

GEORGE H. SOULE.

Improvement in Safety Latches for Bracelets.

No. 125,495.

Patented April 9, 1872.

Fig. 1

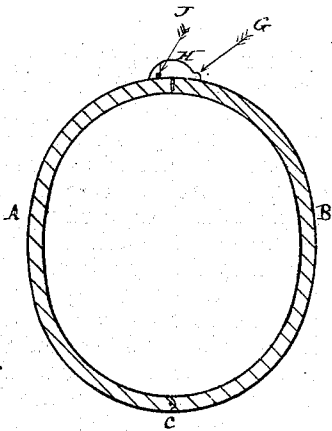


Fig. 2.

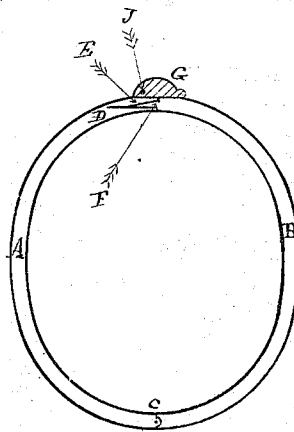


Fig. 3.

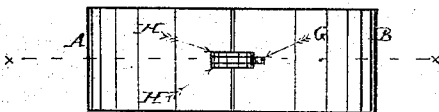


Fig. 4

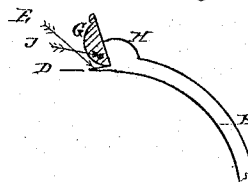


Fig. 6

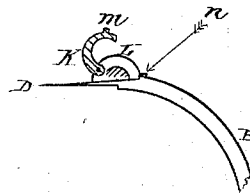
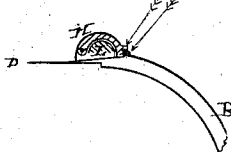


Fig. 5



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GEORGE H. SOULE, OF JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY.

IMPROVEMENT IN SAFETY-LATCHES FOR BRACELETS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 125,495, dated April 9, 1872.

SPECIFICATION.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE H. SOULE, of Jersey City, State of New Jersey, have invented a certain new and Improved Safety-Latch or Lock for Bracelets and other articles of jewelry; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full description of the same.

The object of my invention is to prevent the accidental unlocking of the clasps for securing bracelets and other articles of jewelry on the person of the wearer. And the nature of my invention consists in combining with the clasp-spring a latch, whereby the spring of the clasp is depressed when the latch is thrown up or back to allow the bracelet to be opened, but prevented from being depressed by any external pressure when the latch is shut down, thereby affording the most ample and perfect security against the accidental detachment of the bracelet from the person of the wearer. But to describe my invention more particularly I will refer to the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification, the same letters of reference wherever they occur referring to like parts.

Figure 1 is an edge or side view of the bracelet. Fig. 2 is a cut section of the same through the line *xx*, Fig. 3. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the same. Fig. 4 is a detached view of the clasp-end of the bracelet, showing the latch thrown back or up, and depression of the clasp-spring. Fig. 5 is a detached view of the clasp-end of the bracelet, showing a modified application of the safety-catch. Fig. 6 is the same, showing the safety-catch thrown back.

Letters A and B represent the hoop of metal forming the bracelet, made in two halves, and joined together by a hinge, C, in the usual manner. These hoops are made hollow, but may be made of solid metal or other material, and have clasps secured to their locking-ends, when desired, by any of the usual means for such purposes. To the upper end of the part of the hoop B is solidly attached a tongue of metal, D, to which a spring, E, is secured. In ordinary practice this spring is formed out of a section of the tongue D, but may be made by folding down the tongue of metal, or by soldering or riveting it thereon. The object of this spring is to lock the parts A and B together by inserting it into the end of A, when

the edge of the expanded end of the spring locks into a recess, as shown at F, Fig. 2, and thus prevents the separation of the two parts A and B until the spring is depressed again. In the ordinary clasps this is effected by means of a depresser, forming a prolongation of the central part of the spring, and exposed upon the surface of the bracelet in such a way as to be readily touched by the thumb and fingers of the wearer, or pressed upon by contact with the dress or other external object, and thereby is readily unlocked and lost off the wrist, if not otherwise secured thereon. In my invention the spring has no elongated thumb-piece for unlocking it. To unlock it, a latch-lever, G, is secured between cheek-pieces H to the locking-end of the part B by a center-pin, J, in such a position and of such a shape as to be easily operated and at the same time preserve the harmony of the ornamentation of the bracelet. By this arrangement of the latch-lever it will be seen that when shut down, as shown in Fig. 2, its plano surface admits of the full expansion of the spring to enter the recess F to lock the two parts of the bracelet together. As the cheek-pieces H, into which it is secured, are of the same curvature as the convex side of the latch, it will readily be perceived that no external force can depress the spring, except by elevating the latch, as shown in Fig. 4, when the projecting toe of the latch-lever accomplishes that object. For the purpose of facilitating the raising of the latch-lever a very slight extension is given to its plano face beyond the outline of the cheek-pieces, so as to permit the finger-nails to engage thereunder to lift it.

It will be obvious that the object of my invention is to prevent the possibility of disengaging the bracelet from the arm by pressure or by rubbing against any external object. It will also be obvious that when the clasp is once locked it requires a positive application of a certain amount of force to throw back the latch, because the spring, acting against its projecting tip or toe, holds the latch firmly down upon the surface of the bracelet, and thereby makes it almost an impossibility for the dress or any other external object getting under the lifting-end of the latch to unlock the clasp. In Figs. 5 and 6 the latch is shown of a hook-shape, K, secured between cheek-pieces

L, attached to the end of the spring. In this modified form of my invention the spring is prevented from being depressed by the shoulder *m* on the hook K resting upon the stop *n* on the surface of the bracelet, as shown in Fig. 5. By this means the spring cannot be depressed unless the hook is elevated, as shown in Fig. 6, when, by pressing upon the check-pieces L, the clasp will be unlocked.

Having now described my invention, I will

set forth what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States.

I claim, the method of preventing the unlocking of bracelet-clasps by means of the latch-lever G, in combination with the check-pieces H and spring E, arranged and operating substantially as hereinbefore described,

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