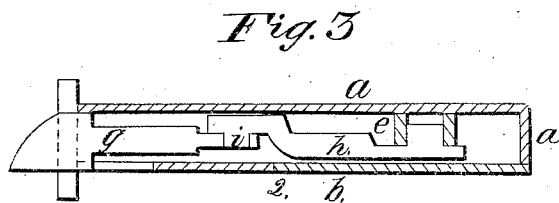
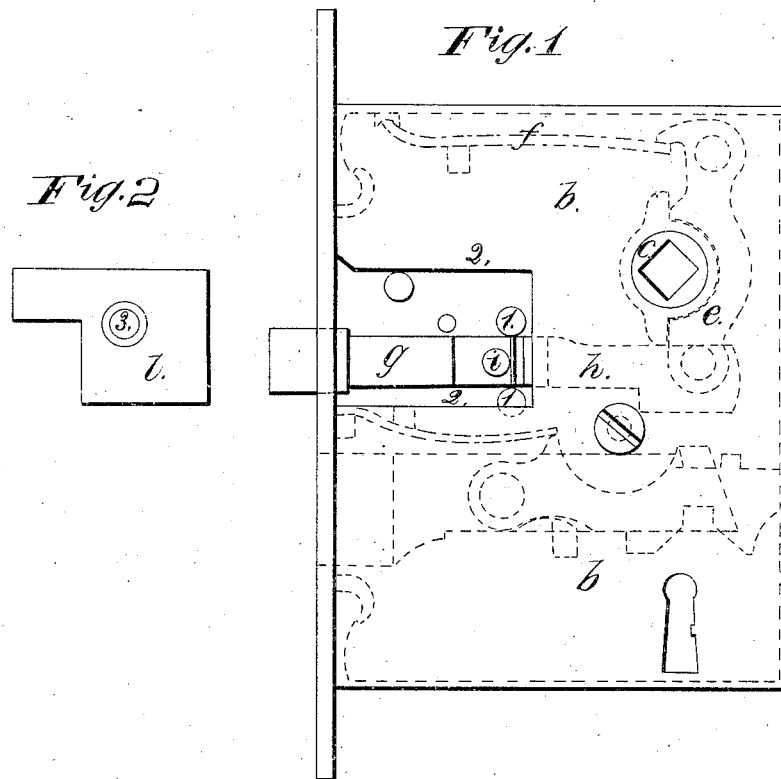


S. M. Richardson,

Reversible Latch.

N^o 44,976.

Patented Nov. 8, 1864.



Witnesses:

Lemuel W. Terrell

Thos. Geo. Harold

Inventor:

S. M. Richardson

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL M. RICHARDSON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN LATCHES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 44,976, dated November 8, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL M. RICHARDSON, of the city and State of New York, have invented, made, and applied to use a certain new and useful Improvement in Locks; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the said invention, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making part of this specification, wherein—

Figure 1 is an elevation of my lock with the movable section of the cap-plate removed. Fig. 2 is said cap-plate detached, and Fig. 3 is a section of the lock at and through the latch.

Similar marks of reference denote the same parts.

The nature of my said invention consists in a movable section made in the lock-plate, in combination with a reversible latch, whereby the parts of the lock itself are not disturbed by the removal of the lock-plate, as has heretofore been usual, for reversing the latch in adapting the lock to a right or left hand door.

Latches have heretofore been made with a device for allowing the said latch to be placed with the beveled end in either direction, in order that the latch might be adapted to a right or left hand door; but in those cases where the lock-plate itself has to be taken off the parts of the lock become displaced, and cannot easily be put in position by others than a locksmith. My improvement obviates this difficulty and enables a carpenter or other person fitting the lock to adapt it to the direction in which the door opens.

In the drawings, *a* is the box of the lock; *b*, the cap-plate; *c*, the hub for the spindle that

passes to the handles. *e* is the lever, and *f* the spring of the latch, all of which may be of any usual character. *g* is the reversible latch, formed with an eye at the inner end setting over a pin, *i*, upon the latch-slide *h*, that is acted upon by the lever *e* and cams on the hub, or in any other usual manner, as seen by dotted lines. The end of the latch-slide *h* is sustained between lugs or supports 1 1, so that it and the latch can slide freely, but be kept in place. The cap-plate *b*, over the latch, is formed with an opening, as seen at 2 2, Fig. 1, so that the latch *g* can be lifted off the pin *i* and placed again in position with the bevel or incline of the end in either direction to adapt this mortise-lock to a right or left hand door, and a plate, *l*, (see Fig. 2,) adapted to the opening 2, is then to be put in place and secured by the screw 3, the lugs 1 1 keeping this movable section of the cap-plate at the proper position. It will be seen that this movable section is easily removed for reversing the latch, and that the rest of the parts of the lock are undisturbed and remain properly in place.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

Constructing the ordinary lock-plate with an opening receiving the movable section *l*, in combination with the reversible latch, constructed substantially as specified, whereby access is allowed to the latch without uncovering the other parts of the lock, as set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my signature this 28th day of May, 1864.

S. M. RICHARDSON.

Witnesses:

LEMUEL W. SERRELL,
THOS. GEO. HAROLD.