

(No Model.)

L. E. WOODARD.
COFFIN HANDLE.

No. 453,527.

Patented June 2, 1891.

2 Fig. 1.

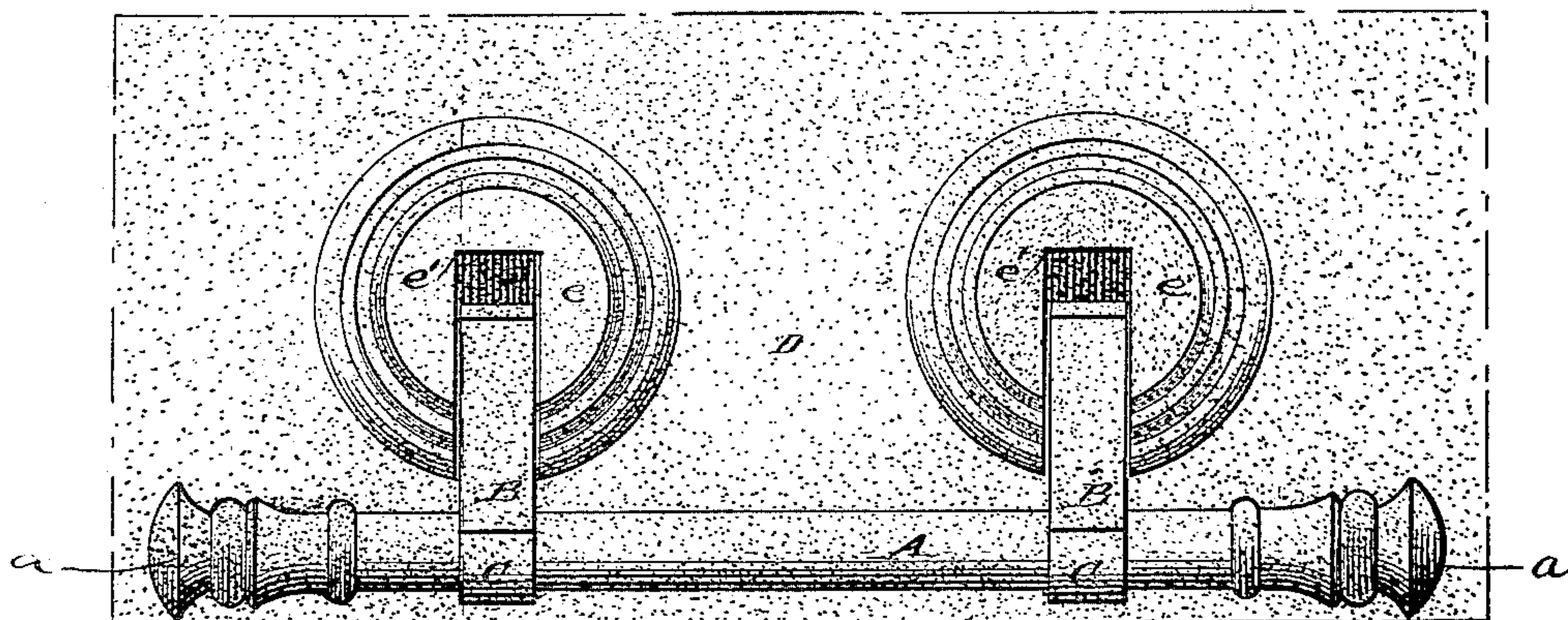


Fig. 2.

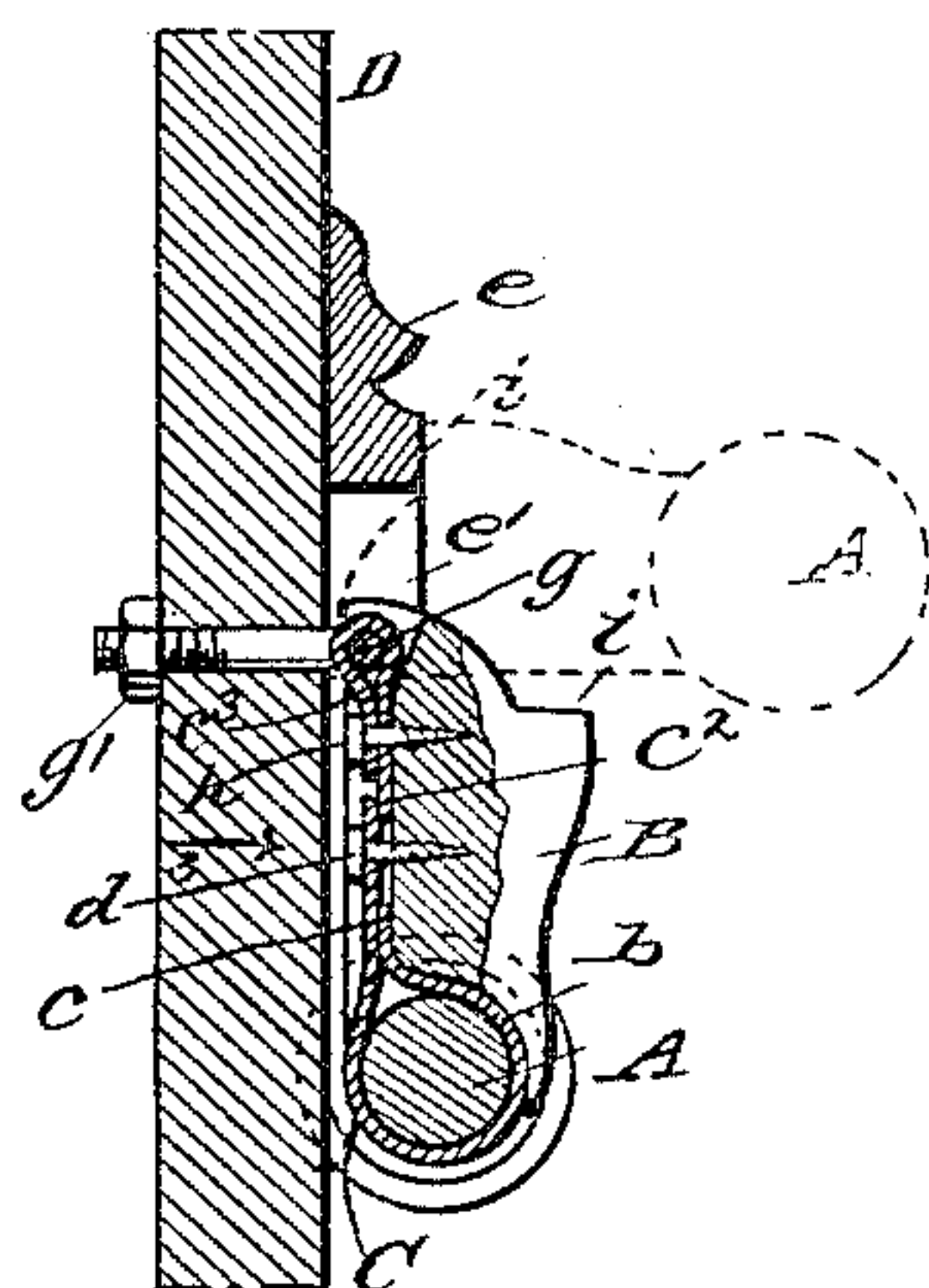
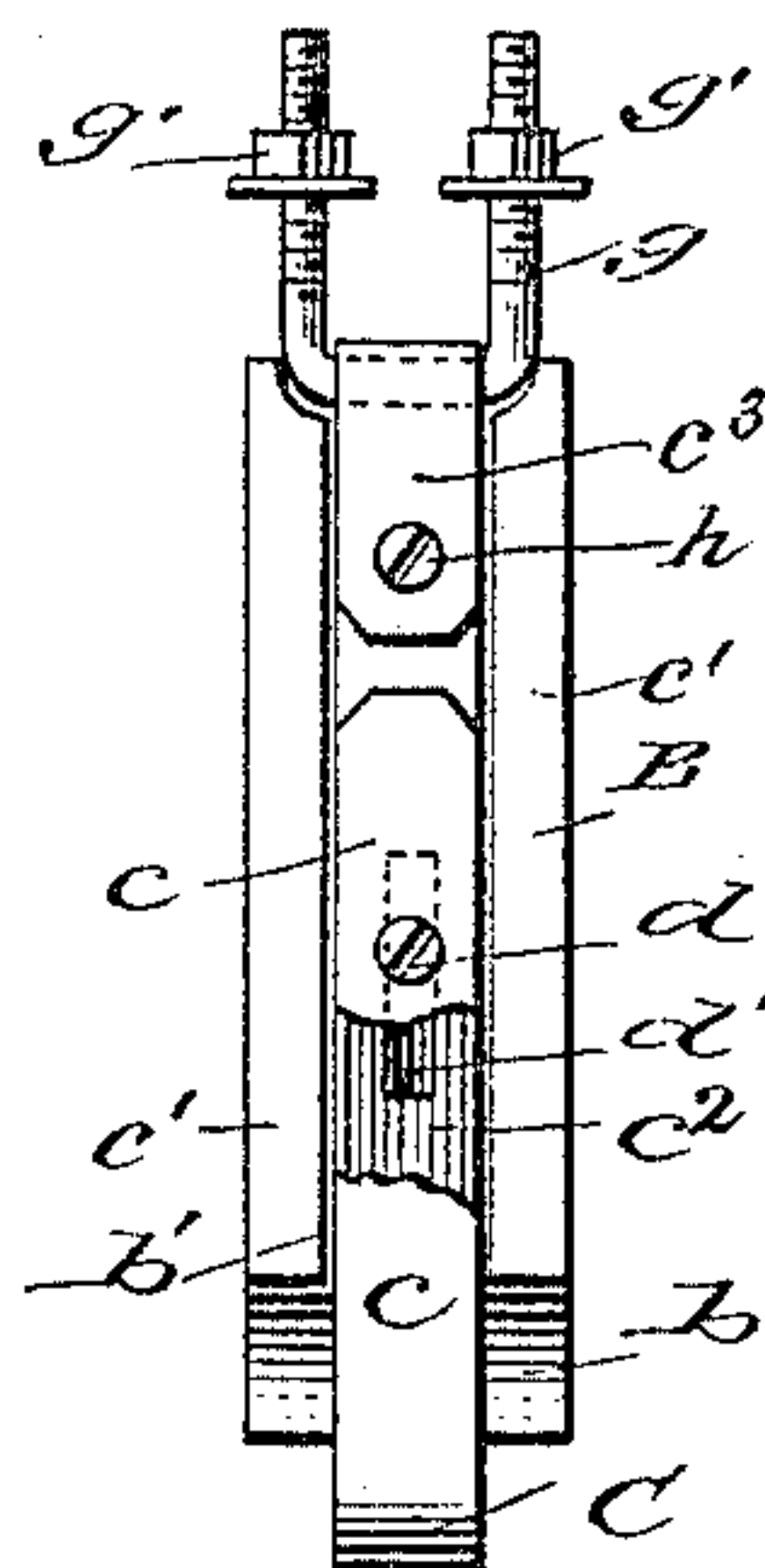


Fig. 3.



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LYMAN E. WOODARD, OF OWOSSO, MICHIGAN.

COFFIN-HANDLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 453,527, dated June 2, 1891.

Application filed March 2, 1891. Serial No. 383,506. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LYMAN E. WOODARD, of Owosso, in the county of Shiawassee and State of Michigan, have invented a new and useful
5 Improvement in Coffin-Handles, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The objects of this invention are to provide
10 a coffin-handle, preferably made of wood, which will be strong, light, and shapely, and which may be conveniently covered with fabric of the same quality and color as that used to face the exterior of the coffin or casket.

A further object is to furnish hinge-joints
15 for a preferably wooden and cloth-covered handle-bar, which are adapted for adjustment to suit different diameters of cylindrical handle-bars, and afford means for the stable connection of the handle-bar to the side of a
20 casket or coffin.

To these ends my invention consists in the construction and combination of parts, as is hereinafter described and claimed.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying
25 drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a front side view of the improved device in position on a coffin-side
30 broken. Fig. 2 is a transverse section of the handle-bar, one of the rocking arms of the handle partly broken away, an ornamental abutment-disk for the rocking arm, and a portion of the coffin-side whereon the device is
35 secured, the section being taken on the line 2 2 in Fig. 1; and Fig. 3 is an enlarged detached view of one rocking arm of the device, showing the surface that is opposite the arrow 3 in Fig. 2.

40 The handle-bar A may be made of any suitable material, wood being preferred for its construction. It is elongated and cylindrical, mainly, having its end portions *a* ornamentally shaped in any preferred design. An exterior envelope of fibrous material—such as
45 black cloth—is applied to the handle-bar A and thereon secured, thus affording an appropriate finish to the same.

At equal distances from the ends *a* of the
50 handle-bar A the similar rocking arms B are secured. The arms B may be formed of wood or other material in any preferred shape suit-

able for their service, and as a preferred means to connect the arms with the handle-bar A at one end and provide a hinge-joint connection between their opposite ends and the
55 side of a coffin the strap hinge C shown in Figs. 2 and 3 is utilized. The arms B are scalloped inwardly at their ends *b* to afford a conforming surface between said ends and
60 the exterior of the handle-bar A, whereon they bear.

A longitudinal channel *b'* is cut centrally in the lower surface of each rocking arm B to permit the embedment of the strap-pieces *c*
65 of the hinges C therein below the edges *c'* of the arms. The strap-pieces C each consists of a strip of sheet metal, which is bent into loop form, so as to encircle the handle-bar A, the end portions being lapped, and, as shown
70 in Fig. 3, the exterior lapped piece *c* (shown broken away) is perforated to receive a screw *d*, which is inserted through the slot *d'* in the other end portion *c''*, and into the arms B, thus holding the arms clamped upon the handle-
75 bar at any desired point, as the provision of the slots in the strap-pieces enables an adjustment to be effected, so as to clamp upon bars having slightly-different diameters, and thus compensate for a variation in thickness
80 of the covering-cloth.

There are two ornamental disks *e* provided for each handle-bar A, which are attached at a proper distance from each end of the coffin directly upon the sides D, and are designed
85 to afford an ornamental finish to the surface and cover the joints of the arms B with said sides. Each disk *e* has a slot cut in it from a point near the center through the edge, as at *e'*, these slots in the rosettes being parallel
90 and separated such a proportionate distance that they will receive the arms B and permit the latter to vibrate freely when loosely secured, as will be explained.

The end portions *c''* of the strap-pieces C
95 are each folded over the center bar of a staple-bolt *g* and loosely secured to the same by a screw *h*, thus permitting the arm to flex upon the bolt.

A cloth covering is secured upon the arms
100 B and abutment-disks *e*, which latter are given any preferred form on their edges. The handles are affixed at any proper point on the coffin or casket sides oppositely, any suitable

number being provided for the portage of the coffin. The supporting-arms B of the handle-bars A are attached directly upon the sides of the coffin by the staple-bolts *g*, the limbs of which are inserted through perforations in a coffin-side wall D, as shown in Fig. 2, and therein secured by the nuts and washers *g'*, the limbs of the staple-bolts first passing through holes in the abutment-disks *e*, which align with the perforations mentioned, so that there is no draft-strain upon the abutment-disks, the weight being transferred from the bolts *g* to the arms B and handle-bars A.

Upon the edges of the arms B, at proper points *i*, a shoulder is produced on each arm, which shoulders engage with the exterior surface of the abutment-disks by overlapping the same, as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 2, so that the arms B and attached handle-bars A will project and afford convenient grip-pieces when grasped and elevated for service.

It will be observed that the method of attaching the handle-bars A to the coffin-sides avoids all contingency of accident. Furthermore, the peculiar construction of the adjustable strap *c* for the hinge-joints permits a reliable connection to be produced between the arms B, handle-bars A, and coffin-sides D, so that an inexpensive, neat, and substantial coffin-handle is thus produced.

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

1. A coffin-handle consisting of an elongated

bar having each end portion hinged to a handle-arm by longitudinally-adjustable enveloping-straps that also lap upon the cross-bars of staple-bolts, substantially as described.

2. In a coffin-handle, a handle-bar clasped by sheet-metal strips that are adjustable in their looped portions, which clasp the bar and are lap-jointed upon the cross-bars of staple-bolts, substantially as set forth.

3. In a coffin-handle, the combination, with two slotted disks or ornamental projections that are affixed to the side of a coffin, of a handle-bar and an arm loosely clasped to each end portion of said handle-bar, which arms impinge on the disks, work in their slots and are held by the bar-clasps to staple-bolts, substantially as described.

4. In a coffin-handle, the combination, with a handle-bar, of two arms that are each grooved on one side to receive a sheet-metal strap-piece, and scalloped inwardly at one end to fit on the handle-bar of a sheet-metal strap-piece for each arm, which strap-pieces are bent to encircle the handle-bar and have their lapped portions secured adjustably upon the arms in their grooves, one end of each strap-piece having a lapped connection with the cross-bar of a staple-bolt, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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