J. W. Fifield,

Key Fastener.

No. 107,895. Patented Oct. 4, 1870.

Fig. 3

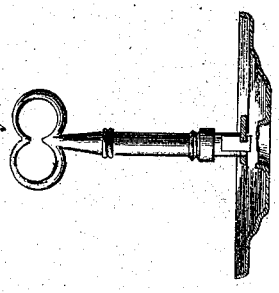
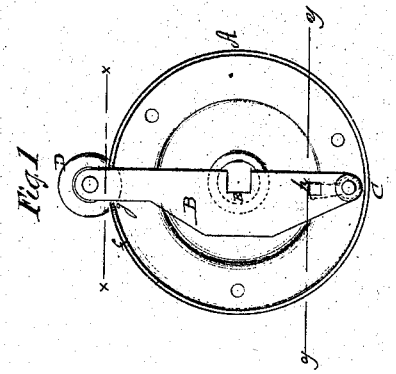


Fig. 2

Fig. 1



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J. WARD FIFIELD, OF FRANKLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Letters Patent No. 107,895, dated October 4, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN SAFETY-LATCHES.

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

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, J. WARD FIFIELD, of Franklin, in the county of Merrimac and State of New Hampshire, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Operating Safety-Latches; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification.

This invention relates to a new and useful improvement in operating safety-latches, whereby the latch may be moved, for locking or unlocking, by means of a key, as hereinafter described.

In the accompanying drawing—

Figure 1 represents an inside view of the safety-latch, which is attached to the inside of a door, so that the slot in the latch will fit onto the square knob-spindle, and prevent it from being turned by the door-knob.

Figure 2 is a section through the line *x x* of fig. 1.

Figure 3 is a section through the line *y y* of fig. 1.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

A is a plate or washer, which is fastened to the inside of a door, through which the spindle of a mortise knob-lock passes.

B is the safety-latch, which is pivoted to the plate A at the point C.

At its other end there is a small knob, D, by which the latch is moved, so that the slot E will fit onto the knob-spindle of a mortise-lock, when it is desired to prevent the knob from being turned.

The latch moves in a recess in the rim of the plate, which recess, *f*, fig. 2, has a catch, *g*, over which the latch is passed when the spindle is locked, as seen in the drawing.

The latch is a spring, and, to release it from the spindle, it is sprung over the catch and into the long part of the recess *f*. This is done by the knob D, and the fastening is operated only on the inside.

To accomplish this, by means of a key from the outside, is the object of this invention.

For this purpose I make the latch-pivot C a pivot for a key, and make an orifice, *h*, through the latch. A portion of the bit of the key passes through this orifice *h*, and hooks onto the latch, as seen in fig. 3.

The latch being a spring, a slight lateral pressure on the key serves to raise the latch over the catch *g*, when it may be carried by the key from the spindle in the recess *f*, thus allowing the knob and spindle to be turned and the door unlocked.

The latch may be operated from the outside for either unlocking or locking the spindle, thus making the arrangement answer all the purposes of a good night-lock.

Having thus described my invention,

I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. In combination with the latch B, the orifice *h* and key-pivot C, whereby the latch may be operated from the outside, by means of a key, substantially as described.

2. Operating a spindle safety-latch from the outside of a door, by means of a key.

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