W. F. EATON.
Gate-Latch.

No. 197,112. Patented Nov. 13, 1877.

Fig. 1.

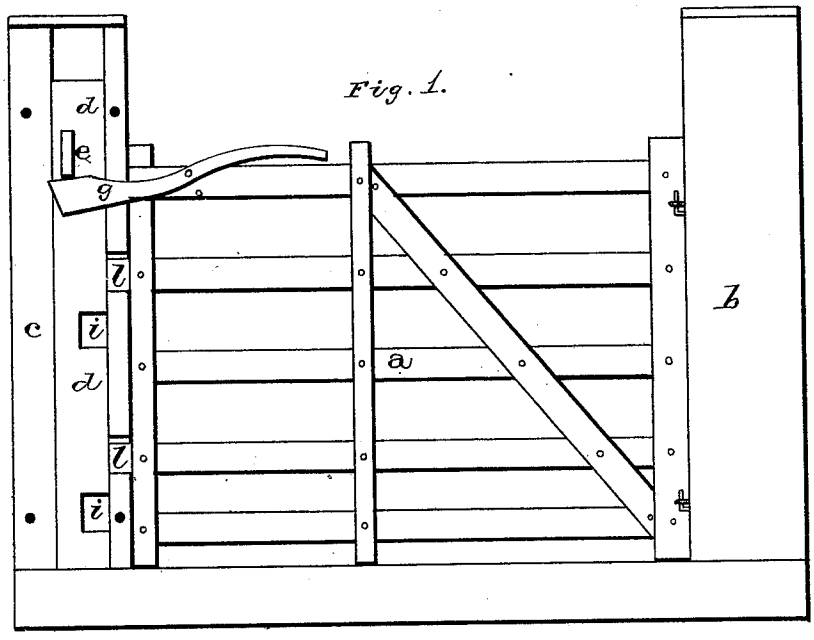
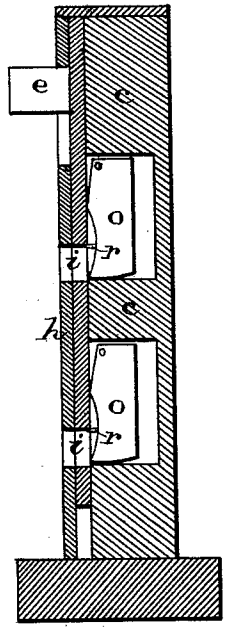


Fig. 2.



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IMPROVEMENT IN GATE-LATCHES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **197,112**, dated November 13, 1877; application filed September 27, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, W. F. EATON, of Wabash, in the county of Giles and State of Virginia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Gate-Latches; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in gate-latches: and it consists in a vertically-moving latch and eccentrically-pivoted supporting-blocks, for holding the latch in a raised-up position until the gate is closed, when the latch immediately falls and locks the gate, as will be more fully described hereinafter.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical section through one of the posts.

a represents an ordinary gate, and *b c* its two posts. The post *c* has a vertical groove cut in one side of its face, in which groove moves a long latch, *d*. This latch has a projection, *e*, extending outward from its outer side through a slot in the covering-board, which holds the latch in position, and under which projection the lever *g*, pivoted upon the side of the gate, catches, for the purpose of raising the latch upward.

Through the inner edge of the covering-board *h*, which keeps the latch in position, and through the inner edge of the latch, are cut one, two, or more notches or recesses, *i*, through which the two extended ends *l* of the panels of the gate pass as the gate is being opened and closed.

Back of the groove in which the latch slides are made one, two, or more recesses, corresponding to the number of the notches *i*, and in these recesses are eccentrically pivoted the supports *o*, which, when left free to act, swing forward so that the point or projection *r* near their lower ends will catch in the notches in the latch, and hold it in an elevated position.

The operation of my gate is as follows: By bearing down upon the upper end of the hand-lever *g* its lower end is made to catch under the projection *e* on the side of the vertically-moving latch *d*. The moment this latch is moved upward until the notches in its side come just opposite to the notches in the side of the covering-board *h*, the eccentrically-pivoted supports *o* immediately swing forward at their lower ends, so that the projections *r* will catch in the notches and hold it suspended. When the gate is closed, the two projecting ends *l* of the panel pass into the notches of the covering-board *h*, and, striking against the projections *r*, move them back from under the latch, when the latch immediately falls and locks the two projecting ends of the panel behind it until the latch is again raised upward.

By means of my invention it is impossible to lift the gate off of its hinges, and the gate is held much more firmly and securely in position than is usually done by the hinges now in use.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. The post *c*, having a groove cut in its side for the vertically-moving latch, in combination with a lever, *g*, for raising the latch, and the covering-board, having notches in its inner edge corresponding to the notches in the latch, substantially as shown.

2. In combination with the vertically-moving latch *d*, having notches in its side, the eccentrically-pivoted supports *o*, having lugs or projections on their sides to support the latch, and the projections *l* on the end of the gate for pushing the supports backward, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 27th day of August, 1877.

WILLIAM FRANKLIN EATON. [L. S.]

Witnesses:
E. T. MAHOON,
WILLIAM HENRY STABLE.