

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

O. W. NEWCOMB.
HOUSE DOOR LETTER BOX.

No. 473,334.

Patented Apr. 19, 1892.

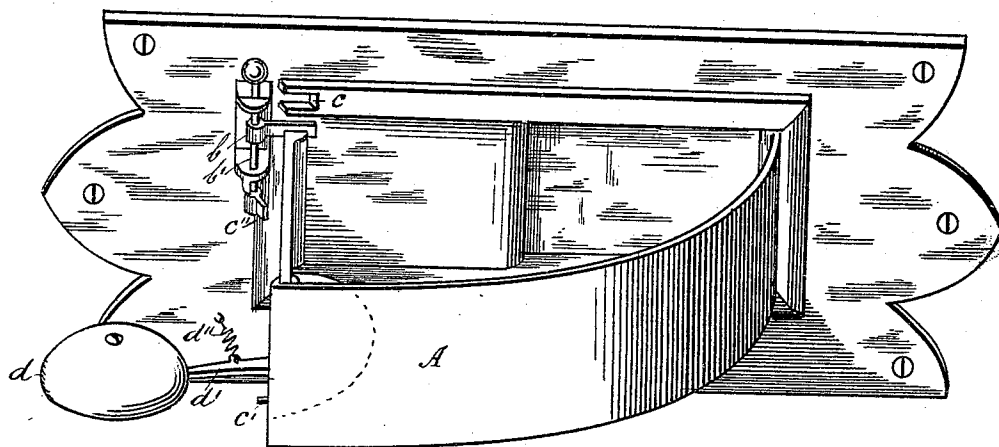


Fig. I.

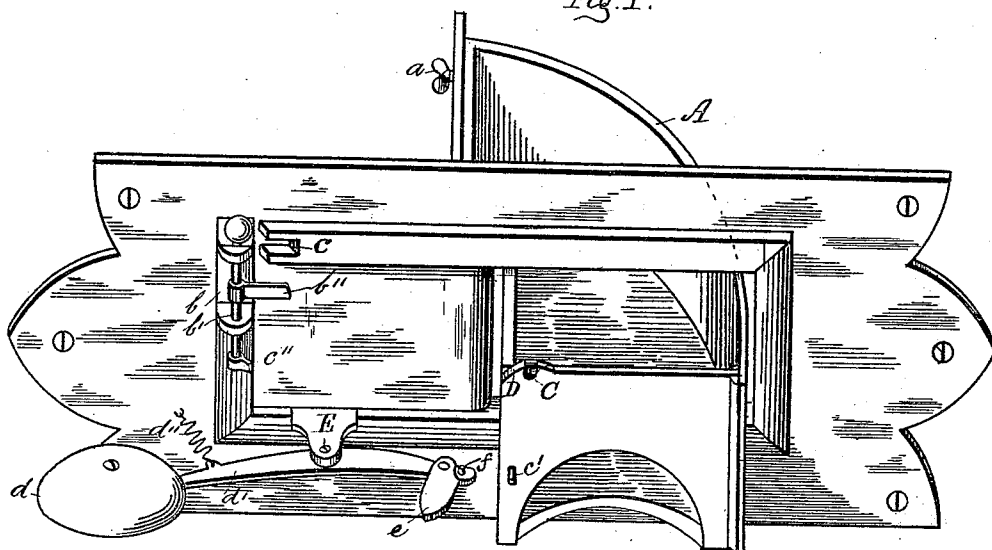


Fig. II.

Witnesses

R. S. Miller
Lida Thomas

Inventor

O. W. Newcomb
By O. W. Newcomb

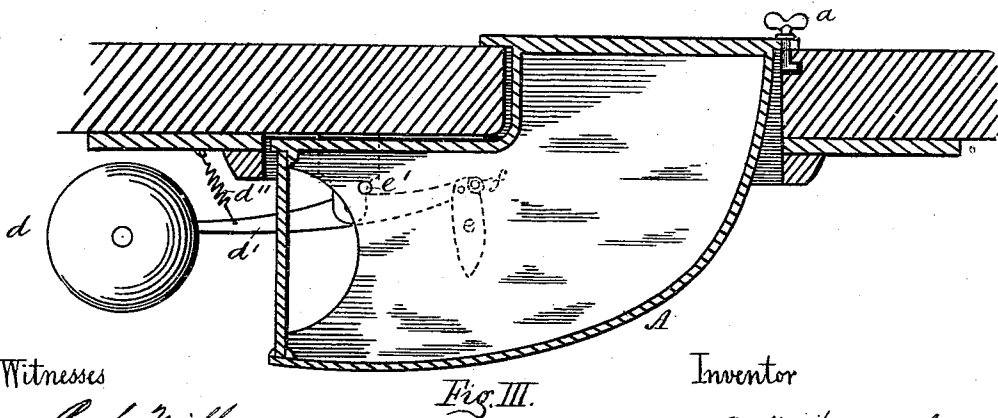
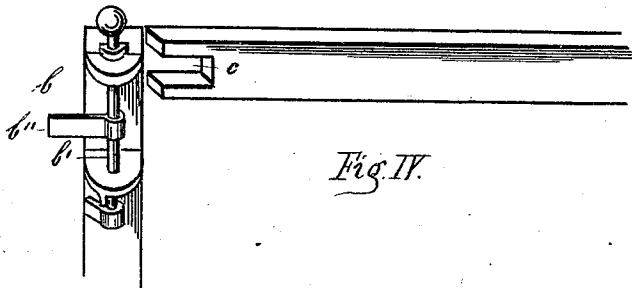
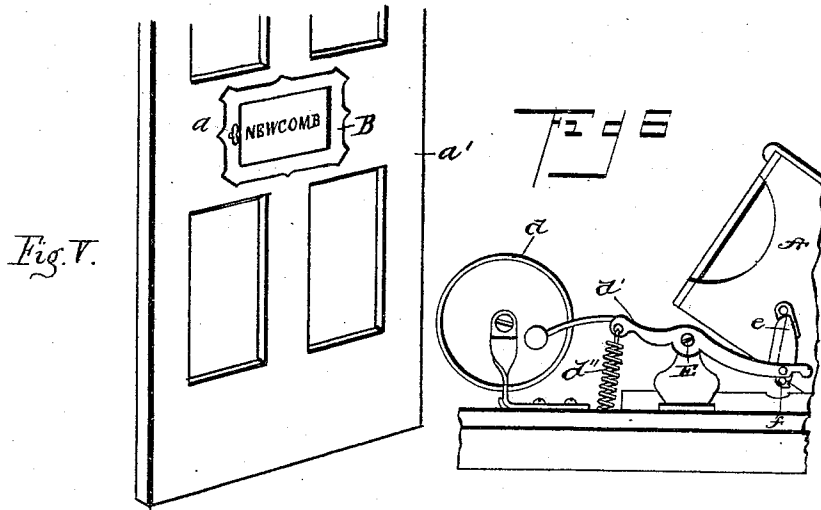
(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

O. W. NEWCOMB.
HOUSE DOOR LETTER BOX.

No. 473,334.

Patented Apr. 19, 1892.



Witnesses

R. S. Millar
Lisa Thomas

Inventor

O. W. Newcomb
By J. Bailey

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OBADIAH W. NEWCOMB, OF WELDA, KANSAS.

HOUSE-DOOR LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 473,334, dated April 19, 1892.

Application filed July 20, 1891. Serial No. 400,146. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OBADIAH W. NEWCOMB, of Welda, in the county of Anderson and State of Kansas, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Letter-Boxes, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification and accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure I is a perspective view of my improved letter-box when closed and attached to the inner side of a door; Fig. II, the same view, showing the box in open position; Fig. III, a horizontal section; Fig. IV, a detail of the locking apparatus, and Fig. V an exterior view of a door provided with my improved device. Fig. VI is a detail view of the under side, showing the operative parts as in position when the box is being opened.

My invention relates to improvements in letter-boxes of the class specially designed for street-doors; and its object is to provide a simple, safe, and convenient device for the reception of mail and other similar matter, combined with an appropriate alarm-bell, whereby each delivery of mail and also the subsequent closing and locking of the box are automatically announced.

The invention may be utilized in a variety of ways, as described in the following specification and accompanying drawings, in which—

A designates the letter-box, one side of which is curved, so that when withdrawn by the knob *a* it may swing open laterally within its seat in the door *a'*. The exterior end of the box is preferably made in the form of an escutcheon or name-plate B, provided with a suitable border or frame, which effectually covers any blemish caused by cutting the opening through the door. A yoke *b* is attached to the inner side of the door and supports a rotatable and vertically-adjustable bar *b'*, carrying a horizontal arm *b''*, which when in engagement with the slot C operates as a lock. Ordinarily the box is prepared for the reception of mail or similar matter by raising the arm out of the retaining-slot C and inserting it in a cavity *c*, so that the box may be opened by mail-carriers. The act of opening the box causes a stud *c'* to strike the trippet *c''* and release the arm *b''*, which falls

into its normal position. The closing movement of the box lifts the arm by means of the inclined plane D. The arm then re-engages the slot C and the box is automatically locked. Mails may be received during the temporary absence of the occupants of a house by turning the locking apparatus out of engagement with the box, as shown in Fig. 4, and allowing it to remain unlocked as long as desired. When used in this manner all letters and papers may be thrust through the opening in the inner end of the box, so that they may fall into a receptacle beneath or on the floor, so that they cannot be reached by parties outside of the door. The alarm-bell *d* is suspended upon a bent arm, which is fastened to the inner side of the door. The clapper is attached to a lever *d'*, provided with a retractile spring *d''*, a fulcrum E, and an arm *e*, which oscillates to a limited extent and operates as a double-acting cam designed to engage a stud *e'*, which projects from the bottom of the box, and as the stud *e'* engages the free end of the cam or arm *e* the latter, while it has a limited movement upon its pivot, will by its engagement with a stud or projection *f* on the lever *d'* actuate the hammer in effecting the ringing of the bell. By this means both the opening and closing movements of the box are announced by the bell.

What I claim as new is—

1. The letter-box adapted to be applied to a door and having a slot in a top corner edge thereof, in combination with the vertically-adjustable sliding bar having an arm adapted to engage said slot and also a separate slot in the door when disengaged from the aforesaid slot and having a second short arm or trippet *c'*, adapted to be engaged by a stud *c'* on the inner end of said letter-box as the box is closed, substantially as set forth.

2. The letter-box adapted to be applied to a door and having a slot in a top corner edge thereof and an inclined plane D at the entrance to said slot, in combination with the vertically-adjustable sliding bar suitably supported in a bracket or yoke on the door and having at one end a trippet or short arm *c'* and farther up thereon an arm *b'*, one arm adapted to separately engage said slot and a slot in the door and the other arm adapted

to be engaged by a stud on the inner end of said letter-box, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. The letter-box adapted to be applied to
5 a door and having a slot in a top corner edge thereof and an inclined plane at the entrance to said slot, in combination with the vertically-adjustable sliding bar having a short arm or trippet at one end and farther up there-
10 on a long arm adapted to separately engage said slot and a slot in the door, and the gong with its spring-retracted hammer provided with an oscillating arm adapted to be en-

gaged by a stud on the inner portion of said letter-box, said letter-box having a second 15 stud adapted to engage the short arm or trippet of said sliding bar, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand, this 9th day of 20 July, 1891, in the presence of witnesses.

OBADIAH W. NEWCOMB.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM PAUL,
J. W. HARRISON.