

E. S. DODGE.

Improvement in Necklace-Fastenings.

No. 129,111.

Patented July 16, 1872.

Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

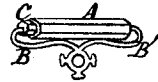


Fig. 6.



Fig. 4.

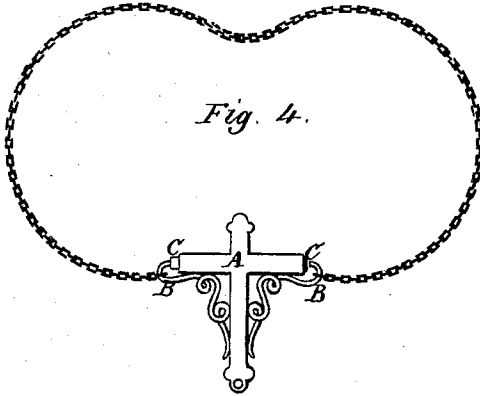
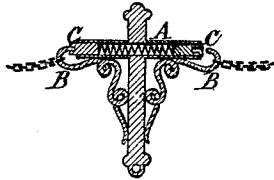


Fig. 5.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EZRA S. DODGE, OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

IMPROVEMENT IN NECKLACE-FASTENINGS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 129,111, dated July 16, 1872.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EZRA S. DODGE, of the city and county of Providence, in the State of Rhode Island, have invented a new and useful Necklace-Clasp.

My invention consists in constructing fixed chain-eyes at both ends of the clasp for the reception of the end links of the chain, or special links prepared for the purpose, and in having one or both of the eyes provided with an entrance, which is guarded by a spring latch or bolt, for preventing the escape of the chain therefrom, except by special manipulation; and I do hereby declare that the following specification, taken in connection with the drawing furnished and forming a part of the same, is a clear, true, and exact description of several styles of clasps embodying my invention.

Referring to the drawing, Figure 1 represents in perspective one of my clasps. Fig. 2 represents the same in longitudinal section. Figs. 3, 4, and 6 represent in perspective other styles of clasps embodying my invention. Fig. 5 represents in longitudinal section the clasp, Fig. 4.

A in each of the figures denotes the body of the clasp. It is tubular in its structure, and may be round, as in Fig. 1, hexagonal, as in Fig. 3, fluted, or with any convenient or desirable configuration which will correspond with the style of chain with which it is to be worn. B and B' denote in each instance the chain-eyes. In Figs. 1, 3, 6, the eyes B' are represented as if closed and rigidly attached to the closed end of the body A, and also there to on one side adjacent to the end. To this closed eye one end of the necklace is to be permanently attached when sold therewith. The eyes B in all the figures are open at their upper sides. C denotes, in each instance, a guard-bolt, which crosses the opening in the eyes B. It projects from the interior of the body A, to which it is fitted, and is actuated by an expansive spiral spring located within the body of the clasp, as is clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 5.

In Figs. 1 and 2 a projecting stud is shown, which emerges from the bolt through a slot in the body, which serves as a means for operating the bolt. It is not essential, however, that a stud be employed, as the bolt can be as readily operated by pressing directly upon its end.

It is preferable that there be an opening in the outer end of the bolt, into which the end of the chain-eye may project, as shown in all of the sectional figures.

In Figs. 4 and 5 I have exhibited an ornamental clasp in the form of a cross, having two open chain-eyes. The horizontal arms are tubular and contain the bolts, two of which are shown—one as if open, the other closed by the bolt. A double-acting spiral spring, centrally located, serves for both bolts. The chain-eyes are represented as if they were the terminations of ornamental scroll-work, and serve to illustrate the variety of design into which my clasps may be desirably extended. With the clasp so constructed—with open eyes at each end—a combined ornament and clasp may be worn with any chain.

As heretofore constructed, necklace-clasps have usually been made in two pieces, each of which was permanently secured to opposite ends of the chain; spring-latches on one side, having square-bearing shoulders for engaging with corresponding shoulders on the opposite side, variously constructed, have been employed for maintaining connection between the parts. As is well known, after slight wear, the shoulders becoming irregular, they fail to hold the two parts together, resulting in frequent losses more or less serious in character, and in almost constant annoyance to the wearer. As an incident peculiar to their structure, it is unsafe to wear neck-loquets or other heavy ornaments adjacent to a clasp of the ordinary construction, for if they come in contact with the projecting spring-latch, the clasp will become separated; neither is it desirable to have such clasps in front, and in practice, it may be noticed that ladies usually have them on the back side of the neck. Should ornaments be directly attached to the old-style clasps, their weight alone, having a vertical bearing down, will, if the latch-shoulders be considerably worn, be liable to cause a disconnection.

My clasps are simple, are capable of being used as ornaments, or for bearing the neck-ornament; the strain on the chain is wholly borne by the rigid chain-eyes; no strain whatever can ever be applied to the guard-bolt in wearing; and the guard is absolutely safe and durable.

I am aware that safety-hooks have been

largely constructed for use in connection with ships' tackle, harness, and even vest-guards and watch-chains; and that, in some of such, the eye of the hook has been guarded by spring-bolts and other equivalent devices; and I therefore make no claim to anything involved in the construction of my necklace-clasp applicable to such hooks. I am not aware that prior to my invention there existed a necklace-clasp, nor any device practicably useful as such, which would be suited to the requirements of the trade, and of wearers in general, in which the two chain-eyes were attached permanently to the body of the clasp, nor in which either or both of the eyes were open, but provided

with safety-guards; and I therefore do not limit myself to the precise construction of guard-bolt as herein shown.

I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

As a new article of manufacture, a necklace-clasp, provided with a chain-eye at each end, one or both of which is provided with a side opening which is guarded by a latch or bolt, as and for the purposes specified.

EZRA S. DODGE. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

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