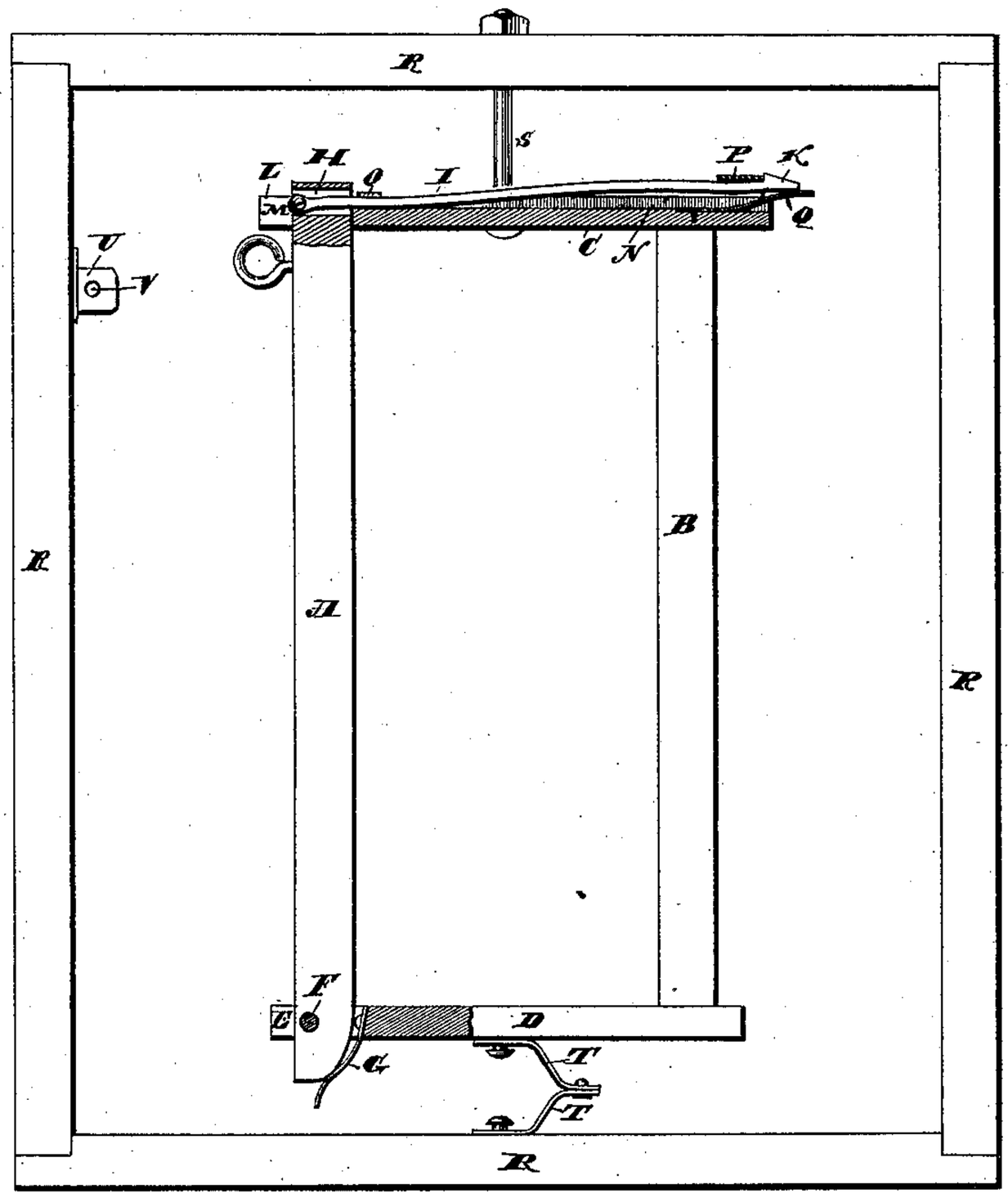
(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

D. Y. CLARK.

STANCHION.

No. 376,069. Patented Jan. 10, 1888.

Fig. 1



Witnesses:
Chas. B. Shumway
Edward H. Rogers.

Inventor
David Y. Clark,
By Geo. W. Seymour,
Atty.

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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FIG. 2

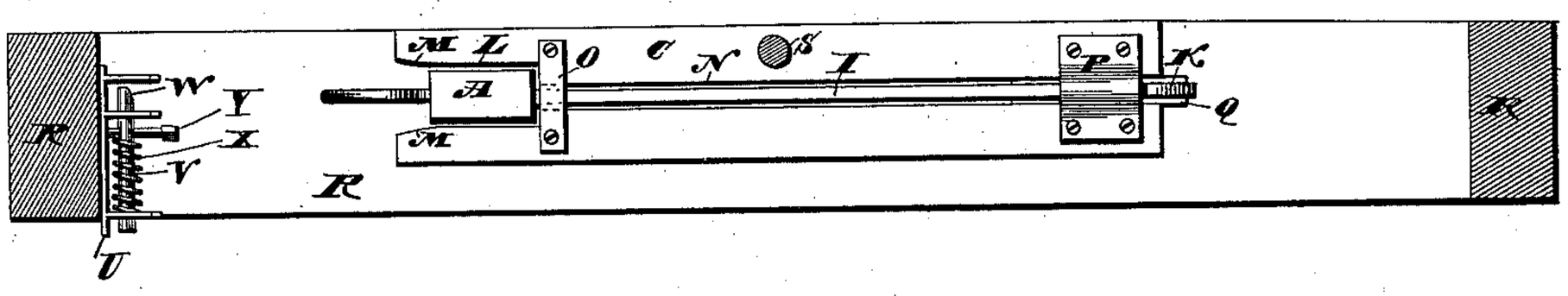
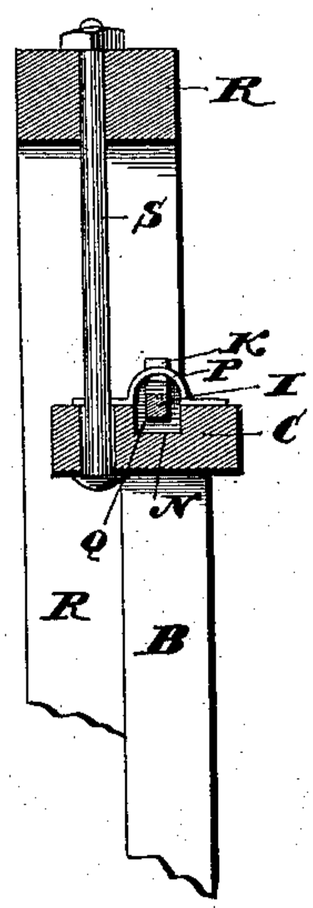


FIG. 3



WITNESSES:
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INVENTOR
David Y. Clark.
By Geo. D. Seymour.
Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID Y. CLARK, OF BRISTOL, CONNECTICUT.

STANCHION.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 376,069, dated January 10, 1888.

Application filed March 5, 1887. Serial No. 229,776. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID Y. CLARK, residing at Bristol, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stanchions; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in stanchions, the object being to produce an automatically-closing device of superior convenience and combining simplicity and cheapness of construction with durability and efficiency in use.

With these ends in view my invention consists in certain details of construction and combinations of parts, as will be hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a view, partly in vertical section and partly in elevation, of a stanchion embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a detached plan view of the stanchion, and Fig. 3 is a view in transverse vertical section of the upper cross-bar thereof.

The stanchion proper consists of a pivotal upright, A, a stationary upright, B, an upper cross-bar, C, and a lower cross-bar, D. The lower end of the said pivotal upright enters a slot, E, formed in the adjacent end of the cross-bar D, which carries a bolt, F, upon which the said upright is fulcrumed, and a stiff spring, G, extending downward through the said slot and engaging with the projecting lower end of the upright and exerting a constant effort to throw the upper end thereof inward in the direction of the stationary upright. The upper end of the said pivotal upright is provided upon its outer face with an eye, H, and through said end with a horizontal aperture, H, in which is pivoted a horizontal metallic latch-bar of sufficient length to extend to the opposite end of the upper cross-bar, slightly bowed from end to end, and provided at its free end with a latch-head, K, as shown. The said upper cross-bar is provided with a slot, L, having beveled walls M, to guide the pivoted upright into the same, with a groove end for receiving and guiding the bar I, extending from the slot L to the opposite end of the cross-bar, a transverse latch-bar guard, O, located adjacent to the said slot, a locking-plate, P, located at the opposite end of the bar and bent to receive the latch-bar and its head, and with a latching-spring, Q, located beneath the said plate and operating to automatically engage and lock the latch-head therewith.

The stanchion is suspended from the upper beam of a suitable stanchion-frame, R, by a bolt, S, passing through the upper cross-bar at a point midway of the length of the same. The lower connection of the stanchion and stanchion-frame consists of two two-armed sheet-metal angle-plates, T T, pivoted together and to the lower cross-bar of the stanchion and to the corresponding bar of the frame.

A snap-bolt of approved construction is mounted in the stanchion-frame in position to engage with the eye H of the stanchion when it is desired to hold the pivotal upright of the same in its open position. As herein shown, the snap-bolt consists of the frame U, the bolt V, having the beveled nose W, the spiral spring X, and the finger-piece Y, for retracting the bolt against the tension of the spring.

Having fully detailed the construction of my improvement, I will now set forth the mode of its operation.

To open the stanchion the latch-head K is pressed down against the latching-spring Q with one hand and the head disengaged from the locking-plate P, leaving the pivotal upright A free to be rocked on its fulcrum F, whereby the stanchion is opened. Then, if it is desired to lock the stanchion open, the eye H is pressed against the beveled nose W of the bolt V, which will retire and spring forward again, when it will pass through the eye. To release the upright from this engagement the bolt is withdrawn from the eye by means of the finger-piece Y, when the spring G operates at once to throw the upright back to its normal position in the slot L, being guided by the latch-bar traveling in the groove N, which it never leaves entirely, and by the beveled walls M of the slot. Just as the pivotal bar reaches its upright or closed position the latch-head passes through the locking-plate P, and is lifted into engagement therewith by the latching-spring Q, which thus automatically locks the stanchion closed. It is to be noted that as the pivotal upright is rocked back upon its fulcrum the latch-bar, being also pivotal, is drawn into the bottom of the groove and main-

tains the upright in line with the slot L receiving its upper end.

A stanchion constructed under my invention is very convenient to open, a light pressure upon the latch-head with one hand being all that is necessary.

The convenience and advantages of making the stanchion self-closing are also obvious. The stanchion may be opened and closed in a dark stable without a light, as there are no pins and bolts to remove and replace and no complicated locks to manipulate.

The link-connection described is a very flexible one and allows a wide range of side and direct movement, the latter being received while the stanchion is in vertical position.

It is obvious that some changes in the construction of the device may be made, and I would therefore have it understood that I do not limit myself to the exact construction and combination of parts herein shown and described, but hold myself at liberty to make such changes and alterations as fairly fall within the spirit and scope of my invention.

I am aware that an automatically-closing stanchion is not broadly new, and that the pivotal uprights of stanchions have heretofore been provided with pivotal latch-bars. I do not, therefore, broadly claim an automatically-closing stanchion or a stanchion having its pivotal upright provided with a latch-bar; but,

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

1. A suspended or swinging stanchion having two uprights and an upper and a lower cross-bar, one of the uprights being pivoted to the lower cross-bar, of a spring secured to the said lower cross-bar and engaging with the pivotal upright to automatically close it, and locking mechanism carried by the upper cross-bar and the upper end of the pivotal upright for holding the latter closed, substantially as set forth.

2. A suspended or swinging stanchion having two uprights and an upper and a lower cross-bar, the lower cross-bar having a slot at one end to receive the lower end of one of the uprights, which is pivoted in and extends below the said slot, a spring secured to the said lower cross-bar and extending through the slot to engage with the lower end of the pivotal upright, which it automatically closes, and locking mechanism carried by the stanchion for locking the upper end of the pivotal upright in place, substantially as set forth.

3. A suspended or swinging stanchion having a stationary and a pivotal upright and an upper and a lower cross-bar, the pivotal upright being pivoted to one end of the lower cross-bar, a spring carried by the stanchion and engaging with the lower end of the pivotal upright for automatically closing the same, a latch-bar pivoted in the upper end of the pivotal upright and working in a slot formed in the upper cross-bar, and a locking plate and spring for the said latch-bar carried by such upper cross-bar, substantially as set forth.

4. A stanchion having an upright pivoted at its lower end, a spring for closing such upright, and an upper cross-bar having a slot to receive the upper end of the upright and provided with beveled walls to guide the same into it, substantially as set forth.

5. A swinging or suspended stanchion having two uprights, two cross-bars rigidly secured to one upright, the other upright being pivoted at its lower end to the lower cross-bar, a spring carried by the stanchion for automatically closing such pivotal upright, an eye located upon the outer face of such upright, and a snap-bolt secured to frame-work in line with the pivotal upright in position to engage with the said eye and hold the upright open against the power of its spring, substantially as set forth.

6. A stanchion and a stanchion-frame, in combination with a connection consisting of two two-armed sheet-metal angle-plates pivoted together and to the stanchion and stanchion-frame, respectively, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

DAVID Y. CLARK.

Witnesses:
WM. W. CLARK,
CHAS. B. SHUMWAY.