

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ABRAM OBERNDORFER, OF NORFOLK, VIRGINIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN LOCKS FOR VALISES, &c.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 194,715, dated August 28, 1877; application filed July 20, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ABRAM OBERNDORFER, of the city of Norfolk, in the county of Norfolk and State of Virginia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fastenings for Valises, Carpet-Bags, and Satchels; 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 appertains 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.

This invention relates to improvements in fastenings for valises, carpet-bags, and similar articles; and consists in certain devices within a central lock, and spring-catches attached thereto, so that, for the better security of the article, the sides and corners are fastened interiorly, and are released simultaneously by the means of the key, all of which will be more particularly hereinafter described and set forth in the claims.

Figure 1 represents an inside view of one side of the clasp-frame, showing the lock and its connections. Fig. 2 is a similar view of the other frame and catches. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section on one side of Fig. 1 at *x x*. Fig. 4 is a transverse section on line *y y*, Fig. 1. Figs. 5 to 10, inclusive, are details, which will be referred to in the general description. Fig. 11 is a perspective view of the two slides within the lock.

A is one side of the clasp-frame, which has a flange, A', all around it. (See Fig. 4.) B is the other frame, which is fitted neatly and exactly within the flange A', and is hinged to A at *a a*, Fig. 1, and in the drawing (for want of space) is represented as broken at *b b*. At the central part of A, at the top, is the lock C, the various parts and movements of which are represented in the Figs. 5 to 8 in detail. *c* is an L-shaped slide, to which is attached a rod, *c'*, on which is a stop, *c''*, and a loose collar, *c'''*. This rod *c'* rests in a slotted guide, *a''*. Around the rod is a coiled spring, *d*, which bears against the collar *c'''* and the shoulder of a rectangular sliding bolt, C', at the end of the rod *c'*. On the lower side of C' is a projecting tappet, *c''''*, and at its end a

recess, on the side next to plate A, which forms a lip, *m*, as seen in Fig. 10, for the catch F' from the upper plate B. In the lock C is another slide, *e*, which has in it a notch, *e'*, and a stem, *e''*, the other end being mortised out, as shown in Figs. 6 and 7, which permits slide *e* to move into it. To the end of *e* is attached a rod, *e'''*, with stop, collar, guide, spring, and slide-bolt C'' and tappet *e''''*, all similar to and operated like those described above, and attached to rod *c'*. The slide *e* has a stem, *f*, which, at its upper end, is slightly beveled, and extends upward to form a check to the spring *g*, so that when the lock is fast, as shown in Figs. 1, 5, and 6, the spring cannot be forced inwardly; but when the slide *e* is moved in the act of unlocking, as in Fig. 8, the stem *f* is moved out of the way, and spring *g* can be moved inwardly, as seen in dotted lines, and the catch *g'* be released, and the two parts A and B can be separated. If the two frames are properly adjusted to each other for the purpose, so soon as the spring releases *g'* the two parts A and B will spring asunder when the thumb-piece *k* has been forced down. When spring *g* is resting upon *f* there is sufficient elasticity in the spring to permit the catch F' to be forced into place, notwithstanding that the lock is closed; but when in this relation, and the catch in place, it cannot be opened from the outside without the use of the proper key. *h* and *h* are guides for slides *c* and *e*. At each side of A are bell-crank levers D D, which are operated by the projecting tappets *c''''* *e''''* on slide-bolts C' C''. Attached to levers D D are rods *l l*, having springs *l' l'* and loose collars *e'''*, and working in guides *d d*, and having slide-bolts E E' at the end. Said bolts have lips similar to C' C'' for the reception of hooks F on B. (See Fig. 3.) Similar hooks F' F' are on the corners of B, and catch in the lips of C' C''.

The slide-bolts C' C'' are properly guided by pieces *i i*, in which are screw-holes, and on which are confined the cap-piece (represented in dotted lines) and the cap to the central lock is also represented in dotted lines, the caps all being removed from Fig. 1 to exhibit the interior details.

Fig. 9 represents the key used in the central lock. The single ward *l*, when the key is

to be inserted, must be above; and as it is turned it moves the stem *f* in the direction of the arrow, while the double ward *l* moves correspondingly the stem *f'* of slide *e* in the opposite direction, until the longer diameter of the key spreads the two stems apart just far enough to draw the slide-bolts *c' c''* at the corners and *E E* on the sides away from the catches, thus releasing four of the fastenings, and only retaining the central hook *g'* by the spring *g*. Now, by pressing down the thumb-piece *k*, the spring *g* can pass stem *f*, and release hook *g'*, and instantly *B* and *A* spring asunder.

The advantages of these improvements are, first, a valise or bag with them cannot be opened when left temporarily in car, steamboat, or room, while traveling. Bags held by a lock at top and hooks at the corners and sides on the outside can be easily sprung open, and articles abstracted, without violating the lock. When hooks are used on the outside they are liable to be broken off, and are constantly in the way, and troublesome in opening or closing. Hence I claim a great improvement over all outside fastenings by the method of holding the corners and sides from within, believing that I am the first to apply these improvements for the purpose set forth.

The springs *d d* around rods *c'* may be dispensed with, as springs *l l* will operate the

slides *C' C''* by means of the bell-cranks *D D* and tappets *c'''*. Rods *l l* and all the attachments may be dispensed with, and the bolts *C' C''* only used, where the frame is not required to be so deep as here represented.

Having described the invention, what I claim is—

1. The lock-slide *c*, working within the slide *e*, in combination with the corner bolts *C' C''* and slide-bolts *F F'*, connected together by rods and cranks, and recoiled by springs, all substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. The combination of an assistant clasp-spring, *g*, with the stem *f* of the slide *c*, so that the latter must be moved before the spring can be operated to release the clasp or hook *g'*, which holds the cover, and whereby the clasp or hook *g'* can be fastened without the use of the key.

3. Combination of the slide *c*, working inside of slide *e*, with the key, so that the last will hold the parts *c* and *e*, and retain all the bolts connected with them unfastened.

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

ABRAM OBERNDORFER.

Witnesses:

WM. R. SINGLETON,

J. W. HAMILTON JOHNSON.