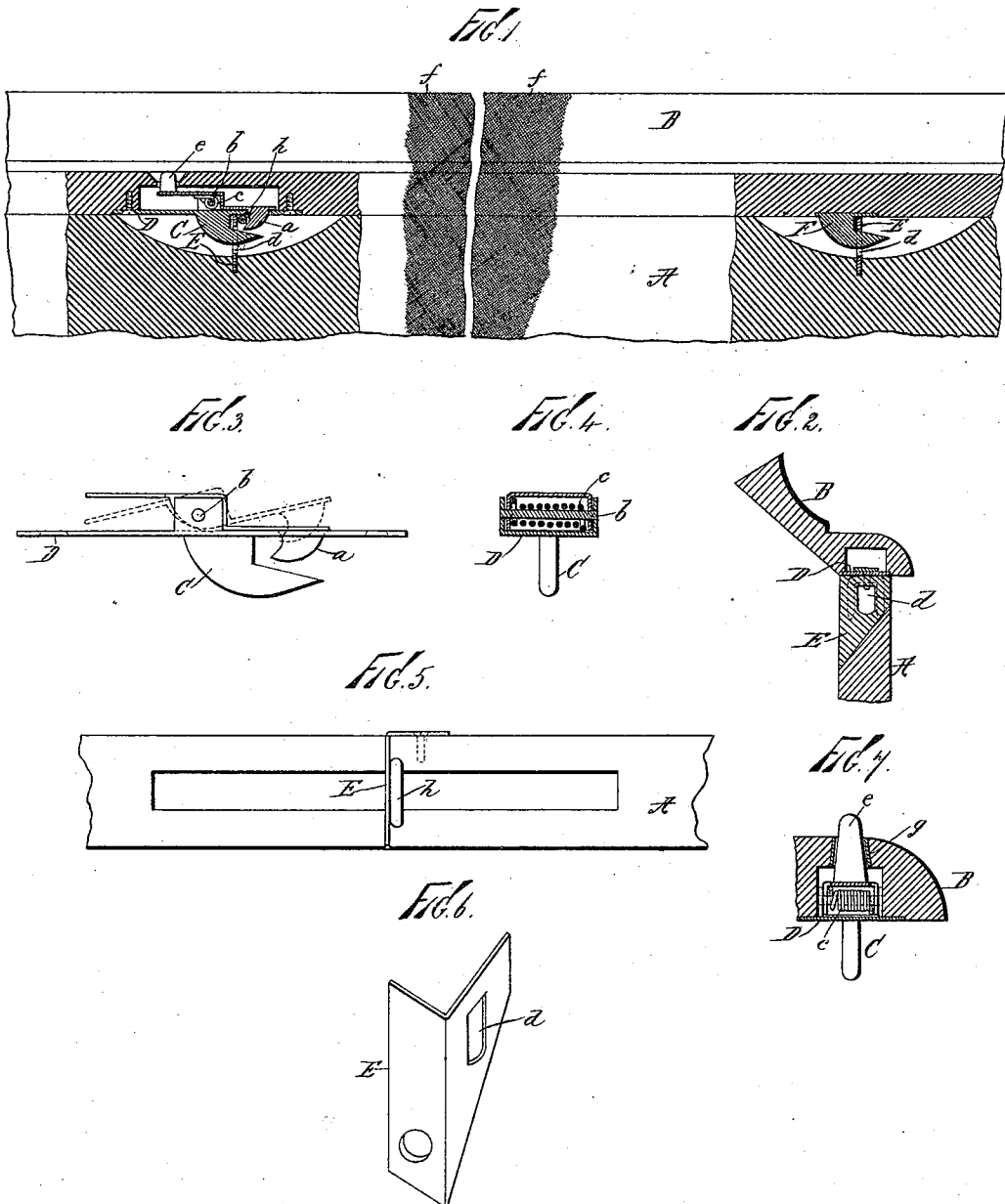


(No Model.)

H. C. FORSHAY.  
COFFIN FASTENER.

No. 428,335.

Patented May 20, 1890.



Witnesses:  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## COFFIN-FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 428,335, dated May 20, 1890.

Application filed June 18, 1889. Serial No. 314,743. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HARRY C. FORSHAY, of New York city, county and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful

5 Improvements in Fasteners for Casket-Covers, &c., of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

10 My invention relates to fastening devices especially intended for securing covers upon coffins or burial-caskets, but which may be applied in other situations where like security and facility of attachment and removal are

15 desired.  
The object of my invention is to supply a simple, cheap, durable, and efficient fastener for securing the cover, which shall be concealed, which is not exposed to damage by

20 accident, with which the cover may be instantly and easily detached by one person or applied in like manner, of which the parts are few and simple and capable of being rapidly applied or mounted, and which is applicable

25 for all styles and forms of coffin or casket covers.  
To accomplish all of this and to secure other and further advantages in the matters of construction, operation, application, and use my

30 improvements involve certain new and useful arrangements or combinations of parts, details of construction, and principles of operation, as will be herein first fully described, and then pointed out in the claims.

35 In the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, I have shown at Figure 1 a fragment of one side of a coffin or casket, partly in elevation and partly in section, the cover being held in place by my improved device; and at Fig. 2, a cross-section through

one of the holding-plates. Fig. 3 is a side view, and Fig. 4 a cross-section, of the spring-latch portion detached and on a larger scale than in previous figures. Fig. 5 is a top view

40 of a fragment of the side of a coffin or casket, showing the recess therein and the holding-plate and staple in place. Fig. 6 is a perspective of one of the holding-plates detached. Fig. 7 is a cross-section showing one manner

45 of securing the push-pin in place.  
In all the figures like letters of reference, wherever they occur, indicate corresponding parts.

A is one side wall of any coffin or casket, and B the removable top or cover. The cover

50 is intended to be fastened by application of like means to both sides or edges, though only one side is represented, which is sufficient for the purposes of this description.  
C is a hook-shaped dowel of ample strength, 60 secured upon a plate D, which is screwed to the under side of the cover. The bearing-face of this dowel is inclined, so that it may be wedged to final position and hold the cover without rattling.

65 Upon the upper side of plate D is hinged a tongue or latch *a* upon an axis *b* and held in closed position by a spring, as *c*. The cover is recessed sufficiently to accommodate the movements of the spring-actuated tongue.

70 Within the side wall is a holding-plate E, which is made of peculiar fashion in order that it may be easily and securely applied. It is perforated, as at *d*, to receive the dowel or hook C, and is made of flat metal bent at right angles, as shown, and having a part below the perforation *d* inclined or cut away. To apply this holding-plate to the vertical wall of the coffin, &c., a simple saw-cut from the inside toward the outside is all the preparation that is necessary, the wall having a well or cavity sufficient to receive the hooks. Into this saw-cut the plate is inserted and there secured by a screw or screws, which pass through the plate and into the inner face of the vertical wall. This construction is very simple and strong and the mode of application such as to obviate all difficult fitting and cutting of the material of the coffin.

85 At *e* is a push-pin, which bears upon the end of the arm carrying the tongue *a*. This pin passes through a perforation made for it in the cover.

90 When the casket is covered, as with cloth, (indicated at *f, f*), the top of the push-pin is also covered, the upper portion of the perforation through the cover being reamed out so that the pin may be pushed down by pressure of the thumb or finger. The cloth cover holds the pin from accidental displacement.

When the covering is not employed, an eye-  
 let, as *g*, Fig. 7, may be inserted in the mate-  
 rial of the cover, the same being a trifle larger  
 at bottom than at top, and the pin is also  
 5 made larger at bottom than at top, and when  
 inserted from below and the latch secured the  
 pin will not become displaced. In this last  
 form the pin projects a trifle above the top  
 of the cover.

10 At any point or points in advance of the  
 spring latch or lock are located other dowels  
 or hooks, as *F*, which engage with holding-  
 plates *E*, but which are without spring latches  
 or tongues.

15 The fasteners being arranged on each side  
 of the coffin or case by placing the cover on  
 and pushing it forward or along, the latches  
*a* will ride over the top edges of plates *E*, the  
 hooks *C* and *F* enter perforations *d*, and when

20 moved far enough the latches *a* will auto-  
 matically spring back and lock the hooks *C*  
 against withdrawal from plates *E*. Without  
 some provision against it, by pulling back  
 upon the cover with sufficient force the latches  
 25 could be crowded up, and thus the hooks *C*  
 be left free to be withdrawn. I therefore  
 curve the inner faces of latches *a*, and in ad-  
 vance of plates *E* insert simple staples, as *h*,  
 over which the latches are compelled to ride.

30 When the latches spring down past these  
 staples, any sliding or drawing back of the  
 cover will crowd the points of the latches  
 farther under the tops of the staples, and thus  
 prevent the latches from being elevated. So  
 35 the cover is locked.

To release the cover after it is locked, it is  
 only necessary to place the thumbs on the  
 cover and the fingers under the edge of the  
 cover, slide the hands along until the push-  
 40 pins are felt under the thumbs, then push the  
 pins down, draw the cover back slightly, and  
 lift it up and off.

The fastening device is easily and quickly

applied upon any coffin or casket. The plate  
*E* can easily be raised or lowered, so that the 45  
 fastener may be used in cases where any  
 thickness of covering material is employed.

The fastener may be applied at either end,  
 and in the event that the case or casket be-  
 comes warped the top may be turned end for 50  
 end, it being only necessary to remove the  
 staples *h* and insert them in advance of the  
 other set of holding-plates.

Having now fully described my invention,  
 what I claim as new herein, and desire to se- 55  
 cure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a fastener for casket-covers, &c., the  
 angular holding - plate perforated, as ex-  
 plained, to receive the hooked dowel, said  
 plate being mounted in a cut in the vertical 60  
 wall of the casket and secured upon the inner  
 face of said wall, and combined with a locking-  
 latch, substantially as shown and described.

2. A casket-fastening consisting of the per-  
 forated keeper-plate, the staple adjacent to 65  
 said plate, the plate having a perforation and  
 a dowel adapted to engage the keeper-plate,  
 and the spring-actuated lever pivoted on said  
 plate and having a tongue passing through  
 the perforation therein, substantially as and 70  
 for the purpose described.

3. In a casket-fastening, the combination of  
 the keeper-plate, the plate having a dowel de-  
 pending therefrom, adapted to engage the  
 keeper-plate, and ears or lugs rising there- 75  
 from, and the lever fulcrumed on said ears  
 and having a locking-tongue at one end, as  
 and for the purpose described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I  
 have hereunto set my hand in the presence 80  
 of two witnesses.

HARRY C. FORSHAY.

Witnesses:

JACOB H. FORSHAY,  
 WORTH OSGOOD.