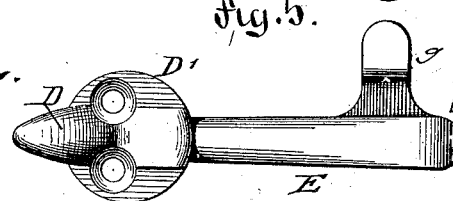
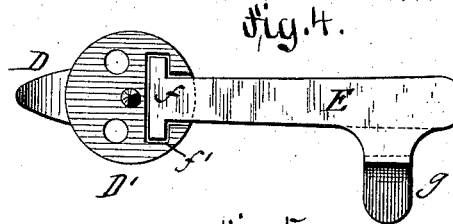
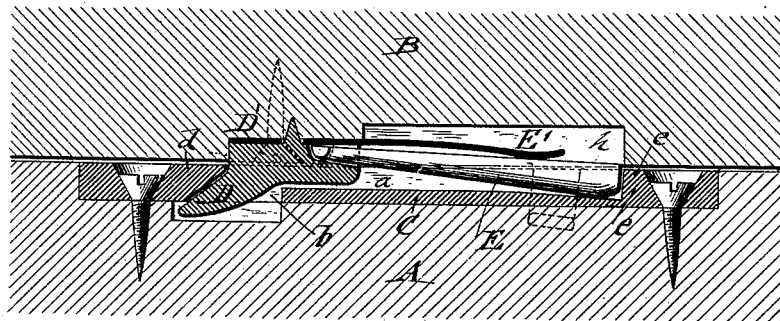
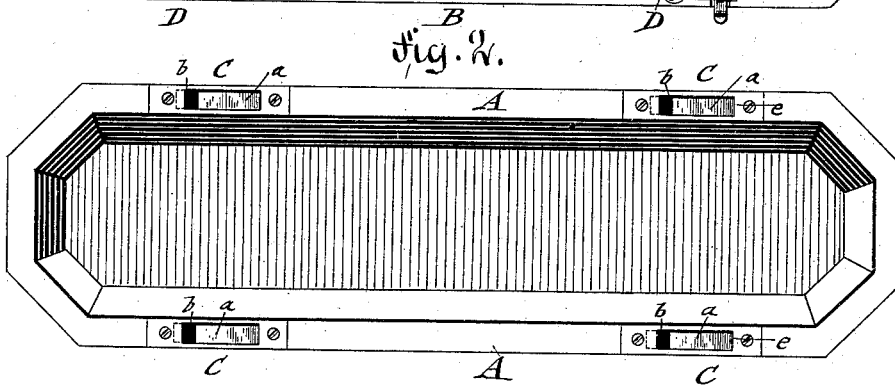
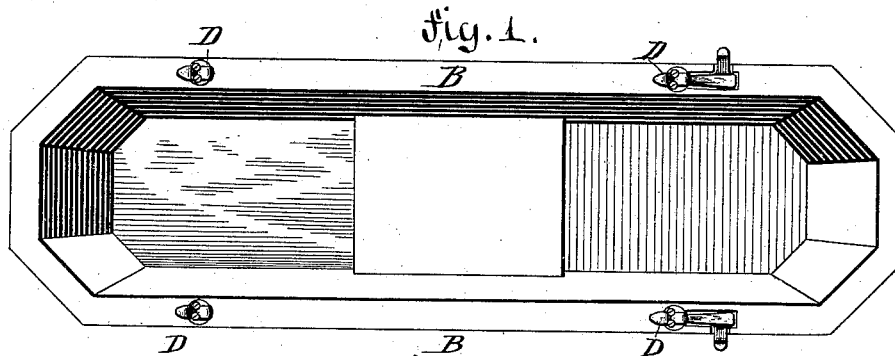


(Model.)

W. J. NOBLE.  
COFFIN FASTENER.

No. 383,235.

Patented May 22, 1888.



WITNESSES:  
*W. H. Rosenbaum.*  
*Sidney Mann*

INVENTOR.  
*William J. Noble.*  
BY *Cooper & Regener*  
ATTORNEYS.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM J. NOBLE, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## COFFIN-FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 383,235, dated May 22, 1888.

Application filed January 21, 1888. Serial No. 261,507. (Model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM J. NOBLE, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Coffin-Fasteners, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved fastener for attaching the lid of a casket or coffin to the body of the same, the fastening devices being concealed from view and readily operated when removing the lid from the casket and automatically locked to the body when applying the lid thereto.

The invention is specially designed as an improvement on the coffin-fastener for which an application was filed by me under date of August 6, 1887, Serial No. 246,299.

The invention consists of a fastening and locking device for the lids of coffins, &c., which comprises a plate attached to the casket-body, said plate having a depressed channel or way, an eye or opening at the front end of said channel, a stop or shoulder at the opposite end of the same, and a ledge with inclined face adjoining the eye, a tapering catch having an inclined face attached to the lid, and a pivoted and spring-actuated locking-piece that abuts against the rear shoulder of the plate and is provided with a thumb-piece for lifting the piece clear of the shoulder when it is desired to remove the lid.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a bottom view of the lid of a casket with my improved fastening device. Fig. 2 is a top view of a casket-body, showing the recessed plates with which the fastening devices for the lid interlock. Fig. 3 is a vertical longitudinal section of the fastening devices connecting the body and lid of the casket, drawn on a larger scale; and Figs. 4 and 5 are detail top and bottom views of the fastening and locking devices applied to the lid.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

In the drawings, A represents the body, and B the lid, of a casket of any approved construction. The body A is provided with plates C, of which two are arranged near the head and two near the foot end of the body A. Each plate C is provided with a depressed longitudinal channel or way, *a*, an opening, *b*, at

the front end of the channel *a*, and a ledge, *d*, adjoining the opening *b*, said ledge having an inclined face, as shown clearly in Fig. 3. The bottom of the channel *a* is a straight plane, while the sides of the channels are at uniform width from each other. The plate C is attached by screws to the edge of the body A, the edge being properly recessed, so that the plate C is flush with the same. Each plate C is provided at the rear end with a stop or shoulder, *e*, which serves as an abutment for the locking-piece E.

The lid B is provided near both ends with as many catches D as there are plates in the body, each plate being attached by a perforated disk-shaped enlargement, D', and screws to the lid B. The catch D is made tapering toward its point and inclined at that side adjoining the inclined face of the ledge *d*, and slightly curved at its underside, so as to move along the depressed channel *a* and drop into the opening *b* at the end of the same until it is firmly engaged by the inclined edge *d* of the plate C, as shown in Fig. 3.

The inclined ledge, in connection with the inclined face of the catch, produces the intimate locking of the plate and catch and prevents play and rattling of the parts. To each catch D at the foot end of the body A is pivoted a weighted locking-piece, E, which is acted upon by a spring, E', interposed between the catch and lid, the locking-piece being pivoted by its T-shaped end *f* to a corresponding recess, *f'*, of the enlarged plate D' of the catch D, as shown clearly in Fig. 4. The opposite end of the locking-piece E is gradually increased in thickness, so as to be sufficiently weighted to drop automatically into the depressed channel *a* when the catches D engage the ledge *d*. This is accelerated by the spring E', which also holds the locking-piece E in position and prevents the rattling of the same. Each locking-piece E is provided with a laterally and downwardly extending thumb-piece *g*, by which the locking-piece E can be lifted whenever it is desired to remove the lid from the casket-body. For this purpose the lid is provided with a recess, *h*, extending vertically above each locking-piece E, so that a sufficient space is produced for lifting the locking-piece E clear of the shoulder of the plate C and per-

mit the withdrawing of the catch D from the ledge *d*.

For attaching the lid to the casket-body the catches D are moved along the depressed channels of the plates C C until they drop into the openings or eyes *b* and engage the inclined ledges *d* of said plates. When they arrive in this position, the weighted and the spring-actuated locking-pieces E drop into the depressed channels *a* of the plates C and abut against the shoulders of the same, so that the lid is prevented from being removed from the body of the casket until the locking-pieces are lifted, so as to clear said shoulders. The springs E retain the pivoted locking-pieces E reliably in engagement with the shoulders of the plates C, so as to prevent any accidental disconnection of the lid from the casket-body.

I am aware that the lid of a burial-casket has been attached to the body of the same by means of inclined hooks that engage plates attached to the body, which plates are provided with depressed channels or ways and slots at the ends of said ways, so that the lid may be

released from engagement with the casket-body by drawing at the foot end of the same without moving, and I do not claim this feature broadly.

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

The combination, with a plate attached to the edge of the casket-body, said plate being provided with a depressed channel or way, a shoulder at one end of said channel, an eye or opening at the other end of the channel, and a ledge adjoining said opening, a tapering catch attached to the lid, and a spring-actuated locking-piece pivoted to said catch and provided with a lateral finger-piece, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM J. NOBLE.

Witnesses:

PAUL GOEPEL,  
SIDNEY MANN.