

(No Model.)

J. MOORE.
MAIL BAG FASTENER.

No. 291,384.

Patented Jan. 1, 1884.

Fig. 1.

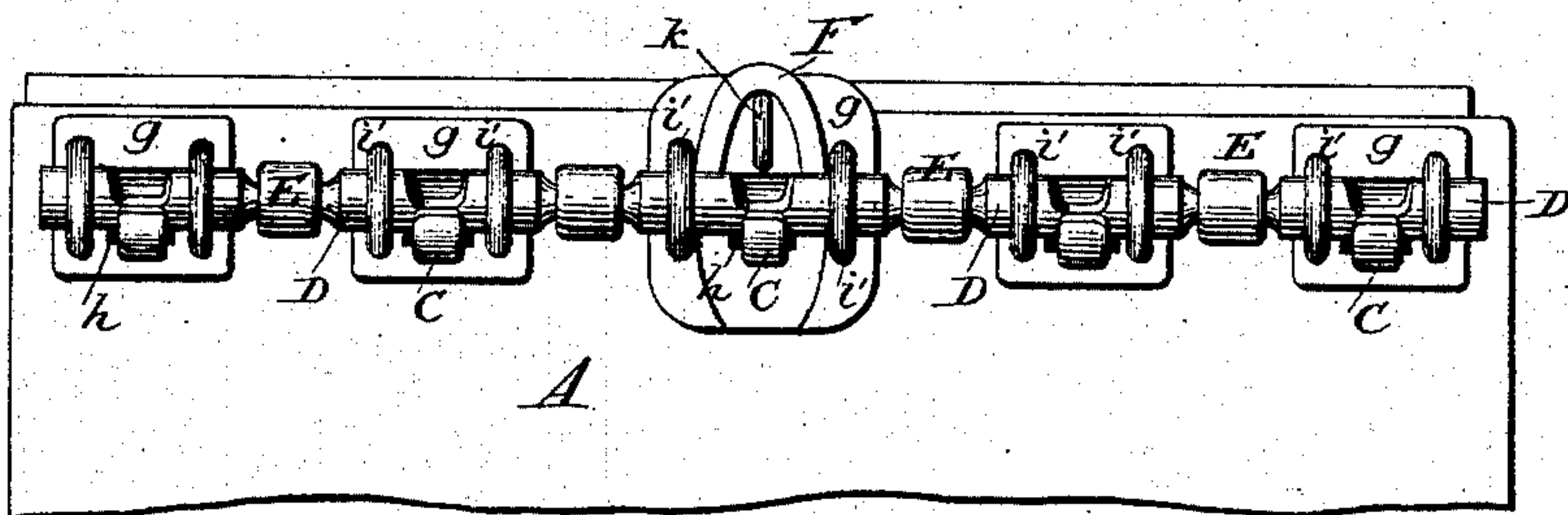


Fig. 2.

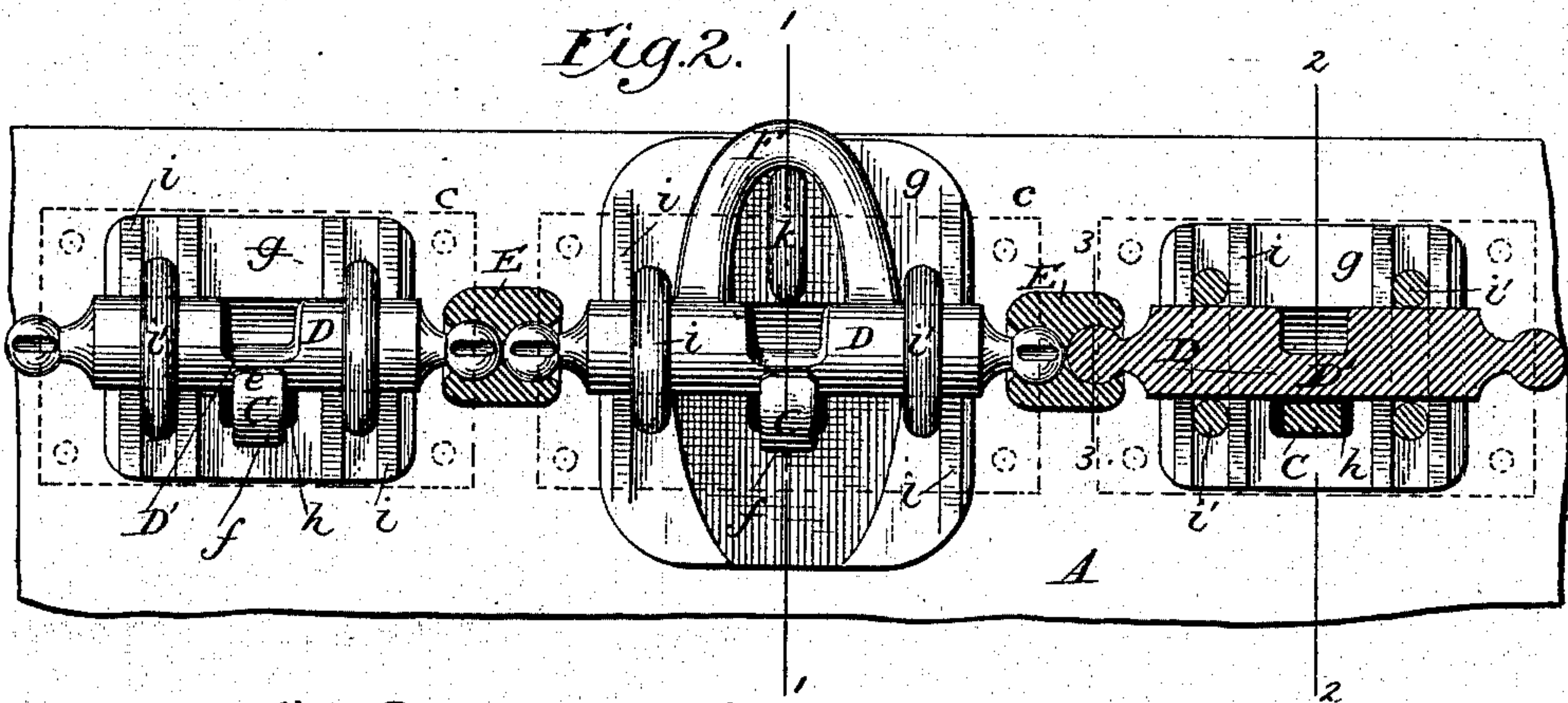


Fig. 3.

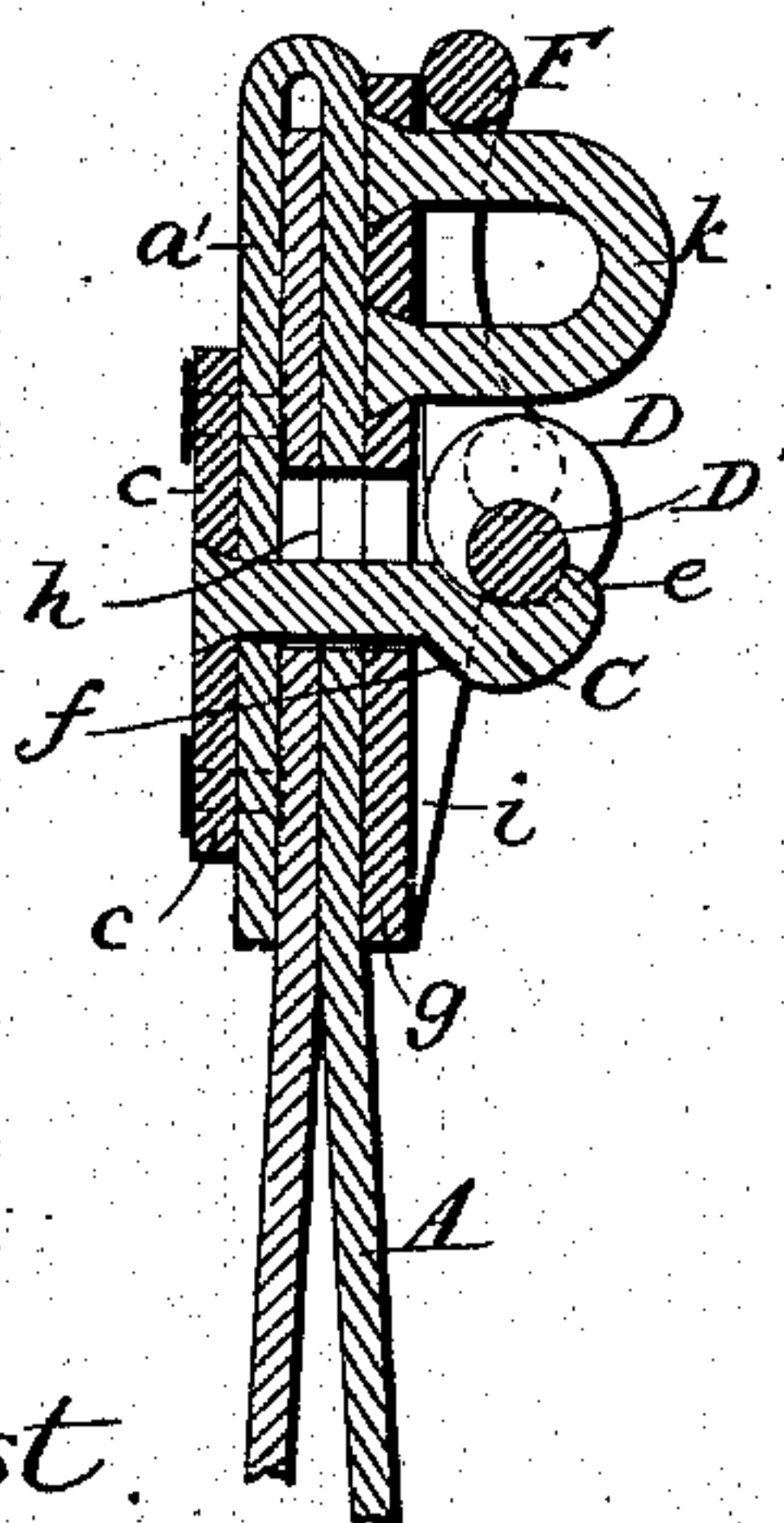


Fig. 4.

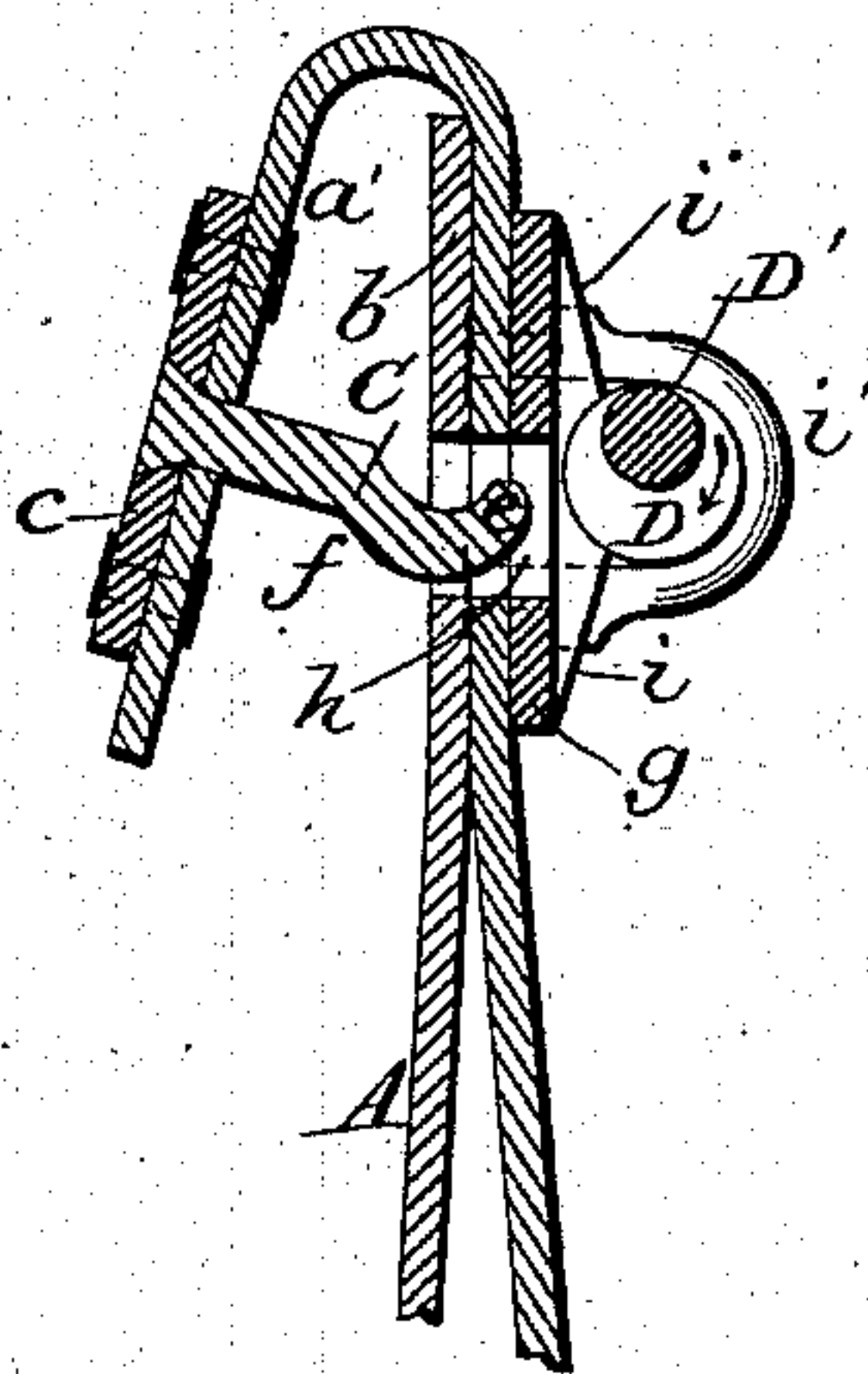


Fig. 5.

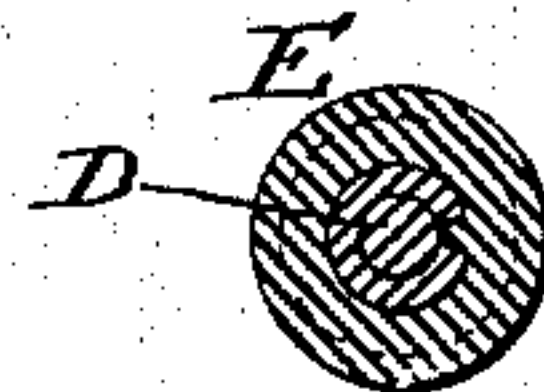


Fig. 6.

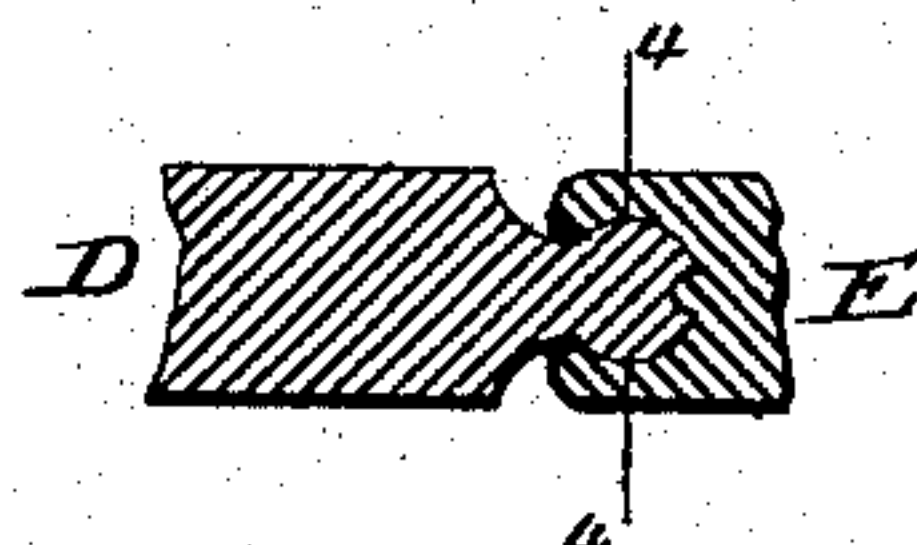


Fig. 7.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MAIL-BAG FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 291,584, dated January 1, 1884.

Application filed December 18, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JACOB MOORE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Albany, in the county of Albany and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fastenings for Mail-Bags, of which the following is a full and clear description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of the same.

My invention relates to a flexible metallic linked bar-fastening for mail-bags, in which a series of bar-links, each held in bearings made with attaching-plates, are connected in a flexible manner, and adapted to be rotated so as to throw a section of the same into engagement with catches secured to a flap, or release from the same.

The object of my invention is to produce and provide mail-bags with a flexible metallic fastening, which by a single movement will be adapted to engage with several catches set at intervals apart at the mouth of the bag, whereby the mouth of the bag will readily be securely closed, or be opened by a single reversed movement by means of the devices hereinafter described.

I attain my object by means of the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a side view of the mouth end of the bag embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a plan view of my improved device in locking position, and with parts shown in sectional view. Fig. 3 is a sectional elevation taken at line No. 1 in Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken at line No. 2 in Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a sectional view taken at line No. 3 in Fig. 2, at the universal-joint coupling. Fig. 6 is a sectional view of a modified form of joint-connection; and Fig. 7 is a cross sectional view of the same, taken at line No. 4 in Fig. 6.

The same letters of reference indicate similar parts throughout the several views.

In the drawings, A represents the mail-bag, made of leather or fabric. *a* is the front side portion of the mouth of the bag. *b* is the rear side portion of the same, and *a'* is the closing-flap.

Secured by rivets to flap *a'* is a series of plates, *c c*, as shown by full lines in Figs. 3 and 4 and indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 2,

which plates are preferably set at about one-quarter of one inch apart.

Firmly secured to each of said plates *c* is a duplex catch, C, which catch passes through flap *a'* and projects inward toward the sides *b* and *a* of the mouth of the bag, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. The said catch is made with two holding-lips, *e* and *f*, the former with a concave form of lip, having its curvature of catching-surface made to conform with that of the locking piece or eccentric, hereinafter described, and the latter with an angular lip at the neck of the catch, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4.

Firmly secured to the upper end of side *a* of the bag is a series of plates, *g*, corresponding in number with plates *c*.

Made at the middle of the length of each said plate *g* are apertures *h*, of a size corresponding with the size of duplex catches C, so that the latter will readily pass through the former.

Mounted on plates *g* are locking-bars D D, which bars are held in position by means of rib-bearings *i i*, cast solid with plates *g* and the staple-bearing *i'*, as shown in Figs. 2, 3, and 4. The said locking-bars are each made with a cylindrical form of body, so as to be adapted to be freely turned in its bearings, at the will of the operator. Made in said locking-bar at its middle of length, and at a place opposite to opening *h* in plate *g*, is a reduced portion, D', arranged relatively eccentric to the axis of said locking-bar, as shown in Figs. 2, 3, and 4, so that when said bar is turned the said eccentric portion will be made to change positions, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. The staple-bearings *i' i'* have their ends made with sufficient length to pass through plate *g* and leather *a*, and receive a washer or burr, and be riveted so that said plate *g* will be secured to the portion *a* of the bag, shoulders being provided at the foot of each leg of the staple-bearing for bearing on plate *g*, as shown. The locking-bars D are arranged in a line, each across its plate *g*, with its axial line coinciding with those of the others, and are each connected with its neighboring locking-bar by means of a universal-joint connection made with any known form, which will produce between said bars a flexible connection, E, and at the same time cause the whole number of said bars to be

simultaneously turned in their bearings when one of them is moved around in its bearings.

In Figs. 2 and 5 one form of such universal-joint connection or flexible coupling is shown, and in Figs. 6 and 7 another form is illustrated, which forms are so well known as not to require particular description. Other forms of flexible coupling may be employed, if preferred, the main object being to provide between the locking-bars a flexible connection which will allow the bag to be bent sidewise or curved in either direction, as the conditions of situation might require, and at the same time so hold each said bar in such a connection with its neighboring bar or bars as will enable each bar to impart a rotary movement to the others when it is turned in its bearings.

Made with the middle one of the series of locking-bars D, preferably, is a hasp, F, having its ends connected with bar D, and sufficiently spread so as to slightly touch the inner edges of staple-bearings *i*, as shown in Fig. 2, when said bar will be held from shifting endwise in its bearings, while at the same time the said hasp operates as a means by which the series of locking-bars will be turned in the bearings in either direction.

Secured to the middle plate, *g*, is staple *k*, over which hasp F closes when the bars D D are turned to a locking position. The staple *k* projects outward to a distance sufficient to receive the bow of a padlock for securing the hasp down in place and holding the locking-bars in locking positions and from being turned open.

When it is desired to close the bag and securely lock its sides of mouth together, the operator, after turning hasp F from position shown by full lines to that shown by dotted lines in Fig. 3, causes the several duplex catches C made with flap *a'* to enter into apertures *h*, when the hasp F will be turned from position shown by dotted lines to that of full lines in Fig. 3. By this movement the several locking-bars D will be simultaneously turned in their respective bearings, and the eccentrics D' will be thrown into engagement with the curved lips *e* of catch C, and the angular catching-lip *f* will be forced into engagement with the marginal edge of apertures *h*, all as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. It will therefore be seen that

by a single movement the operator will lock the two sides of the mouth of the bag together, and by a reverse movement unlock the same, and that when locked together the two sides will be held together at several points in their extension of width.

This fastening is so flexible that the conjoined sides of the mouth will be adapted to be readily bent in either direction, each of the locking-bars of the series outward past the middle one being adapted to slide in its bearings, so as to allow a bending of the sides as condition of situation of the bag may require.

It will also be observed that the sides of the mouth of the bag is so closely locked against each other at points at short intervals apart that it is impossible for a hand or an instrument to be inserted in the mouth of the bag for access to the interior.

Having described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a bag-fastener, the locking-bar D, provided with eccentric holding-piece D', held in bearings secured to one side of the mouth of the bag, in combination with catch C, secured with the flap, and adapted to engage with said locking-bar when turned in one direction and be disengaged when turned in an opposite direction, substantially as set.

2. The combination, with a series of flexibly-connected locking-bars which are arranged to be simultaneously turned in bearings secured to one side of a bag for engagement with coacting catches attached to a closing-flap, of hasp F, attached to or made with one of said locking-bars, and staples *k*, adapted to receive the bow of a padlock, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a mail-bag fastener, the combination, with plate *g*, having aperture *h*, and locking-bar D', provided with eccentric piece D, and rotated in bearings, of duplex catch C, provided with holding-lips *e* and *f*, for operation substantially as set forth.

JACOB MOORE.

Witnesses:

CALVIN SHAFFER,
JAMES K. SHATTUCK.