

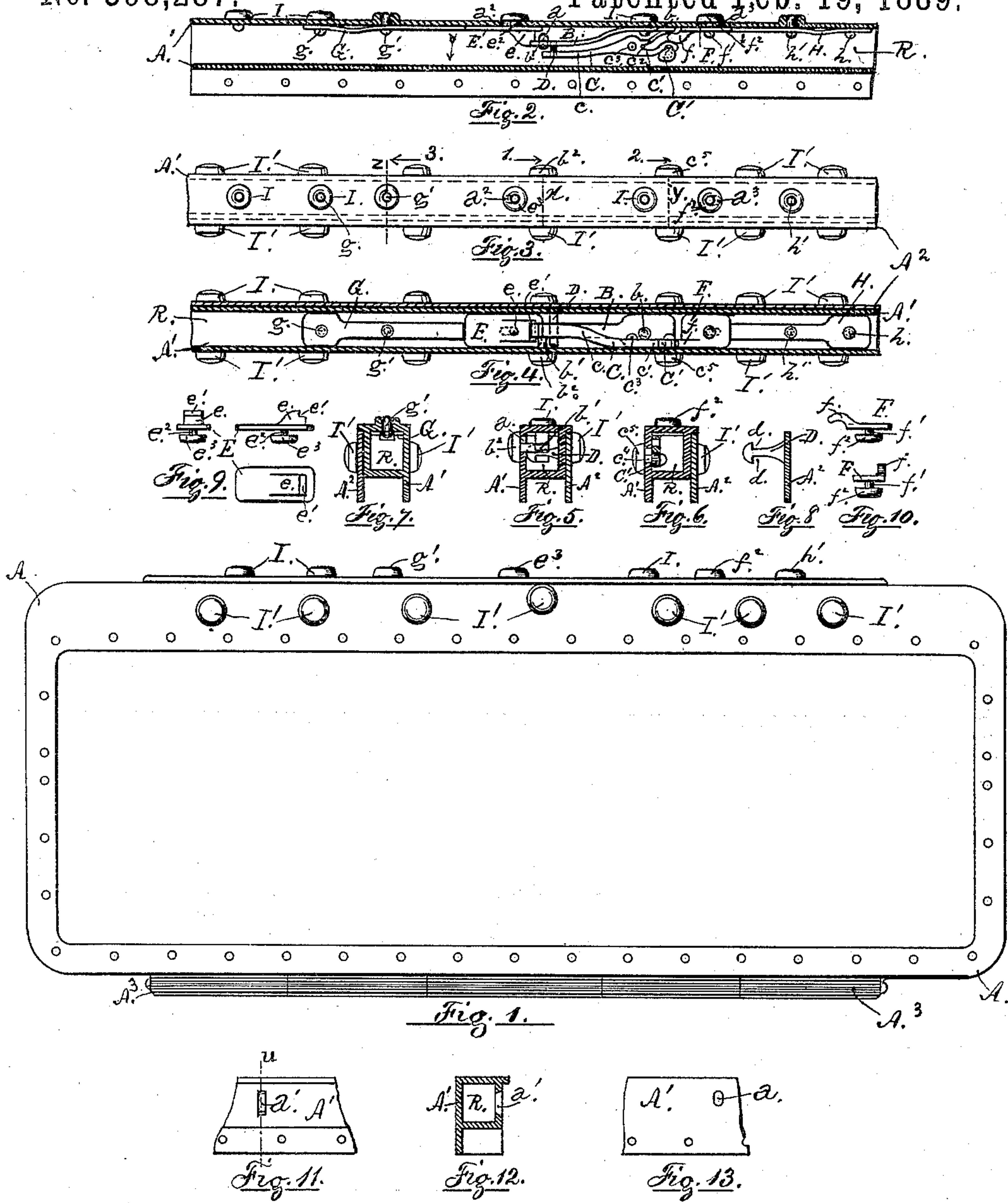
(No Model.)

C. A. STARK.

LOCKING CLASP FOR TRAVELING BAGS, POCKET BOOKS, &c.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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LOCKING-CLASP FOR TRAVELING-BAGS, POCKET-BOOKS, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 398,287, dated February 19, 1889.

Application filed November 12, 1888. Serial No. 290,516. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES A. STARK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Locking-Clasp for Closing Purses, Pocket-Books, Valises, Satchels, Hand-Bags, &c., now in ordinary use, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in locking-clasps by applying to those now known to the trade certain devices by means of which said clasps may be readily and securely locked without the use of keys and just as easily opened as are such clasps now in ordinary use.

My improvements consist in a recess extending along one side of the mouth or opening of the clasp and placing within said recess sliding bolts and locking-springs operated and controlled by push-pins and push-buttons through the upper and side faces or walls of said recess.

I attain the objects of my invention by the mechanism and devices illustrated in the accompanying drawings, similar letters referring to similar parts throughout the several views, in which—

Figure 1 is a full side view of a purse or pocket-book having a metallic frame or clasp hinged along the bottom; Fig. 2, a sectional view of a portion of the left-hand upper edge of the clasp, the inner face or wall removed to show the recess and devices in place; Fig. 3, a top view of the same portion of the clasp; Fig. 4, a view of Fig. 3 inverted, the bottom having been removed to show the recess and devices in place; Fig. 5, a cross-section at x , Fig. 3, viewed in the direction of arrow 1; Fig. 6, a cross-section at y , Fig. 3, viewed in the direction of arrow 2; Fig. 7, a cross-section at z , viewed in the direction of arrow 3; Fig. 8, a cross-section of the right-hand plate of the clasp detached from Fig. 5, showing a double-notched catch-lug; Fig. 9, detailed plan, side, and front end views of the central slide-bolt inverted, with push-button attached; Fig. 10, front, end, and side views of the side slide-bolt inverted, with push-button attached; Fig. 11, a view of a portion of the inner face of the left upper part of the clasp,

showing the slot through which the catch-lug enters the recess; Fig. 12, a cross-section through the line at u , Fig. 11; Fig. 13, a view of the outer face of a portion of the left-hand upper part of the clasp, showing the slot through which the main spring is operated.

The metallic frame A of the clasp consists of two portions, A' and A², hinged at A³ in this instance. The left-hand portion, A', has extending through the length of its upper edge a recess, R, in which are placed the devices of my invention. A spring, B, adapted to engage and hold a catch-lug, to be hereinafter described, is riveted to the top of the recess R at b and operated by an attached pin, b' , through a slot, a , Fig. 13, by means of a push-button, b^2 , Figs. 2, 4, and 5. A lever, C, having arms c and c' , and a spring, c^2 , is pivoted to a side of the recess R at c^3 , the arm c being adapted to engage and hold the same catch-lug. The spring c^2 , resting on the rear of the spring B, is adapted to keep the arm c constantly in the position shown in Fig. 2. The arm c' is adapted to engage, and by means of the spring c^2 is kept constantly against, a cam, C', attached to a pin, c^4 , passing through a slot similar to the one shown at a , Fig. 13, and operated by a push-button, c^5 , Figs. 2, 4, and 6. This push-button c^5 , by means of the constant pressure of the spring c^2 against the cam C', may be used as a turn-button, by means of which the cam C' may be turned to a perpendicular position, when the arm c cannot engage the catch-lug before alluded to. Projecting from the inner face of the right-hand frame portion, A², is a catch-lug, D, having in its upper and under edges notches d and d' , adapted to engage through a slot, a' , Figs. 11 and 12, the spring B and the arm c of the lever C, and forming with them a complete clasp, by means of which the portions A' and A² will be held firmly closed, Figs. 2, 4, and 5. Centrally located is a slide-bolt, E, having in the edge of a projection, e , a notch, e' , adapted to engage the forward end of the spring B, holding the same firmly to the catch-lug D. A pin, e^2 , passing through a slot, a^2 joins this bolt to a push-button, e^3 , by means of which said bolt may be readily moved backward and forward. (For detailed views see Fig. 9, and for application see Figs. 2 and 4.)

To the rear of the lever C is a slide-bolt, F, having downward and forward a side projection, f , adapted to fill the space between the arm c' and spring c^2 of the lever C, forming a wedge between them and preventing the arm c of the lever C from being moved from the catch-lug D. A pin, f' , passing through a slot, a^3 , connects this bolt with a push-button, f^2 , by means of which said bolt may be readily moved back and forth. To the top of the recess are riveted, at g and h , respectively, locking-springs G and H, having their forward ends adapted to engage the rear ends of the slide-bolts E and F, holding said bolts firmly in place. Attached to them are push-pins g' and h' , passing through the upper face or wall of the recess R, having their upper extremities rounded and adapted to form nipples or centers to rosettes similar in size and form to the push-buttons before described, Figs. 2 to 7, both inclusive.

Against the sides and upper surface of the frame A are placed at certain intervals other rosettes or bosses, I and I', of the same size and form as those before described, Figs. 1 and 3, so that any of them may be taken for push-buttons, making the finding of the proper ones confusing to the uninitiated.

Pressing the push-pins g' and h' with a hard substance—as a finger-nail—will move the forward ends of the springs G and H in the direction of the arrows, releasing the slide-bolts E and F, which may then be readily moved backward, bringing their rear edges under the forward ends of the springs G and H, thus releasing the spring B and lever C, which may then be readily detached from the catch-lug D by moving the push-buttons b^2 and c^5 upward and the clasp opened. Again, by using c^5 as a turn-button and bringing the cam C' to a perpendicular position, detaching the lever C permanently, the spring B alone will hold the catch-lug D, when the push-button b^2 will release the catch-lug D and the clasp may be opened as readily as are those now known to the trade.

I do not confine the application of my invention alone to clasps hinged at the bottom, as shown in Fig. 1, but as well to those hinged at the side or any that separate in two parts.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I do claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. In a locking-clasp, the recess R in the upper edge of the portion A', having in its faces or walls the slots a , a' , a^2 , and a^3 , and the holes for the passage of the push-pins g' and h' , and on its outer faces or walls the system of rosettes or bosses I and I', similar in size and form to the push-buttons b^2 , c^5 , e^3 , and f^2 , and its interior adapted to contain the following elements: the mainspring B, riveted to the top at b , adapted to engage and hold the catch-lug D, and operated by the pin b' through the slot a by means of the push-button b^2 , the lever C, having the arms c and c' and the spring c^2 , pivoted to the side

at c^3 , the arm c adapted to engage and hold the catch-lug D, the arm c' adapted by means of the spring c^2 to engage constantly the cam C', attached to the pin c^4 , and through the second slot, a , operated by the push-button c^5 , which may also be used as a turn-button, the central slide-bolt, E, adapted to lock the mainspring B to the catch-lug D, and operated by the pin e^2 through the slot a^2 by means of the push-button e^3 , the slide-bolt F, having the side projection, f , adapted to engage the arm c' , and the spring c^2 , locking the arm c of the lever C to the catch-lug D, and operated by the pin f' through the slot a^3 by means of the push-button f^2 , the locking-spring G, riveted to the top at g , adapted to lock the central slide-bolt, E, and operated by the push-pin g' from the outside, where it forms the center of a rosette, and the locking-spring H, riveted to the top at h , adapted to lock the slide-bolt F, and operated by the push-pin h' from the outside, where it forms the center of a rosette, all substantially as described, and for the purpose specified.

2. The combination, in a locking-clasp, of the left-hand portion, A', containing the recess R', having in its faces or walls the slots a , a' , a^2 , and a^3 , and the holes for the passage of the push-pins g' and h' , and on its outer faces or walls the system of rosettes or bosses I and I', similar in size and form to the push-buttons b^2 , c^5 , e^3 , and f^2 , and its interior adapted to contain the following elements: the mainspring B, riveted to the top at b , adapted to engage and hold the catch-lug D, and operated by the pin b' through the slot a by means of the push-button b^2 , the lever C, having the arms c and c' , and the spring c^2 , pivoted to the side at c^3 , the arm c adapted to engage and hold the catch-lug D, the arm c' adapted by means of the spring c^2 to engage constantly the cam C', attached to the pin c^4 , and through the second slot, a , operated by the push-button c^5 , the central slide-bolt, E, adapted to lock the mainspring B to the catch-lug D, and operated by the pin e^2 through the slot a^2 by means of the push-button e^3 , the slide-bolt F, having the side projection, f , adapted to engage the arm c' , and the spring c^2 , locking the arm c of the lever C to the catch-lug D, and operated by the pin f' through the slot a^3 by means of the push-button f^2 , the locking-spring G, riveted to the top at g , adapted to lock the central slide-bolt, E, and operated by the push-pin g' from the outside, where it forms the center of a rosette, and the locking-spring H, riveted to the top at h , adapted to lock the slide-bolt F, and operated by the push-pin h' from the outside, where it forms the center of a rosette, with the right-hand portion, A², provided with the catch-lug D, having the notches d and d' , adapted to engage, respectively, through the slot a' , the mainspring B, and the arm c of the lever C, holding the portions A' and A² firmly together or closed, substantially as set forth, and for the purpose described.

3. The combination, in a locking-clasp, of the portions A' and A², as described, with the mainspring B, riveted to the top of the recess R at b, operated by the pin b' through the slot a by means of the push-button b², and adapted to engage the notch d in the upper edge of the catch-lug D, holding the portions A' and A² firmly closed, substantially as set forth.

4. The combination, in a locking-clasp, of the mainspring B in the recess R, attached to the portion A' at b, and operated by the pin b' through the slot a by means of the push-button b², with the catch-lug D, having notches d and d' and attached to the portion A², and the notch d, adapted to engage the mainspring B, holding the portions A' and A² firmly closed, substantially as described.

5. The combination, in a locking-clasp, of the lever C, having the arms c and c' and the spring c², pivoted against a side of the recess R, as at c³, the arm c adapted to engage the notch d' in the catch-lug D, the spring c² resting on the rear end of the mainspring B, adapted to keep the arm c constantly in the notch d', and the arm c' adapted to engage, and by means of the spring c² be kept constantly against, the cam C', with the catch-lug D, having the notches d and d', the notch d', adapted to engage and hold the arm c of the lever C, keeping the portions A' and A² firmly closed, substantially as set forth, and for the purpose specified.

6. The combination, in a locking-clasp, of the mainspring B and the catch-lug D, both as above described, with the lever C, having the arms c and c' and the spring c², and pivoted to a side in the recess R, as at c³, the arm c adapted to engage the notch d' in the catch-lug D, the spring c² resting on the rear end of the spring B, adapted to keep the arm c constantly in the notch d', and the arm c' adapted to engage, and by means of the spring c² being kept constantly against, the cam C', together with the mainspring B, engaging the notch d, furnishing means for doubly securing or holding the portions A' and A² firmly closed, all substantially as specified, and for the purpose set forth.

7. The combination, in a locking-clasp, of the lever C, having the arms c and c' and the spring c², pivoted against a side of the recess R, as at c³, said spring c² resting on the rear end of the spring B, adapted to keep the arm c' constantly against the cam C', with the cam C', attached to the pin c⁴, furnished with the button c⁵, adapted to be used either as a push or turn button to detach the arm c of the lever C either permanently or temporarily from the notch d' of the catch-lug D, substantially as set forth, and for the purpose described.

8. The combination, in a locking-clasp, of the mainspring B, riveted to the top of the recess R at b, furnished with mechanism to

operate the same, and adapted to engage the notch d in the catch-lug D, and holding it with the slide-bolt E, having the projection e, furnished with the notch e', adapted to engage the forward end of the mainspring B, preventing it from being depressed or detached from the notch d in the catch D, and operated by the pin e² through the slot a² by the push-button e³, substantially as set forth, and for the purpose specified.

9. The combination, in a locking-clasp, of the mainspring B, riveted to the top of the recess R at b, furnished with mechanism to operate it, and adapted to engage the notch d in the catch-lug D, holding the same, the slide-bolt E, having the projection e, and in it the notch e', adapted to engage the forward end of the spring B, preventing it from being depressed and supplied with mechanism to operate it, with the locking-spring G, riveted to the top of the recess R at g, its forward end adapted to engage the rear end of the slide-bolt E, and when behind it locking the same, and furnished with the push-pin g', passing through the top of the recess R, its extremity rounded and adapted to form a nipple or center to a rosette, all substantially as described, and for the purpose set forth.

10. The combination, in a locking-clasp, of the lever C, having the arms c and c' and the spring c², pivoted against a side of the recess R, as at c³, and furnished with mechanism to operate the same, with the slide-bolt F, having the downward and forward side projection, f, adapted to form a wedge between the arm c' and the spring c², adapted to keep the arm c in engagement with the notch d' of the catch-lug D, and operated by the attached pin f' through the slot a³, and joined to the push-button f², substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

11. The combination, in a locking-clasp, of the lever C, having the arms c and c' and the spring c², and pivoted against a side of the recess R, as at c³, furnished with mechanism to operate it, and the slide-bolt F, having the downward and forward side projection, f, forming a wedge between the arm c' and the spring c² of the lever C, and adapted to keep the arm c of the lever C in engagement with the notch d' of the catch-lug D, and furnished with mechanism to operate the same, with the locking-spring H, riveted to the top of the recess R at h, its forward end adapted to engage the rear end of the slide-bolt F, and when behind it locking the same, and furnished with the push-pin h', passing through the top of the recess R, its extremity rounded and adapted to form a nipple or center to a rosette, all substantially as set forth, and for the purpose specified.

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Witnesses:

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