

(No Model.)

J. B. MURRAY.

MAIL BAG.

No. 296,704.

Patented Apr. 8, 1884.

Fig. 6.

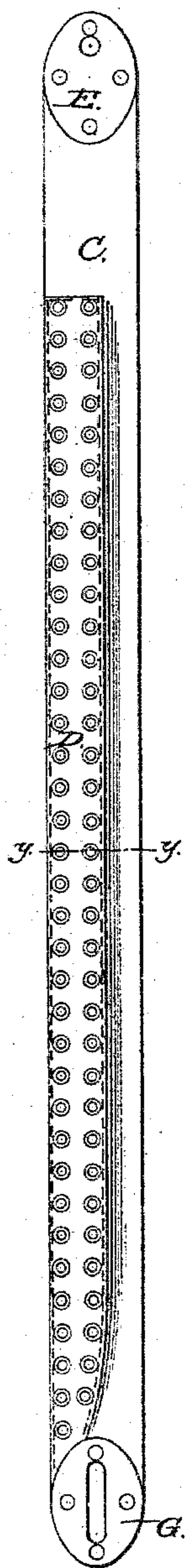


Fig. 1.

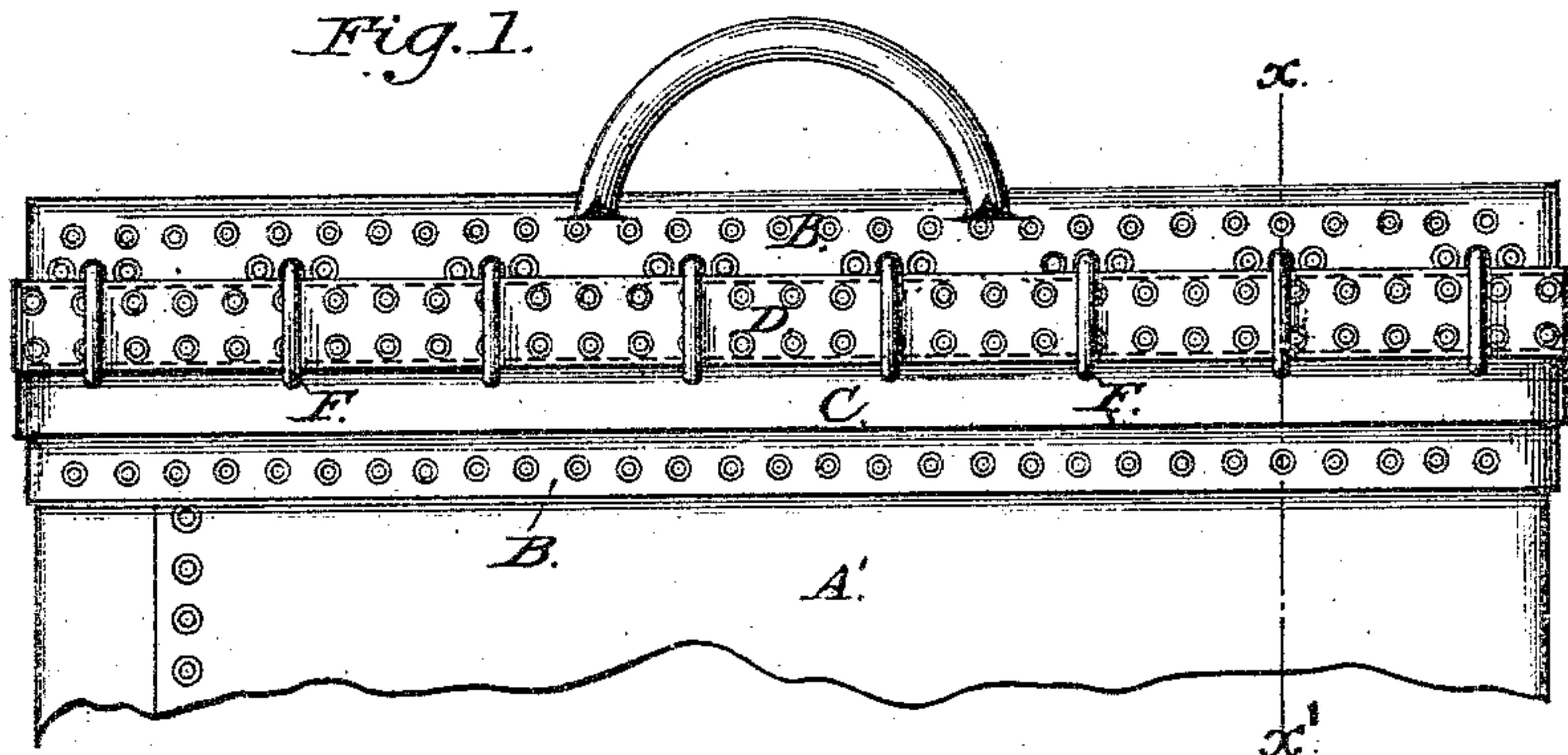


Fig. 2.

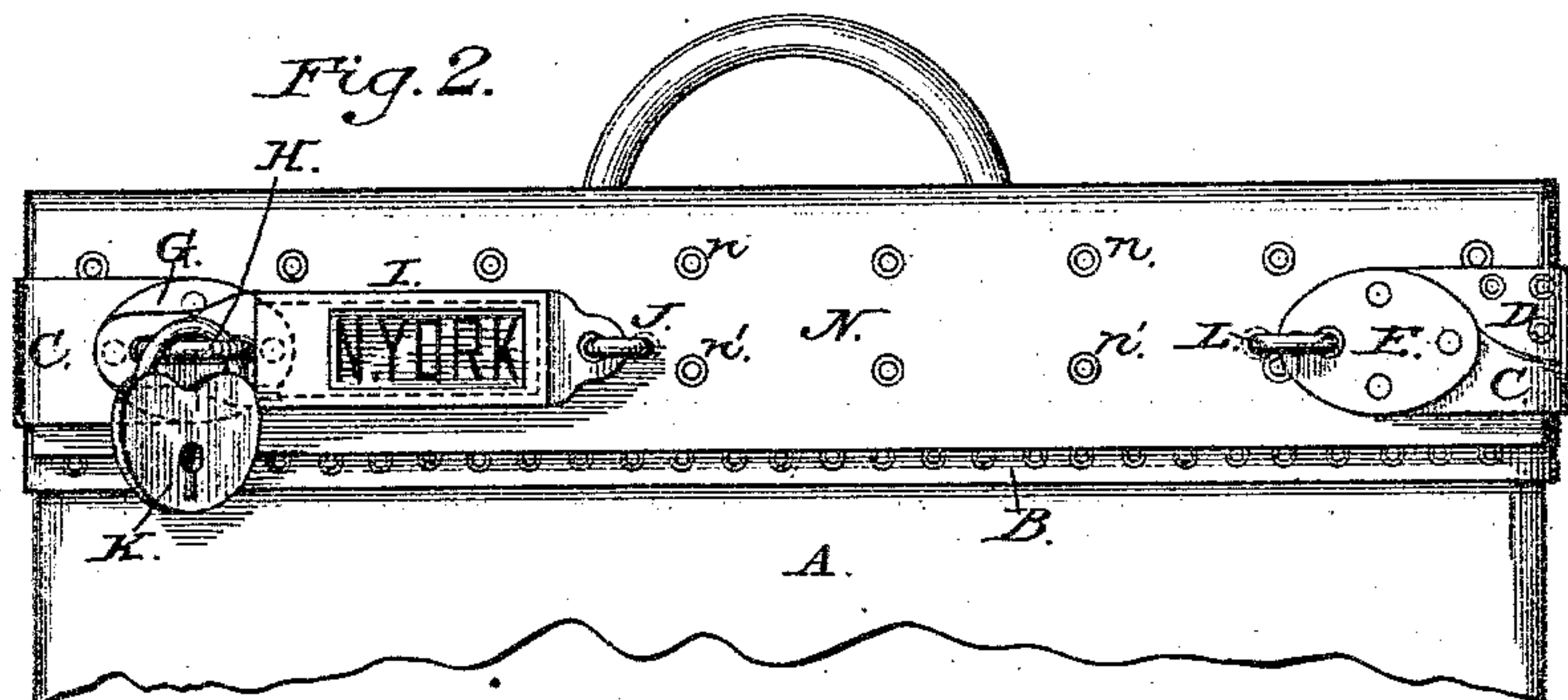
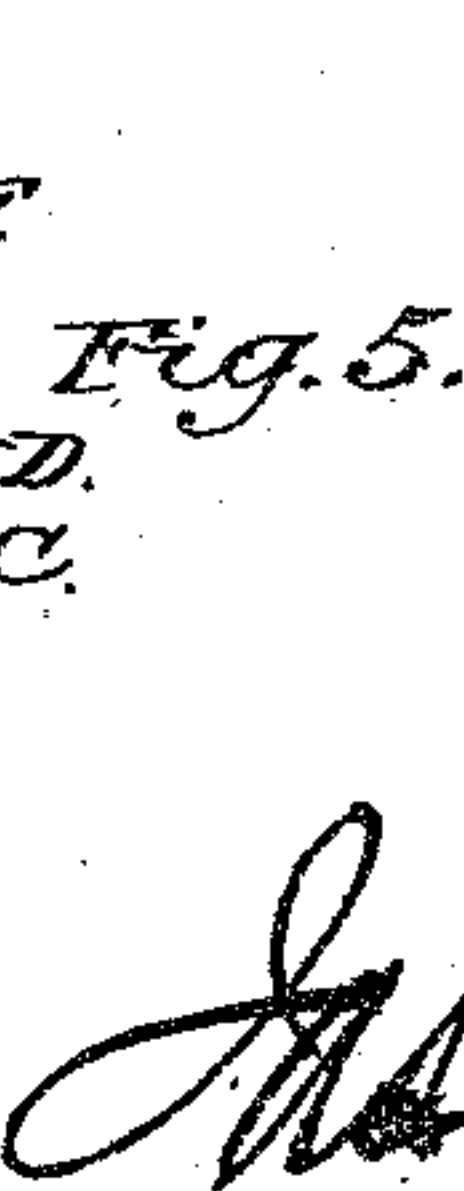
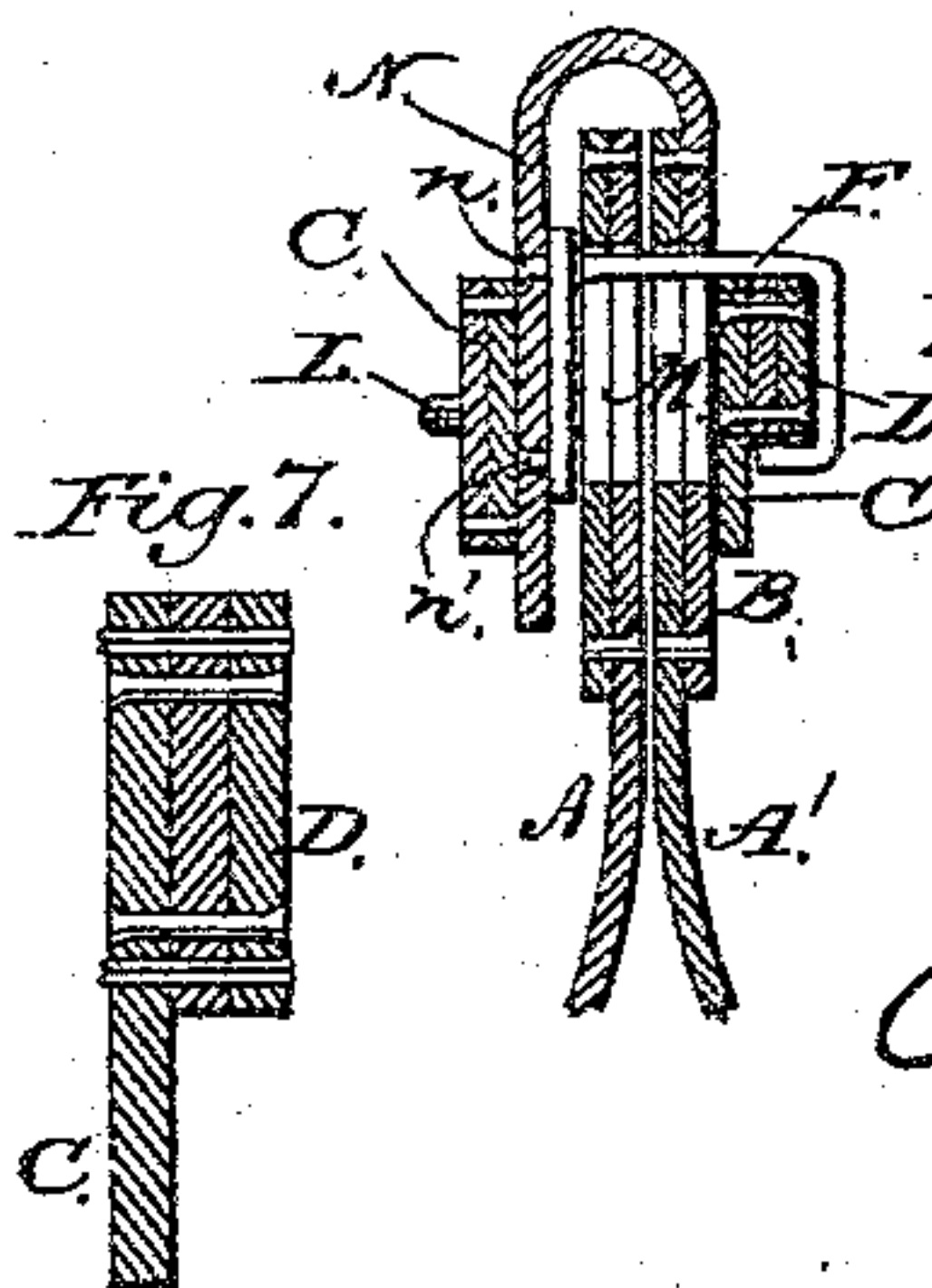
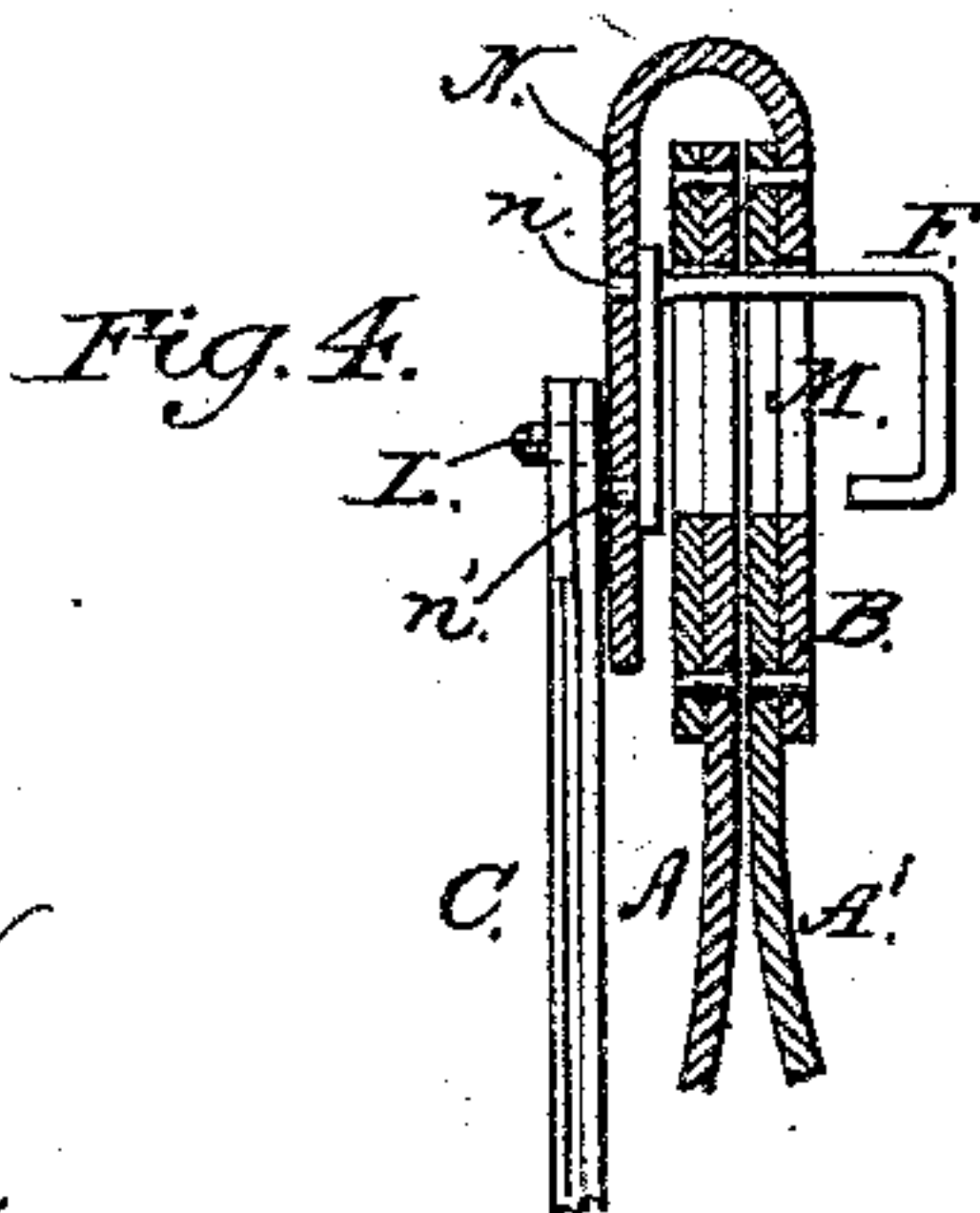
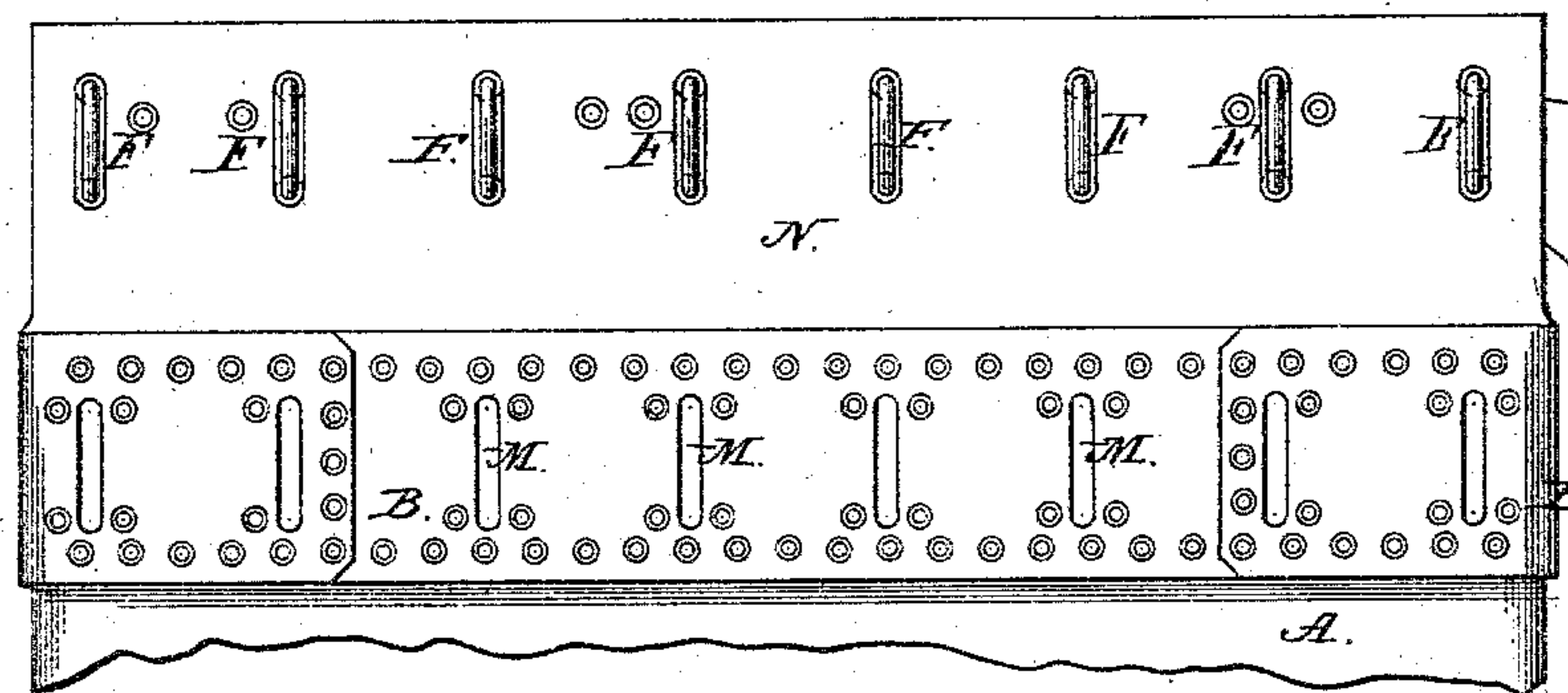


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

John A. Ellis.  
J. A. Mudd

Inventor:

J. B. Murray.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES B. MURRAY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## MAIL-BAG.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 296,704, dated April 8, 1884.

Application filed March 5, 1884. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES B. MURRAY, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Mail-Bags, of which the following is a full, true, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

The object of my invention is to make a bag suitable for carrying the mails or for other purposes which may by simple mechanism be securely closed and opened, and yet to preserve substantially the flexibility of the bag.

That which is new in my invention will be specified in the claims hereto attached.

In my drawings, Figure 1 represents a rear view of the top of the bag; Fig. 2, a like front view; Fig. 3, a front view of the top of the bag when opened; Fig. 5, a sectional view of Fig. 1 at  $x x'$ ; Fig. 4, the same sectional view with the strap withdrawn; Fig. 6, an enlarged view of the strap, and Fig. 7 a sectional view of the strap at  $y y$ .

A represents the front of the bag, and A' the rear. The bag may be constructed of leather, canvas, or any other suitable material; and I remark that my invention may be used as saddle-bags. The bag may be of any suitable form; but the top should be flat when closed.

B represents the doubling or extra thickness of leather or other material, preferably encircling and attached to the top of the bag to protect it from wear. One side of the bag, or preferably of the doubling, may be extended on the rear side into the flap N, to fold over the front of the bag and close its mouth.

F F represent the hooks, preferably attached to the flap, preferably by rivets  $nn'$ , and which, when the bag and the flap folded over it are closed, pass through the slots M M in the top of the bag and project on the rear side sufficiently far to allow the locking-strap C, provided with the flange or strip D, to be drawn under them. These hooks F F are made preferably of steel or chilled iron. Instead of the above arrangement, I remark that the hooks F F may be otherwise attached—as, *e. g.*, where there is no flap to one side of the bag itself, so that when it is closed they will pass through slots on its other side and project; or they may be attached to a flap fastened onto the front of the

bag A, just below the doubling B, and adapted to fold upward over the doubling, and to allow the hooks F F to pass through the slots M M. This strip D may consist of one or more thicknesses of material, and may be fastened to the strap C by rivets or sewing, but preferably by both. The strap C preferably comes enough below the hooks F F to take hold of it in pulling it through, and may be permanently attached to the flap of the bag by the staple L, by rivets, or otherwise.

E and G are metallic plates to guard the slots at each end of the strap C.

I is the usual metallic destination-plate, which may be attached to the flap N by the staple J; but any other destination-card device might be used in its stead.

H is a staple, also attached to the flap N; and K, any suitable padlock.

The hooks F may, if desired, have their front fore arm inclined a little inward, and the slots M may be cut a little larger at the bottom, to diminish the risk of the hooks catching in the bag when being withdrawn. If the sides of the mouth of the open bag, as shown in Fig. 3, be closed together and the flap be now folded forward over the mouth, the hooks F F will pass through the slots M M, and will project in the rear, as shown in Fig. 1, and the locking-strap C may be quickly drawn longitudinally under the hooks F F, its strip or flange D filling up the space within the hooks, and the slotted end of the strap C may be slipped over the staple H, the destination-plate I may be pressed over it, and both may be secured by the padlock K. It will now be readily seen that the bag is securely closed, as until the padlock is unlocked the bag cannot be opened without destroying it, for the side A cannot be withdrawn without breaking the hooks F, and the flap cannot be withdrawn without breaking the hooks or tearing the strip D from the strap C. These are both made of sufficient strength and firmness to resist all usual strains. The bag is readily unlocked, as it has been locked, by simply withdrawing the strap C longitudinally.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, in a bag, of rigid hooks attached to one side of the bag or to a flap,



and adapted, when the bag is closed, to pass through its other side and project, with an independent flexible locking device adapted to be drawn under said projecting hooks, and  
5 thereby prevent the opening of the bag, substantially as described.

2. The combination, in a bag, of rigid hooks attached to one side, adapted, when the bag is closed, to pass through its other side and project, with a flanged locking-strap adapted to  
10 be drawn under said projecting hooks, thereby preventing the opening of the bag, substantially as described.

3. The combination, in a bag provided with  
15 slots near its top, of a flap with rigid hooks attached, adapted, when the bag is closed and the flap folded, to pass through and project beyond the slots, with an independent flexible locking device adapted to be drawn under said

projecting hooks, substantially as and for the 20 purposes described.

4. The combination, in a bag provided with slots near its top, of a flap with rigid hooks attached, adapted, when the bag and flap are closed, to pass through and project beyond the  
25 slots, with a flanged locking-strap, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

5. The bag *a*, provided with the slots *M M*, a flap, *N*, with hooks *F F*, and the locking-strip  
30 *D*, substantially as and for the purposes described.

Signed at New York city, in the county of New York and State of New York, this 3d day of March, A. D. 1884.

JAMES B. MURRAY.

Witnesses:

FRANK M. CLUTE,  
HAYWARD JOHNSTON.