

(Model.)

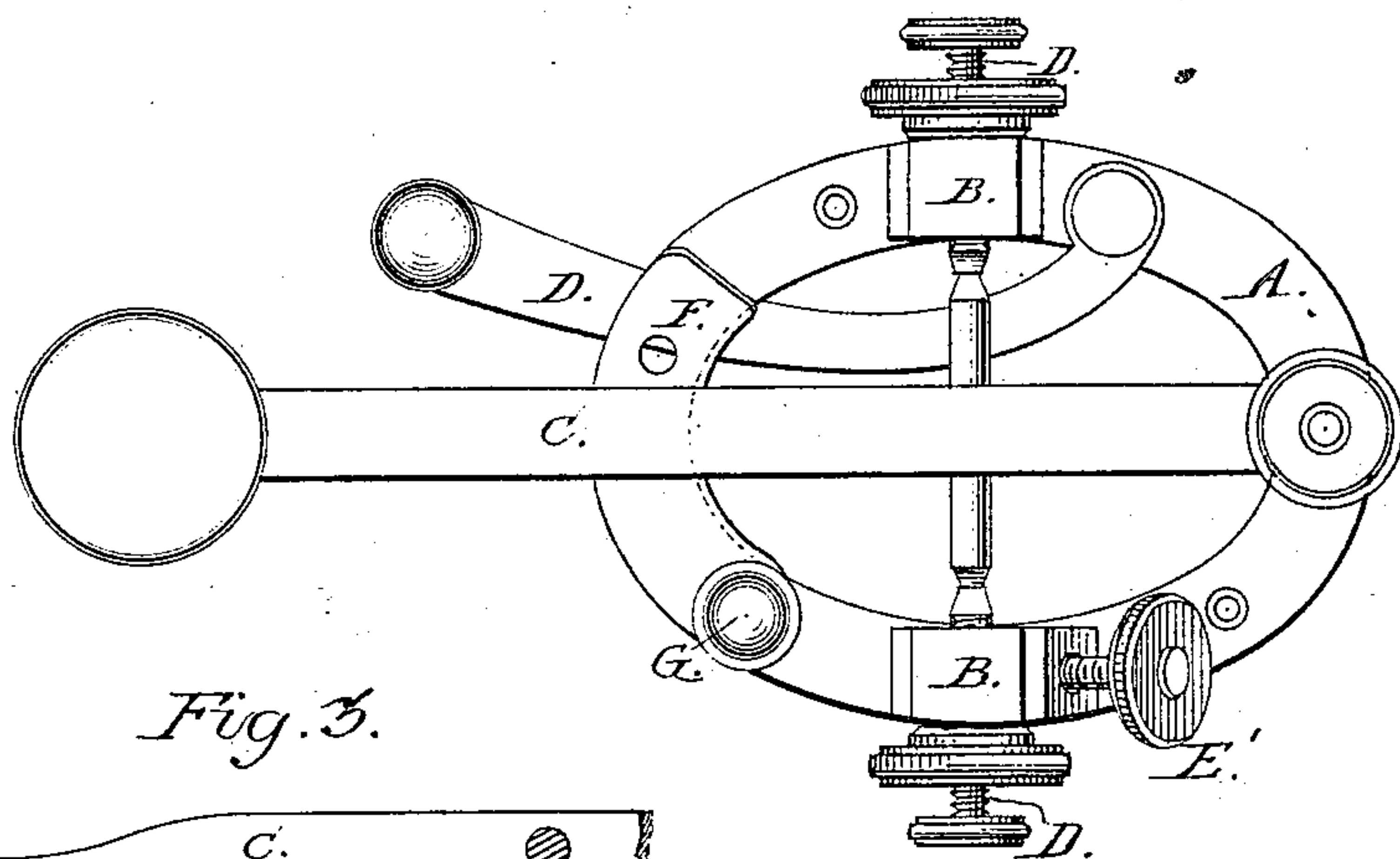
W. H. PRENTICE & S. H. BECKWITH.

TELEGRAPH KEY.

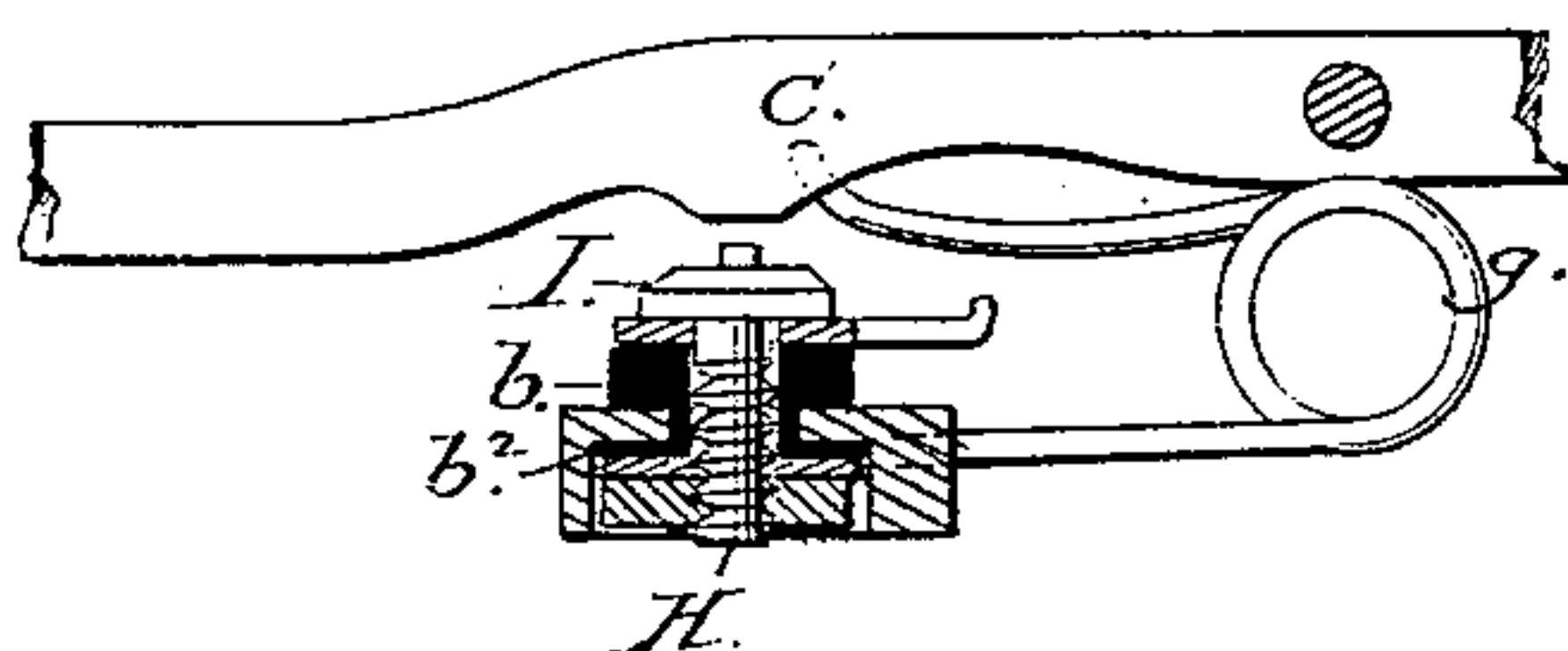
No. 250,753.

Patented Dec. 13, 1881.

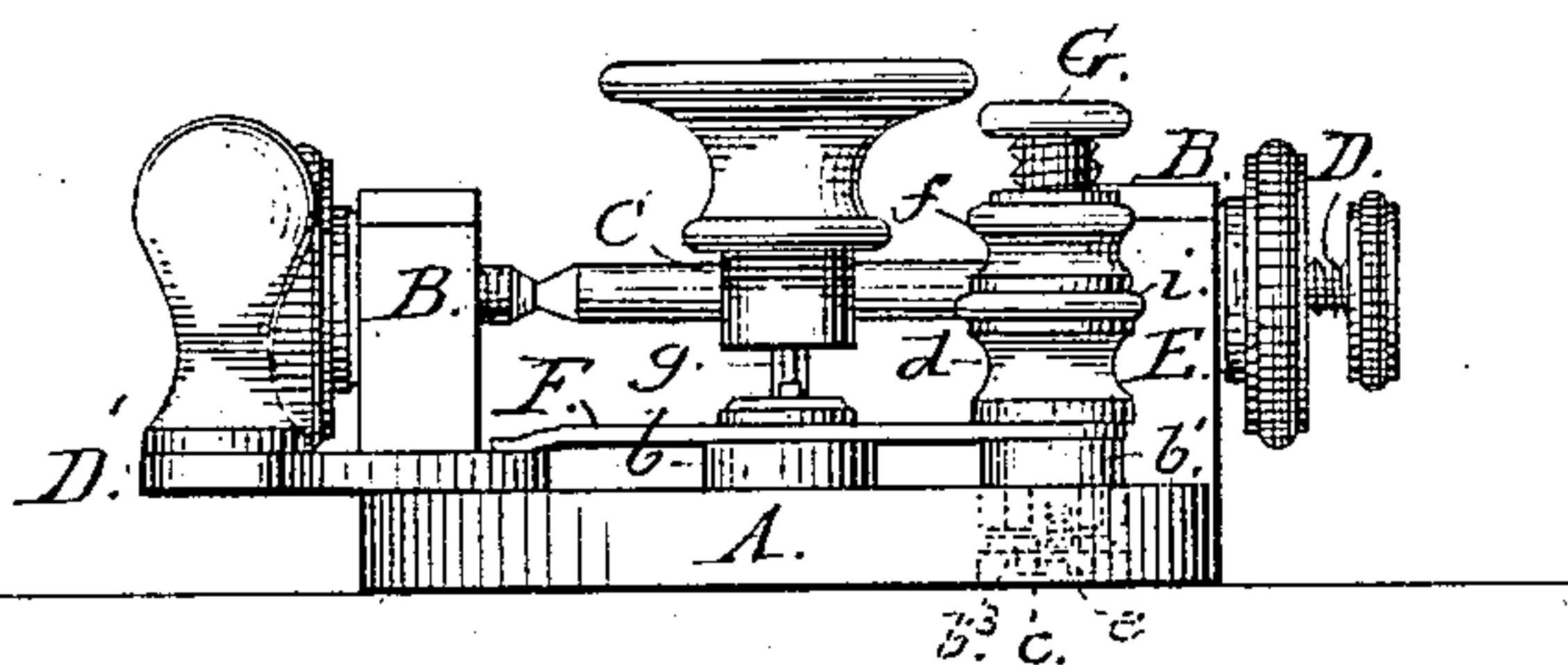
*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 2.*



Witnesses:  
C. E. Allen  
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Attys.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. PRENTICE AND SAMUEL H. BECKWITH, OF UTICA, NEW YORK,  
ASSIGNORS OF ONE-THIRD TO FRANK J. CALLANEN, OF SAME PLACE.

## TELEGRAPH-KEY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 250,753, dated December 13, 1881.

Application filed June 13, 1881. (Model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, WILLIAM H. PRENTICE and SAMUEL H. BECKWITH, of Utica, in the county of Oneida and State of New York, have  
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Telegraph-Keys; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable  
10 others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Our invention is an improvement in that  
15 class of telegraph-keys known as "legless keys."

It has for its object, chiefly, to provide a key which will have its circuit-breaking lever in close proximity to a connecting and holding  
20 spring-plate, which is secured to place by a bolt, the head of which forms the anvil, and a suitable binding-post secured to the frame of said key.

It consists of a telegraph-key which has its  
25 frame resting on and permanently secured to a table or stand, said frame being provided with a curved spring-plate insulated therefrom, and secured to place by a bolt, the head of which forms the anvil, and a bolt forming a  
30 part of the near binding-post, all of which will be fully described.

In our drawings, Figure 1 is a plan or top view of the key and associate parts. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a section showing the improved arrangement of  
35 anvil, &c.

Similar reference-letters indicate like parts in all of the figures.

Referring to drawings, A is the frame or  
40 plate forming the base of the key, provided with uprights B B, to form supports to the trunnions of the lever C.

D D are set-screws passing through said uprights, provided with the ordinary clamping  
45 or adjusting nuts, to serve as bearings to the trunnions of the lever C. The lever C is provided at one side of its axis with the usual platinum point immediately above the anvil, and on the opposite side with the ordinary ad-  
50 justing-screw, to limit the back throw of said

lever. A spring, g, connects the base with the long arm of the lever and gives to said lever its return movement.

The frame A is preferably of an elliptical or oval form, and in order that it may be secured  
55 to its rest it has reamed holes for holding screws.

A lever, D', forms the usual circuit-breaker or permanent closer, being pivoted on the top of the frame A. Behind one of the uprights  
60 B is entered a binding-screw, E', which intersects a hole in the side of the frame, provided for one of the wires or conductors.

A plate, F, curved to correspond with the contour of the frame, is mounted upon insu-  
65 lating-washers *b b'*, which find suitable seats in said frame. The plate F is secured to its place at one point by a binding-screw, E, constructed and fitted as will be hereinafter described, and a bolt, H, surmounted by a cap-  
70 ping, which forms the anvil I. The plate F, at its free end, is depressed below its normal plane to form a spring-bearing for the circuit-breaker D'. Said plate F, when in engagement with  
75 said circuit-breaker, forms the metallic or conducting connection medium between the frame of the key and the conducting-wire secured at the binding-post E.

The anvil I is insulated from the base of the key by washers *b b<sup>2</sup>*, which washers also form,  
80 as before stated, together with the washers *b' b<sup>3</sup>*, insulators to separate the spring-plate F from the base A.

The binding-post E is formed, essentially, of five parts—viz., the headed screw G, provided  
85 with a hollow screw-threaded socket, *c*, a security-screw, *e*, and a fixed nut, *d*, the clamping-nut *f*, and the washer *i*. The screw-threads of screw G are cut away on one side in line with the axis, and the washer *f* is correspondingly formed, so  
90 that said washer will have no movement about its axis while being clamped to place upon the line-wire.

The screw G is formed with a head to prevent the displacement and loss of the clamp-  
95 ing-nut and washer immediately beneath the latter. The screw G is secured to place on the frame A by a screw, *e*, which is driven into the bottom of said screw G.

Having thus described our invention, what 100



we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

5 1. In a telegraph-key, the insulated spring-plate F, secured to the frame A by the screw G of the binding-post E, and the anvil-headed bolt H, in combination with the lever D and frame A, as and for the purpose specified.

2. The anvil I, forming the head of the bolt H, in combination with the plate F and frame  
10 A, as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing as our own we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM H. PRENTICE.  
SAMUEL H. BECKWITH.

Witnesses:

E. D. HONE,  
JOHN H. HOUSE.