

N. LITTLEFIELD.

MILK-CAN RECEPTACLE.

No. 171,294.

Patented Dec. 21, 1875.

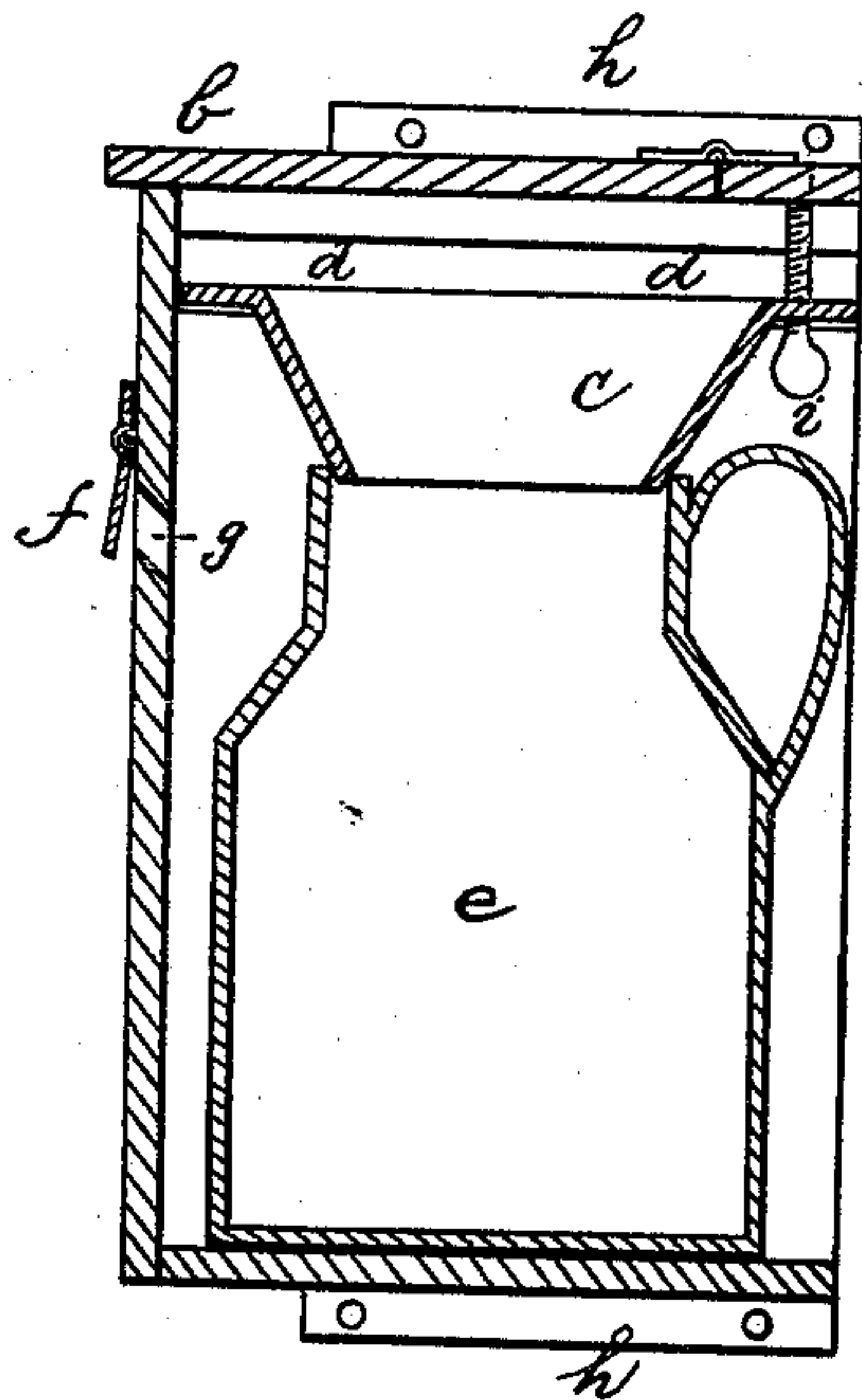


Fig. 1.

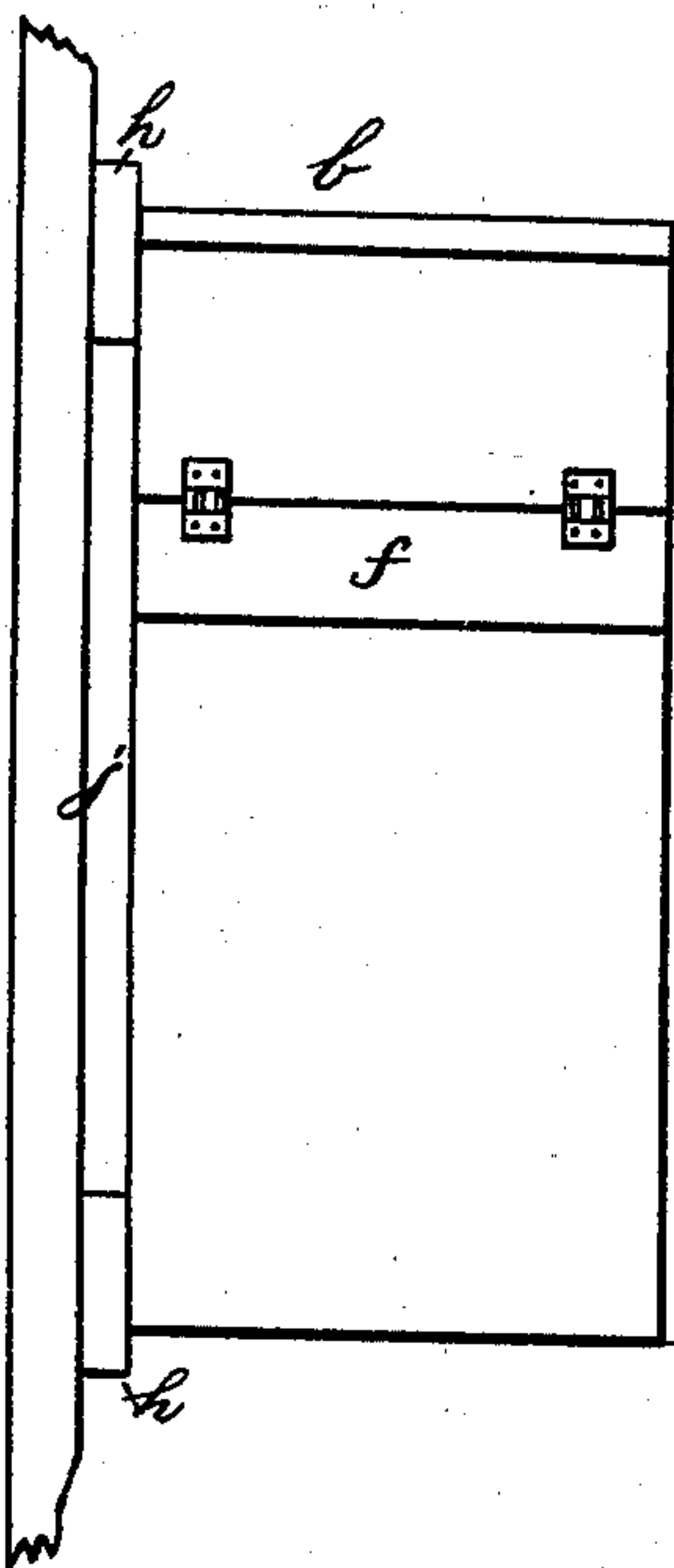


Fig. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NAHUM LITTLEFIELD, OF PORTLAND, MAINE.

IMPROVEMENT IN MILK-CAN RECEPTACLES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **171,294**, dated December 21, 1875; application filed December 2, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NAHUM LITTLEFIELD, of Portland, in the county of Cumberland and State of Maine, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Combined Letter-Boxes and Milk-Can Holders; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal section of my invention. Fig. 2 is a front view.

Same letters show like parts.

The object of my invention is to produce a device which will serve not only the purpose of the ordinary letter-box, but will also serve as a receptacle for a milk-can.

I will now proceed to describe my invention in detail.

a shows an ordinary letter-box, which is to be attached to the door-casing in the common manner. *b* is a lid or cover to the box *a*, hinged as illustrated. *c* is an adjustable tunnel-shaped conductor, placed near the top of the box *a*, and arranged to play up and down in slots or grooves cut inside of the said box. *d* show the grooves. The lower end of this tunnel-shaped conductor is of such size and form as to fit the mouth of the can to be inserted. *e* is the can. *f* shows the lid, which covers the aperture *g*, through which the letters to be deposited within the box are inserted. *h* shows studs or projecting pieces attached to one side of the box *a*, and when the whole device is to be fastened to the door-casing; the proper fastenings are passed through these pieces into the door-casing, thus holding the said device firmly fastened in place.

Having thus given the construction of my invention, I will now proceed to describe its operation. One side of the box *a* (that which fronts the door) is left open, so that when the door is closed, the said door itself covers that side of the box, and when the said door is opened it permits of the contents of the box being removed. The top of the can is supposed to be a little higher than the lower end of the conductor *c*; and when it (the can) is placed

within the box its top first strikes the flaring part of *c*, and, as it is pushed along, this conductor *c* rises in the grooves *d* until the can is into place, when the mouth of the conductor drops into the top of the can. The letters are to be placed in the box in the usual manner, there being sufficient space for them between the outside of the can and the inside of the box. When the can is to be removed the door of the house is opened and permits of this operation. The can is placed within the box when desired, and when the milkman arrives he merely raises the lid *b* and pours the milk into the conductor *c*, which carries it to the can. *i* is a set-screw, which holds the conductor *c* in place, (horizontally,) and when it is desired to remove the said conductor for repair or cleaning, all that is necessary is to turn out the screw *i*, and it can then be easily withdrawn from the grooves *d*.

The box can be of any desired form and size, and the can of such dimensions as to fit the same.

By having the studs *h* as described, a space, *j*, is left between the box and door-casing, in which papers and other articles too large for admission through the aperture *g* may be inserted.

It is evident that this device may be applied to a window as well as a door.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that I produce a combined letter-box and milk-can holder, so arranged that the can can be placed within the box at any hour previous to the arrival of the milkman, and be incapable of removal from the outside of the house.

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

In an ordinary letter-box for doors, &c., the combination of the adjustable tunnel-shaped conductor *c*, grooves *d*, set-screw *i*, lid *b*, and can *e*, substantially as and for the purposes herein set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

NAHUM LITTLEFIELD.

Witnesses:

FRANK H. JORDAN,
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