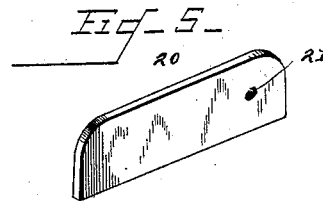
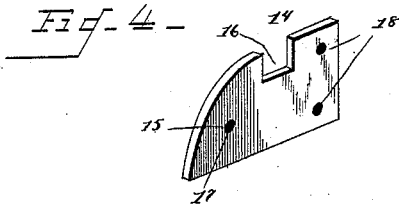
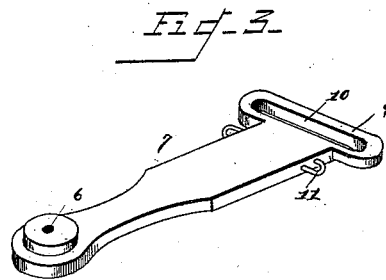
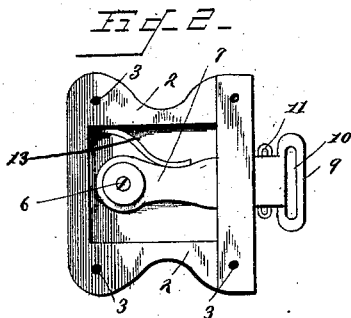
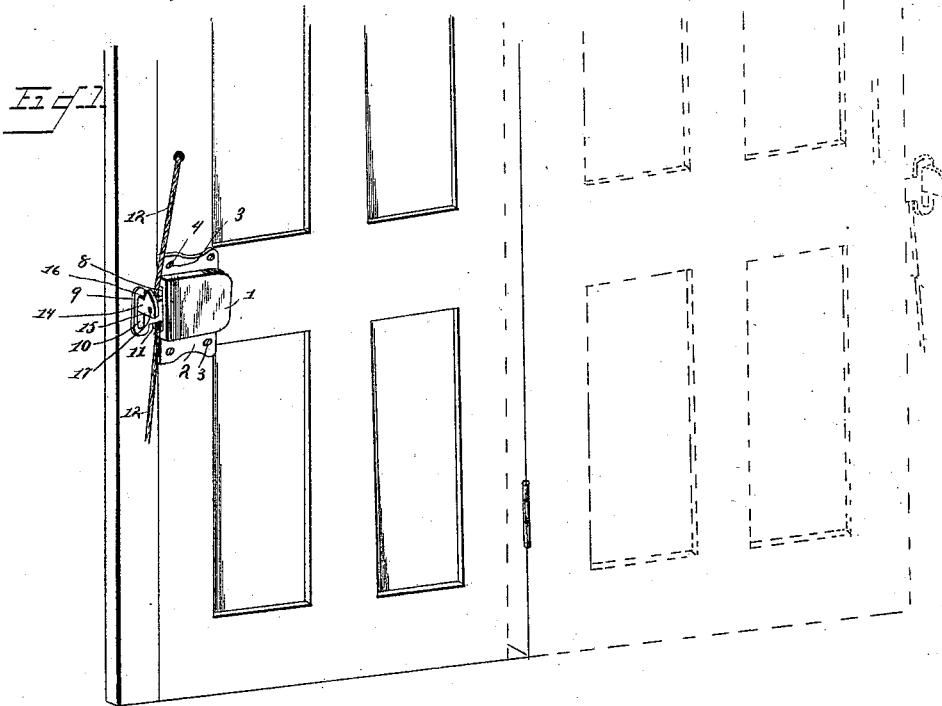


(No Model.)

E. S. WHEELER.  
LATCH.

No. 420,586.

Patented Feb. 4, 1890.



Witnesses:

*Geo. C. Frech.*  
*W. L. Swall*

By *his* Attorneys,

*Calnow & Co.*

Inventor

*Enoch S. Wheeler*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ENOCH S. WHEELER, OF ALBANY, MISSOURI.

## LATCH.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 420,586, dated February 4, 1890.

Application filed August 19, 1889. Serial No. 321,284. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ENOCH S. WHEELER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Albany, in the county of Gentry and State of Missouri, have invented a new and useful Latch, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has relation to latches for gates, doors, lids, &c.; and among the objects in view are to provide a simple and easily-constructed automatic latch capable of engaging the catch upon a door-frame, gate-post or box, said catch being designed for the reception of a padlock or seal, and also to provide a latch adapted for engaging a stud or catch secured to the wall or other fixed object when the door or lid is thrown to an open position.

With these general objects in view the invention consists in certain features of construction hereinafter specified, and particularly pointed out in the claims.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a general view of a door in a closed position provided with a latch constructed in accordance with my invention, the door being shown by dotted lines in an open position. Fig. 2 is an inner rear view of the latch plate or housing; Fig. 3, a detail of the latch detached; Figs. 4 and 5, similar details in perspective of the two catches.

Like numerals of reference indicate like parts in all the figures of the drawings.

1 represents the housing, preferably formed of cast metal and provided at both sides with integral flanges or lugs 2, perforated as at 3, for the reception of screws 4, taking into the face of the door, gate, or lid. Pivoted near the rear end and in the housing, as at 6, is the latch 7, the forward end of which projects through a slot 8, formed in the front end of the housing and beyond said edge, and terminates in a transversely-disposed head 9 longitudinally slotted, as at 10, said slot being transverse with relation to the body of the latch. At either side of the head are provided small eyes 11 for the connection with the terminals of suitable latch-strings 12, one of which has its free end passed through an aperture 12<sup>x</sup>, formed in the door above the latch, and depends upon the opposite side of the door.

13 represents a spring interposed between the upper edge of the body of the latch in front of its pivot and the housing, the tendency of the spring being to depress the latch.

14 represents a catch having the usual inclined front end 15, the notch 16, and intermediate the notch and inclined end a perforation 17. Screw-openings 18 are formed near the rear end of the said catch, by which said catch is secured at a convenient portion of the door-casing.

The door being swung to a closed position, the upper edge of the transverse slot of the latch abuts against and rides up the inclined front end of the catch, and when beyond the notch drops into the same and is made fast. If desired, a padlock may be connected with the opening 17 of the catch and prevent the withdrawal of the latch from the catch, or a seal-wire may be employed in instances where my invention is applied to crates, boxes, &c.

20 represents a second catch secured to the wall or gate-post at the opposite sides of the door or gate, and is provided with the opening 21, through which a screw is passed, said catch being for the purpose of engaging the transverse slot of the latch when the door is swung to an entirely open position.

Having described my invention, what I claim is—

1. The combination, with a door, of a housing secured thereto, a spring-actuated latch pivoted therein and terminating at its front end and beyond the housing in a head having a vertically-disposed slot, and a catch mounted in a door-casing and one in the wall and both in line with the latch, the latter catch having a plain upper edge and adapted to engage the latch merely by friction, said latch being designed to engage either one in accordance with the direction in which the door to which it is secured is swung, substantially as specified.

2. The combination, with the door having a perforation, of a housing located below the perforation and provided with lateral perforated securing-ears, screws inserted through the ears into the face of a door, a latch pivoted at its rear end in the housing and projected through a slot in its edge and terminating in a transverse vertical slot, and staples mounted in opposite edges of the latch,

a spring arranged above the latch and forcing the same downwardly, and oppositely-arranged catches secured to the door-casing and opposite wall and adapted to engage the  
5 transverse slot in accordance with the direction in which the door is swung, and latch-operating strings connected with the staples, one of which has its end passed through the perforation in the door, substantially as specified.  
10

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

ENOCH S. WHEELER.

Witnesses:

JOSEPH BURGETT,  
JNO. L. FERGUSON.