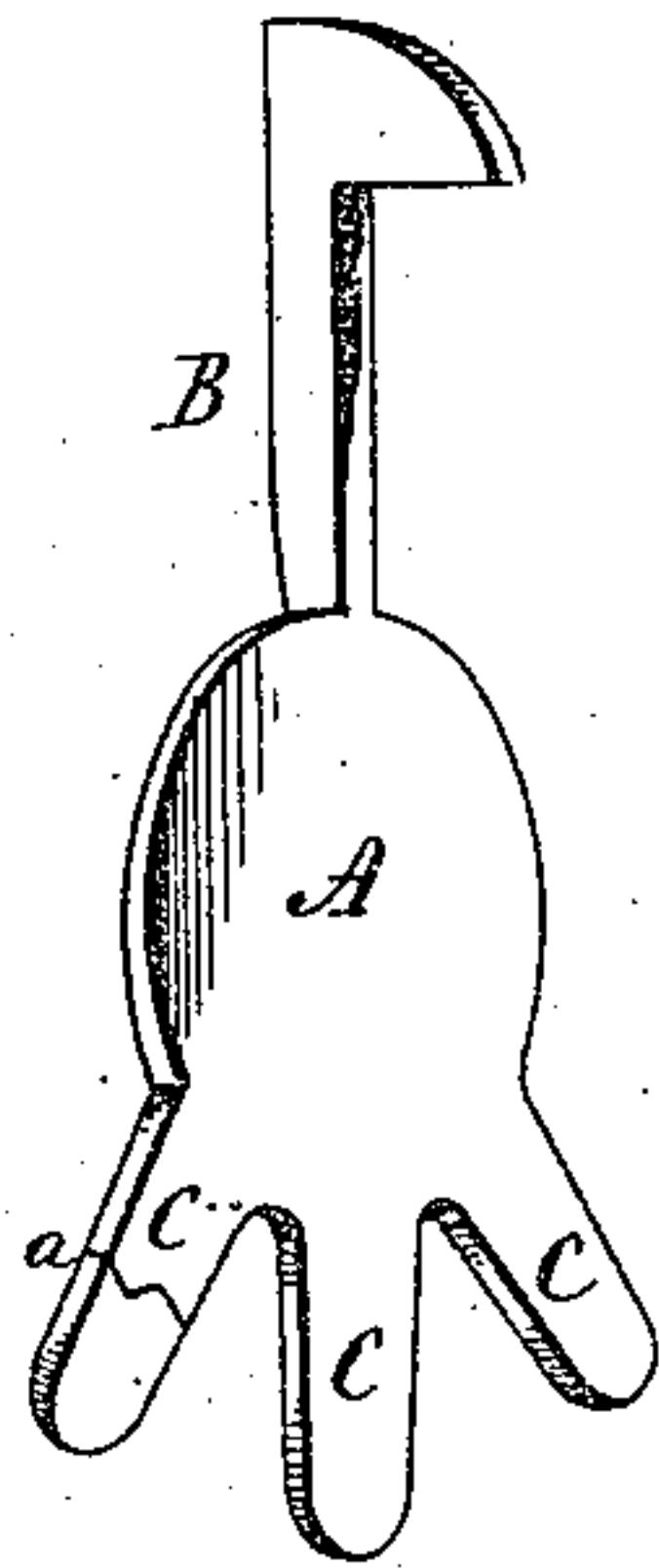


J. SWEENEY.
Metallic Seals.

No. 207,567.

Patented Aug. 27, 1878.



Witnesses,

J. H. Shumway
W. H. Shumway

John Sweeney
By atty. *Samuel Paul* Inventor.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN SWEENEY, OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.

IMPROVEMENT IN METALLIC SEALS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 207,567, dated August 27, 1878; application filed July 12, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN SWEENEY, of New Haven, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented a new Improvement in Seals for Locks; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent a perspective view.

This invention relates to an improvement in that class of seals for locks which are constructed of frangible metal, and which are applied to the lock so that the metal seal must be broken before the lock can be opened, the object of the invention being to furnish a means of detecting any tampering with the lock between the starting-point and destination; and it consists in constructing the seal so that a portion is broken off at the point of starting, and that sent specially to the destination. The fracture of the said portion will enable the person, on comparing it with the fracture on the seal, to ascertain if the seal has been tampered with.

As here represented, A is the seal proper, formed as a part of a hook, B, by which the seal is attached to the locking device. From this seal one or more projections, C, are made, and in the same piece with the seal.

When the seal is properly attached the

sealer breaks off one of these projections C and forwards it to the destination or the next person who is to examine the seal. The fracture—say as at *a*—must correspond one part to the other, so that the person receiving the portion and applying it to the remaining portion easily ascertains whether it is the same seal from which the piece he has was broken or not, and hence would be able to detect any tampering with the seal.

Several projecting portions may be used to indicate successive examinations by the proper parties, each breaking off one portion, or all broken at the start and sent to the different successive examiners.

As here represented, these projections are radial; but the particular form or relative shape is immaterial, it only being essential that the seal be provided with a certain portion which may be broken from it without affecting the seal as a seal, and serve as a detector.

I claim—

The herein-described seal, constructed of frangible metal, and provided with means, substantially as described, for attachment, and having one or more portions to be broken therefrom, substantially as described, and so as, by its fracture, to serve as a detector.

JOHN SWEENEY.

Witnesses:

JOHN E. EARLE,

H. A. KITSON.