

(No Model.)

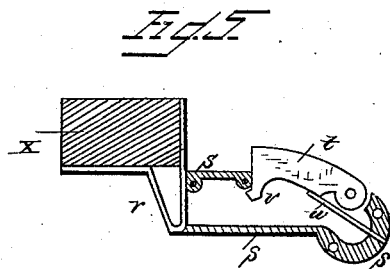
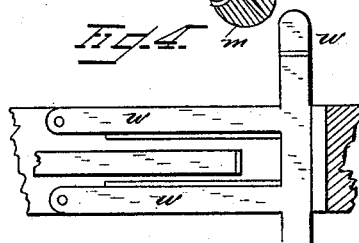
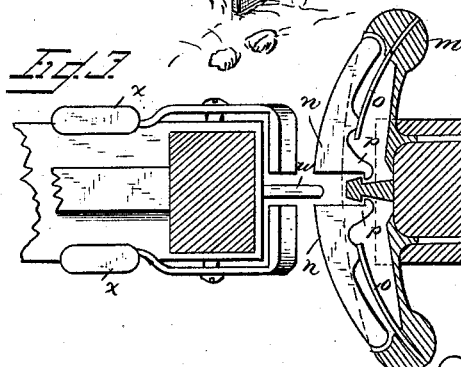
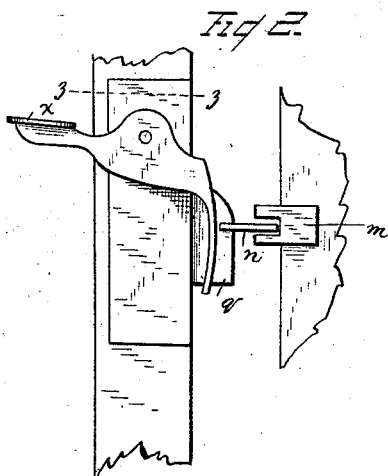
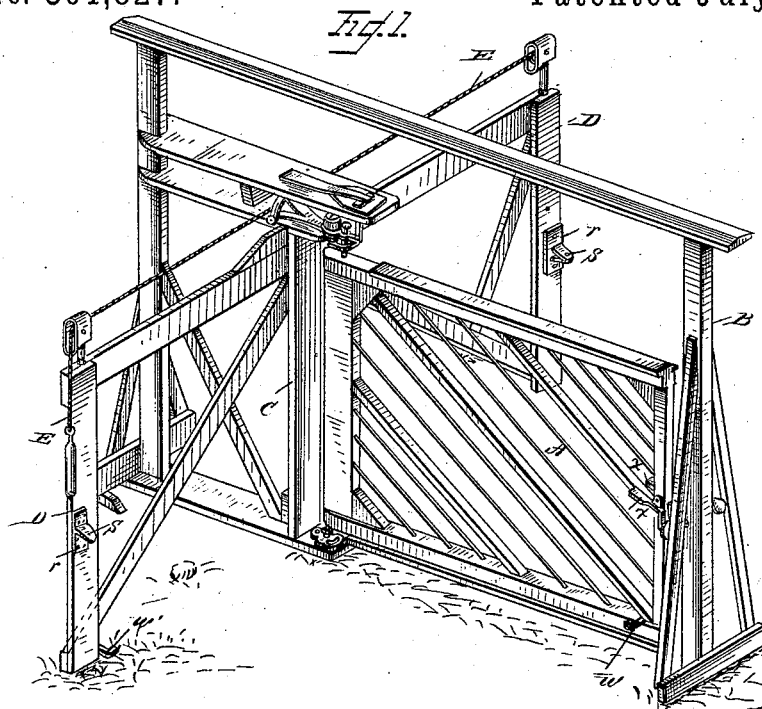
2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

S. D. MUSE.

GATE LATCH.

No. 301,827.

Patented July 8, 1884.



WITNESSES

J. R. Sittell,  
M. E. Little.

S. D. Muse,  
INVENTOR

by A. Snow & Co.  
Attorneys.

(No Model.)

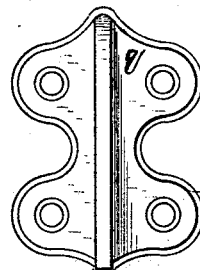
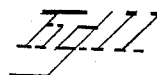
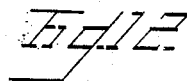
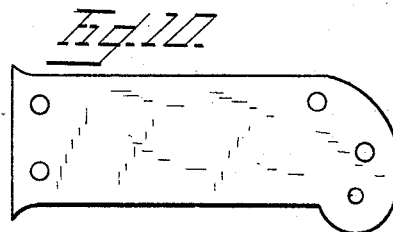
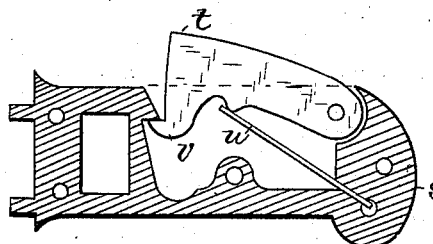
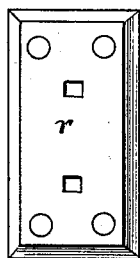
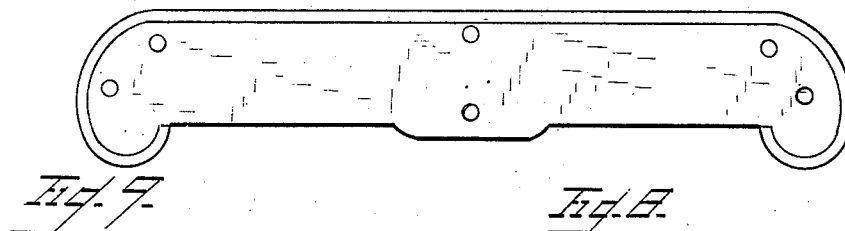
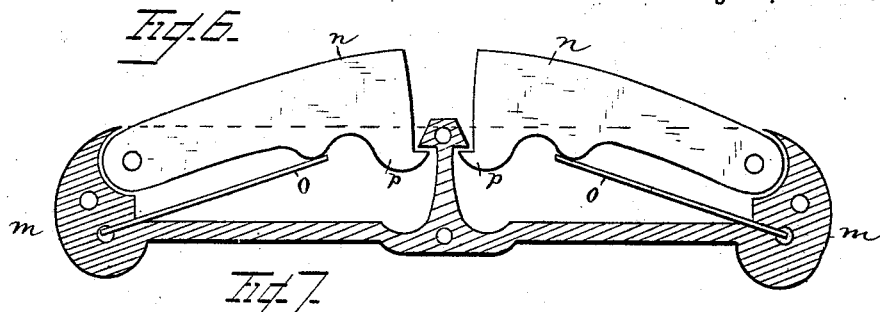
2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

S. D. MUSE.

GATE LATCH.

No. 301,827.

Patented July 8, 1884.



WITNESSES

*Reed Little*  
*M. E. Little*

INVENTOR

*S. D. Muse*  
by *Cashaw & Co.*  
Attorneys.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL DUNN MUSE, OF MONTICELLO, MISSISSIPPI.

## GATE-LATCH.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 301,827, dated July 8, 1884.

Application filed August 25, 1883. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, SAMUEL D. MUSE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Monticello, in the county of Lawrence and State of Mississippi, have invented a new and useful Gate-Latch, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to gate-latches of the class adapted to be used in connection with a gate such as shown in my Patent No. 280,754, of July 3, 1883, in which the gate is adapted to be swung in either direction by suitable pull-cords, the gate being so pivoted that when the pull-cords are operated its forward end will be elevated to disengage the catches from the latch.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a gate embodying my improved latch mechanism. Fig. 2 is a detail side view of a part of the forward end of the gate and the front or latch post. Fig. 3 is a horizontal sectional view of the same, taken on the line *z z*, Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a detail plan view of the lower side of the catch. Fig. 5 is a detail plan view, partly in section, of the upper side of the catch. Fig. 6 is a detail plan view of the double-catch case, the cap-plate being removed, and showing a slight modification in form. Fig. 7 is a detail plan view of the cap-plate of the double-catch case. Fig. 8 is a detail plan view of the single-catch case, the cap-plate being removed, and showing a slight modification in form. Fig. 9 is a detail face view and a sectional elevation of the single-catch-case base-plate. Fig. 10 is a detail plan view of the single-catch-case cap-plate. Fig. 11 is a detail front elevation of the stationary latch. Fig. 12 is a detail side view of the same.

Referring to the drawings, A designates the gate. B is the front or latch post. C is the rear or hinge post. D D are the latch-posts at each side the hinge-post; and E E are the pull-cords, that extend to these latch-posts, these parts being of any suitable construction.

My improved latch consists, broadly, in the combination, with the said posts and the front bar of the gate, of cases, spring-pressed catches, and a stationary latch, whereby the gate is fastened into place when swung open; and, also, in the combination, with the front post and

the front bar of the gate having a stationary latch, of a double case and two spring-actuated catches, whereby the gate is fastened in place automatically when it is swung shut from either side; and, also, in the combination, with the front bar of the gate and the spring-pressed catches, of levers whereby the catches can be forced back to release the gate.

The object of my invention is to provide a latch possessing superior advantages in point of simplicity, durability, inexpensiveness, and general efficiency.

To the front post, B, is attached a horizontal case or slotted bar, *m*, to the ends of which are pivoted the outer ends of the two catches *n n*, that have their outer edges inclined or curved, and are pressed outwardly by springs *o o*, projecting from the case *m*. The outward movement of the catches *n n*, caused by the springs, is limited by toes or projections *p*, formed at the inner corners of the inner ends of the catches, and coming against a shoulder on the case *m*, as shown. The catches *n n* are of such a length as to leave a space between their inner ends to receive the projecting flange of a latch-plate, *q*, that is fixed on the front bar of the gate. By this arrangement, when the gate is swung shut from either side, the latch *q* strikes, pushes back, and passes one of the catches *n*, and strikes against and is stopped by the inner end of the other catch *n*. At the same time, as soon as the latch *q* has passed, the other catch *n* springs out to its normal position, and the gate is fastened shut. To open the gate it is only necessary to pull one of the cords E to effect the raising of the front end of the gate, when the latch *q* is elevated above the catches *n*, and the gate will swing open by its own weight. The gate can be closed by pulling upon the other cord E, the operation of the mechanism being the same as in opening.

Directly to the side posts, D D, or to brackets *r*, attached to said posts, are secured cases or slotted bars *s*, carrying single catches *t*, held out by springs *u*, and limited in outward movement by toes *v*, which engage with a shoulder on the said case *s*, these cases being similar in construction to one end half of the case *m*. The catches *t* will be engaged automatically by the latch *q*, to hold the gate open.

If desired, the gate can be fastened open by spring-latches *w*, attached at the front end of the bottom bar of the gate, and adapted to engage stationary pins or catches *w'* on the side posts, D D.

On opposite sides of the front bar of the gate are pivoted small hand-levers *xx*, the rear ends of which are adapted to be conveniently grasped and operated. The forward ends of these levers are widened and bent downward, so as to overlap the forward side of the front bar of the gate upon the opposite sides of the stationary latch *q*. By operating these levers the wide ends will be forced outward, so as to press back the catches *n* and allow the gate to be swung open. This enables pedestrians to readily open the gate without operating the pull-cords to raise the forward end.

If desired, treadles can be connected with the levers *xx*, to enable pedestrians to operate the said levers with their feet.

The operating and gate mechanism herein set forth is of the construction shown in my

above-mentioned patent. No claim to such mechanism is made in this application, it being merely shown as the form I prefer to use in connection with my improved gate-latch.

I claim as my invention—

The combination of the latch-post B, the double case *m*, secured thereto and formed with the central shoulders, the catches pivoted to the case *m*, and having the inner toes or projections, *p*, the springs *oo*, projecting from the case, the end bar of the gate, the latch flange or plate secured thereto, and the levers *xx*, pivoted at the side of said bar, and having the downwardly-projecting and widened ends adapted to engage the catches, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

SAMUEL DUNN MUSE.

Witnesses:

ROB J. BOWERS,  
W. M. GARLAND.