lid F descends, the inclined plate F' is all the time moving

within the aperture C, and surrounded by said flange, until the flange D' of the lid F begins to close down over the front part of said flange D; and as the lid F is raised, the inclined plate F' closes the recess C before the lower edge of flange D' rises above flange D, so that at no time can anything be extracted from the box through the aperture C, without breaking or removing the lid F.

The ascent of the lid F may be limited to any point desired, by a stop, *b*, at the back part of it.

The lid B may be rigidly attached to the box, or cast therewith, and a door may be provided in the side or end of the box, for removing the contents.

This construction will be found most convenient for one-armed letter-carriers, as it will obviate the necessity of holding up the lid while the letters are being removed from the box.

The operation is as follows:

The lid F is raised until the front edge of the inclined plate F' comes in contact with the ledge *d*, or until its ascent is arrested by the stop *b*, and the letter or package is deposited upon said inclined plate F'. The lid F is then closed down, and the front edge of the inclined plate F' falls sufficiently below the aperture in the lid B, to form an opening for the letter or package to drop into the box A, from which it cannot be removed without unlocking or breaking the box.

Having thus fully described my improvement, and its mode of operation,

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

The flanged lid F with its inclined plate F', in combination with the aperture C, and surrounding flange D, all constructed to operate substantially as within described.

SAMUEL STRONG.

Witnesses:

G. A. C. SMITH,  
E. R. BROWN.