R. DUNHAM.

SALT-VESSEL.

No. 188,240. Patented March 13, 1877.

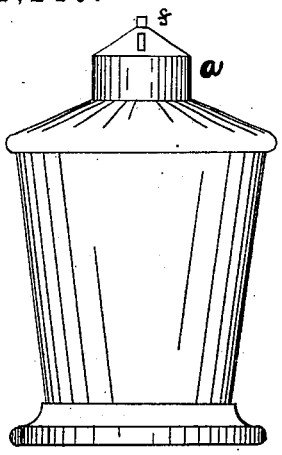

Fig. 1.

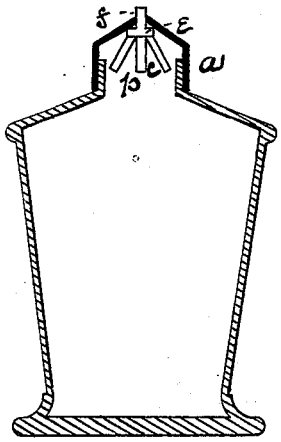

Fig. 2.

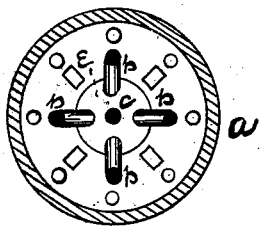

Fig. 3.

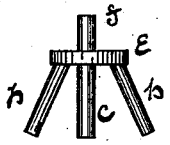

Fig. 4.

Witnesses
Herbert F. Briggs
Edgar S. Brown

Inventor
Rufus Dunham.
Per
William Henry Clifford
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RUFUS DUNHAM, OF DEERING, MAINE.

IMPROVEMENT IN SALT-VESSELS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **188,240**, dated March 13, 1877; application filed January 24, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RUFUS DUNHAM, of Deering, in the county of Cumberland and State of Maine, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Salt-Vessels; 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 which it pertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 shows the vessel. Fig. 2 shows same in section. Fig. 3 is a bottom plan of cap and prongs. Fig. 4 is a side view of the disk and prongs.

The object of this invention is to produce an improved salt-receptacle which will keep the salt clean, break up lumps which may form in the same, and will also be a convenient article for use upon the table, for which it is designed.

I employ an ordinary vessel like a pepper-box, having its cover perforated with small holes.

I am aware that such vessels have before this been used to contain salt and to sprinkle it upon food. I do not claim such a vessel.

My invention relates to an improvement in the cap or cover by which the salt is kept pulverized, prevented from becoming caked, and kept in such condition as to pass freely through the perforations of the top of the cap. The improvement consists of certain prongs, flaring or diverging so as to nearly fill the neck of the box or bottle. Any convenient number and arrangement of the prongs can be made, but they are shown in the drawing as several branching arms or prongs, and one in the center of these which extends directly down. These extend down a short distance in the neck of the bottle or box. The arms or prongs break up the salt when the box is turned upside down and shaken, and prevent it from packing into the head and becoming fixed there, and moreover, lumps striking against the prongs are broken and pass through the holes in the cap. These prongs are cast on a small plate or disk which fits up against the under and inner side of the top of the cap. Extending from the top side of the disk is an arm or stud, *f*, which is inserted into and carried through a hole made for it in the center of the top of the cap. This stud when inserted into its place is then turned off and soldered to the top of the cap. *a* is the cap; *b*, the branching prongs; *c*, the center one; *e*, the disk, and *f* the stud extending through the top of the cap *a*.

The device above described can be made of Britannia ware, and cast into the form desired.

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

A salt-vessel, having the cap *a*, branching prongs *b*, center prong *c*, disk *e*, and stud *f*, as and for the purposes herein set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

RUFUS DUNHAM.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM HENRY CLIFFORD,

HERBERT G. BRIGGS.