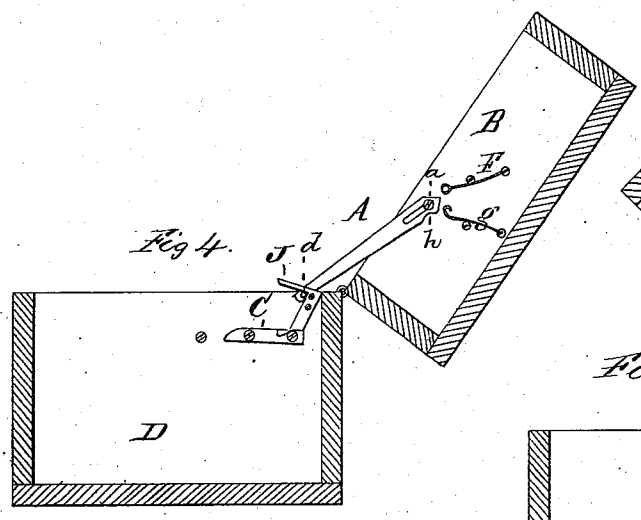
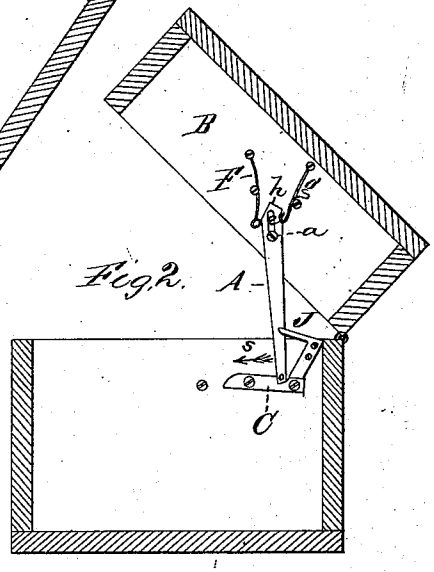
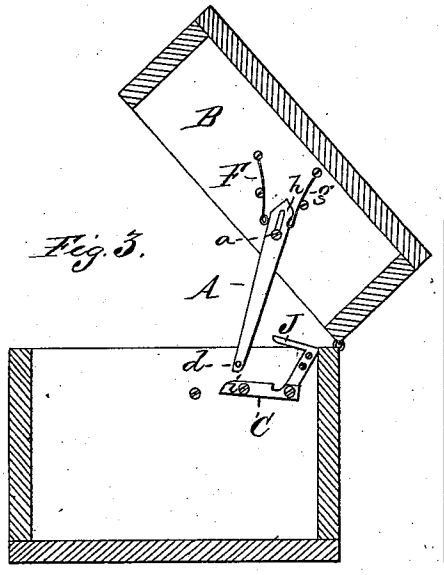
A. MONTANT.

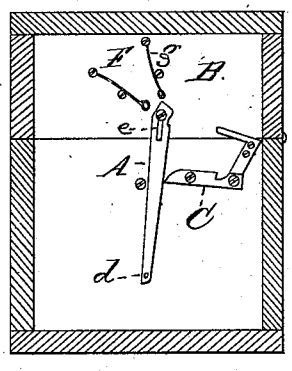
Catch for Holding Chest Covers, &c.

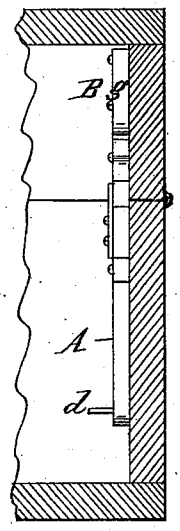
No. 230,326. Patented July 20, 1880.











Witnesses
W. L. Bennem
C. R. Graves.

Inventor
Alphonse Montant
by his Atty
C. L. Bennick

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALPHONSE MONTANT, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

CATCH FOR HOLDING CHEST-COVERS, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 230,326, dated July 20, 1880.

Application filed December 3, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALPHONSE MONTANT, of the city, county, and State of New York, have made an invention of certain new and useful Improvements in Stays or Catches for Holding Open Chest-Covers and other Articles; and I do hereby declare that the following, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a full, clear, and exact description and specification of the same.

The object of this invention is to enable the cover of a chest or other article to be caught automatically or stopped and held when it is opened, and also to enable the stop or catch to be automatically released from its abutment or rest when the cover, sash, or other article is to be closed.

To this end my invention consists of certain combinations of devices, which are specified in detail at the close of this specification.

In order that they may be fully understood, I have represented in the accompanying drawings, and will proceed to describe, one of the modes in which I have successfully embodied my invention, it being understood that it may be modified if found expedient.

Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4 represent face views of a chest with one of my automatic catches applied thereto, and Fig. 5 represents an edge view of the catch, drawn upon a larger scale than in the preceding figures.

The catch represented in the drawings comprises, essentially, a traveling, swinging, or pivoted piece or stop that is connected with the chest-cover or other article which is moved for the purpose of being opened, and an automatically-shifting spring, which, when the chest-cover or other article is opened, permits the traveling stop to engage with a fixed rest or abutment, but which, when the chest-cover is to be closed, disengages the traveling stop automatically from said fixed abutment, so that the chest-cover is then free to be closed.

The stop A is slotted at its upper end and is connected with the chest-cover B, so as to travel or move with said cover when it is opened, by means of a screw, *a*, upon which the stop swings pivotally, with the capacity of moving longitudinally upon the said screw or pivot *a*.

A fixed rest, C, for the stop to abut upon when the cover is to be held open, is secured to the body of the chest D.

When the cover is raised the stop A travels or is carried upward with the cover, and the turning of the cover upon its hinges causes the point of the stop to swing by gravitation toward the fixed rest C. Hence, when the cover has been raised sufficiently, the point of the fixed stop traveling with the cover swings over the rest, and if the cover be then released this point engages with the rest and holds the cover open, as shown in Fig. 2; and when the cover is thus released its weight in descending shifts the pivot *a* to the lower end of the slot *e* in the head of the stop.

The shifting-spring F is secured to the cover B in such position relatively to the traveling stop A that when the pivot *a* is in the lower end of the slot *e*, as in Fig. 1, the spring does not tend to turn the point of the stop away from the fixed rest C; but when the pivot *a* is in the lower end of the slot *e*, as in Fig. 2, the spring bears against the head of the stop and tends to cause it to turn on the pivot *a*, so as to move the point of the stop laterally off the fixed rest C, or in the direction of the arrow *s* in Fig. 2. So long as the cover remains propped open by the stop this tendency of the spring is inoperative to move the stop, and as a measure of precaution the rest C is slightly notched to receive the point of the stop, so that any lateral movement of it is absolutely prevented. If, however, the cover of the chest be slightly raised so as to lift the point of the stop from the rest, the automatically-shifting spring F is at once permitted to act and move the point of the stop off the fixed rest, as shown in Fig. 3, thus permitting the cover to be closed. The spring F is thus automatically variable in its action, permitting the traveling stop to engage with the fixed rest or abutment during the opening movement, and afterward disengaging the stop automatically from the rest when the cover is to be lowered.

In order that the traveling stop A may be restored to its normal position during lowering, a second spring, *g*, is provided, and the head of the stop A adjacent to this second spring is formed with a double incline, *h*. When the cover is propped open, as in Fig. 2, this spring

operates on the lower incline; but when the cover is lowered after being released by the stop the bearing of the descending stop upon the end *i*, Fig. 3, of the rest C causes the stop to swing on its pivot sufficiently to bring the upper incline of its head beneath the end of the restoring-spring *g*, whereupon the pressure of that spring on the incline of the head pushes the stop downward and restores it to the normal position shown at Fig. 1.

In the case of a chest it is sometimes convenient to let the cover hang in a backward position, and the traveling stop A may be constructed to permit this effect in addition to its other function. To this end a pin, *d*, is inserted in the side of the stop, and a hook, J, is secured to the body of the chest in the proper position to engage with this pin and hold the stop and the cover with which it is connected when it is turned backward, as represented at Fig. 4.

The invention admits of numerous modifications and applications, and the main features of the invention are not restricted to the peculiar construction of the devices used to embody it. The traveling stop also, instead of being pivoted, may be constructed to slide, and the variable spring may be so combined with it as to cause the stop to slide toward its rest during opening and from its rest when the article to which it is applied is to be closed.

I claim as my invention—

1. The combination, substantially as before set forth, of the traveling movable stop and the automatically-shifting spring for said stop, which combination is adapted to be secured for use on the cover of a chest or other movable article to be caught or fastened on being opened.

2. The combination, substantially as before set forth, of the traveling movable stop, the automatically-shifting spring for said stop, and the fixed rest for said stop.

3. The combination, substantially as before set forth, of the traveling movable stop, the automatically-shifting spring for said stop, and the restoring device for restoring the movable stop to its normal condition.

4. The combination, substantially as before set forth, of the traveling movable stop, the automatically-shifting spring, and the hook, whereby the stop is enabled to perform its duplex functions of permitting the cover to hang backward and of propping the cover open, with the capacity of automatic disengagement.

In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand this 17th day of November, A. D. 1879.

ALPHONSE MONTANT.

Witnesses:
CHAS. A. DAYTON,
C. H. PENNELL.