

R. O. Lowrey,

Bag Lock.

No. 95,816.

Patented Oct. 12. 1869.

Fig. 1.

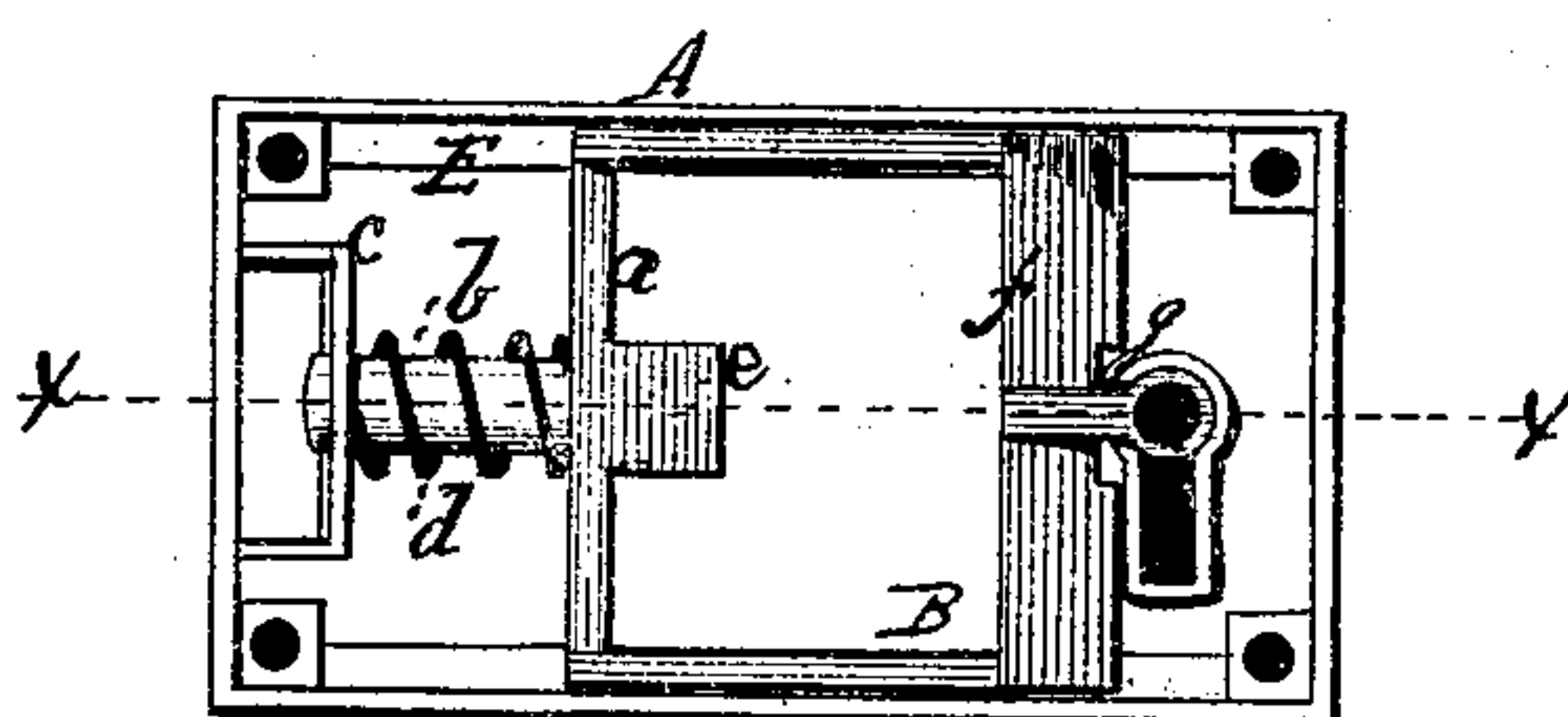


Fig. 2.

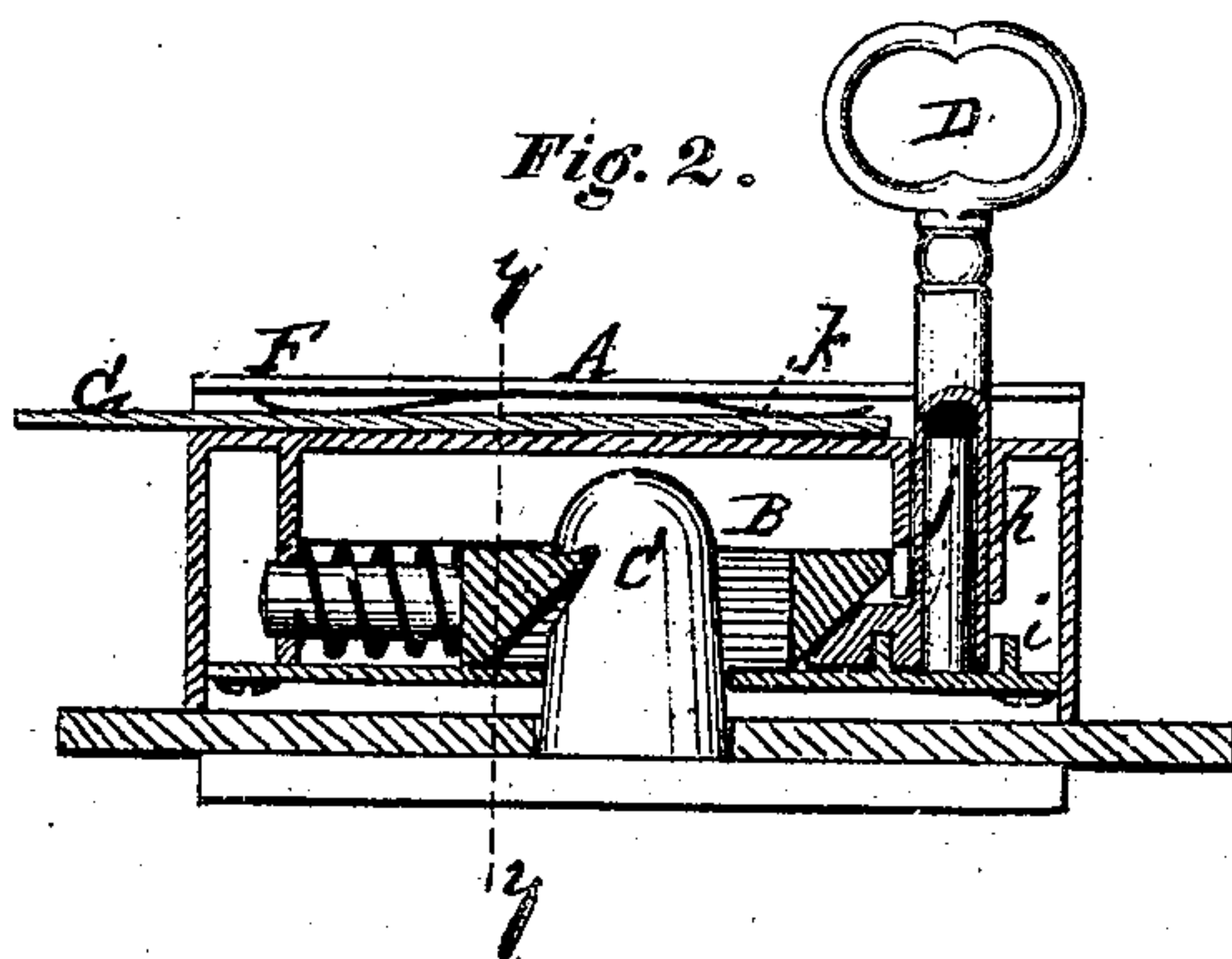
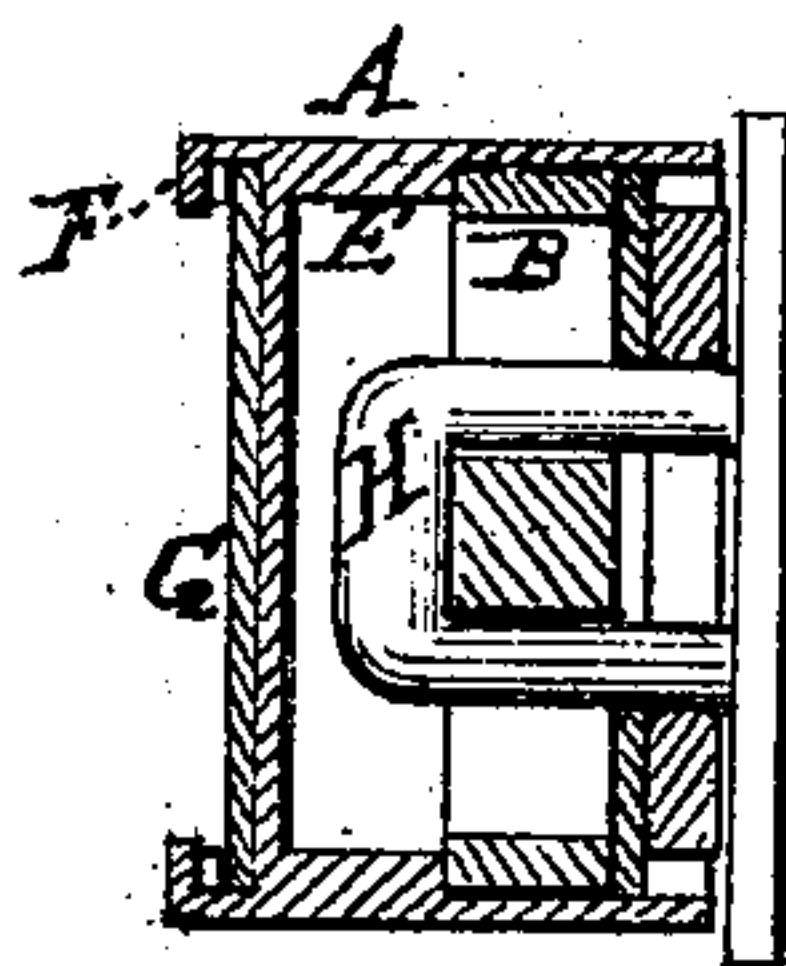


Fig. 3.



Witnesses,

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United States Patent Office.

R. O. LOWREY, OF SALEM, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 95,816, dated October 12, 1869.

IMPROVEMENT IN LOCKS FOR MAIL-BAGS, &c.

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, R. O. LOWREY, of Salem, in the county of Washington, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Locks; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, like letters indicating like parts wherever they occur.

To enable others skilled in the art to construct and use my invention, I will proceed to describe it.

My invention relates to locks, and consists in constructing the case with a guard extending inward from the keyhole, so that the space or opening between the lower end of this guard and the bottom and ward of the lock shall conform exactly to the bit of the key, so as to allow it to pass between them. Also, in providing the lock with a peculiarly-constructed bolt, so arranged as to be operated by a spring for fastening, and by a peculiar movement of the key for releasing it.

In the drawings—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the interior of the lock, with the bottom of the case removed;

Figure 2 is a vertical longitudinal section, on the line *x-x* of fig. 1; and

Figure 3 is a vertical cross-section on the line *y-y* of fig. 2.

In constructing my lock, I make a metallic or other suitable case, *A*, and place therein a bolt, *B*, consisting of a frame, *a*, with a shank, or stem, *b*, projecting from its rear side, and entering a supporting guide, *c*, and also provided with a spiral spring, *d*, to hold the bolt *B* forward, as shown in figs. 1 and 2.

The frame *a* of the bolt *B* has a catch, *e*, on the front side of its rear cross-piece, shaped as clearly shown in fig. 2, its front end being made slanting, so as to form an acute angle with its upper side, and its upper side, near its outer end, being made slightly concave, so as to engage with a hook, or stud, *C*, as shown in said fig. 2.

The front cross-piece *f* is also made with its front side slanting, so as to form an acute angle with its upper side, and has a small notch, *g*, on its front end, as shown in fig. 1.

The key-hole has a guard, *h*, of suitable form and size, to allow the barrel and bit of the key to pass through it, and it extends down sufficiently far, and is so shaped on its under side, that when the key is inserted the space between the under side of this guard and a ward, *i*, corresponds with the shape of the bit of the key.

The bottom-plate of the lock is so attached as to allow the sides of the frame to project a short distance below it, if desired, as shown in fig. 2, and may

be attached by screws or in any other suitable manner, and when attached, the bolt *B* slides between it and shoulders *E*, attached to the inner sides of the case, as shown clearly in fig. 3.

This bottom-plate of the case is provided with an opening suitable for the insertion of a hook, catch, or other device, *C*, and also with a pin, *j*, and ward *i*, properly arranged to receive a key, *D*.

The bit of this key is so formed that its front end will be parallel with the front face of the bolt *B*, and the bolt *B* is so arranged that the opposite faces of the bolt and bit of the key will come together when the key is inserted and properly turned for the purpose, so that when in this position, by pulling upon the key, the bolt *B* will be forced back, and the hook *C* released.

The sides of the case of the lock are extended sufficiently far above the top to allow flanges *F* to be turned over, under which are inserted springs *k*, for holding a card, *G*, when slid under them, as clearly shown in figs. 2 and 3. These cards may have printed upon them the name of any post office, one on each side.

It is obvious, that instead of having a hook or stud, *C*, a staple, *H*, may be used, as clearly shown in fig. 3.

A lock thus constructed can be readily and conveniently attached to mail-bags, whether the mouth of the bag be fastened by studs or staples projecting through from one side to the other. When studs are used, it is only necessary to provide their upper end with a hook, as shown.

To attach the lock, it is only necessary to enter the stud or staple through the opening in the bottom of the case, and press it against the slanting surface of the catch *e*, when the bolt will be forced back until the catch reaches the notch in the stud or passes through the staple. In either case, it is partially held in place and prevented from shaking loose by the catch of the stud or the round surface of the staple fitting into the concave on its upper side.

To release the lock, it is necessary to insert the key, turn it until the face of the bit is parallel with the face of the bolt, then pull upon it until the bolt is forced back sufficiently far to free the catch and to allow the front end of the bit to enter and rest against the notch *g* in the front end of the bolt. When this is done, the bolt will be held back, and the lock can be removed.

After the lock is attached to the bag, the card, or metallic plate *G*, with the address upon it, is inserted under the springs *k*, and as these cards, or plates are removable, it is obvious that they can always be changed as desired.

It is obvious that my lock may be conveniently used

in most places where a detachable lock is desired, and while it is specially useful for mail-bags and similar purposes, it may be used when there is a suitable projecting stud or staple.

Having thus described my invention,

What I claim, is—

1. A lock, having its case A provided with a guard, *h*, extending from the entire edge of the key-hole inwardly, and rigidly attached thereto, all constructed and arranged substantially as herein described.

2. The bolt B, consisting of the frame *a*, stem *d*, catch *e*, and cross-piece *f*, when constructed and arranged to be operated substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

R. O. LOWREY.

Witnesses:

J. MCKENNEY,
H. B. MUNN.