

J. L. DEVOL.

Improvement in Locking-Latches for Gates.

No. 115,448.

Patented May 30, 1871.

Fig. 1.

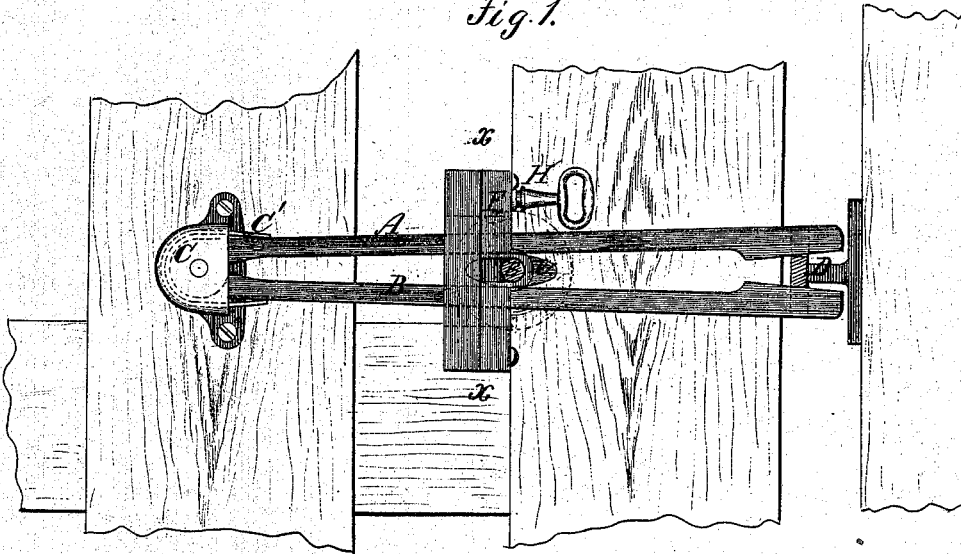
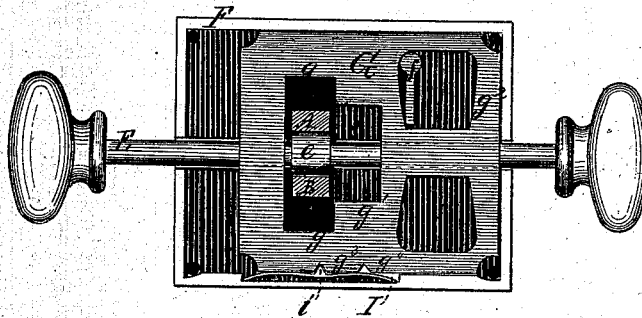


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.
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IMPROVEMENT IN LOCKING-LATCHES FOR GATES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 115,448, dated May 30, 1871.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JONATHAN L. DEVOL, of Parkersburg, in the county of Wood and State of West Virginia, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Gate-Fastenings; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the annexed drawing making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation. Fig. 2 is a transverse section on line *xx* of Fig. 1.

The same letters of reference are employed in both figures in the designation of identical parts.

This invention relates to a gate latch or fastening composed of two spring-jaws, which, in shutting the gate, lock themselves automatically to the keeper on the post; and my improvement consists in combining with such spring-jaws a lock of simple construction, to be employed for holding the jaws closed when locked to the keeper, as will be generally explained hereinafter and specifically pointed out in the claim.

The latch is composed of two jaws, A and B, which are pivoted together in a housing, C, on the gate, and project some distance beyond the outer stile thereof. The housing C also contains a curved spring, C', which embraces the jaws and acts to close them. The keeper D on the post is constructed with a pointed head upon each side, one or the other of which enters between the projecting ends of the jaws and forces them apart to fall into recesses in the keeper between these heads and hold the gate shut. The latch is maintained in a nearly horizontal position by a spindle, E, which is provided with a cam, *e*, at the point where the jaws of the latch embrace it, and, extending beyond the gate at either side, terminates at each end in a suitable knob for operating it to

open the jaws by the cam. The spindle turns in a semicircular recess formed upon the outer plate of the lock-case F, which has a vertical elongated slot where the jaws of the latch pass through it, so that the latter may be opened the proper distance. In the case F is arranged a plate, G, which corresponds in width with the height of the case, but is shorter than the latter, so that it may be moved horizontally therein. A T-shaped aperture, *g g*¹, is formed through the plate, the part *g* of which corresponds in size with the aperture through the case, and, in the position of the parts shown in Fig. 2, is also in line therewith, so that the jaws of the latch, passing through it, can be readily opened to slide over the pointed heads of the keeper in opening or closing the gate. The width or the height of the part *g*¹ of the aperture is such that it can pass over the jaws when they are locked to the keeper and prevent them from being opened. Another opening, *g*², is formed in the plate G opposite to the key-hole *f* in the case, in which opening the key H plays to shift the plate to lock and unlock the jaws. A spring, I, is intended to hold the plate G in one position or the other by means of a tapering projection, *i*, which engages with one of the correspondingly-formed notches *g*³ and *g*⁴ in the plate.

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

In a gate-latch substantially such as described, the combination of the jaws A B and sliding plate G, serving to lock them, and operating in the manner set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

J. L. DEVOL.

Witnesses:

G. LOOMIS,
N. LOOMIS.