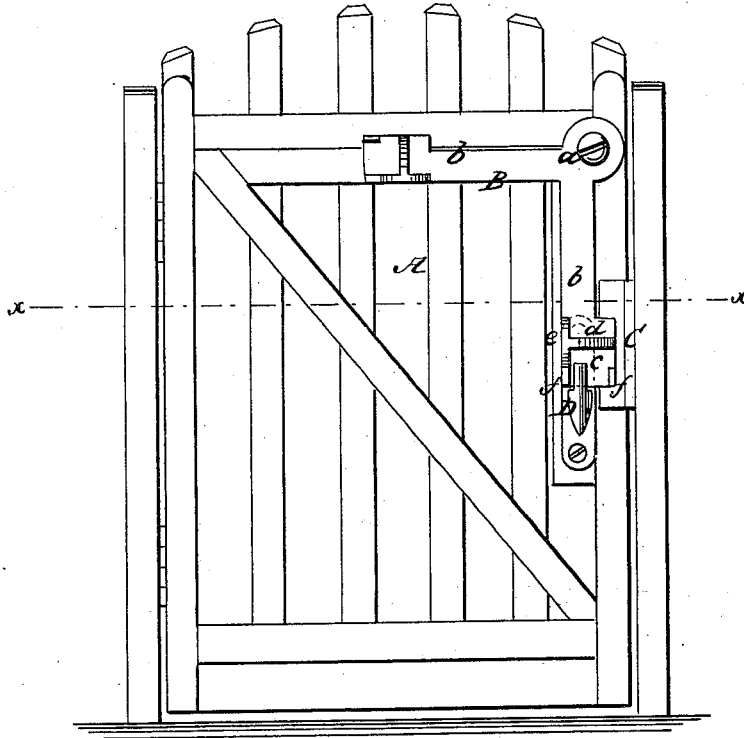


W. H. CARPENTER.  
Gate-Latch.

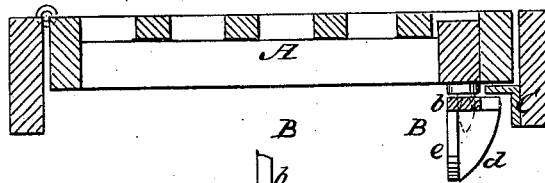
No. 197,544.

Patented Nov. 27, 1877.

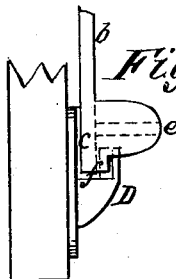
*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



WITNESSES:

*E. Wolff.*  
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INVENTOR:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. CARPENTER, OF ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI.

## IMPROVEMENT IN GATE-LATCHES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **197,544**, dated November 27, 1877; application filed September 10, 1877.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM HENRY CARPENTER, of St. Joseph, in the county of Buchanan and State of Missouri, have invented a new and Improved Gate-Latch, of which the following is a specification:

This invention has relation to gate-hinges; and the nature of my invention consists in a rectangular reversible latch, which is pivoted to the gate, and constructed so that it is self-latching, and will not be affected by the sagging of the gate, as will be hereinafter explained.

In the annexed drawing, Figure 1 is an elevation of a gate having my improved reversible latch applied to it. Fig. 2 is a section taken in the plane indicated by dotted line *xx*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a detail, showing one end of the latch engaged with its catch-plate.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The letter *A* designates a gate of any suitable construction. Near the top of this gate is pivoted at *a* a rectangular latch, *B*, both limbs *b b* of which are of equal length, and are constructed alike, so that the latching end of each limb can be used, according to the requirements of the case. Each limb *b* is constructed with a broad rectangular end, *c*, from which springs a beveled or curved fin, *a*, formed on and strengthened by a flange, *e*. The extremity of each arm is constructed with lugs *ff*, for a purpose presently explained.

*C* designates a flanged catch-plate, which

is secured to the inside of the gate-post, and so arranged that its flange will engage with pendent portion of the latch when the gate is shut, and thus hold the gate securely. The engaging-flange of the catch-plate *C* is of such length that the sagging of the gate will not prevent the latch from engaging with said flange when the gate is shut.

The lower end of the pendent engaging-arm of the latch is free to play between a retainer, *D*, which is fastened to the gate. The lugs *ff* are on opposite sides of the retainer *D*, and limit the vibrations of the latch.

It will be seen that the upper limb of the latch operates, by its gravity, to engage the lower end of the lower limb with the flange of the catch.

It will be observed that the latch, the catch, and the retainer are reversible, and can be used on the right or left hand side of a gate, or on either side of a gate; also, that, no matter how much the gate may sag, the latch will operate successfully.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The rectangular reversible latch, constructed with fins *d* and lugs *ff*, in combination with the flanged catch-plate *C* and retainer *D*, substantially as described.

WILLIAM HENRY CARPENTER.

Witnesses:

I. W. KENNY,  
W. S. ELLIOTT.