

(No Model.)

J. W. LANGFORD.

LETTER BOX.

No. 384,698.

Patented June 19, 1888.

Fig. 1.

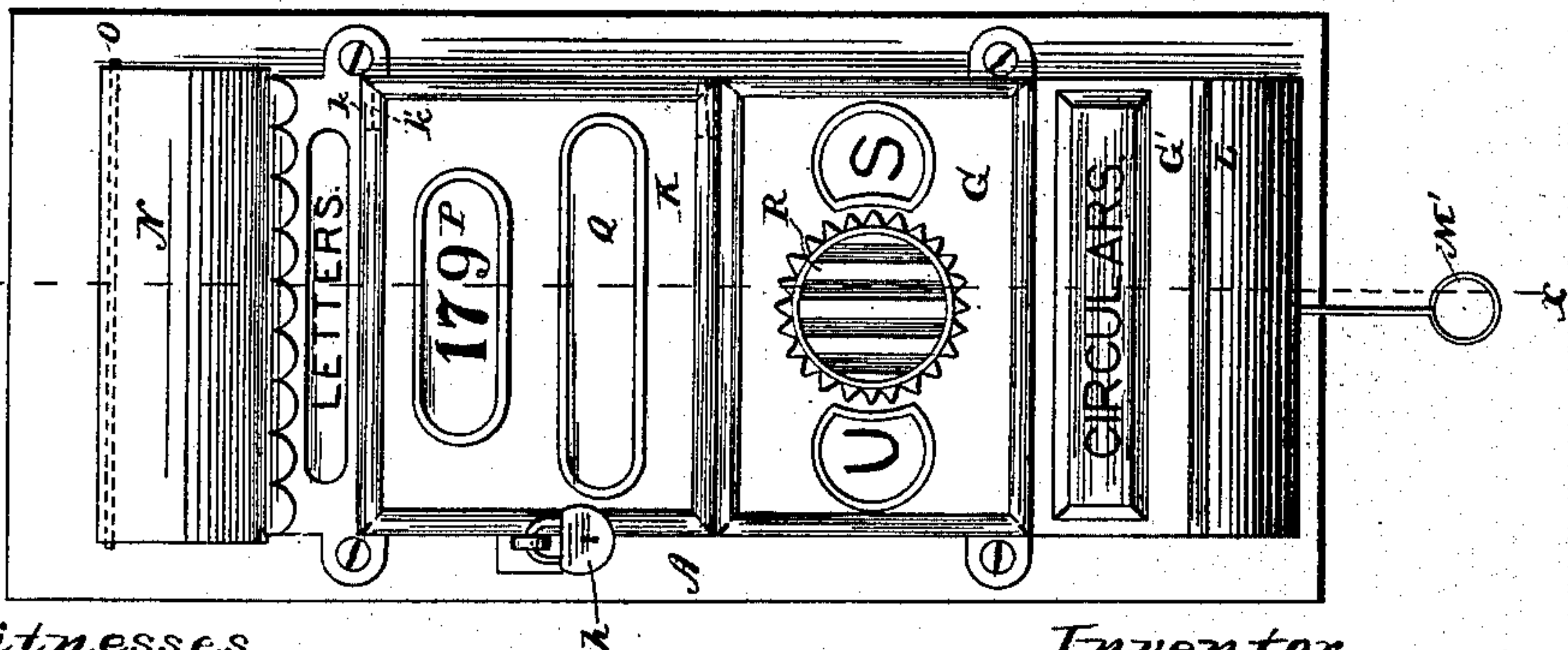


Fig. 2.

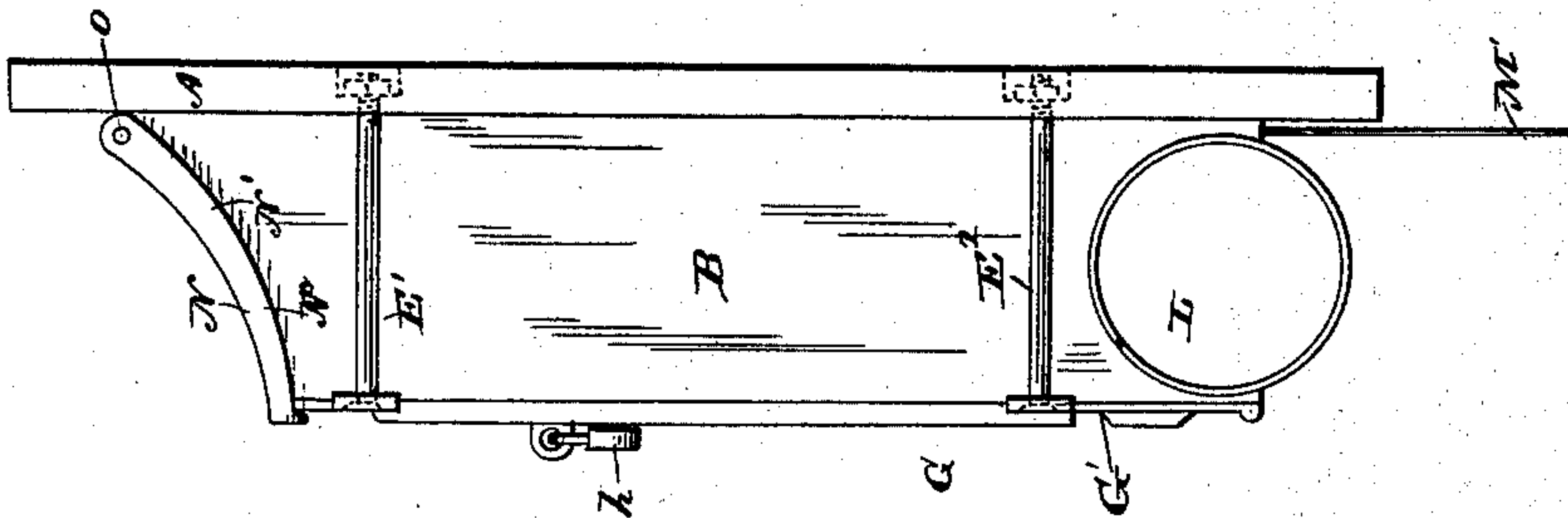


Fig. 3.

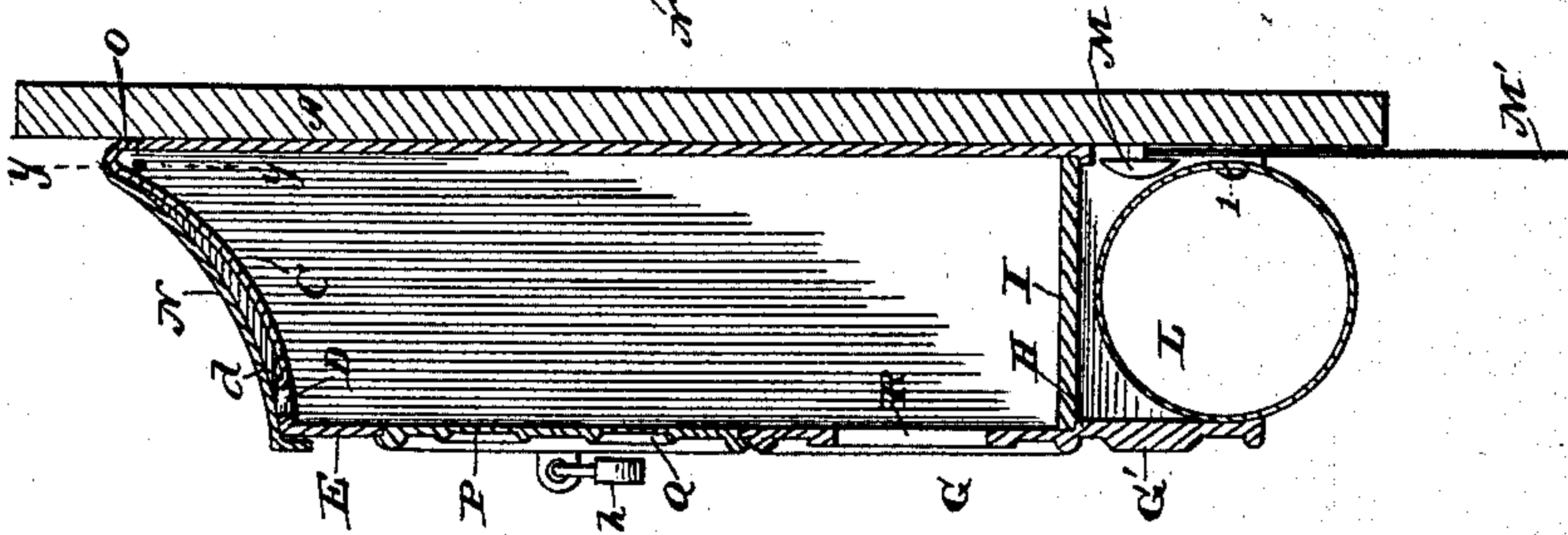
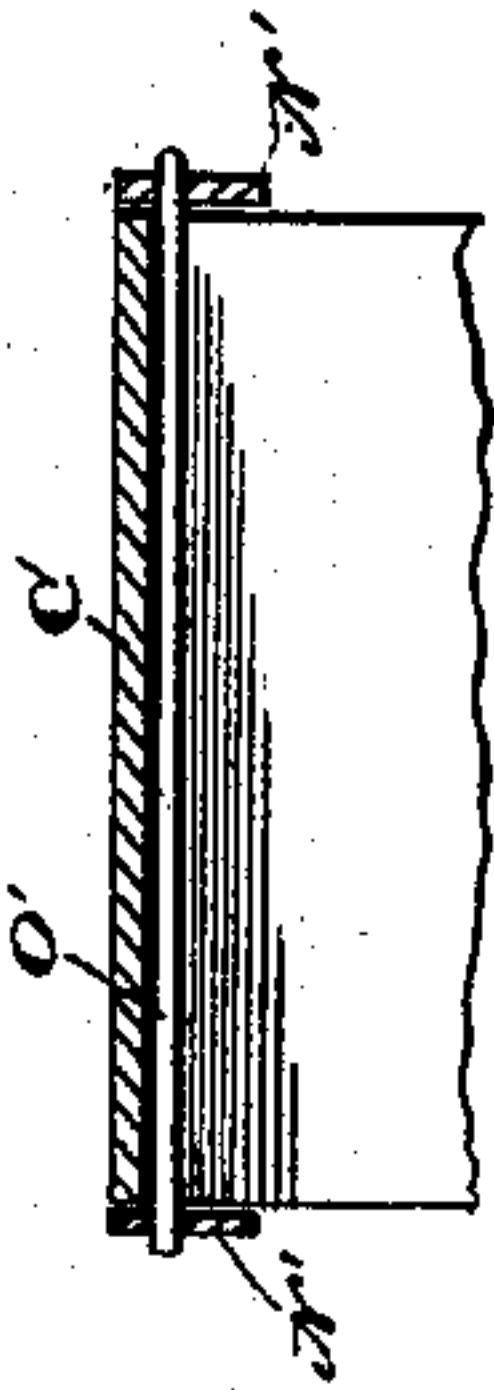


Fig. 4.



Witnesses.
Chas. R. Burr.
A. J. Stewart.

Inventor.
James W. Langford,
by Church & Church
His Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES W. LANGFORD, OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 384,698, dated June 19, 1888.

Application filed March 7, 1888. Serial No. 266,456. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES W. LANGFORD, of Nashville, in the county of Davidson and State of Tennessee, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Boxes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and to the figures and letters of reference marked thereon.

This invention has for its object to provide a cheap and convenient letter-box, adapted particularly to be secured to the door-jambs of private houses to receive mail matter distributed by the postman; and the said invention consists in certain novel details of construction and combinations and arrangements of parts, to be hereinafter described, and pointed out particularly in the claims at the end of this specification.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a front elevation of a letter-box constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken on the line *x x* of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a section on the line *y y*, Fig. 2.

Similar letters of reference in the several figures indicate the same parts.

The box proper, preferably formed of thin cast-iron, is mounted on a wooden base-board, A, and is formed of the side pieces, B, which extend the entire length of the box and are cut away at the top in a curve to accommodate the top C. This top C has an opening, D, therein, through which the mail is inserted, and around said opening is a flange, *d*, to aid in keeping out the dirt and water, as will be readily understood.

Upon referring to Fig. 3 it will be seen that the top C is extended down a short distance over the front of the box in a flange or extension, E, through lugs on the edges of which screw-bolts E' pass back into the base A, to hold the top part of the box firmly together and in proper position. This front extension of the top, of course, is not absolutely essential, as a separate piece may be used instead of the flange E, and the top secured in position in any of the well-known ways; but it will be found that the first-named construction has

some advantages in that it holds the parts more firmly in position and reduces the initial cost.

At the bottom the front of the box is formed by a section, G, which is extended down some distance below the bottom of the box in the form of an apron, G', preferably set a little back of the general plane of the front in order to form a step, H, on the inside, upon which the front edge of the bottom I rests. The section G is also provided with lugs similar to those on the top section, through which screw-bolts E' pass to secure the parts firmly in position at the bottom. I close the space between the section E of the top and the section G at the bottom by a door, K, having small lugs *k* on its inner face near one edge, through which pintles pass into lugs *k'* on the sides or sections E and G to form hinges upon which the door swings.

In order to lock the door in closed position, a lug is formed on one of the sides, which passes through a slot in the forward edge of the door and has a padlock, *h*, passed through its end, as shown clearly in Fig. 1.

Back of the apron G' is a receptacle, L, for the reception of newspapers, packages, &c., too large to pass through the opening in the box-top, and which, for the sake of cheapness, is made in the form of a tube, secured to the base by screws *l*. Back of and either above or below this receptacle I locate a bell, M, with a pull wire and ring, M', with which the postman can notify the occupants of the house that he has left mail matter in the box.

As an additional safeguard against the entrance of water and dirt into the box, I provide it with a cover, N, having flanges N', extending down over all the edges of the box at the top and made as ornamental as desired. The cover is hinged to the box at the back by a long bolt, O, passing through the flanges of the cover at the side and through the highest points of the sides, as shown.

The large door in the front of the box is provided with two openings, P and Q, for the reception of panels on which the number of the house and the occupant's name are to be painted, while the section G of the front is formed with a circular opening having slats R therein, through which the contents of the box may be seen.

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

1. In a letter-box, the combination, with the
5 base, sides, and front, of a sloping top having a flanged aperture therein, a sloping cover lying over said top with flanges extending down on the sides and front of the box, and a bolt on which said cover hinges passing through
10 said flanges and the top of the box, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with a letter-box, of a front section extending below the bottom of the box, and a receptacle for newspapers, packages, &c., located behind said extension, substantially as described.

3. The combination, with a letter-box, of a front section extended down below the bottom of the box on a plane slightly back of the general plane of the front, whereby a step is
20 formed on the inside upon which the front edge of the bottom rests, substantially as described.

4. The combination, with a letter-box and a front section extending below the bottom of
25 the same, of a tubular receptacle located behind said extension, substantially as described.

JAMES W. LANGFORD.

Witnesses:

E. B. DUVAL,
JAS. S. PILCHER.