

(No Model.)

W. A. COLES.  
CORSET FASTENING.

No. 561,866.

Patented June 9, 1896.

Fig. 1.

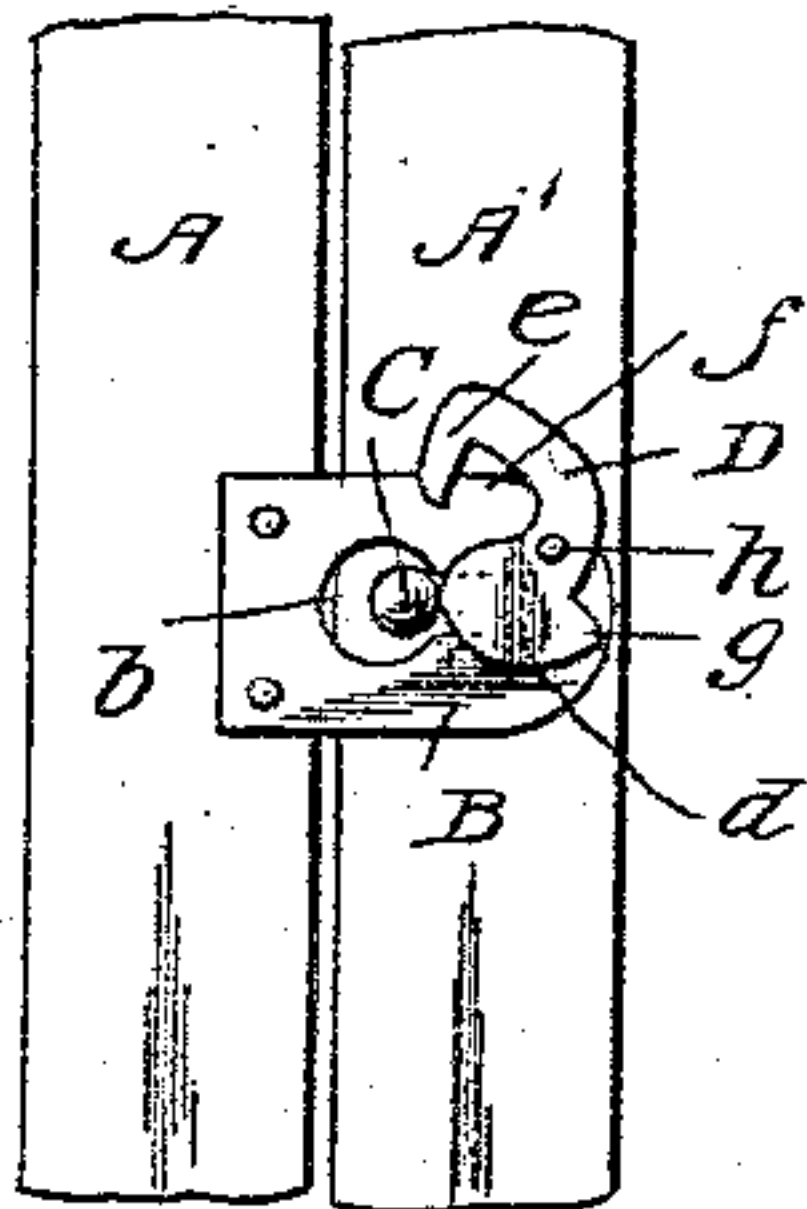


Fig. 2.

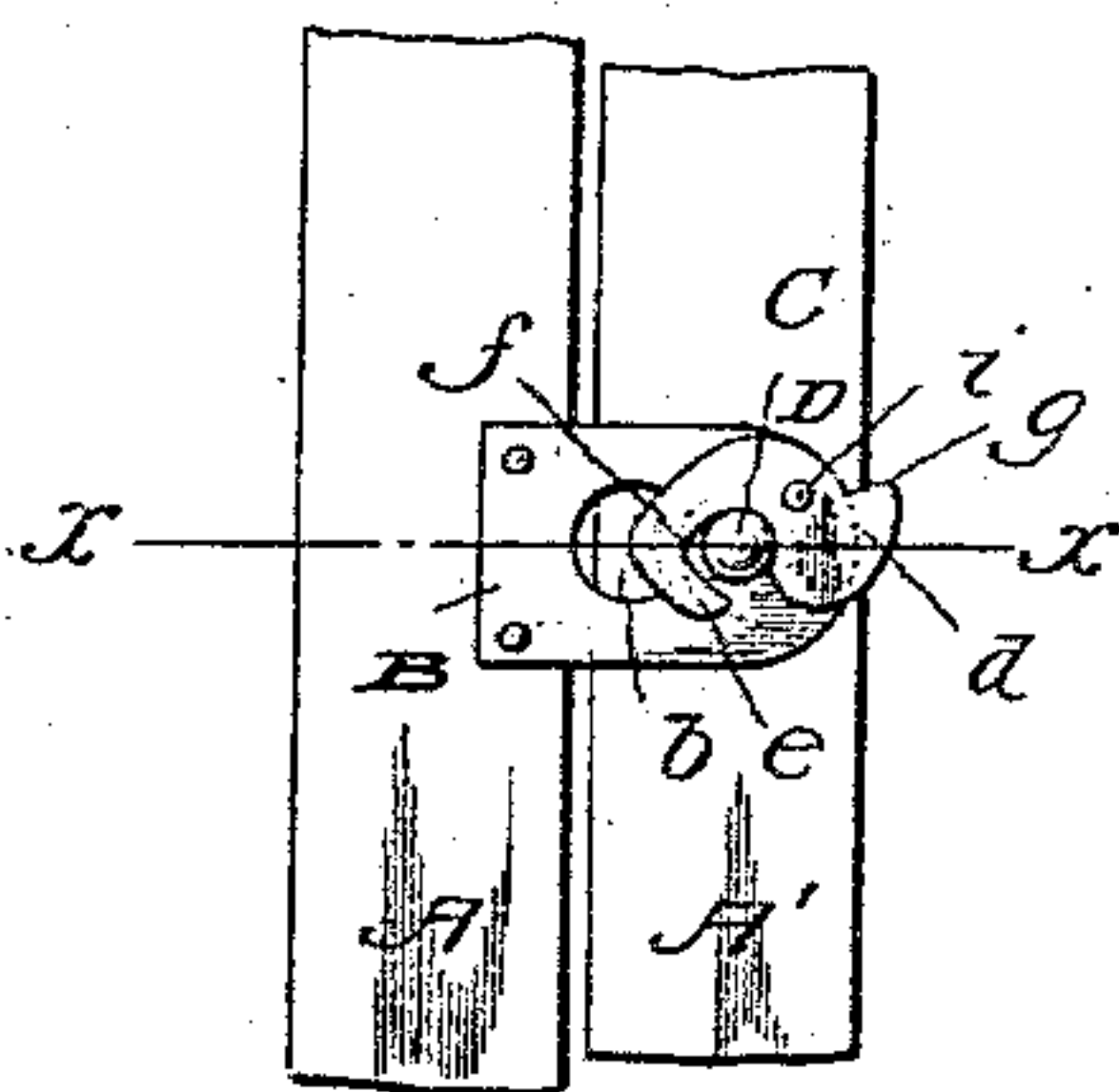


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



Witnesses:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## CORSET-FASTENING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 561,866, dated June 9, 1896.

Application filed January 31, 1896. Serial No. 577,307. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM ALBERT COLES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Elgin, in the county of Kane and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Corset-Fastenings; 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.

My invention relates to improvements in corset-fastenings of that class which employ a device for automatically locking the fastening, so as to prevent the corset-steels from becoming uncoupled accidentally.

The object that I have in view is to provide an exceedingly simple and cheap locking device which can be applied to the ordinary commercial corset-fastening without necessitating the modification, in any way, of the construction of such corset-fastening, which locking device will be efficient in service to prevent accidental uncoupling of the corset-steels and which can be easily operated by hand to throw the same out of operative relation to the stud, and thus permit the fastening to be uncoupled.

With these ends in view my invention consists in the combination, with the corset-steels, a slotted or eye-formed plate, and a headed post or stud, all constituting a part of an ordinary commercial corset-fastening, of a latch or locking plate made or stamped from a single piece of sheet metal, with an enlarged cam-shaped end, a hook, and a thumb or finger beak or projection, said latch being pivoted to the slotted fastener-plate at a point above the slot therein and at a point intermediate of the length of the latch-plate to cause its cam-formed end to lie in position for the stud or post, when it enters the slotted plate, to strike against said cam and move or throw the hook of the latch around the stud, thus confining the stud between the cam-formed end and hook of the latch and preventing the stud from having sufficient play in the slot of the fastener-plate to reach the enlarged portion of said slot necessary for the stud to become accidentally disengaged.

To enable others to understand my invention, I have illustrated the same in the ac-

companying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation of an ordinary fastener with my latch-plate applied thereto and shown in position with the post or stud bearing against the cam-formed part of the latch to throw the hook around the post or stud. Fig. 2 is a similar view with the latch in locking engagement with the post or stud. Fig. 3 is a detail perspective view of the latch detached from the corset-fastener. Fig. 4 is a cross-section on the line *x x* of Fig. 2.

Like letters of reference denote corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings, referring to which—

A A' designate the corset-steels. B is the fastener-plate, which is attached to or made integral with one of the steels, and which plate has a keyhole-shaped slot *b* produced therein, and C is the headed post or stud rigidly fastened to the other corset-steel. These parts constitute the ordinary corset-fastening now in extensive commercial use, and are herein shown and described to enable others to understand the application and mode of operation of my locking contrivance.

One of the distinguishing features of my invention is that it is so constructed and applied as to enable it to be used in connection with ordinary fasteners without in any way modifying or changing the construction of said fastener, and at the same time the locking device is capable of operation automatically by the headed post or stud when it is adjusted in the slotted fastener-plate, whereby the locking device is thrown into operative locking relation to confine or hold the stud or post in position without requiring the wearer to adjust the locking contrivance.

D represents my locking plate or latch, which is cut or stamped in a single piece from a sheet of metal. The latch D has an enlarged cam-formed end or head *d*, a hook *e*, which is so formed and arranged relative to the cam-head *d* as to leave an opening or recess *f* between the hook and head, a projecting thumb-piece or lug *g*, and a pivot-receiving opening *h*. The latch is applied to fit closely against the flat fastener-plate B, so as to partially cover the slot *b* therein and bring the cam-formed end or head *d* of said latch D at the outer end of the plate B, and the latch is piv-



otally connected to the fastener-plate by means of the pin or rivet *i*, which passes through the aperture *h* and the fastener-plate. The latch is thus pivoted at an intermediate point of the length of the latch-plate, and said latch is pivoted above the slot in the fastener-plate, so that the hook *e* can swing or turn to a position across the keyhole-slot *b* and around the headed post or stud.

10 The thumb-piece or lug *g* provides a convenient means by which the latch can be turned on the pivot *i* to throw the latch to a position where the hook *e* will lie above the slot *b* and expose the enlarged part of said keyhole-slot to permit the stud or post *C* to readily enter the slot in said plate *B*, and when the latch *D* is turned to the position just described the cam-formed head *d* of the latch is thrown across the small or reduced part of the keyhole-slot *b*, so that said cam-head of the latch lies in the path of the stud or post. When the latch is in this position, the stud can readily enter the enlarged part of the keyhole-slot *b*, and when the fastener is operated to pull or move the stud or post into the contracted end of said slot *b* the post or stud strikes the cam-head *e* and throws the latch around on its pivot to cause the hook *e* to fit around the post or stud, as shown by Fig. 2 of the drawings. It will be noted that the latch confines or holds the stud or post between the cam-head *d* and the hook *e*, and the latch itself is held in its locking position, Fig. 2, by gravity and by frictional engagement with the post, whereby the post is prevented by the latch from moving in the slotted fastener-plate *B* to such an extent as to permit the stud to enter the enlarged part of the keyhole-slot, thus preventing accidental separation of the post from the fastener-plate.

40 To release the fastener, the latch is turned on its pivot by pressing down on the thumb-piece *g* to throw the hook *e* upwardly and away from the post and from across the slot *b*, and at the same time the post *C* is moved inwardly into the enlarged part of the keyhole-slot to enable the headed post to be easily withdrawn from the fastener-plate in the usual way.

50 It will be noted by an examination of Fig. 2 of the drawings that the latch *D* is pivoted to the slotted plate at a point near its outer end, and that when the headed post is fitted

in the contracted end of the keyhole-slot *b* in the plate *B* said post bears against the end of the plate *B*, while the hook-arm *e* of the latch lies across the slot *b* and closes the enlarged end of the slot against admission by the post *C*. By this construction the pull or strain which tends to separate the steels *A A'* is borne by the post *C* against the end of the plate *B*, in which is formed the contracted end of the slot *b*, thus relieving the latch *D* and its pivot of the strain which separates the steels, and the latch and pivot are only subjected to the small amount of pressure due to the very limited play of the post *C* against the hook-arm *e* of the latch when it is closed around the post, as shown by Fig. 2.

My latch is automatically operated by the introduction of the headed post into the slotted plate *B*, because the post bears against the cam-head *d* when it is moved into the small end of the keyhole-slot of the fastener-plate, which operation turns the pivoted latch to throw the hook around the headed post. The latch can be easily manipulated to release the post and enable it to be withdrawn from the fastener-plate.

The latch is extremely simple and cheap in construction, being stamped or cut in a single piece from a sheet of metal, and it is applied by simply riveting it in place to the fastener-plate of an ordinary corset-fastening.

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

The combination with the steels, a slotted plate having a closed end, and a headed post, of a cam-formed latch pivoted near and to the end of the plate to have its cam, when the latch is turned up, lie in the path of said post and provided with an extended hook-shaped arm arranged to be thrown around the post and to close entirely across the slot when the post is drawn, by the strain which tends to separate the steels, against the closed outer end of said slotted plate, as and for the purposes described.

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

WILLIAM ALBERT COLES.

Witnesses:

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EMILE Q. CHENOT.