(No Model.)

J. VAN VALKENBURG.

HOUSE DOOR LETTER BOX.

No. 456,972. Patented Aug. 4, 1891.

Fig. 1.

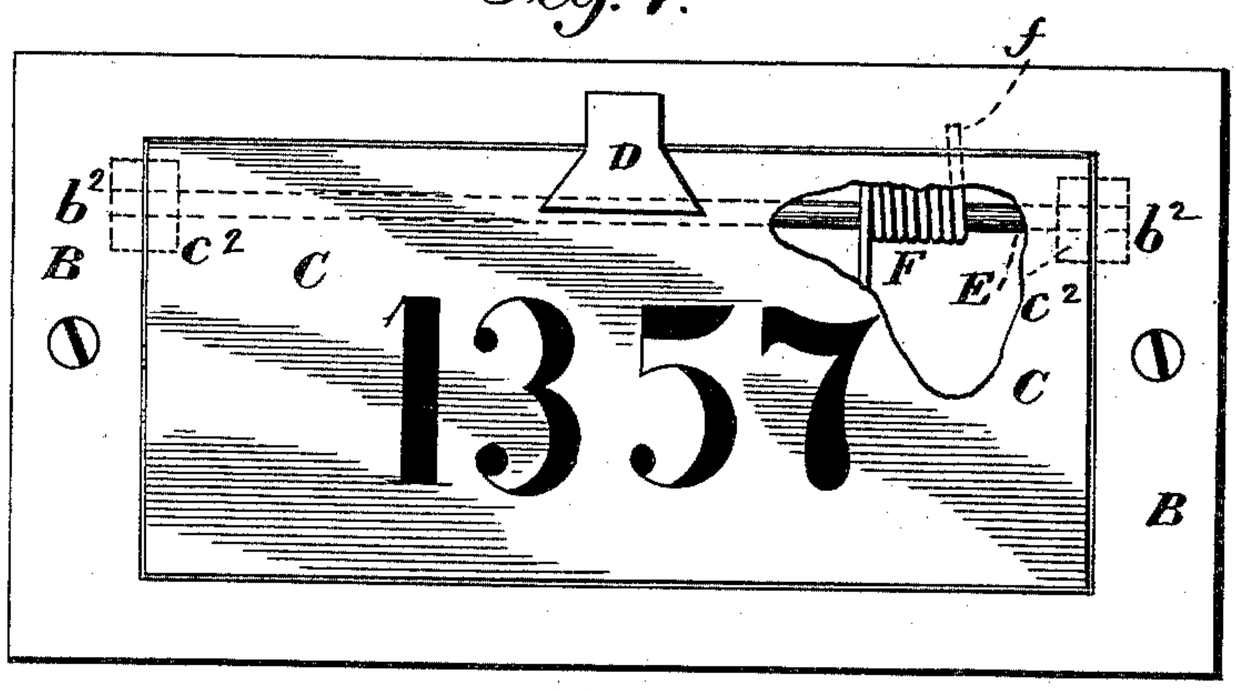

Fig. 2.

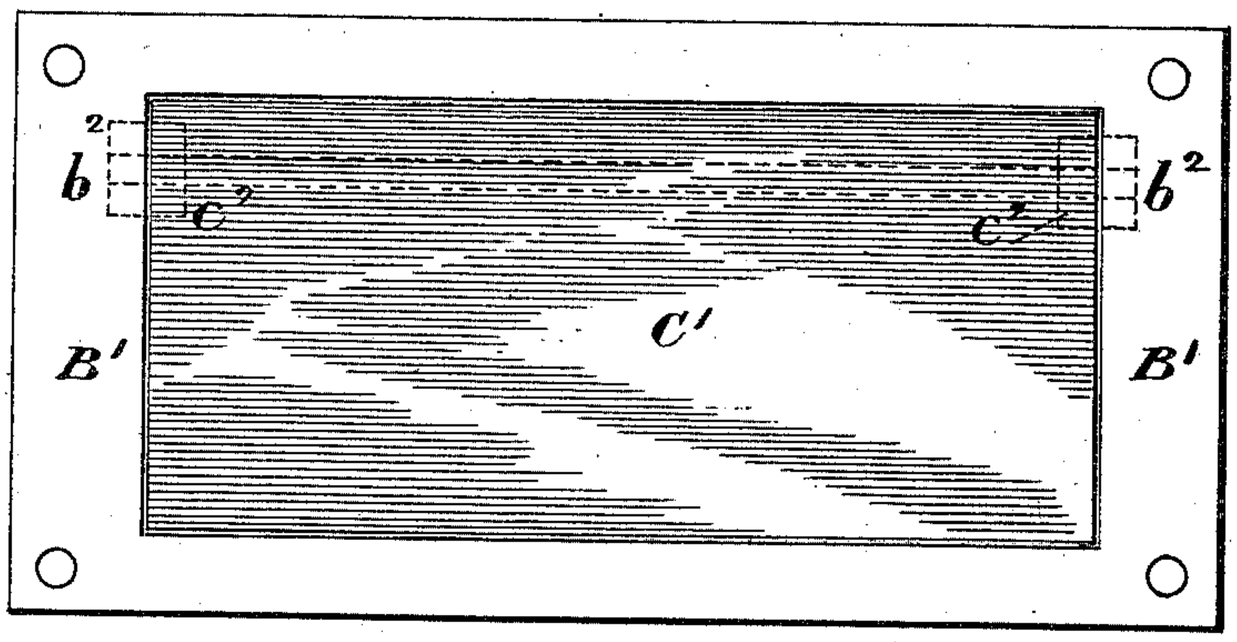

Fig. 3.

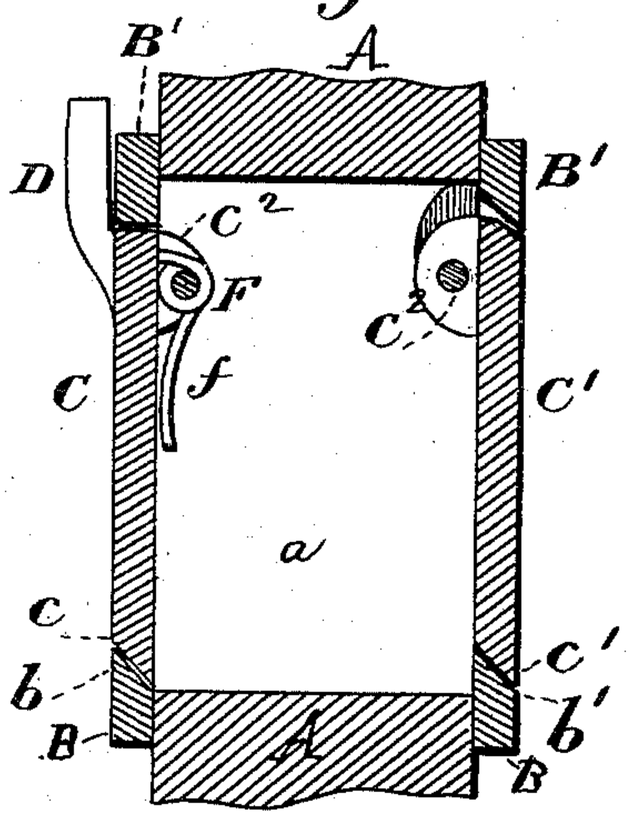

Fig. 4

Witnesses.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JEROME VAN VALKENBURG, OF CROOKED LAKE, MICHIGAN.

HOUSE-DOOR LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 456,972, dated August 4, 1891.

Application filed August 21, 1890. Serial No. 362,679. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JEROME VAN VALKENBURG, a citizen of the United States, residing at Crooked Lake, in the county of Clare and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Change-Gates for Doors or Windows; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

The special object of the invention is to make a mail-receiver which may be conveniently attached to any door or box for the reception of mail matter.

The invention consists of two metallic frames each provided with a cover, hinged at the top, so as to close flush with the frame, the outer cover opening inwardly and the other outwardly, so that the former will open the latter, while each will close by gravity or under the action of a spring.

Figure 1 of the drawings is an elevation showing the door attachment on the outside; Fig. 2, a similar view showing the inside of my door attachment, and Fig. 3 a vertical cross-section. Fig. 4 is a cross-section of one of the facings.

In the drawings, A represents a door in which is made a "cut-out" or suitable aperture *a*, through which any ordinary mail-matter may pass without difficulty. Around this aperture, on each side of the door, I attach by screws or otherwise the metallic facings B B'. In the outer facing B' and at the top thereof I hinge the cover C, which has an outer bevel *c* on its bottom edge to fit an inside bevel *b* on the facing B. By this construction the door C can only open on the inside, while the bevels *b' c'* on the inner facing B and cover C' being reversed, the door C can only open on the outside.

A number or other designation may be placed on the outer cover C, and also a projection D, by which it may be more conveniently manipulated. I preferably use a hinge-pintle E, which is made fast in the lugs c^2 c^2 on the covers and journaled in the lugs b^2 b^2 of the facings B B', the said lugs being of course on the under sides. The covers C C' will naturally fall by gravity into their seats in the facings as soon as the force which opens the outer cover is removed; but I may use the coil-spring F, with arm *f*, to make them fit. I may make the covers C C' with rabbets, as shown in Fig. 4 of the drawings.

I am aware that it is not new to make change-gates with meshing racks to move simultaneously in opposite directions, but

What I claim as new and of my invention is—

The covers or lids C C', similarly beveled at *c c'*, but reversely beveled with respect to the sides of the facings B B' and hinged thereto, in combination with a door cut out at *a*, whereby said covers may always move in the same direction and the outer gate push the inner one open, as described.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JEROME VAN VALKENBURG.

Witnesses:

NATHANIEL D. WATKINS,

JOHN MCKERRACHER.