

(No Model.)

H. MORTON.
KEEPER FOR KNOB LATCHES.

No. 333,022.

Patented Dec. 22, 1885.

Fig. 1.

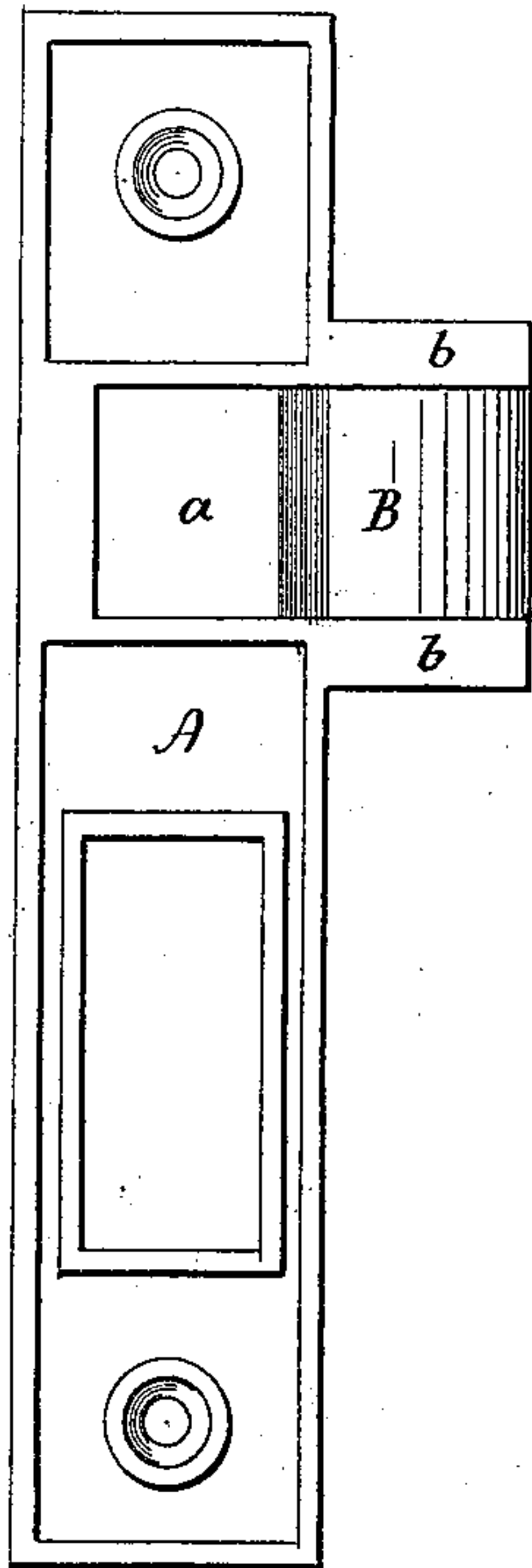


Fig. 2.

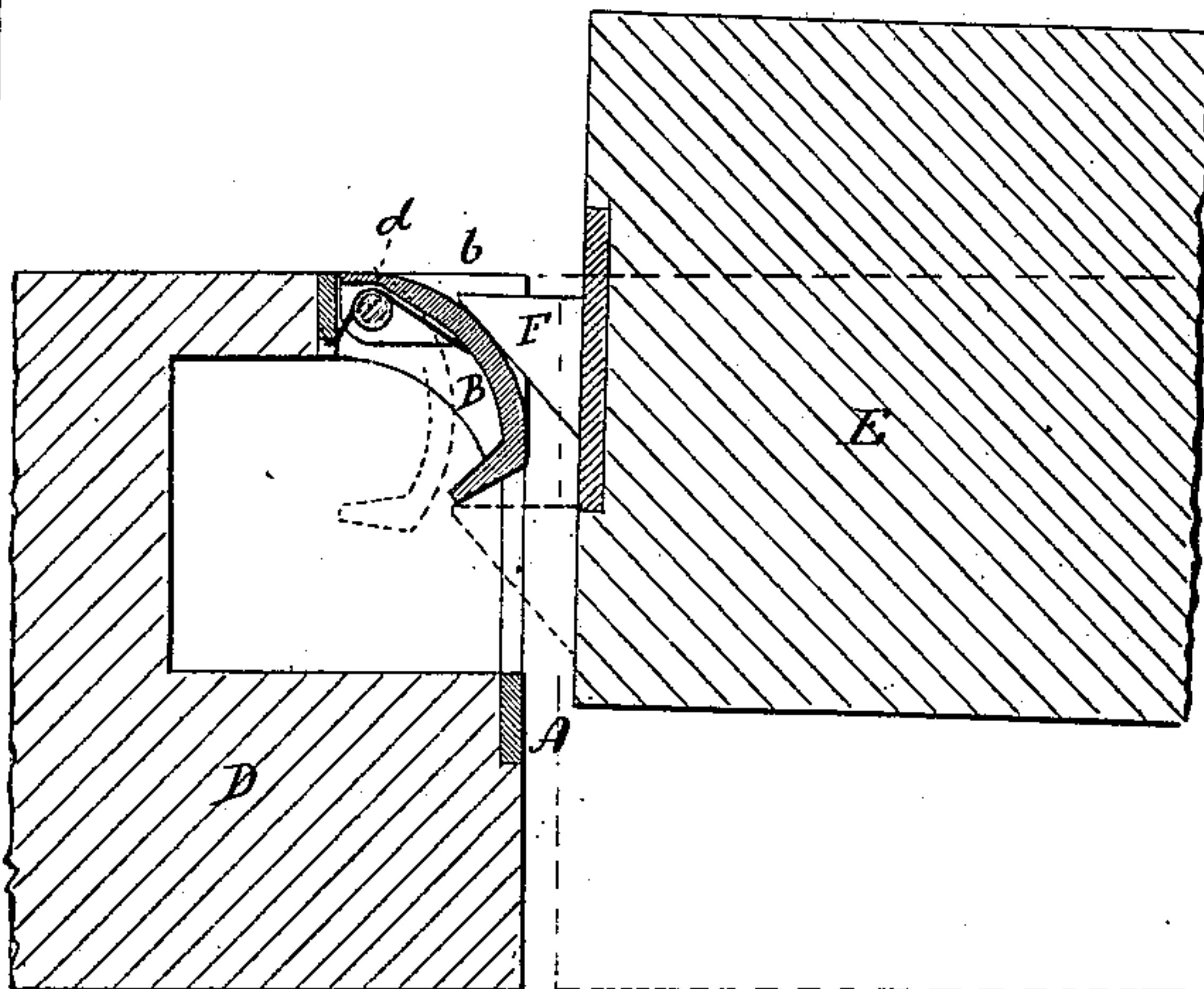


Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.

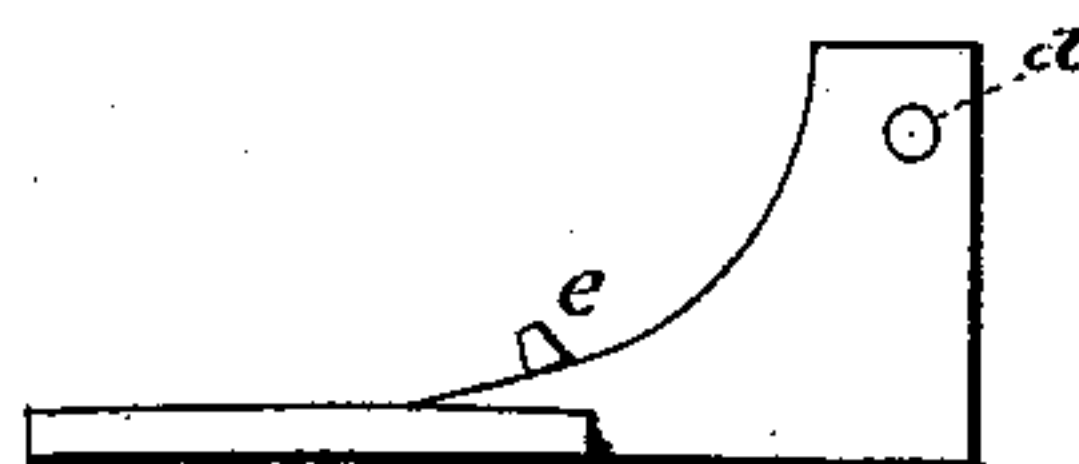
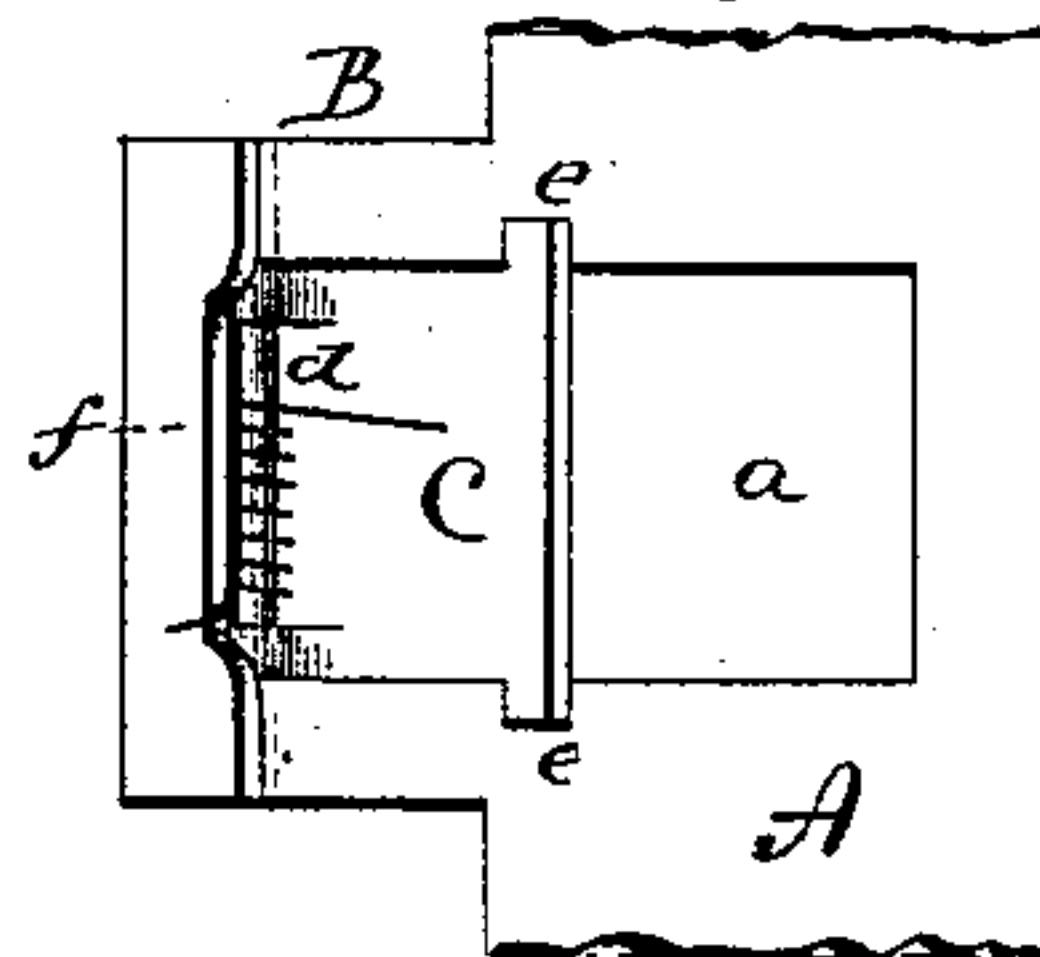


Fig. 3.



Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY MORTON, OF BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO THE BRANFORD LOCK WORKS, OF SAME PLACE.

KEEPER FOR KNOB-LATCHES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 333,022, dated December 22, 1885.

Application filed October 5, 1885. Serial No. 178,969. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY MORTON, of Branford, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented a new Improvement in Keepers for Knob-Latches; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in—

Figure 1, a face view of the keeper complete; Fig. 2, a horizontal section through the strike as applied to the jamb, showing the door in the closing position with the bolt upon the strike; Fig. 3, a rear view of the strike; Fig. 4, a front edge view of the keeper; Fig. 5, a top or plan view of the same.

This invention relates to an improvement in keepers for knob-latches, in which the latch-bolt is adapted to be drawn into the case by the means of knobs or other suitable handle and thrown out by a spring. It is desirable that the spring should be stiff, in order to give proper resistance to the knob or thumb-piece; but, it being so stiff, renders the door difficult to close without mechanically withdrawing the latch-bolt.

Several devices have been arranged to relieve the latch-bolt, and are commonly known as "anti-friction latches."

The object of this invention is to construct a keeper that can be used with an ordinary knob-latch, practically making it an anti-friction latch; and it consists in extending the latch-bolt opening through the side of the plate, and the plate constructed with an ear above and below said opening, combined with a strike hung between said ear, the said strike adapted to swing backward from the plane of the plate, and provided with a stop to arrest and support the strike in its out or normal position, and a spring to return and hold it in its said normal position, as hereinafter described.

A represents the plate of the keeper; *a*, the opening for the latch-bolt, and extends through the side of the plate.

b b represent ears, one above and the other below said opening *a*. Between the ears *b b* the strike B is pivoted at *d*, and adapted to swing in said opening backward from the

plane of the plate, as shown in broken lines, Fig. 2, and constructed with a stop, *e*, to prevent it swinging outward beyond the face of the plate.

C is a spring around the pivot *d*, adapted to hold the strike in its normal or out position, but to yield to allow the latch-bolts to pass into the keeper.

D represents the jamb of a door, E the door, and F the latch-bolt. In closing the door the latch-bolt F strikes the strike B, forcing it inward, as shown in broken lines, Fig. 2, until the latch-bolt has passed in beyond the strike. Then the strike, under the action of its spring, will return to its former position behind the latch-bolt, securely holding it in place, and so that the bolts must be withdrawn in the usual manner to escape the keeper.

It will readily be seen that with this device the latch-spring may be very stiff without increasing the friction on the keeper.

The strike-spring may be so light as to offer very little resistance to the bolt in closing the door.

The stops *e* may be omitted and the ends of the ears *b b* connected by a bar, *f*, as shown in Fig. 3, and the edge of the strike adapted to stop against said bar.

I am aware that a keeper has been constructed with the strike hung therein to yield for the entrance of the latch-bolt and to catch the latch-bolt when so entered, and do not, therefore, broadly claim such a keeper, such a construction not being adapted to mortise-latches, for which this invention is specially designed.

I claim—

The herein-described keeper for latches, consisting of the plate A, constructed with the latch-opening *a* extending through its side, and with ears *b b* extending outward above and below said opening, combined with the strike B, hung between the ears *b b* upon pivots outside the latch-opening, and adapted to swing therein, provided with a stop to support and a spring to yieldingly hold the strike in its normal position, substantially as described.

HENRY MORTON.

Witnesses:

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