C. R. Bancroft.

Letter Box.

No. 103,826. Patented Jun. 7, 1870.

Fig. 1.

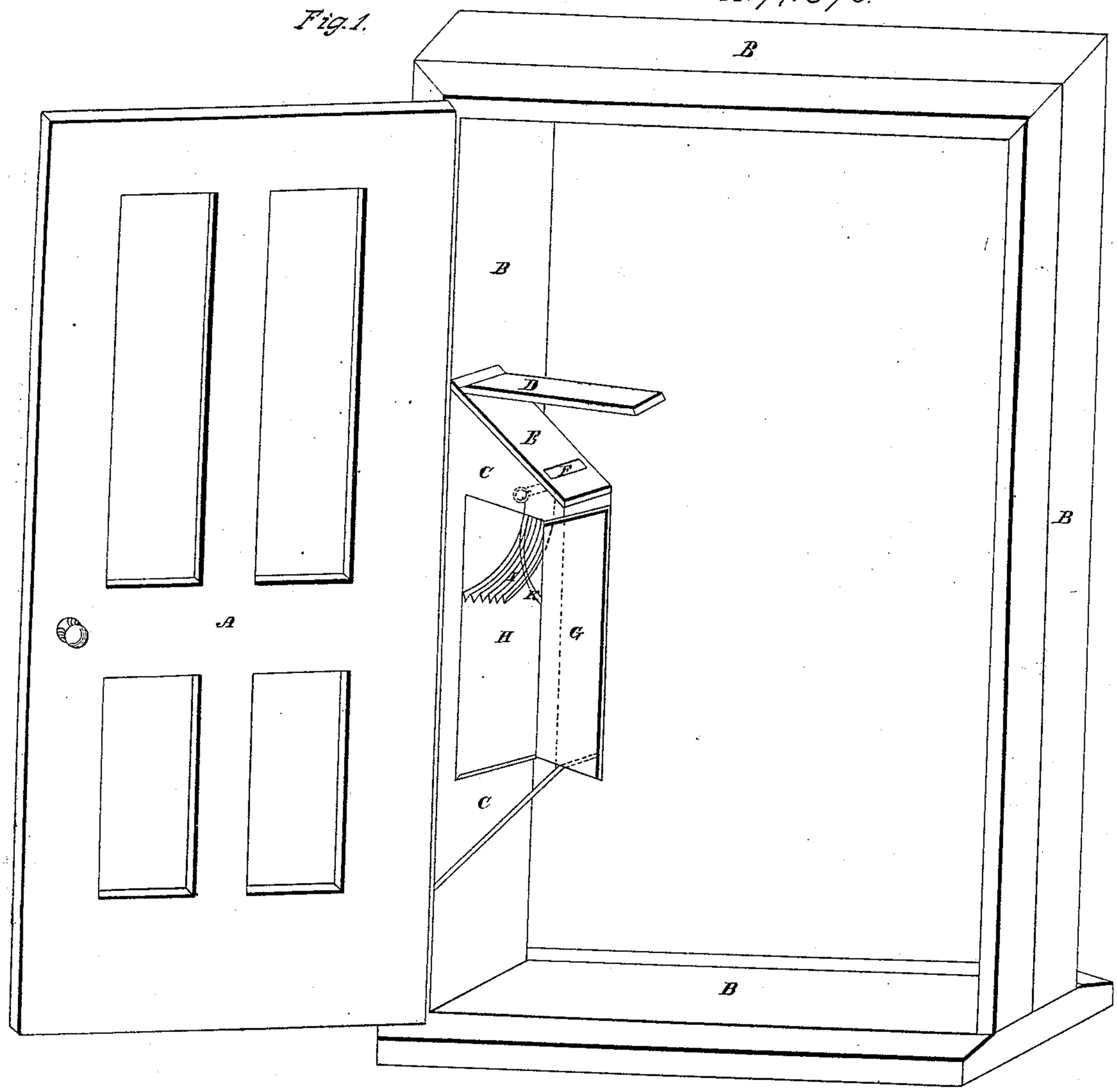
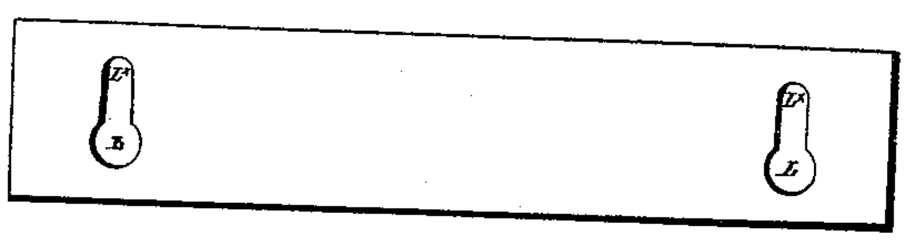


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.
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Letters Patent No. 103,826, *dated June* 7, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN 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, C. R. BANCROFT, of Boston, Suffolk county, State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Boxes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, with letters of reference marked thereon; and

The nature of my invention consists in so constructing a letter-box, and so placing it upon the door-frame, as that the closing of the door may close, or keep closed, the aperture in the letter-box from which the letters, &c., are to be withdrawn; and further, in a device for protecting the contents from rain, snow, dust, &c., and in a device by which the unlawful abstraction of letters may be prevented, and in a mode of attaching said box to the door-frame.

In the drawings—

Figure 1 is an isometric view of the door and door-frame and the letter-box;

Figure 2 is a view from the back of the letter-box, when detached from the door-frame; and

In the drawings—

A, fig. 1, represents the door.

B B B B, fig. 1, is the door-frame.

C C, fig. 1, is the letter-box.

D, fig. 1, is the cover of the same, working on hinges at the left-hand end.

E, fig. 1, is the under cover.

F, fig. 1, is an aperture or slit, called the "receiving-slit," in the under cover E, through which the letters papers, &c., are dropped.

G, fig. 1, is the door in the side of the letter-box which closes the discharging-aperture H, fig. 1, through which the letters are taken from the box;

I, fig. 1, is a chute, being a curved piece of metal, hung at an angle of about forty-five degrees, or thereabouts, from the lower part of the under cover E upon the hinge J, fig. 1. This chute I is serrated at its lower end.

K, fig. 1, is a spring attached at its top to the chute I, and at its bottom impinging upon one side of the letter-box.

$L^{\times}$ $L^{\times}$ $L^{\times}$ $L^{\times}$, fig. 2, are two apertures in the back of the letter-box, which are thus fashioned:

One end of the aperture or slot is a circular hole, large enough to admit the passage of the head of a screw or peg. Running into this circular aperture is an oblong one, horizontal (or sometimes I make them at an angle) when the box is in position, and of width only sufficient to admit the passage of the shank of the screw, and rounded at the extreme end; and

The operation of my device is this, commencing with the attachment of the box to the door-frame:

Having two screws or pegs (not represented) placed in the door-frame, at the same distance from the door when closed as the distance, in fig. 2, between the part marked respectively $L^{\times}$ $L^{\times}$, of the two peg-holes in the back of the letter-box, from the upper edge of the box in fig. 2, I open the door and pass the heads of the screws (not represented) or pegs through the circular parts of the peg-holes, at the points marked L L, respectively. Then moving the letter-box in a direction from the door till the shanks of the pegs touch the ends $L^{\times}$ $L^{\times}$ of the peg-holes or slots, the peg-heads are then inside the letter-box, and, the door being closed, there is no means of moving the letter-box from its place without breaking it or the peg-heads, while the box may, at any time, be readily removed. When the door is open, and to place letters, &c., in the receiving-slit F, I lift the upper cover D, and when the letters are deposited let the cover D down, thus protecting the receiving-slit and the contents beneath from rain, snow, or dust.

The device of the chute I operates thus:

It is to prevent the abstraction of the contents of the letter-box back through the receiving-aperture F. When a newspaper is put into the box, the serrated, or otherwise made, lower end holds it with its points, which are pressed up against the paper by the spring K, and the paper is immovable, without tearing, except by pressing back the chute against the spring, which can be done readily only by one who opens the letter-box legitimately, by opening the door to the frame of which the box is attached.

The main feature of my letter-box is now to be adverted to.

The discharging-aperture H is, it will be perceived, placed on the side which, when the box is placed in position, is opposed to the door. Thus when the letter-box is closed the door fastens it, and when, as I sometimes do, I dispense with the letter-box door, the door, when closed, closes the discharging-aperture which is open, or the letter-box door may be opened when the door is open; and I sometimes dispense with the spring K and make the chute itself a spring, thus dispensing with the hinge J; and sometimes I do not serrate the bottom of the chute, but make it with a knife-edge, or otherwise; and sometimes, instead of having the discharging-opening at the side opposite the door, I have it in the top or the bottom, or the front side of the box, having an appropriate projection from the door, which either closes the aperture, or, a hinged door being upon the box as in the drawing, fastens it; and sometimes I fasten

the box to the door, and so locate the discharging-aperture as that it is closed by the impinging of that side against the door-frame; and

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

1. The letter-box, so made as that besides a receiving-slit, it has a discharging-aperture, which when the box is fastened to a door-frame, is either closed or kept closed by the shutting of the door, when constructed and used substantially as described.

2. The fastening of the letter-box to a door-frame by the peg-slots mentioned, so that when the door is closed the box is firmly held, yet is removable when the door is opened, in manner substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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