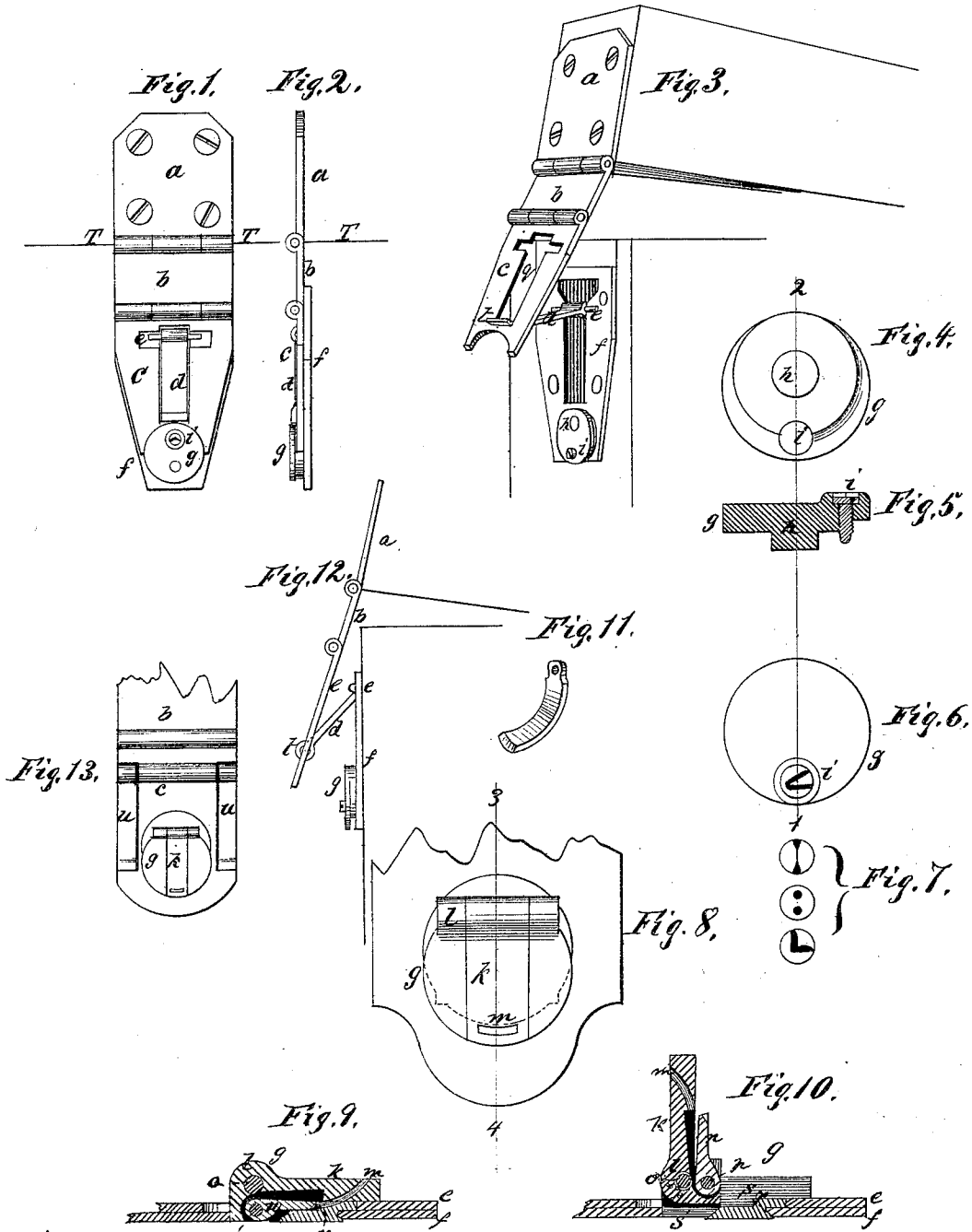


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Improvement in Trunk-Fastenings.

No. 114,195.

Patented April 25, 1871.



Witnesses:

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Letters Patent No. 114,195, dated April 25, 1871.

IMPROVEMENT IN TRUNK-FASTENINGS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

I, LOUIS RANSOM, of Lansingburg, in the county of Rensselaer and State of New York, have invented certain Improvements in Trunk-Fastenings, of which the following is a specification.

Nature and Object of the Invention.

The first part of my invention consists of a tongue so combined with other parts of this fastening as to form a toggle-joint, which will draw the body and lid of the trunk together, then hold them firmly in position. This part is designed to take the place of the common strap and buckle employed in fastening trunks.

The second part of my invention consists of a button, which holds the toggle-joint in place when closed; this button also forming a lock.

The whole fixture is so constructed as to be laid on the surface of the trunk without cutting into it, thereby weakening the lumber, as is the case with most trunk-locks.

Description of the Accompanying Drawing.

Figure 1 is a front view or elevation of my invention, the fastening being closed and locked.

Figure 2 is a side elevation of my invention, the fastening being closed and locked.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the same, showing the construction and operation of the toggle-joint.

Figure 4 is an enlarged or full-sized view of the under side of the button forming the lock.

Figure 5 is a section of the same button through the line 1 2.

Figure 6 is a view of the upper side of the button.

Figure 7 are screw-heads forming one variety of lock.

Figure 8 is another form of button so constructed as to form a lock.

Figures 9 and 10 are sections of the button-lock, fig. 8, through the line 3 4, showing the structure and operation of the said lock.

Figure 11 is the key of the button-lock.

Figure 12 is a variation of figs. 1, 2, and 3, the toggle-joint being formed in a manner different from the first.

Figure 13 is still another way of constructing the toggle-joint, two tongues being used instead of one.

General Description.

a b c are plates of metal hinged together, as represented in figs. 1, 2, and 3—*a* being secured to the trunk-lid, *b* and *c* swinging loose.

The plate *c* has a part, *g*, removed to give place to the tongue *d*.

Another plate of metal, *f*, is made fast to the body of the trunk, and has the tongue *d* secured to it by a

joint at *e*, upon which it swings freely, a space being cut away for it in this plate also, that the tongue may lie flush with *c*, or nearly so, when the fastening is closed.

This toggle-joint may be formed by hinging the tongue *d* to the plate *c* at *t*, letting its free end rest against a projection in the plate *f* at *e*, (see fig. 12;) or it may be formed by hinging a tongue, *n n*, to each side of *f* to act against corresponding projections in the plate *c*. (See fig. 13.)

T T indicate the dividing line between the body and lid of the trunk.

g is a button, consisting of two disks made of unequal diameters and placed eccentric to each other. This fastens down the toggle-joint by being turned partly around so the projecting part of the upper disk laps over the plate *c*, thus preventing its rising. (See fig. 8.) The button is kept in place by a simple screw having a slot of peculiar and varied form in the head, (see fig. 7,) so that a screw-driver made to fit becomes a key.

This screw may be further protected by sinking it into a chamber, as at *i*, figs. 5 and 6, or the fastening may be securely locked by the button-lock represented at figs. 8, 9, and 10.

This button-lock is constructed and operated in the following manner:

g is a button, full size, with a boss formed at *l* for a hinge. A slot is made in this button, having parallel sides and a section, whose shape is indicated by the deeply-shaded part *s*, fig. 10.

The latch *k* is hinged into this button at *l*, and the smaller tongue *n* is hinged into the latch *k*, apart from which it is crowded by a minute spring, of rubber or any suitable material, inserted between them.

Fig. 10 represents this apparatus unlocked. In order to lock it the latch *k* is pressed down into the slot made to receive it, when the tongue *n* shuts down, with its free end butting against the square shoulder *r*.

It is evident that the latch *k* cannot be raised until the free end of *n* is raised above the shoulder against which it abuts. This is done by passing the key, fig. 11, under it through the key-hole *m* and lifting over *r*.

When *k* is closed its lower limb at *p* projects through a slot in the bottom plate *f*, thus arresting any motion in the button; but when open, as at fig. 10, this part being out of the slot, the button may be revolved freely.

The manner of operating my invention is as follows:

Close the trunk. Then set the plate *c* at the bottom of the slot *g* into the fork of the tongue *d*. (See fig. 3.) Press the plate *c* down upon *f*, fig. 2. Then

turn the button *g* into position, turn down the screw *i*, or close the tongue *k*, as the case may be, and the trunk is firmly strapped, buckled, and locked.

If the trunk be so full that it will not close easily, the toggle-joint will bring it readily into place and hold it there.

Claims.

I claim as my invention—

1. The double-hinged plates *a b c* and the tongue *d*, forming a toggle-joint, in combination with the cam-button *g* provided with a keyed screw or other suitable locking device.

2. The slotted plate *c*, double-hinged to the part *a*

by the intervening plate *b*, the tongue *d*, and slotted plate *f* carrying the cam-button *g*, all arranged and operating substantially as described.

3. The combination of the cam-button *g* and hinged latch *k*, provided with a key-hole, *m*, and a suitable spring, with the tongue *n* and slotted plate *f*, to form a locking device for the single or double toggle-joints herein described.

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Witnesses:

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