J. R. RHEUBOTTOM.
Chain-Lock for Valises.

No. 199,468. Patented Jan. 22, 1878.

Fig. 1.

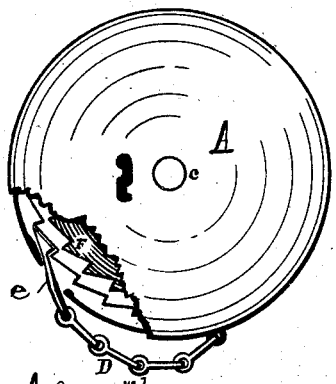


Fig. 2.

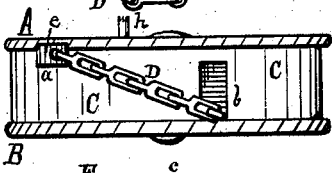


Fig. 3.

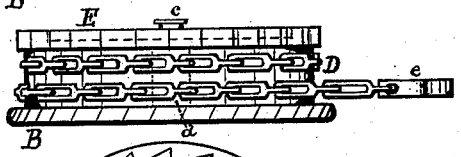
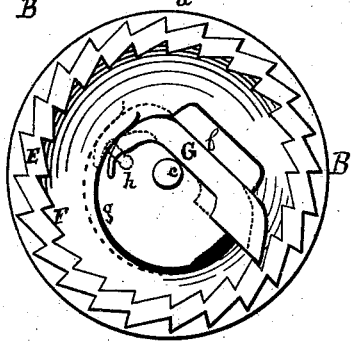


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES R. RHEUBOTTOM, OF WEEDSPORT, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN CHAIN-LOCKS FOR VALISES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **199,468**, dated January 22, 1878; application filed December 13, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES R. RHEUBOTTOM, of Weedsport, New York, have invented an Improved Safety Chain-Lock, for securing valises, &c., in railway-cars, and for other purposes, of which the following is a specification:

My improved safety chain-lock will be understood from the following description, and from the drawings hereto annexed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view, partly broken away, showing the locking device of my improved safety chain-lock; and Fig. 2, a side view of the same. Fig. 3 is a side view with the case removed, showing the ratchet and chain. Fig. 4 is a plan view with case removed, showing the two ratchets and locking device.

My improved safety chain-lock is circular in form, as shown in Fig. 1, and consists of a case composed of three parts, A and C, and the cap B, Figs. 2 and 3, to one of which, A, is attached the side casing C, through which two openings, *a* and *b*, Fig. 2, are made for the passage of the chain. The case and cap are fastened together by the pin *c*, Figs. 1 and 3, passing through the center of the case, and riveted on the outside, in such manner that the two cases may revolve freely and independently of each other, the casing A C turning within the milled edge of the cap B. The pin *c* extends through from one side to the other, and forms a spindle, (shown in dotted lines *d*, Fig. 3,) rigidly attached to the cap B. The chain D is secured at one end to the spindle *c*, about which it is wound. To the other end of the chain is fastened a hook, *e*, Figs. 1 and 3.

The ratchet E, Fig. 3, is secured to the cap B by the spindle *c*, and revolves with it.

When the catch *e* is introduced into the opening *a* of the casing it engages with a tooth of the ratchet E, and, sliding underneath the side of the casing, (see Fig. 1,) is held in place by it, and prevents the case from turning in one direction, while the ratchet E, upon being locked, prevents the case from turning in the other direction. The locking device by which the ratchet E is fastened is shown in Fig. 4. A recess is formed in the face of the ratchet E, (shown by dotted lines in Fig. 3,) and into this recess project the teeth of the interior ratchet F. A catch, G, sliding between the pin *a* and the guide *f*, which is attached to the case A, engages with the teeth of the ratchet F under the pressure of the spring *g*, which is also attached to the case A.

A key, *h*, Fig. 2, introduced into the opening in case A, provided for it, (see Fig. 1,) on being turned, presses against the curved end of the catch G, and holds it in the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 4, in which case the ratchet F is detached, and the case A is free to turn.

When the catch *e* is removed from the opening in the casing, the cap B, to which the ratchets are attached, can then be revolved in either direction, and the chain D wound upon or unwound from the spindle *c*.

When the proper length of chain is secured, the catch *e* is introduced into the opening in the casing C, and the key being removed, and the cases slightly rotated upon each other, the catch G engages with the ratchet F, and each end of the chain is then securely fastened within the lock.

A flexible metallic strap or band may be used in place of the chain D.

The pieces A and B may be fastened together, and the ratchets and spindle arranged to revolve within the case by means of a button or crank attached to the outer end of the spindle *c*.

In a modified form of my device I have used a smaller ratchet, with teeth on its exterior, attached to the ratchet E, in place of the ratchet F, the locking arrangement being correspondingly modified, and adapted to operate on the exterior of the smaller ratchet.

The operation of the parts is entirely the same, the case, however, being slightly thicker.

I have now explained my invention, and described the manner of putting it into practical operation which I prefer to adopt; but it is obvious that many alterations may be made therein without materially changing the principle thereof. Thus, one ratchet or equivalent device may be made to do the work of the two herein described, and it may be attached directly to one or the other of the cases, a suitable spring-catch being so arranged upon

the other case as to perform the two functions of holding the end of the chain, and to prevent the rotation of the cases upon each other.

I claim—

The combination of the rotating case A C, cap B, spindle *c*, chain D, provided with a catch, *e*, and a suitable locking device, consisting of a ratchet and a spring-catch, arranged to be unlocked by a key, substantially as described.

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