(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

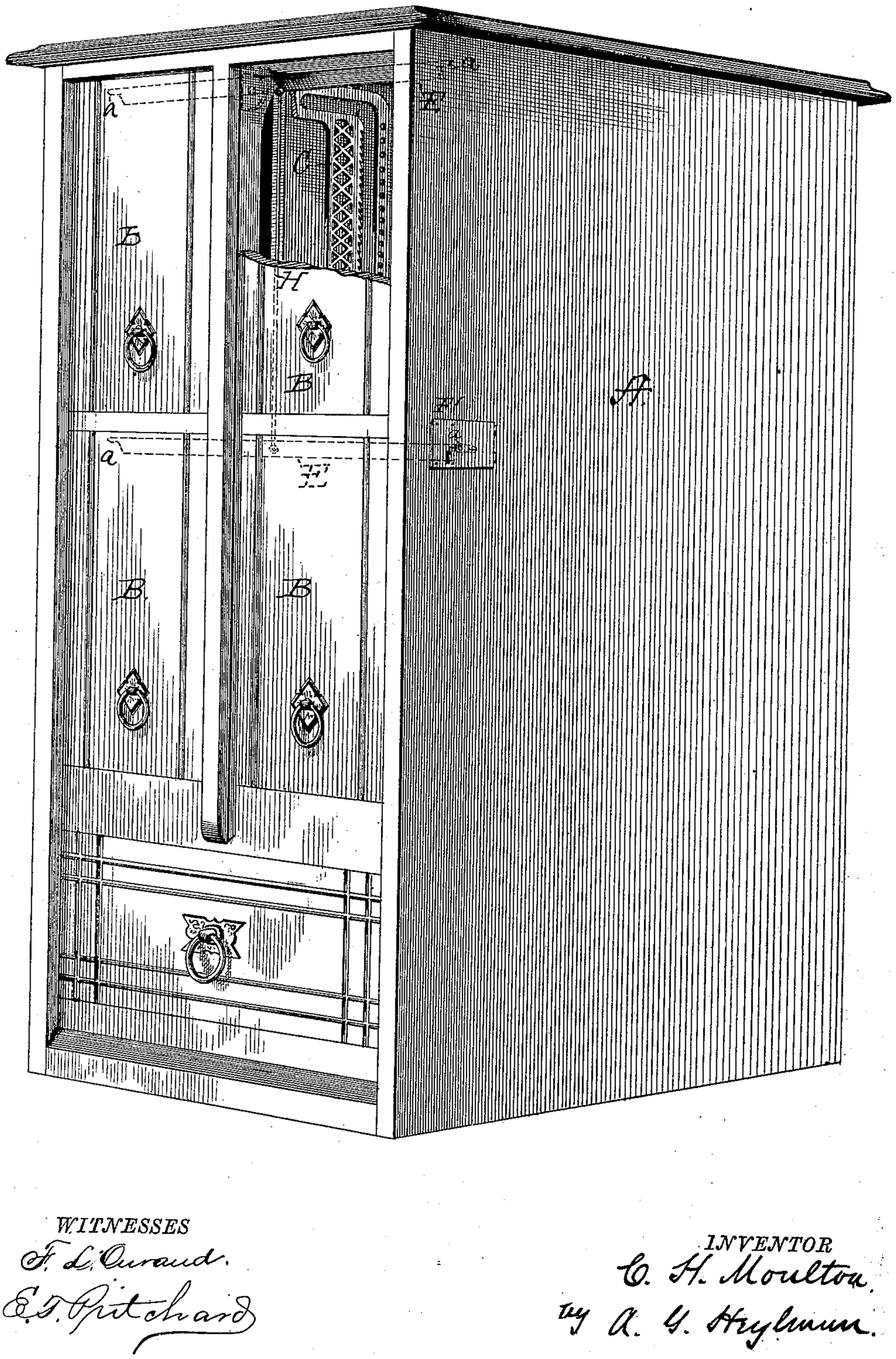
# C. H. MOULTON.

## BILL FILE CASE.

No. 323,877.

Patented Aug. 4, 1885.

Fig. 1




WITNESSES

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(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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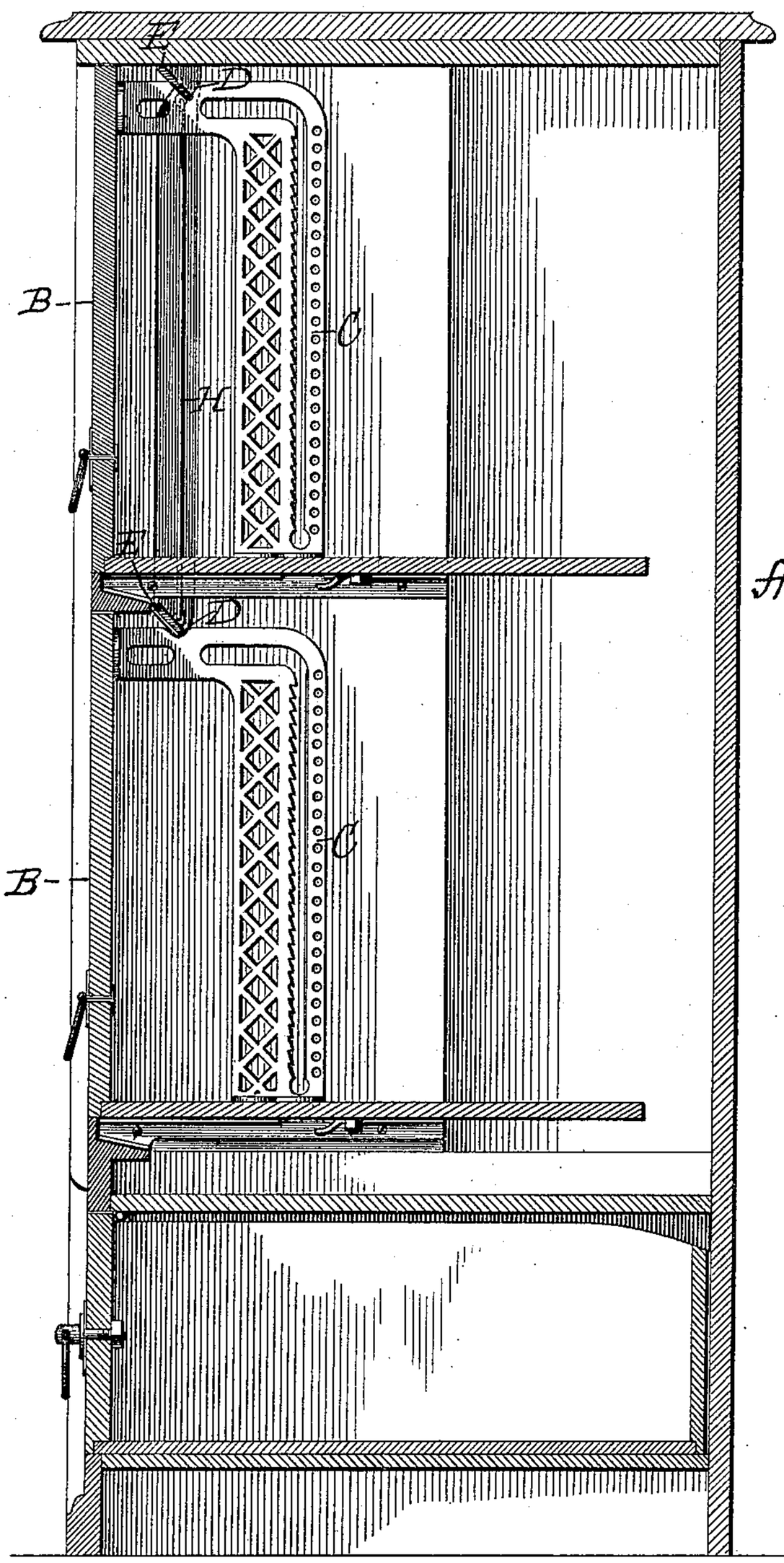


Fig. 2.

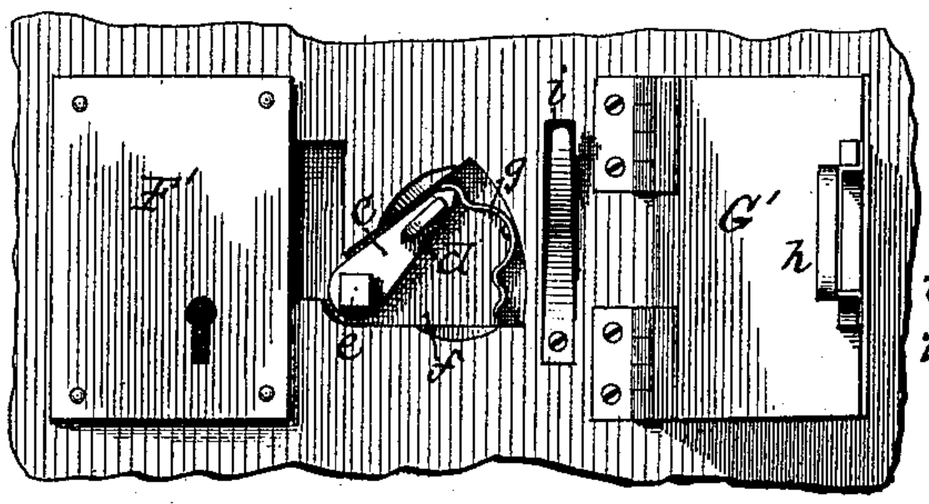


Fig. 3.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES H. MOULTON, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

## BILL-FILE CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 323,877, dated August 4, 1885.

Application filed December 12, 1884. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES H. MOULTON, a citizen of the United States of America, residing in the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bill-File Cases, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in means for locking the file-boxes in the file-case; and the object is to provide means for the purpose stated whereby the file-boxes singly, or in series, or all together, may be securely locked in position in the file-case.

I attain the object of my invention by means of the mechanism hereinafter described, and which I have illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a file-case with file-boxes inserted, one of the latter being shown as having the front broken away to disclose the locking-bar, a lower locking-bar and connecting rod being shown in dotted lines. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the case, taken in the direction of its depth. Fig. 3 is a view of the projecting end of the locking-bar and lever-arm, with the locking device fixed to the side of the file-case.

The letter A designates a file-case. This may be of any of the usual constructions, forming a series of pigeon-holes or file-box receptacles.

The letters B designate file-boxes fitted to the openings of the file-case. These file-boxes may be made with any form of side pieces or side walls; but I have shown them as having metallic side pieces of a well-known construction, wherein the standard secured to the bottom of the file-box runs about parallel to the end board of the box.

I have designated the side pieces of the file-box by the letter C. In the upper or forward leg of each side piece, C, arranged to receive one edge of the locking-bars hereinafter described, I form a notch or indentation, D, which serves as a seat for the locking-bar E, and thus seated it holds the box or boxes securely within the case.

The letters E designate locking-bars. These bars are formed with journals *a*, preferably arranged on a line without the longitudinal center of the bar, in order that the bar may tend to swing to a vertical position in cross-section when left free in the bearings. Bearings are formed in the vertical side walls of the file-case A, and the bars E are longitudinally disposed in the bearings across the upper portions of the pigeon-holes or box-receptacles, and above the height of the side pieces, C, of the file-boxes, so that when the bars are turned up the lowest edge thereof shall not come in contact with the notch or with the edges of the side pieces of the file-boxes B. When a single locking-bar is used, the one end thereof is extended through one of the side walls of the file-case, and thereto is secured a lever-arm, *c*, which may be provided with a finger-piece, *d*, for convenience of manipulation. I have shown the projecting end of the locking-bar in Fig. 3 of the drawings, as designated at *e*, and in the side wall of the case a cut-away portion, as *f*, and therein secured a spring, *g*, formed to engage the end of the lever-arm *c* and hold the bar flat or raised from the notches in the side pieces, C, of the file-boxes, or to retain it in engagement therewith.

When the file-case consists of more than one row of file-box receptacles and file-boxes, a locking-bar, E, is arranged to engage with each longitudinal row of boxes B, the several bars being connected by a vertical rod or link, H, linked or otherwise secured to each bar in succession. In this construction the end of but one locking-bar projects through the side wall, A, of the case, and to this the lever-arm or key *c* is applied, and the whole series of boxes thus may be locked or unlocked by the turning of the one bar.

In case the lever-arm *c* is dispensed with, the projecting end *e* of the locking-bar is formed to receive a key adapted to lift it from locking engagement.

In Fig. 3 I have shown fixed to the side of the file-case a lock, F′, and a hinged plate, G′, carrying the staple *h* to receive the bolt *k* of the lock. The hinged plate closes over the end of the bar D and lever-arm *c*, and being locked in place effectually prevents access to either bar or lever. I have fitted a spring, *i*, in the side of the file-case, which acts to throw back the hinged plate when released from the bar of the lock.

I am aware that a locking mechanism for

drawers, &c., has heretofore been made, consisting of a vertical sliding-bar, located between the side of the drawer and the side of the desk, and provided with inwardly-projecting pins to engage notches formed in the side pieces of the drawer, the sliding bar being operated by a pivoted lever engaging therewith.

I am also aware that side pieces of file-boxes have been made with notches adapted to hold the cross-piece of the follower in engagement.

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

1. In combination with a file-case, a locking-bar extending across the file-box receptacles of the file-case and journaled in the side walls or pieces thereof, and adapted to engage with the file-box by being turned on its axis, substantially as described, and for the purpose stated.

2. In combination with a file-case, a locking-bar extending across the file-box receptacles of the file-case and journaled in the side walls or pieces thereof, and adapted to engage with the file-box by being turned on its axis, and the lever applied to the end of the locking-bar to throw it in and out of engagement with the file-box, substantially as described.

3. In combination with a file-case, a locking-bar mounted to rotate on bearings in the case and extending across the file receptacles therein, and a file-box having its side walls or pieces formed with notches in the outer edges to be engaged with the locking-bars, substantially as described, and for the purpose stated.

4. In combination with a file-case, two or more locking-bars mounted to rotate on bearings in the case and extending across each series of file receptacles therein, a vertical rod pivotally connecting the locking-bars, a multiple of file-boxes formed with notches in the outer edges of their side pieces, and a lever attached to one of the locking-bars, whereby the bars may simultaneously be rotated and thrown in and out of engagement with the file-boxes, substantially as and for the purpose stated.

5. In combination with a file-case and the file-boxes thereof, two or more locking-bars mounted to rotate on bearings in the case and extending across each series of file-receptacles, vertical rods connecting the locking-bars, and a lever attached to one of the locking-bars, whereby the bars may be simultaneously rotated and thrown in or out of engagement with the file-boxes, substantially as described, and for the purpose stated.

6. In combination with a file-case and a file-box formed with notches in the outer edges of its side pieces, a locking-bar mounted on bearings across the file-case and adapted to engage notches in the file-box by being rotated on its axis, means, substantially as described, for turning said bar on its axis, and a lock to hold the bar in engagement with the file-box, substantially as described, and for the purpose stated.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two attesting witnesses.

CHARLES H. MOULTON.

Attest:

EDW. T. PRITCHARD,

J. HEYLMUN.