

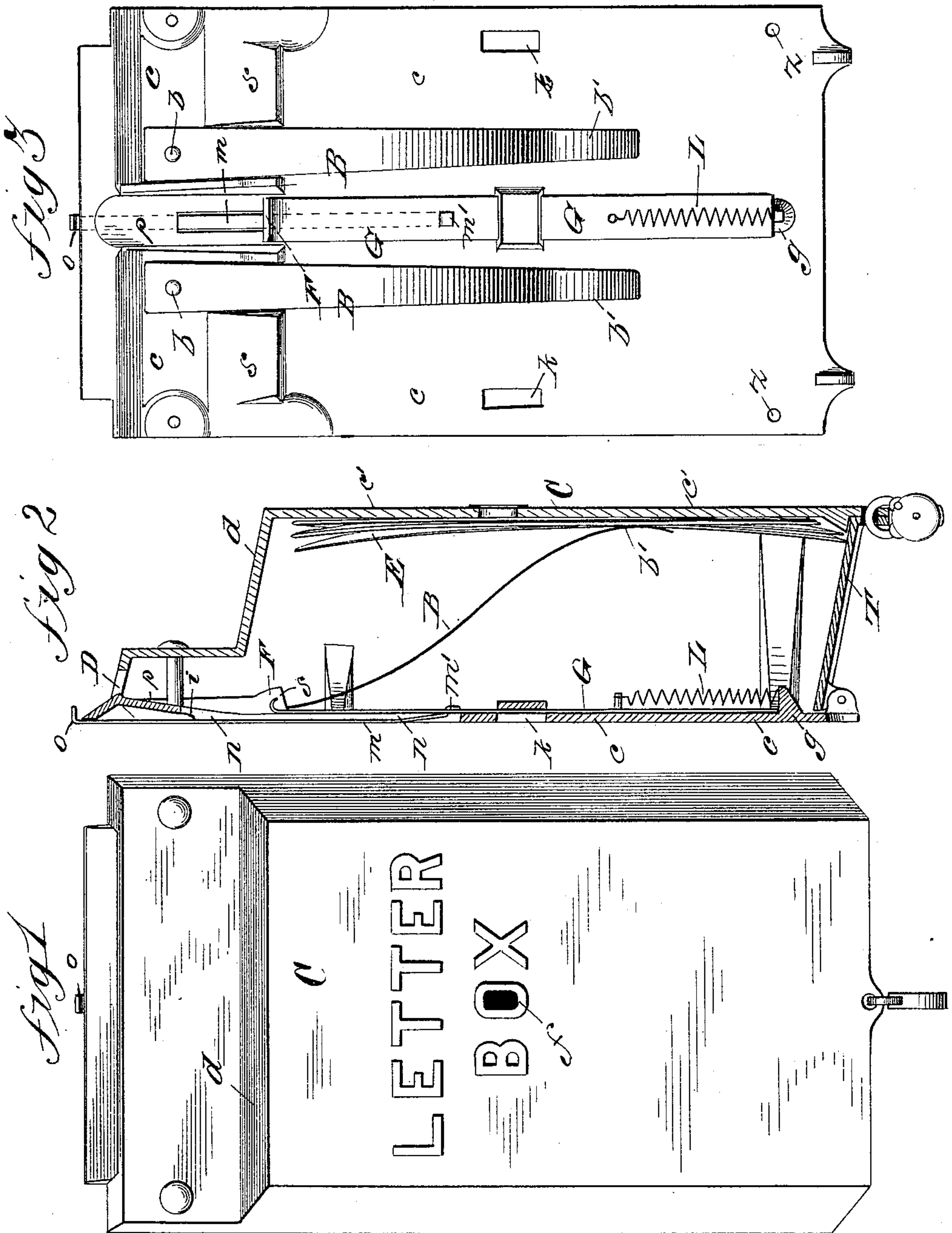
(No Model.)

N. A. & J. W. CADWELL.

LETTER BOX.

No. 326,948.

Patented Sept. 29, 1885.



WITNESSES:

J. D. Garfield

Geo. Tho. Warwick

INVENTORS

N. A. Cadwell
J. W. Cadwell

BY

R. H. Hyde

ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NELSON A. CADWELL AND JONATHAN W. CADWELL, OF SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 326,943, dated September 29, 1885.

Application filed August 18, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, NELSON A. CADWELL and JONATHAN W. CADWELL, citizens of the United States, residing at Springfield, in the county of Hampden and State of Massachusetts, have invented new and useful Improvements in Letter-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in letter-boxes; and it consists in the combination and construction as hereinafter described, and more particularly pointed out in the claims.

Our invention is fully illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which Figure 1 is an outside elevation of the complete box. Fig. 2 is a side elevation with the case in section, and Fig. 3 is a plan view of the rear wall of the box with the rest of the case removed.

B B are strap-springs secured at *b* to the rear wall, *c*, of the box C.

D is the letter-inserting opening, near the wall *c* and removed from the wall *c'*, forming the front of the box.

b' is the free end of a spring, B, bearing, when nothing is in the box, against the wall *c'*.

The strength of spring B is graduated and its inclination adapted, as seen in Fig. 2, to permit a letter dropped through opening D to push it out of the way and take the position between the end *b'* and the wall *c'*, in which vertical position the spring holds a letter, E, as seen in Fig. 2, to prevent the letter from being reached by an extracting-instrument from opening D, and to cause said letter, if hooked, to come against the top cover, *d*, of the box.

The vertical position of all letters E against one wall of the box effectually protects them against moisture having access to the box through opening D, near the wall opposite to which the letters bear.

It is immaterial near which side of the box the opening D is placed, so that the spring B is caused to bear against the opposite one, though we prefer to arrange it as shown in Fig. 2, as by means of a small hole, *f*, in the front wall of the box the presence of mail-matter in the box may be known.

F is a downward-turning hook upon a bar, G, lying against the back of the box *c*, and guided to reciprocate vertically. The bar G

is stopped at its bottom end by a stop, *g*, from wall *c*, and at the end of the vertical rise permitted it by a stop, *i*. An arm, *m*, attached at *m'* to the bar G, passes from said bar to the outside of the box through a slot, *n*, in wall *c*, and the upper end of said slot forms the stop *i*. The arm *m* is extended above the box when the bar G is resting upon stop *g*, and is provided with a handle, *o*.

A surface, *p*, in the upward track of hook F is inclined from above the hook, when in the position shown in Fig. 2, forward to the opening D, so as to bring the hook when prolonged over it across the opening D.

When a letter is inserted through the opening D and its weight is not sufficient to carry it to a vertical position between spring B and wall *c'*, the hook F is by handle *o* pulled up, its downward-curved end carrying it past the edge of the letter, and upon being pushed down the hook F carries the letter between the free end *b'* of the spring and wall *c'* until the spring releases the letter from the hook by bending it therefrom, to be straightened in the position shown in Fig. 2.

The stops *i g* permit the hook-carrying bar G to be operated without care, as, if a letter is only partially within the opening D, the hook F, when extended above the box, is guided by incline *p* to come over its end to be operative to carry it within the box upon the recession of the hook.

By means of a spring, L, from bar G to a fixed part of the box, the bar with its hook F is automatically operated when released to place a letter within the box in position.

In Figs. 2 and 3 a lug, *s*, is shown, cast with a solid back, *c*, and recesses through this lug receive the springs B B and prevent them from having any lateral movement, and also assist in guiding the hook F in its movement.

The box is secured in position to the door or wall to which it is fastened by being hooked over hooks from said wall coming opposite elongated openings K K in wall *c*. The box being hooked is lowered to be inclosed between the hook ends and the surface from which the hooks project, and when so lowered is bolted to the same surface through the holes *z z* by bolts inserted from the interior of the box when its door T is open, so that

when the bottom to the box formed by door T is closed and secured there is no means of removing the box except by breaking it or its fastenings. By these means we provide a strong letter-box which cannot be picked and in which the letters are protected from the weather.

Now, having described our invention, what we claim is—

- 10 1. The within-described improvement in letter-boxes, consisting of a case adapted to hold a number of letters and having a slit, D, in its top near its rear wall, springs B B, attached to the wall beneath slit D and adapted, 15 substantially as shown and described, to have their free ends bear against the front wall of the case, and a hook-bearing slide, G, provided with an operating-handle, as o, and adapted to be reciprocated between said 20 springs to have its hook catch over and bear

a letter to a position between the springs and wall c', as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In a letter-box, a letter-holding case having a slit, D, in its top near its rear wall, springs B B, attached to the wall beneath slit D and having their free ends bear against the front wall of the case, a hook-bearing slide, G, provided with an operating-handle, as o, and adapted to reciprocate between said springs, to catch over a letter and bear it to a position between them and wall c', as shown and described, and a spring, L, operatively connected to slide G, to return it, with its hook, when released by the hand, all combined and operating as and for the purpose set forth. 25 30

NELSON A. CADWELL,
JONATHAN W. CADWELL.

Witnesses:

H. F. HYDE,
J. D. GARFIELD.