

(No Model.)

S. E. SPARROW.  
SAFETY ATTACHMENT FOR TRUNKS.

No. 475,950.

Patented May 31, 1892.

Fig 1 .

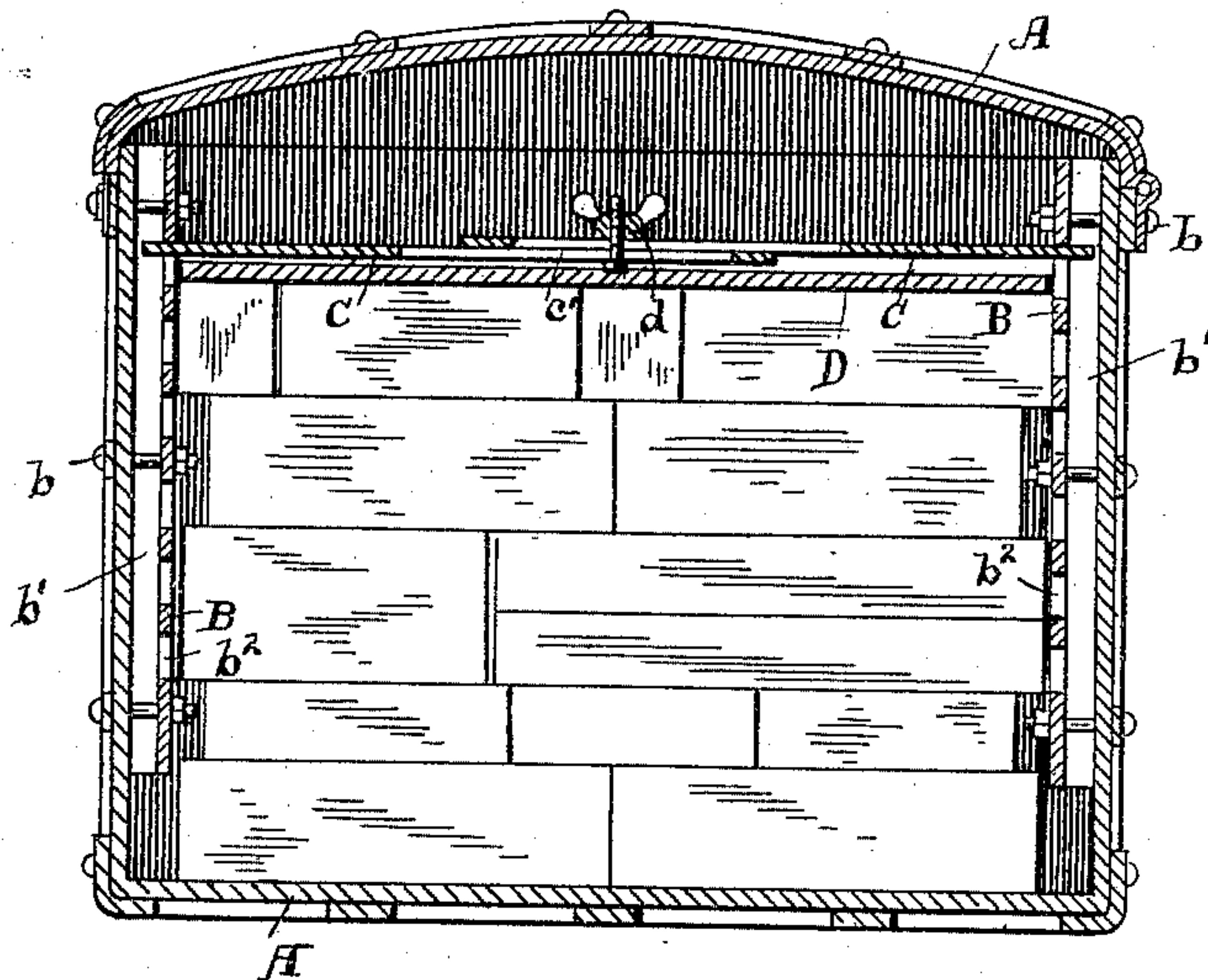


Fig 2

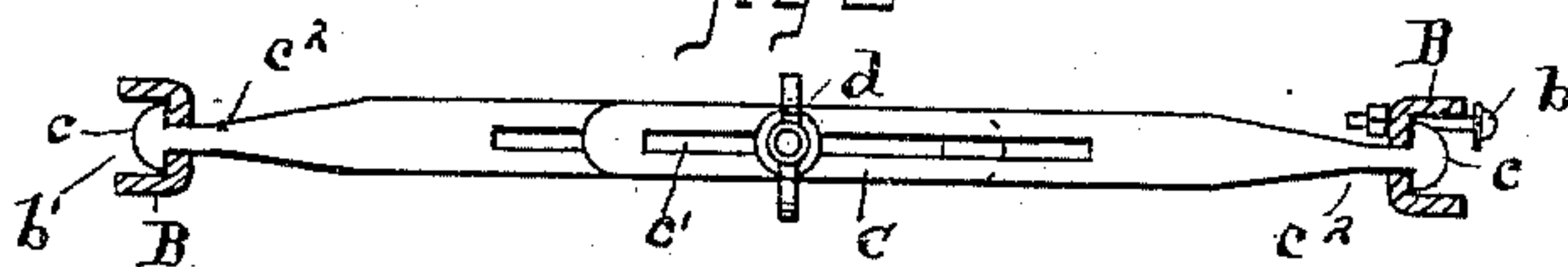


Fig 3

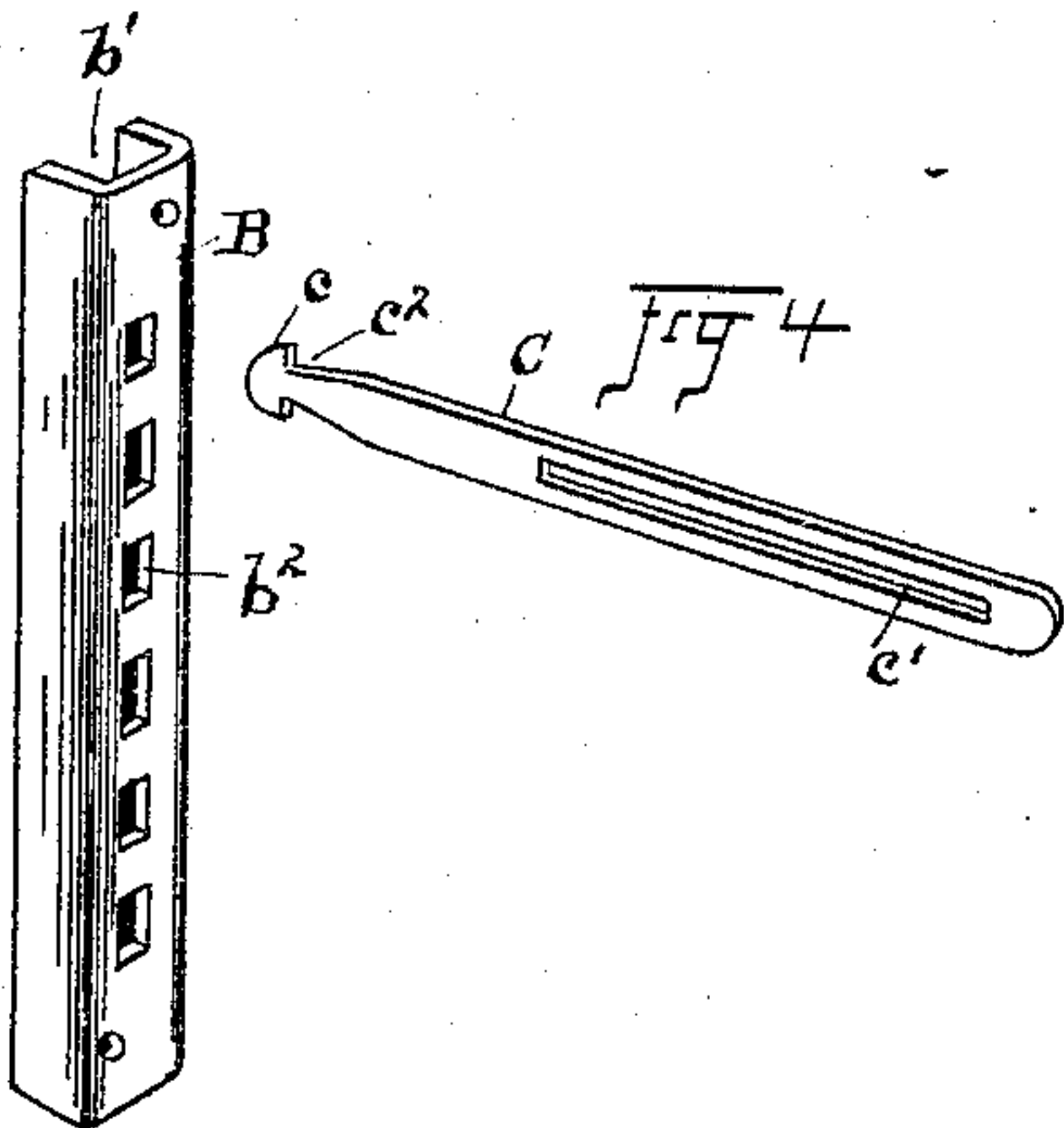
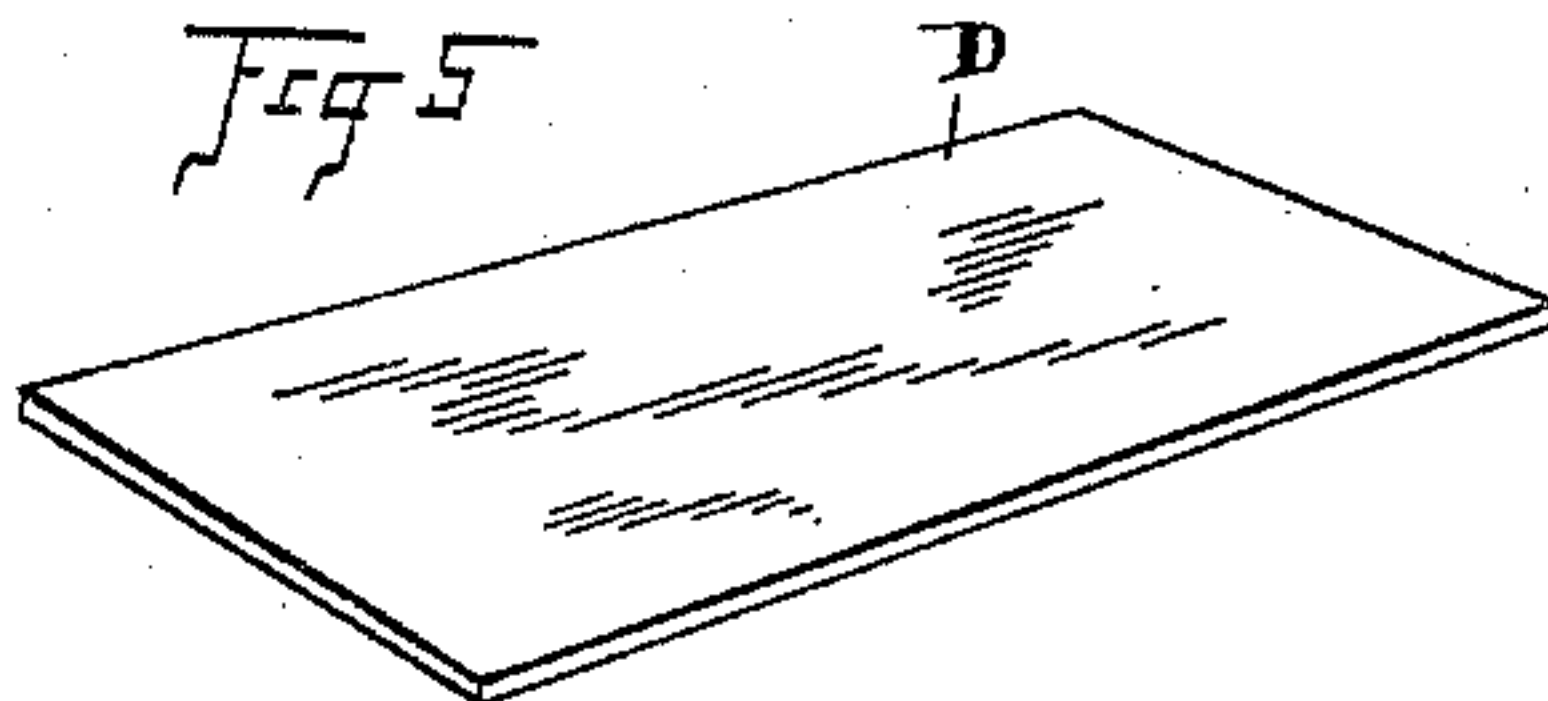


Fig 5



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## SAFETY ATTACHMENT FOR TRUNKS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 475,950, dated May 31, 1892.

Application filed December 26, 1891. Serial No. 416,140. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, SETH E. SPARROW, a citizen of the United States, residing at Norwalk, in the county of Huron and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Safety Attachments for Trunks and other Receptacles; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to safety attachments for trunks, chests, packing-boxes, and like articles adapted to carry the personal effects of a traveler, merchandise, and samples, and the like; and the object of the invention is to provide means for securing in a trunk, chest, or packing-box used to make shipments by rail or otherwise the articles contained therein from injury incident to their shipment. It frequently occurs that a person starting out upon a brief trip or visit feels compelled to use the trunk he may happen to have, although it be twice as large as he requires for the immediate trip before him, and so he packs his clothing into this trunk and fastens them down as best he can, or most likely puts them in without any special fastening at all. If the traveler be a lady and she has no means for protecting her apparel from the tumbling about they receive in a loose trunk they will likely be rendered unfit to be worn in that condition, if they be not permanently injured. Silk dresses and other like fine articles require some means for holding them securely in the place they are carefully packed by delicate hands. So, also, it occurs with commercial travelers that they frequently have rare and expensive goods and articles which have to be carried in chests or boxes too large and roomy to permit of safe packing and carriage without much labor and excessive extra packing material. I have therefore devised means to remedy all these and kindred difficulties and objections; and my invention consists in safety attachments constructed, arranged, and operating substantially as shown and described, and particularly pointed out in the claims.

Figure 1 is a cross-section of a packing-trunk, taken on a line running centrally through my improved safety device, secured

to the sides of the trunk and spanning the trunk from side to side. Fig. 2 is a cross-section of the side pieces as they appear in Fig. 1 and in use and a plan of the cross pieces or strips locked in the side pieces. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of one of the side pieces alone, and Fig. 4 a perspective view of one of the tying or binding cross-pieces alone. Fig. 5 is a reduced perspective view of what may be termed a "false" top or cover, which comes beneath the cross-pieces and bears upon the goods to keep them down in packed position.

A represents a trunk, chest, box, or any like receptacle or vessel adapted to carry the apparel or personal effects of a traveler, or to carry merchandise of any kind that ordinarily is boxed or inclosed and packed for shipping. Upon the inside of this receptacle A, and preferably upon the sides thereof, are secured the angle-iron vertical pieces B. These pieces are fastened in position, as here shown, by means of short screws or bolts *b*, which pass through the side of the receptacle and the piece B and are locked by means of nuts. This, however, is only one of different ways or methods of fastening that may be adopted. For example, the said pieces B might have flanges along their sides or edges where they bear against the receptacle and be riveted in position. These pieces B may be made of cast or sheet metal and produced by any convenient process, and should have such weight and strength as will enable them to sustain any strain that may come upon them. When in position, they form a chamber *b'* within their sides, adapted to accommodate the head *c* of the cross-pieces C and have a series of oblong slots or openings *b<sup>2</sup>* on their face adapted to receive said heads. These slots or openings are so constructed that the heads *c* can be inserted edgewise to the length of the slot, and then when the said pieces C are turned on their sides the shoulders on the heads *c* will engage on the sides of the slots and be held from drawing out when cross-pieces C are locked.

The cross-pieces C have each a longitudinal slot *c'* in their overlapping portion, and a set screw or nut *d* serves to lock the said pieces firmly together. These slots adapt said pieces to a wide range of widths in the receptacle, and the said pieces are of such



size and strength that they will serve for a trunk or chest of almost any probable size, large or small. The slots  $b^2$  in upright pieces B are adapted to receive the said cross-pieces  
 5 at any elevation between bottom and top of the trunk or receptacle, according to the quantity of goods to be packed.

D represents what may be termed a "false" cover or top, which is placed on the goods  
 10 after packing is finished and pressed down as firmly as the goods require, and the cross-pieces are then placed in position over it and locked to hold it in place. The shank  $c^2$  of the cross-pieces enables them to be turned in  
 15 slots  $b^2$  without removal therefrom, and said pieces are turned on these shanks both in fastening them in position and in removing them from the pieces B.

Two or more of the pieces B may be used  
 20 on each side of the package, according to its size. In ordinary sizes of trunk two on a side—one near each end—will suffice, though three might be used.

An obvious equivalent of the oblong slots  
 25  $b^2$  is an opening fashioned like an ordinary keyhole, and still other equivalents might be suggested.

The strips or pieces B might be placed at the ends of the trunk or receptacle as well as  
 30 at the sides, and in some receptacles this might be the preferable way.

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

1. The receptacle, separate engaging pieces 35 fixed upon its inside and having a series of openings one above the other, slotted longitudinally-adjustable cross-pieces constructed to lock in said openings and having a screw to lock said cross-pieces together, and a false 40 cover held down by said cross-pieces, substantially as described.

2. As a new article of manufacture, safety attachments for trunks and like receptacles, consisting of upright pieces constructed to be 45 secured to the inside of a trunk or other receptacle and provided with a series of openings one above the other, and rigid cross-pieces overlapping each other at their inner ends and slotted to be rigidly fastened to- 50 gether after adjustment, said cross-pieces having heads to engage the openings in the upright pieces, and a screw to fasten them together through the slots, substantially as described. 55

Witness my hand to the foregoing specification this 19th day of December, 1891.

SETH E. SPARROW.

Witnesses:

H. T. FISHER,  
 NELLIE L. McLANE.