

L. MESSER.

CLASPS FOR POCKET-BOOKS.

No. 176,663.

Patented April 25, 1876.

Fig. 1.

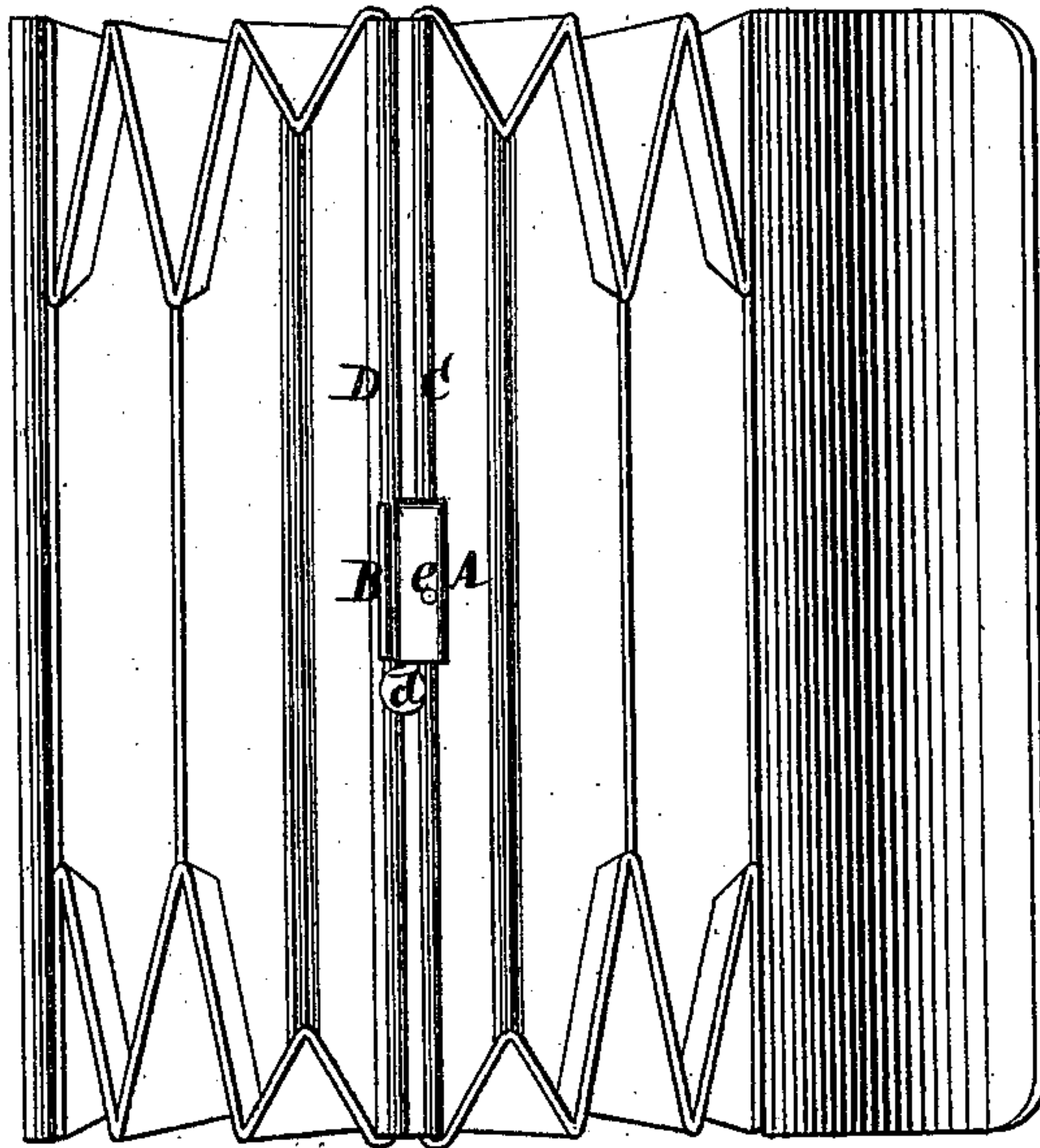


Fig. 2.

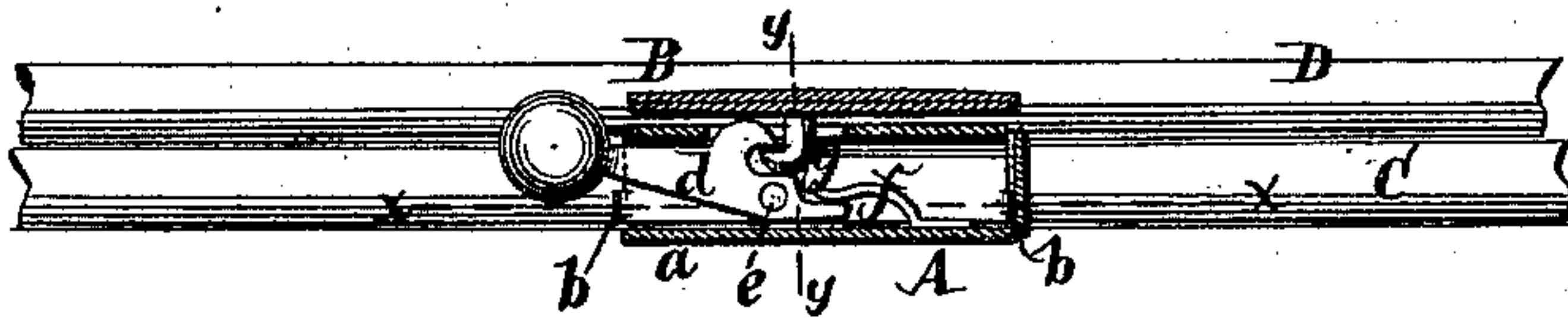


Fig. 3.

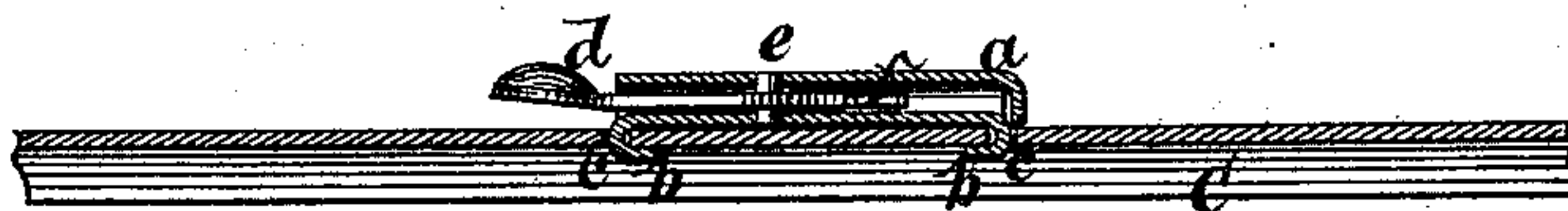


Fig. 4.

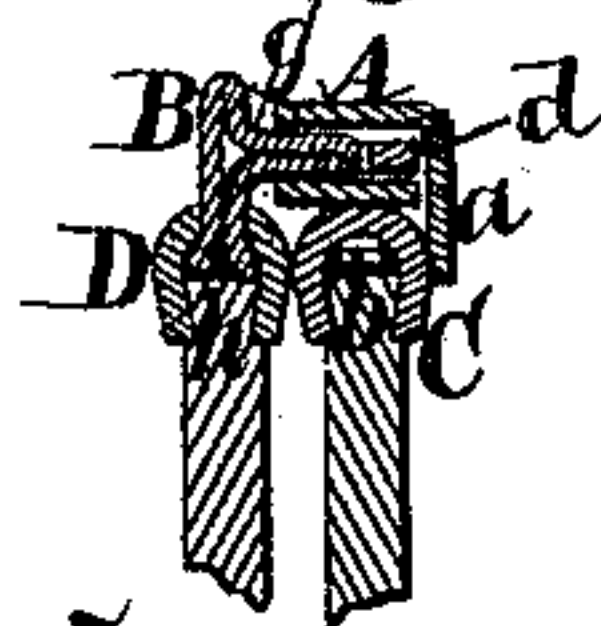
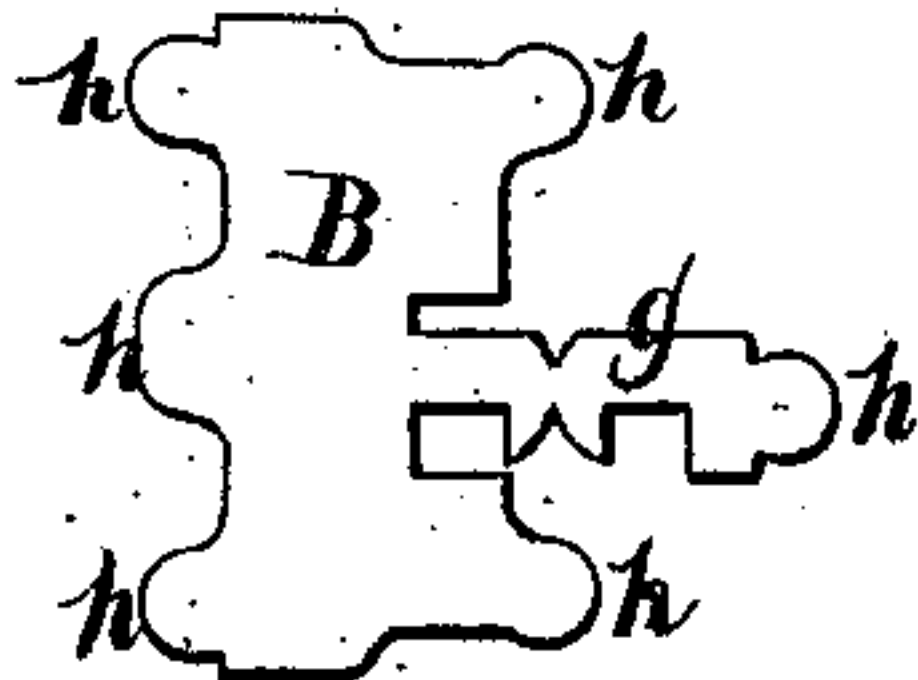


Fig. 5.



Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LOUIS MESSER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN CLASPS FOR POCKET-BOOKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **176,663**, dated April 25, 1876; application filed March 22, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LOUIS MESSER, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Clasps for Pocket-Books and other articles, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which--

Figure 1 represents a plan of a pocket-book with one of my clasps. Fig. 2 is a horizontal section of the clasp on a larger scale than the previous figure. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal vertical section of the same in the plane *x x*, Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a transverse vertical section in the plane *y y*, Fig. 2. Fig. 5 shows the blank for the thumb-piece.

Similar letters indicate corresponding parts.

This invention relates to a clasp for pocket-books and other articles of a similar nature, which is composed of a case secured to a binding-strip, and containing a spring-latch, which, when the article is closed, engages with a hook fastened to another binding-strip. The latch-containing case is made of sheet metal bent up in the desired form, and provided with a tip to bear against the side of its binding-strip, and with ears which are passed through slots in the upper face of the binding-strip, and which, after having been passed through said slots, are bent down so as to retain the case firmly in position. The hook which engages with the spring-latch is also formed of sheet metal, being made in one piece with a thumb-piece, which is provided with lugs or ears, which, after having been passed through slots in the corresponding binding-strip, are spread so as to secure said thumb-piece, together with its hook, firmly in position.

In the drawing, the letter A designates the latch-containing case of my clasp, and the letter B the thumb-piece, which carries the hook that engages with the latch in the case A, both the case and the thumb-piece being secured to metallic binding-strips C D, as will be presently more fully explained. The case

A is bent up of sheet metal, and it is provided with a lip, *a*, and with two ears, *b b*, said lip being placed against the side of the binding-strip C, (see Fig. 4,) which is provided with slots *c c*, Fig. 3, to receive the ears *b b*. When the ears are bent over, as shown in Fig. 3, the case A is firmly connected to said binding-strip, being steadied in its position by the lip *a*. In the case A is secured a latch, *d*, which swings on a vertical pivot, *e*, and the tail end of which is exposed to the action of a spring, *f*. (See Fig. 2.) The thumb-piece B is made of sheet metal cut out in the form shown in Fig. 5. When this blank is doubled up, as shown in Fig. 4, it forms a hook, *g*, and three duplex ears, *h*. These ears are passed through slots in the binding-strip D, and then they are spread, as shown in Fig. 4, so as to retain the thumb-piece firmly in position. The hook *g* is intended to engage with the latch *d*. (See Fig. 2.) When the outer end of said latch is pressed back, the hook *g* is released, and the clasp can be opened. By these means a clasp is obtained which can be made with little labor, and which can be readily and firmly attached to metallic binding-strips C D, said binding-strips serving to secure the clasp to those parts of a pocket-book, or other article of a similar nature, which are to be closed by means of the clasp.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is--

The combination, with metallic binding-strips C D, of a latch-containing case, A, provided with a lip, *a*, and with ears *b b*, and of a thumb-piece, B, provided with a hook, *g*, and with ears *h h*, all constructed and operating substantially in the manner herein shown and described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 20th day of March, 1876.

LOUIS MESSER. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

J. VAN SANTVOORD,
E. F. KASTENHUBER.