

J. M. ROBERTS.
Cigar Box.

No. 236,089.

Patented Dec. 28, 1880.

Fig. 1.

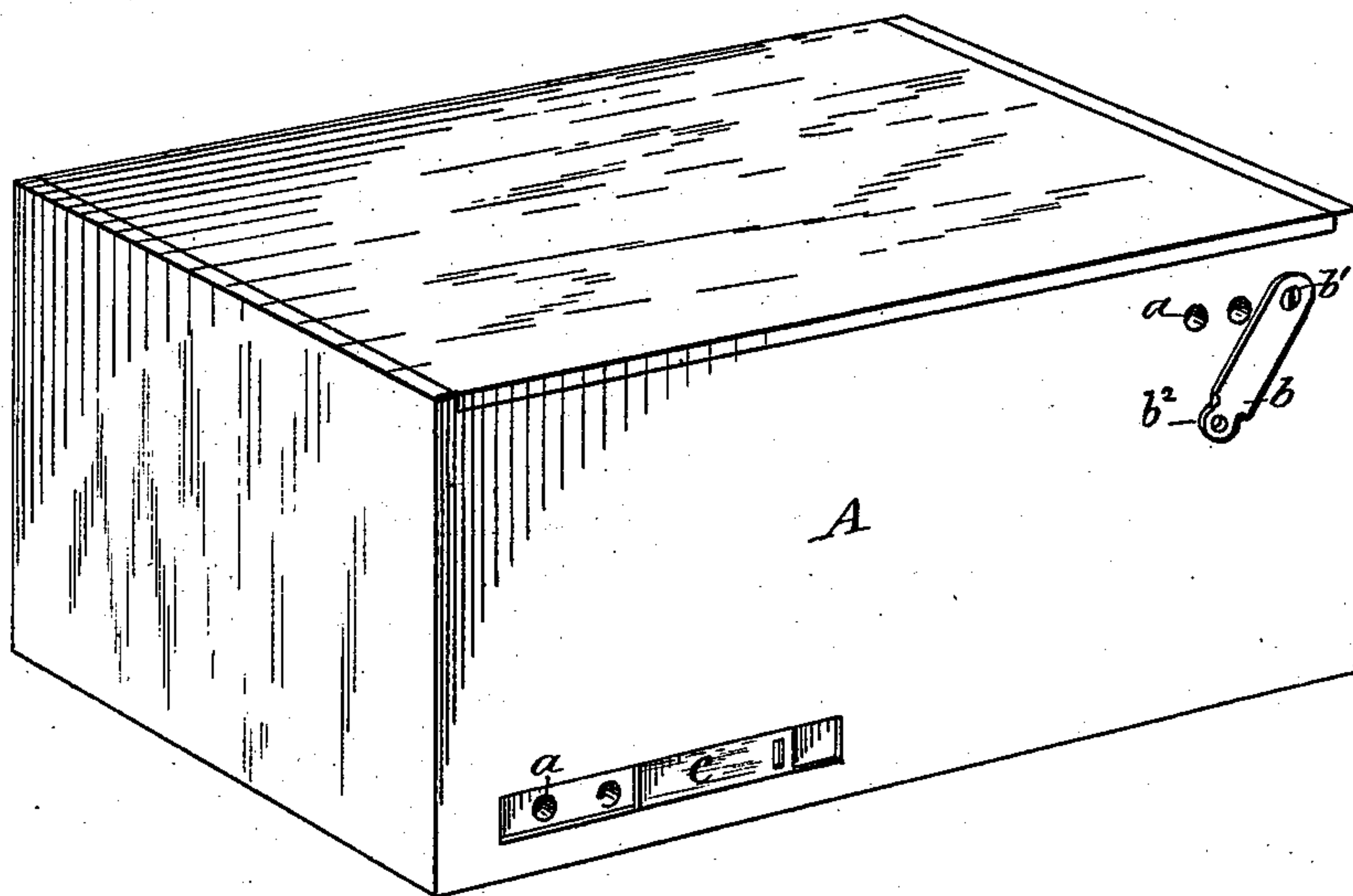
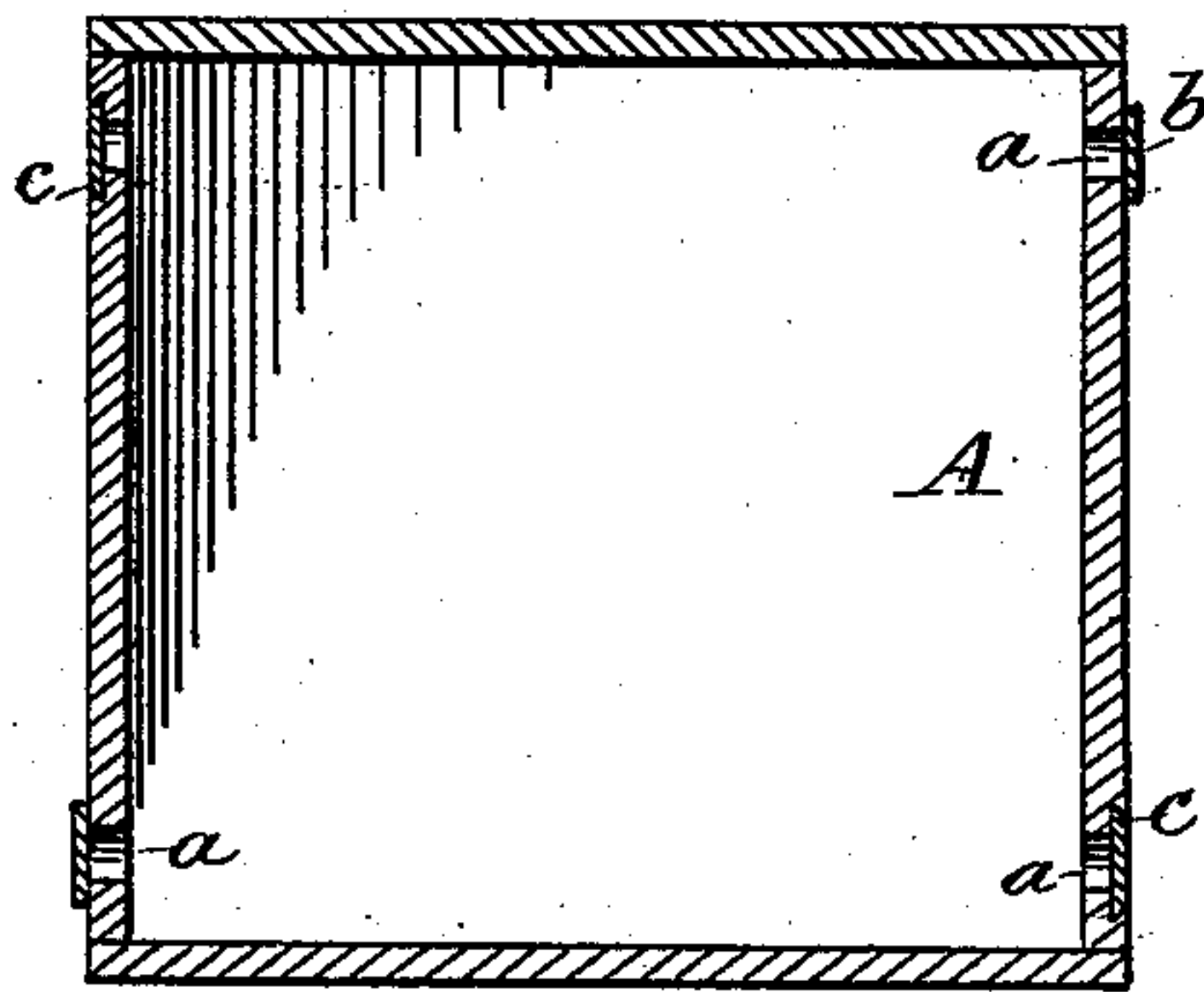


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES M. ROBERTS, OF AUGUSTA, GEORGIA.

CIGAR-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 236,089, dated December 28, 1880.

Application filed November 13, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES MADISON ROBERTS, of Augusta, in the county of Richmond and State of Georgia, have invented certain
5 new and useful Improvements in Cigar-Boxes, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

10 Figure 1 represents a perspective view of one of my improved boxes. Fig. 2 represents a vertical section through the same.

Heretofore in the manufacture of cigars under the restrictions and requirements of law
15 pertaining to revenue cigars can only be shipped from the manufactory when packed in boxes of a certain character, capable of receiving in a certain manner the revenue-stamp provided by law, and such packages are her-
20 metically sealed. While the cigars are green it is impossible, without liability to injury thereto, to pack them in boxes of the character referred to, as molding and musting would inevitably be the consequence.

25 The object of my invention is to enable the manufacturer to at once pack his green cigars, however freshly made, to close and seal the box, and ship them to market under the various requirements of the law; and to that end my
30 invention consists in a cigar-box adapted to be guarded by revenue-stamps and provided with air-passages and regulable covers for said passages, by which they also can be thoroughly closed. With such a box the manufacturer is
35 enabled to put upon the market and ship, without liability to damage on account of its condition, a fresh-made cigar, such as is deemed preferable to a dried cigar by a large portion of smokers; and this result, prior to my in-
40 vention, was attainable only at such small manufactories as have a retail department connected therewith. Moreover, in packing fresh-made cigars in a box of the character referred to the package itself becomes charged or filled
45 with the aroma of the fresh-made cigars, and cigars which have been dried in such boxes retain more of their original flavor than those commonly cured in the open air, and this regardless of their age.

50 Again, cigars dried as heretofore have their color more or less deteriorated by the action

of light and open air while drying upon the cigar-maker's bench; but when dried in a box embodying my invention no loss of color is possible. With cigars packed in my boxes 55 the dealer can, by graduation of the air-passages, carry in his stock a variety of cigars of equal age and variably cured to suit the various tastes of purchasers of unbroken packages of cigars, and as soon as the cigars have ar- 60 rived at that degree of curing at which cigars are usually packed in boxes as heretofore he can then close the air-passages and retain the goods in the condition of perfectly cured and flavored cigars. 65

By reason of my invention it becomes possible for a small wholesale manufacturer to do a given amount of business upon less capital, or, what amounts to the same thing, a greater amount of business on a given capital than 70 heretofore, because he is enabled to more promptly mark it as manufactured stock, in addition to the advantages which his purchasers would derive through their capacity to safely handle the fresh-made goods and give them 75 in a short time the flavor obtained now only by age.

In the drawings, A represents the sides of a cigar-box, made in the usual manner and of any desired form. These sides (or ends) have 80 perforations *a* extending through them. Generally a row of them is placed on one side, near the bottom, to admit air within the box and around the cigars, and a row on the opposite side, near the top, for its exit, thereby produc- 85 ing a uniform effect on the entire contents of the box.

The admission of air into cigar-boxes after a given length of time necessary for curing and giving age to the cigars is conceded to be 90 injurious to them; hence it is important to have ready means for hermetically closing or partly closing the openings of the boxes. This I accomplish by means of doors *b*, pivoted to the sides of the box, or slides *c*, by which one 95 or a series of holes can be closed. These doors or slides can be made of sheet metal or veneer. The doors *b* are pivoted and closely united to the sides by a screw, *b'*, and they are provided with a loop, *b²*, through which an additional 100 screw may be used to render them immovable. The slides *c* are generally inserted into a dove-

tailed groove cut out of the side of the box, and are thus even with it, presenting no projection that may be objectionable in packing many cigar-boxes together. These slides can
5 have perforations to match those in the side of the box when it is open, so as to close them all at once by moving the slide half the distance between two holes.

I am aware that perforated paper boxes
10 have been lined in and out with veneer; but these boxes cannot be considered as admitting air to the contents of the box, or if they do the air is admitted constantly without any means of stopping this defect after a specified
15 time.

I am also aware that fruit boxes and barrels have been perforated to admit air in the interior; but these have presented the same objectionable feature as above mentioned.

20 I am also aware that packages or receptacles for tobacco and other articles liable to heat have been divided into parts by means of

open wire-work slides or stages resting in grooves and retained by spring-catches, bolts, &c., or that said packages have been provided
25 with perforated tubes extending across them, the wire-work slides being to allow spaces for air at the top and bottom or ends, into which air-valves open, and the perforated tubes are for an analogous purpose.
30

Having now fully described my invention, I claim—

1. A cigar-box having a regulable ventilator, whereby the curing of cigars may be controlled, as set forth.
35

2. A cigar-box having two separate regulable ventilators for the purpose of securing a regulated current through the box, as and for the purpose set forth.

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Witnesses:

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