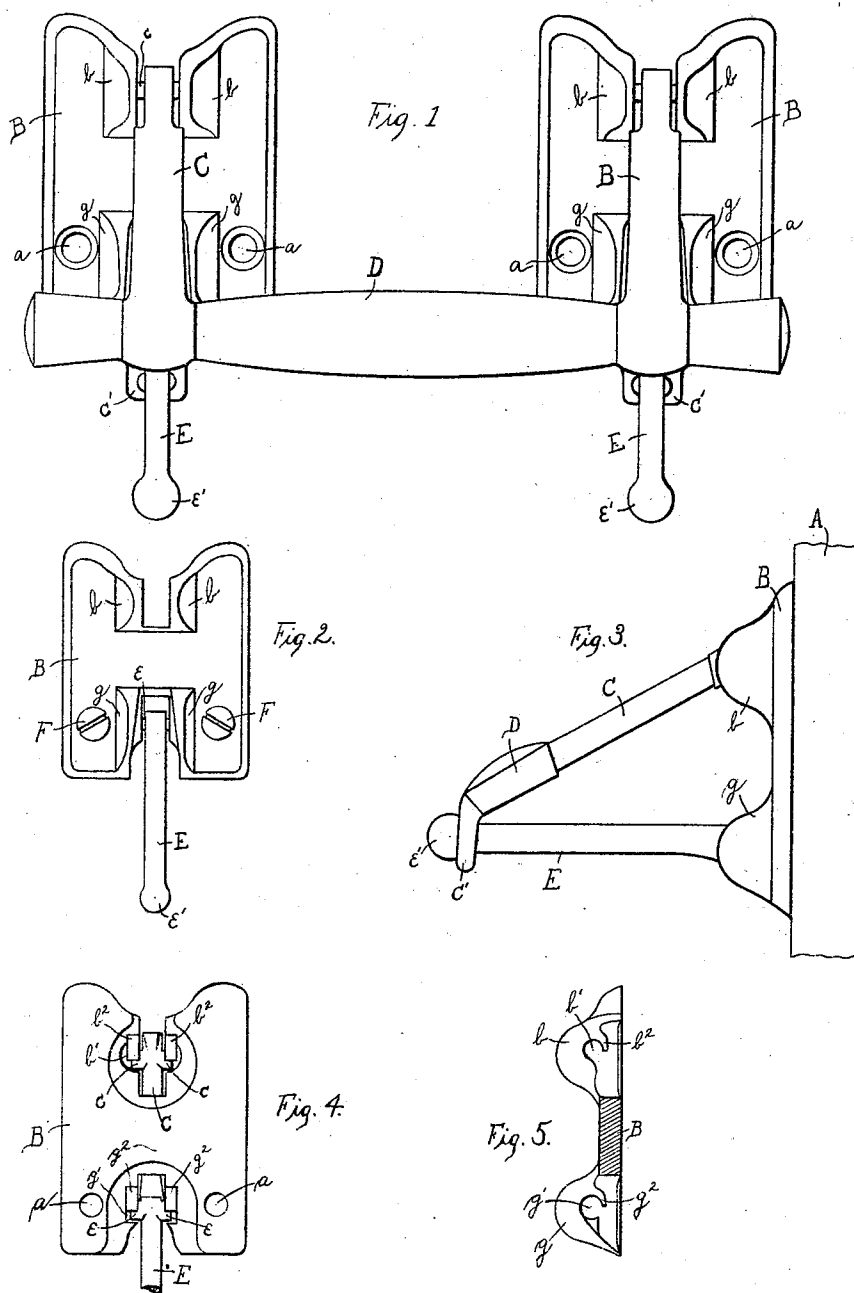


(No Model.)

E. R. SARGENT.
CASKET HANDLE.

No. 556,556.

Patented Mar. 17, 1896.



WITNESSES:

Philip Tomarouth.
Samuel A. Smith Jr.

INVENTOR

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EDWARD R. SARGENT, OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO THE
SARGENT & COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

CASKET-HANDLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 556,556, dated March 17, 1896.

Application filed October 28, 1895. Serial No. 567,186. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD R. SARGENT, of the city and county of New Haven, State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Casket-Handles, fully described and claimed in the following specification, taken in connection with the drawings, which form a part thereof, and in which like letters of reference represent like parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a casket-handle embodying my invention, shown in its folded position. Fig. 2 is a front view of one of the plates with the supplementary brace attached. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the handle. Fig. 4 is a rear view of a plate, and Fig. 5 is a vertical section through the center of a plate.

This invention relates to handles for caskets, trunks, or similar articles where it is desirable to fold the handles against the side or end of the article when not in use.

In a folding handle the pivotal connection between the arms of the handle and the article lessens the strength of the handles as compared to a rigid handle; so it is desirable, if not necessary, to have a supplementary brace to relieve the handle proper from the direct strain in lifting the article.

The object of this invention is to produce a folding handle, the arms of which are pivotally connected to plates on the casket, the handle having supplementary braces, likewise pivotally attached to said plates, with a sliding connection with the handle, so that when the handle is folded the braces fall neatly downward, and when the handle is in use relieve it of a portion of the strain.

The handle embodying this invention is provided with a brace consisting of a single rigid bar, which is attached to the handle-plate, thus producing a handle which may be readily or simply secured to the article desired, obviating the necessity of holes or additional bolts.

The connection between the handle bar and brace is made by means of an enlarged head to the brace and a loop on the handle, which does away with the complicated hinges or joints on the handle-bar. The brace and arm

of the handle are pivoted to the plate in a simple manner described hereinafter.

In the drawings, A represents the side or end of the casket or other article to which the handle is attached, and B the plates secured to the casket, to which the arms C of the handle-bar D are pivoted. In two ears *b*, projecting laterally from the upper part of the plates B, are grooves *b'* from the rear, Fig. 5, in which trunnions *c* on either side of the arm C are adapted to fit. Small lugs *b²*, formed on the rear of the plates in casting, are turned over the trunnions *c*, and the arms C thereby securely pivoted to the plate. The brace E is pivoted to the lower part of plate B in a similar manner by trunnions *e* fitting in the grooves *g'* in the ears *g* and the turning of the lugs *g²* over the trunnions *e*. As thus shown, a simple and effective method of pivoting the parts is provided, which is an improvement over former methods in that it may be readily constructed and the parts assembled with a minimum expenditure of labor and expense.

The connection between the arm of the handle and the braces is by means of the loops *c'* formed on the under side of the arms C of the handle-bar D through which the braces E are inserted. Enlarged heads or balls *e'* at the free ends of the braces E, greater in diameter than the loops *c'*, act as checks and prevent the braces E from slipping through the loops.

Two countersunk screw-holes *a* are shown in the lower part of the plates B for securing the plates to the casket or other article.

When the handle is used in lifting the article, the arms are drawn upward until the balls *e'* come in contact with the loops *c'* (see Fig. 3) and the brace E takes the outward strain of the handle, while the arms C receive an inward pressure therefrom. The lower part of the plate is therefore adapted to resist an outward strain by the screws F in the screw-holes *a*, while the upper part of the plate by contact with the casket resists the inward strain. By pivoting both the arm and brace to one plate at points near together the two opposite strains act to neutralize each other.

When not in use, the handle folds readily to the side of the casket, as the braces E slip

through the loops *c'* to the position shown in Fig. 1.

Having now fully described my invention, the construction of which may be varied without departing from the spirit thereof, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A folding handle consisting of plates adapted to be secured to caskets and other articles; a handle with arms pivotally attached to said plates; and braces pivotally attached to said plates below said arms, extending through

loops on said handle, and having devices on the free ends to engage with said loops, when said handle is raised, substantially as described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, at New Haven, in the county of New Haven, State of Connecticut, this 18th day of October, 1895.

EDWARD R. SARGENT.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM S. COOKE,
CHARLES L. BALDWIN.