

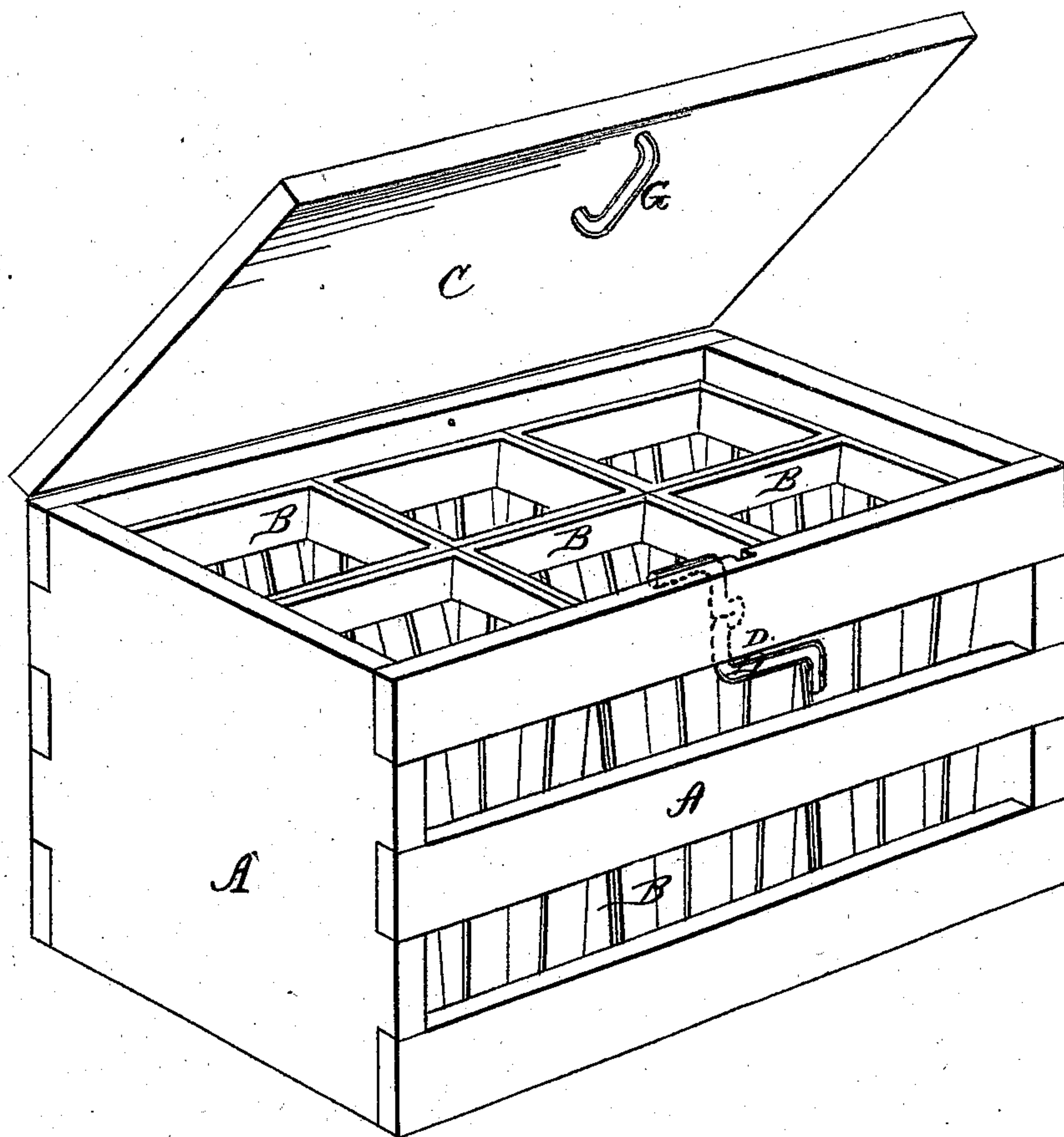
W. H. CLARKSON.

Fruit-Grates.

No. 136,968.

Patented March 18, 1873.

Fig. 1.



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Fig. 2.

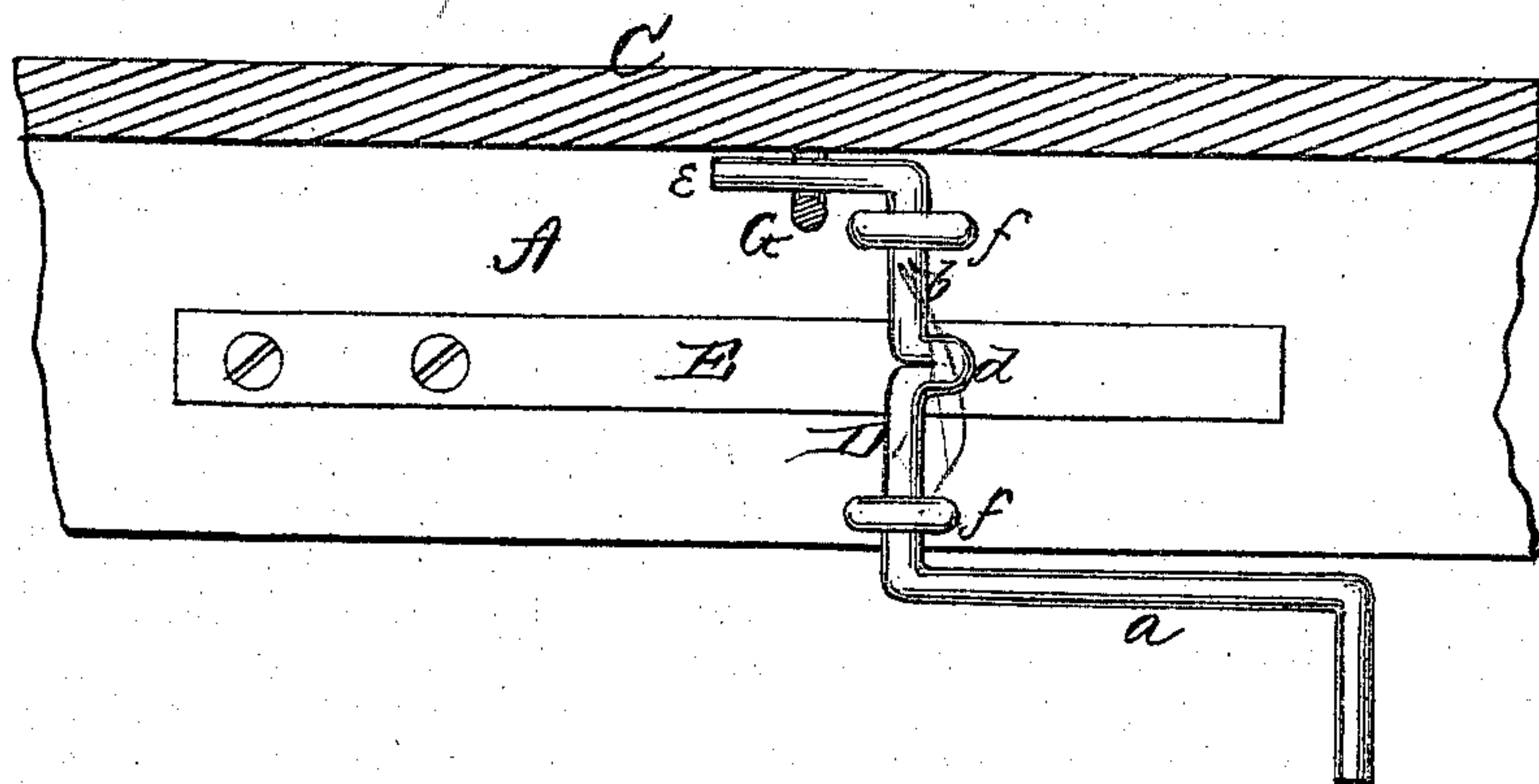


Fig. 3.

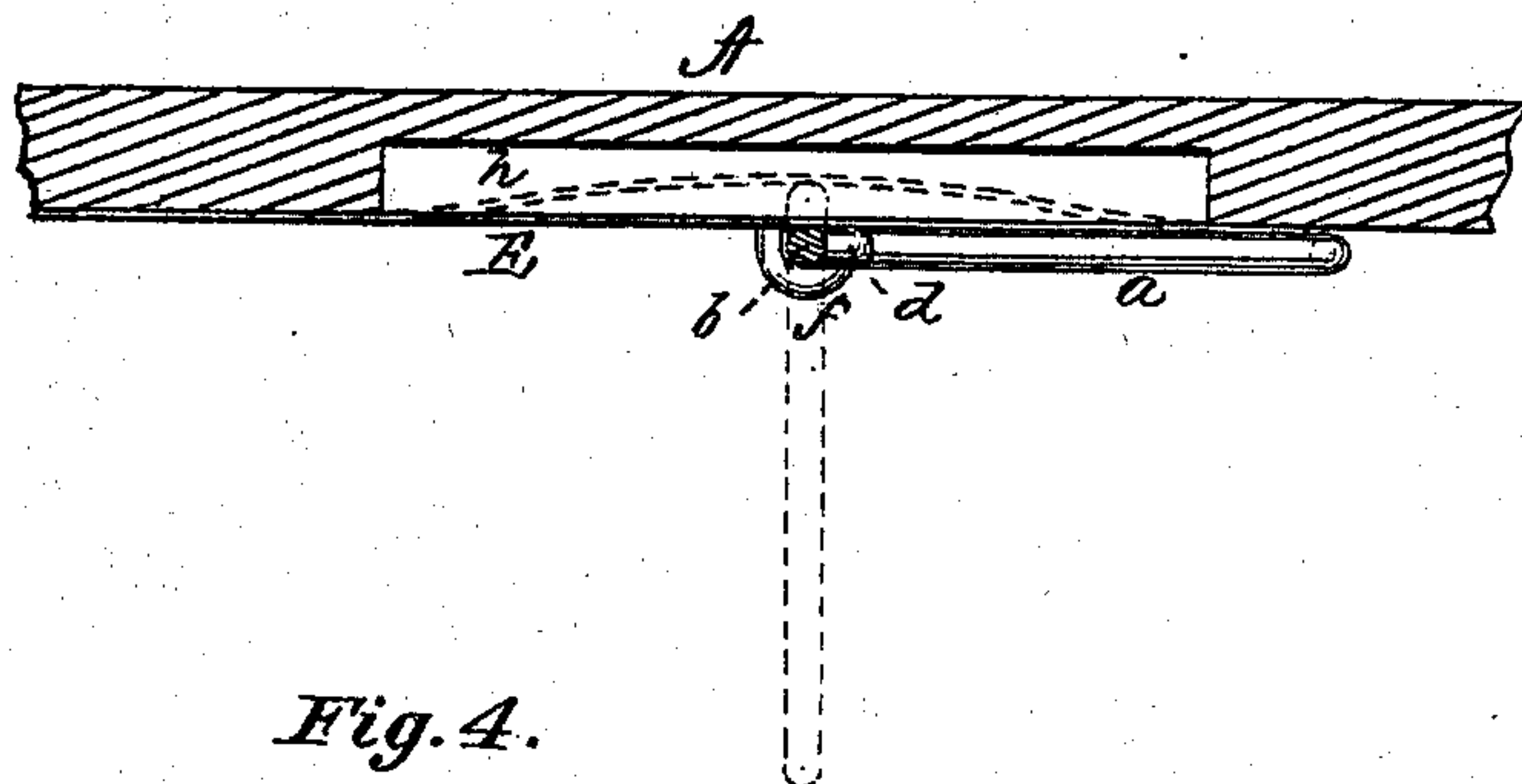
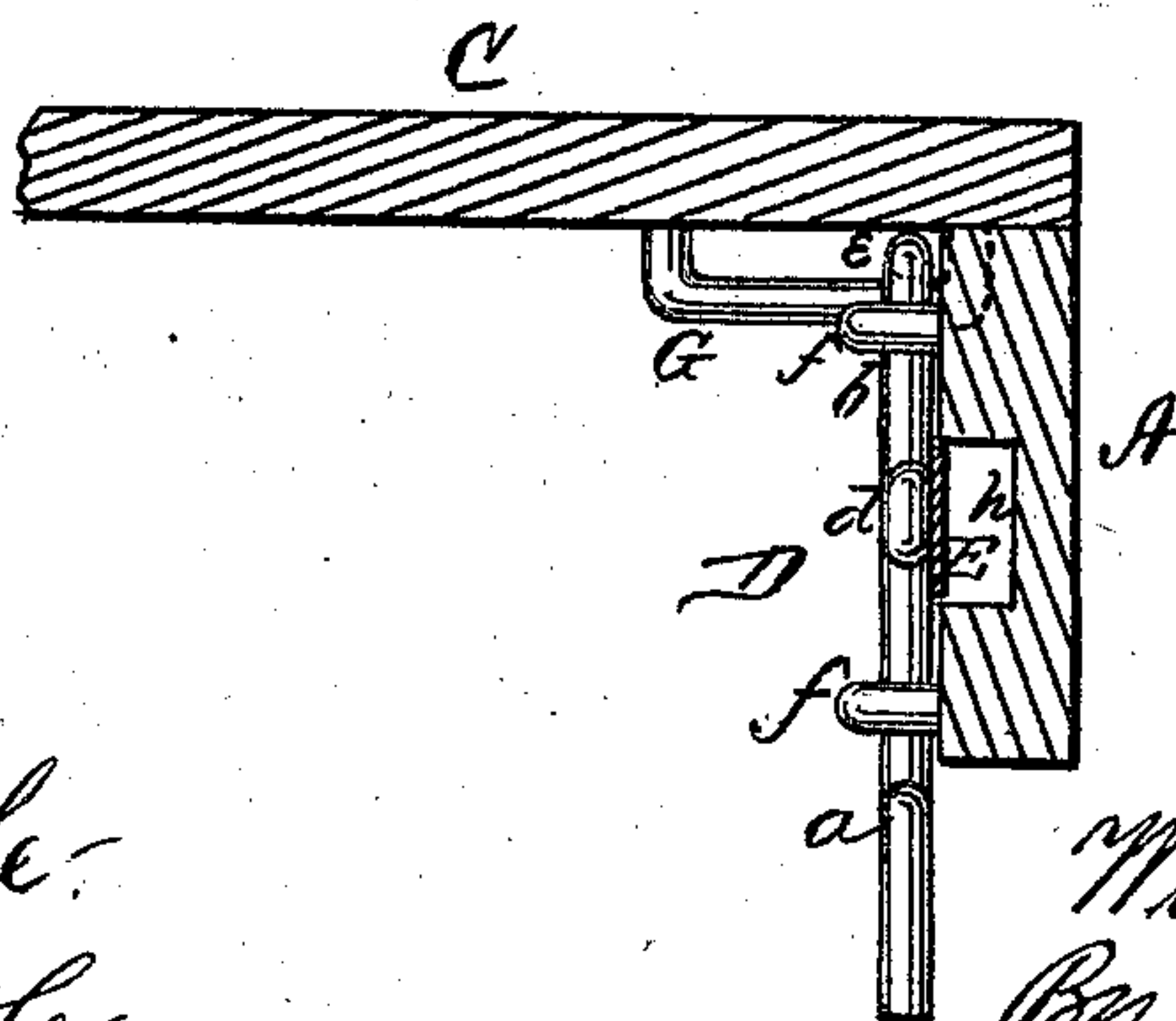


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. CLARKSON, OF BRIDGEVILLE, DELAWARE.

IMPROVEMENT IN FRUIT-CRATES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **136,968**, dated March 18, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. CLARKSON, of Bridgeville, in the county of Sussex and State of Delaware, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Berry-Crates; and do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The nature of my invention consists in the construction and arrangement of a fastening for berry-crates, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

In order to enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to make and use the same, I will now proceed to describe its construction and operation, referring to the annexed drawing, which forms a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a berry-crate with my fastening attached; and Figs. 2, 3, and 4 are enlarged detached views of the fastening.

A represents an ordinary berry-crate for holding a number of berry-baskets, and provided with a hinged lid, C. D represents the fastening made of a single piece of wire bent in such a manner that its lower end forms a crank or handle, *a*, at right angles with a vertical part, *b*, and in this vertical part is formed a lug or projection, *d*, by bending the wire, as shown in Fig. 2. The upper end *e* is then bent at right angles, extending horizontally in the opposite direction from the handle *a*. This fastening is attached on the inner side of the upper front rail of the crate by means of two staples, *f f*, one above and the other below the

lug *d*, the part *b* of the fastening being in a vertical position. Between the rail and the fastening is placed a spring, E, fastened at one end and loose at the other, and in the rail is made a recess, *h*, for said spring to bend into. On the under side of the lid C is fastened a staple, G, into which the arm *e* of the fastening passes to hold the lid closed, the spring E acting on the lug *d* to retain the fastening in position.

By turning the handle *a* from under the rail it can readily be unlocked and locked at pleasure.

This fastening is entirely inside of the box, and hence can not be misplaced or liable to injury. It is cheap and convenient, and does not disfigure the crate.

In place of wire, it may be made of malleable iron.

The spring may be dispensed with by bending the wire properly, and in place of the two staples *f f*, a single piece of sheet-iron or other metal may be used.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The fastening D, constructed as described, with handle *a*, lug *d*, and arm *e*, and used, in combination with the spring E and staple G, on the inside of a berry box or crate, substantially as and for the purposes herein set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of February, 1873.

WILLIAM H. CLARKSON.

Witnesses:

NEWELL BALL,
F. M. CLARKSON.