

L. Foster,

Latch.

Nº 811.

Patented June 27, 1838.

Fig. 1.

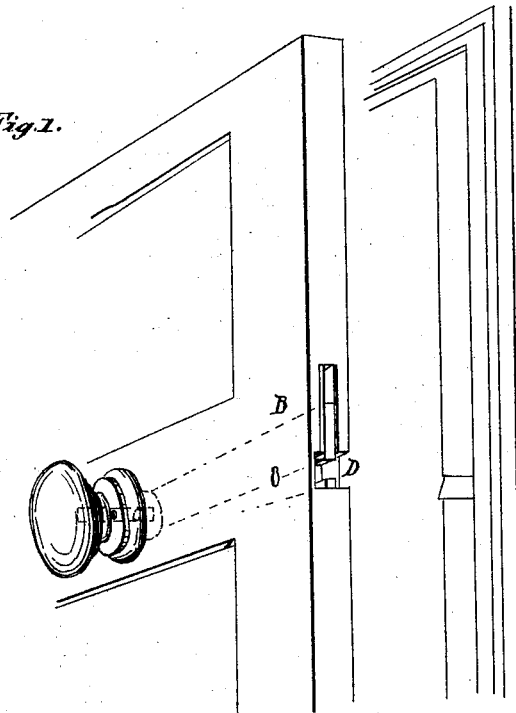


Fig. 4.

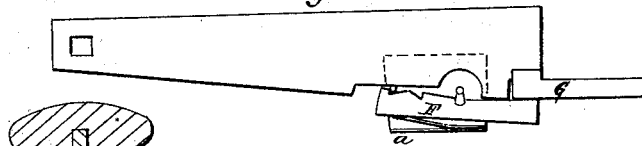


Fig. 3.

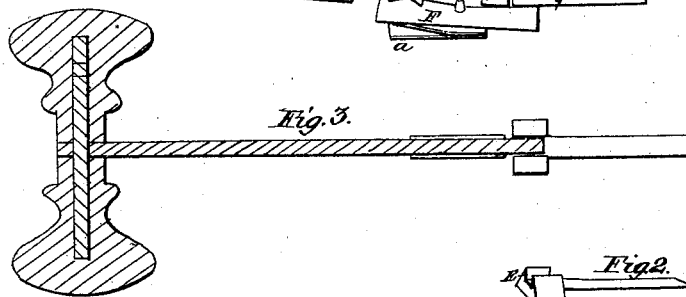


Fig. 2.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEONARD FOSTER, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

MORTISE LATCH FOR DOORS.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 811, dated June 27, 1838,

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEONARD FOSTER, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improved Invisible Mortise Latch and Door Fastening Adapted to Doors of Houses and to Doors in General; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof.

10 This latch is to be entirely inclosed within a mortise, made for the purpose, in the edge of the rail of the door, within which it is to be wholly contained, not projecting out beyond the said edge. The catch also is to be contained entirely within the rabbet of the door frame, into which it is to be inserted by driving its shank into the frame in a hole made for the purpose in the direction of the plane of the door when closed; by 20 which means it is rendered incapable of being drawn out by any force exerted by, or against, the door. The latch is to be raised by the aid of knobs upon a spindle, said spindle passing through a square hole in the back end of the latch. I sometimes also attach a small lock to the latch, the bolt of which is made to catch when projected, below the catch of the latch, and to prevent its being raised.

30 In the accompanying drawing I have represented the latch and its appendages of the full size necessary for general use in ordinary doors; this of course, will be varied for doors for coaches, or other purposes.

5 A, Figure 1, is the latch represented by dotted lines, and B is a part of a door rail mortised to receive it; C, representing the shank and the knob, by which the latch is to be operated. The outer end of the latch is to be flush with the edge of the door, into which a notch D is to be made to receive the catch. Fig. 2, represents the catch which is to be secured by driving its shank into the door frame, as before stated. It is shown 45 as having an inclined plane on each side of the notch E, into which notch the latch is

to fall; the intention of this is to adapt the catch equally to doors opening either right or left; it may, however, be made with the inclination on one side only. Fig. 3, shows 50 in section, the knobs, spindle, and latch in place. Fig. 4, shows the latch with a small lock attached to its under side, by means of which it may be effectually secured, and made to answer the purposes of a lock, as 55 well as of a latch, a very small key only being necessary to render it thus secure.

The bolt F, is secured to the latch by a thin plate of metal, *a*, one side of which is removed to show the bolt, and this bolt when 60 shot forward, embraces the catch, G occupying the opening formed by a notch in the latch. The key hole may be made through both sides of the door, or on one side only, as may be preferred. 65

When the lock is not used, a pin may be inserted so as to catch upon the top of the latch, and hold it down, securing it from being opened on the outside. To cause the latch to work easily and correctly, thin plates 70 of metal are driven into the edge of the door, on each side of the mortise, against which the fore end of the latch plays.

What I claim as my invention, and wish to secure by Letters Patent, is— 75

1. The manner above described of inserting a latch, consisting of a simple plate of metal, with a mortise made in the rail of the door; said latch being flush, at its fore end, with the said rail; and being received 80 by a catch driven into the door frame, in the direction of the plane of the door when closed, the whole constructed and operating in the manner above set forth.

2. I also claim the attaching of a small 85 lock to the latch, in the manner, and for the purpose described.

LEONARD FOSTER

Witnesses:

C. H. WILTBERGER,
LINTON THORN.