(No Model.)

C. E. HAMS.

BOX FASTENER.

No. 426,803. Patented Apr. 29, 1890.

Fig. 1.

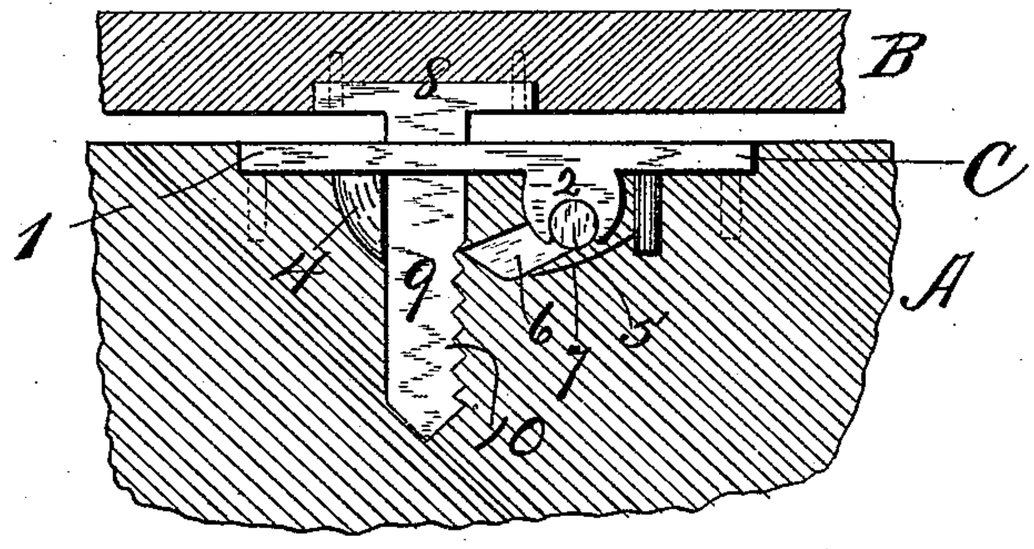


Fig. 3.

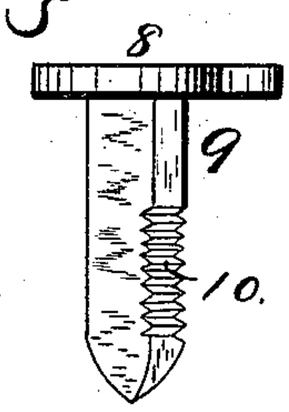


Fig. 2

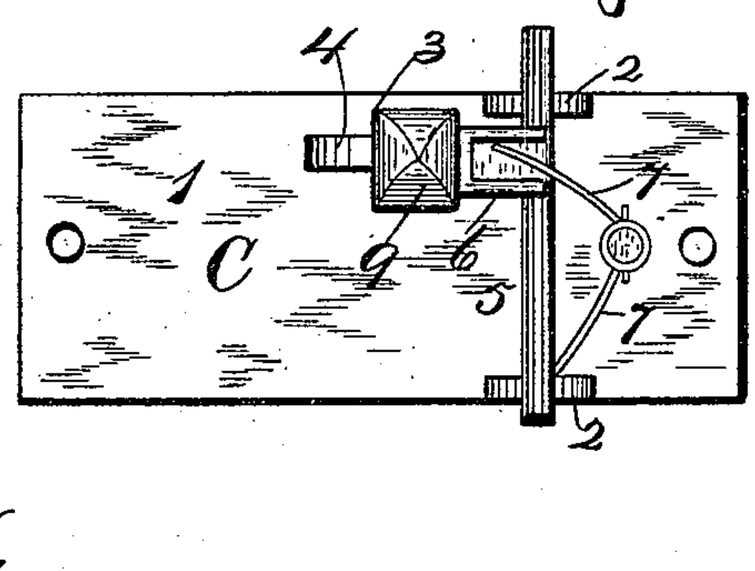
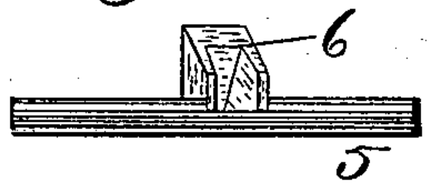


Fig. 4.



Witnesses
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Charles E. Hams Inventor

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES E. HAMS, OF ORISKANY FALLS, ASSIGNOR TO THE CANASTOTA CASKET COMPANY, (LIMITED,) OF CANASTOTA, NEW YORK.

BOX-FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 426,803, dated April 29, 1890.

Application filed February 6, 1890. Serial No. 339,465. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES E. HAMS, of Oriskany Falls, in the county of Oneida, in the State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Box-Fasteners, of which the following, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to box-fasteners in which a spring-pawl in the body of the fastener engages with a rack or ratchet upon one side or edge of the locking-bolt as it enters the mortise in the face-plate, means being also provided to unlock it by disengaging the pawl from the ratchet, either by mounting the pawl upon a rock-shaft, one end of which projects beyond the outer face of the box through the side of the lock, by which the pawl may be pushed sidewise out of engagement, or by a key so inserted that when turned its bit will engage with and lift the pawl out of engagement, so that the bolt can be lifted out.

My object is to produce a fastener of the above class which will work automatically by the weight of the cover of a coffin, casket, or box to lock it, and which can be unlocked readily when desired.

My invention consists in the several novel features of construction and operation hereinafter described, and specifically set forth in the claim annexed hereto. It is constructed as follows, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal sectional elevation of the fastener and of a part of a box and its cover secured together. Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of the body of the fastener detached. Fig. 3 is an elevation of the fastening-bolt detached. Fig. 4 is a top plan view of the pawl and rock-shaft detached.

A is a portion of the body of a coffin, casket, or any other form or design of a box, and B is the cover thereof.

C is the body of the fastener, constructed to be mortised into the edge of the coffin or casket, and comprising a face-plate 1, having screw-holes adjacent to its ends; studs 2, perforated transversely and projecting from the under side of the face-plate and standing parallel to each other; a mortise 3, cut vertically through the face-plate; a guide or guides 4 in the form of studs straight on the inner face and in line with one or more sides of the mortise and projecting downward from the under side of the face-plate; a shaft 5, journaled in the studs 2, having a pawl 6, secured to or integral with the shaft, the shaft being long enough to project on one side beyond the outer face of the side of the coffin or casket, and a spring 7, of substantially a Y form, centrally secured to the face-plate, and having an arm bearing against the pawl and the other against one of the studs 2.

Other forms of spring may be used which will operate in substantially the same manner as the one shown.

The locking-bolt comprises a base-plate 8, adapted to be secured upon or in the cover by screws, from which the bolt itself 9 projects downward, it being shown as bevel-pointed and of rectangular form; but other forms may be used, and having a transverse rack or ratchet 10 upon one of its vertical faces, so that when the bolt enters the mortise the pawl will engage with the rack and snap from one tooth to another until the cover is clear down, the bolt being guided and held in engagement with the pawl by the guide 4, and thus the pawl will lock the bolt and prevent its being withdrawn. To unlock it I push in upon the projecting end of the shaft, pushing the pawl sidewise out of engagement with the bolt until the pawl is wholly free from the bolt, and then the cover can be raised and the bolt withdrawn from the mortise, and when the bolt is withdrawn I release the pressure upon the shaft, and the spring will throw the shaft and pawl back to their normal positions. When used upon a coffin or casket, I can use two on each side of the cover, and an undertaker and his assistant can stand one on each side or end and unlock a fastener with each hand and raise the cover.

What I claim is—

The combination, with the locking-bolt having a ratchet on one side, of a spring-pawl mounted upon a rock-shaft pivoted under the face-plate of the body of the lock and projecting outward, and adapted to slide the pawl out of engagement with the ratchet, as set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 23d day of January, 1890.

CHARLES E. HAMS.

In presence of—
A. W. REYNOLDS,
H. H. HATHEWAY.