No. 4

FORTY BURGLARIES

OF THE YEARS 1863-4-5;

THE HEARING BEFORE THE MAGISTRATES OF SOME OF THE BURGLARS,

AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT TRIAL AND CONVICTION;

THE TRIAL

WALKER *v.* MILNER,

IN THE COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH,

FEBRUARY 14TH & 15TH, 1866,

BEFORE THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE AND A SPECIAL JURY,

WITH REMARKS ON THE EVIDENCE OF THE CONVICT CASELY AND THAT OF THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, &C., &C., &C.; WITH ILLUSTRATIONS,

BY

GEORGE PRICE,

CLEVELAND SAFE AND LOCK WORKS,

WOLVERHAMPTON.

Author of "A Treatise on Fire and Thief-proof Depositories and Locks and Keys,"—"A Treatise on Gunpowder-proof Locks, Gunpowder-proof Lock-chambers, Drill-proof Safes, &c.,"—"The Batley Burglary," &c., &c., &c.

LONDON:

E. & F. N. SPON, 16, BUCKLERSBURY, AND ALL BOOKSELLERS:

MAY BE HAD ALSO FROM THE AUTHOR, WOLVERHAMPTON; 86, QUEEN STREET, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON; 18, BLACKFRIARS STREET, MANCHESTER; WADE LANE, LEEDS; AND BOW LANE, SHEFFIELD.

1866.

ONE SHILLING.

K
540
.T75
no.20(4)
Trials

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

11992 LAW 08

"Of old, a 'spade' was called a 'spade,'
By simples and by sages;
A 'workman' did his honest 'work,'
And 'servants' earned their 'wages;'
A 'man' was title of respect,
Whenever virtue named it;
There was but one of higher worth,
And lovely 'woman' claim'd it;
But now we masquerade with words,
The truth a great offence is,
And desecrate our English tongue
By pride and false pretences.
We shame the language of our sires—
We talk so mild and meekly:
We've 'operative' for working-men,
And draw our 'salaries' weekly.
Our 'lady' takes the place of "wife'—
That word so true and hearty;
And every man a 'gentleman,'
Unless we call him 'party.'
The 'shopman' hates the name of shop;
And, by perversion later,
The man who digs a railway trench
Is call'd a 'navigator.'

Oh, give us back our honest speech!
It had a soul of beauty;
And let us do our daily 'work,'
And think it pleasant duty;
Let's earn our 'wages' as of yore—
The word can never harm us;
Let's love our 'sweethearts' and our 'wives,
And own that 'women' charm us.
So shall our actions, like our words,
Be void of affectation,
And 'spade' be 'spade,' and 'man' be 'man,'
Throughout the British nation."

IN our "Treatise on Gunpowder-proof Locks, Gunpowder-proof Lock-chambers, Drill-proof Safes, &c.," published in 1860,* we described the "Burglars' methods of opening iron safes" under the following heads:—

First.—By picking the lock.

Secondly.—By blowing the lock or the door open with gunpowder.

Thirdly.—By drilling through the door.

Fourthly.—By the use of great violence, or by the application of powerful implements for producing pressure through the keyhole.

Since the above date (1860) we cannot call to mind more than two or three instances in which a safe has been robbed through picking the lock, and not more than five or six cases where gunpowder has been the agent employed for the purpose of effecting an entrance into these depositories of valuable property.

---

* E. & F. N. Spon, 16, Bucklersbury, London, and all booksellers. Cloth, 2/ or 2/2 by post.

The very many robberies of iron safes during the last three years have been consummated by the successful use of the ordinary drill, the drilling-machine, the screw, or by violence of various kinds. This latter method includes the application of the chisel or wedge, the crowbar, and the sledge-hammer. These tools and implements the burglars divide into two classes, which they call "lawful" and "unlawful." The former class includes all those tools and appliances which, from their portability, are not likely to attract the notice of the police or the public when being carried to the scene of the intended burglary, or, from their comparatively noiseless action when in actual operation on the iron safe, are not calculated to raise an alarm. The "unlawful" implements employed for breaking open iron safes are of such an extraordinary large and heavy character as to necessitate their construction in pieces, so as to be conveniently carried about, and comprise the drilling-machine, as used at the Batley burglary (1), the crowbar used at the Cornhill (24) and other burglaries (2, 13, 18, and 32), and the sledge-hammer as used at several burglaries in Birmingham and other places (see Robberies 26 and 27).

As it may be taken for granted that, since the burglars have been so successful in opening iron safes by the aid of the drill or by violence, the use of the picklock and gunpowder will now be considered as old-fashioned, and will, in future, cease to be employed. We shall, therefore, in the following pages treat chiefly of those robberies of iron safes effected by the drill and implements of power, which have taken place during the years 1863–4–5 ; consider the defects of the safes so successfully operated upon, and describe our own several methods of constructing safes, which, in our humble judgment, we believe are amply sufficient to withstand the attack of the present race of burglars, with any known burglars' tools or implements, in the maximum time at their command, say from Saturday night till Monday morning.

Instead of hazarding mere opinions and assertions as to what the burglars can or might do, as has been the custom with so many writers connected with the newspaper press, we shall, as far as possible, support our remarks by facts. Some of these writers would have the public believe that *all* the iron safes in use could be as easily opened as paper bandboxes ; that the strongest iron safe made could be opened by burglars with such tools and implements as could be carried under a lady's crinoline. But all these assertions, including that of the convict Casely, at the late trial, WALKER *v.* MILNER, that he could open any safe made, is precisely of the same character as the well-known proposition of Archimedes, that only give him a fulcrum for his lever and he would move the world. So with Counsellor Kelly, only give him time enough and he would open any safe made. No doubt. But the greatest of all requisites to the successful accomplishment of any burglary *is* time. Time, with burglars, is *the* one great essential. To expect a safe so constructed that it would be impossible to get into in *any* time is simply the height of absurdity. It is equally ridiculous to suppose, because iron safes of admittedly bad construction have been opened by a class of daring thieves who employed a means of attack the makers of the safes had not provided against, that, therefore, none of the other makers can make a safe to resist this—to some—new mode of attack. For our own part, although we do not believe in the word impossibility, it has been our practice for the last eleven years to anticipate the modes of attack likely to be put in operation by the modern burglar, and construct our safes accordingly, and, consequently, in proportion as he has increased the size of his tools and implements, and acquired thereby more powerful means of attack, so have we modified the

construction of our citadel, and have, from time to time, iucreased the strength of our defences.

The impression produced on the minds of the Press after the Cornhill burglary was that of extreme disappointment that iron safes which they had always thought impregnable, should have been so easily and expeditiously opened and robbed of their valuable contents. Almost every London and Provincial paper had its leader on the subject, and, according to some writers, iron safes, which had hitherto been such useful and necessary depositories for valuable property in the shop, the office, and the dwelling-house, were to be considered things of the past, and the old watchman, with his huge horn lantern and his rattle, was to be called up from the grave to watch the inside, whilst the police did not watch the outside, of our City premises, in this nineteenth century of the world's improvements in science and art. The cry was "Woe betide the safe-makers—their occupation 's gone." Because the articles in a portion of the London Press are not so refined in sentiment and expression as they might be, nor the ideas of their writers so exalted as could be wished, to call the *whole* a "licentious and ribald Press" would be unjust in the extreme, and on this ground we think the Press jumped to their conclusions rather too hastily with respect to this iron safe question. We consider their condemnation of the productions, without exception, of the whole trade rather unfair, because so far from the safes opened being "the best," in no single instance has a "best" safe yielded to the attack of its assailants. Many of the safes lately opened have been, doubtless, of a quality which T. Milner and Son did call *their* "best," but surely it cannot be fair play for the whole productions of the iron safe trade to be judged by the manufactures of only one firm in the trade. There is an old proverb—"Let every tub stand on its own bottom"—and all we ask from the Press is to apply this sort of old English judgment to our own inventions and patented and other improvements in the construction of *our* iron safes and locks and keys. We only ask from their powerful influence the meed of simple justice. Experienced and clever thieves will rarely attempt to open a "best" safe, hence the very few instances on record of this class of superior strongholds being attacked. When a gang of thieves decide to make a plant on a certain jeweller's, their first proceeding is to ascertain the description and the make of the iron safe. If this is one of the kind they have previously successfully operated upon in private, or actually opened at some other burglary, they feel certain of getting at the contents, and next examine the premises, the particular position of the safe, and all the fastenings between it and the outside of the building. When their plans are all complete, the proper time is chosen, and the robbery effected.

When a maker of a certain article, after a long successful career of honorable industry, satisfied with the fame thus acquired, deliberately discontinues his accustomed vigilance, and the requirements of the age in which he lives, and, trusting exclusively to the prestige of his name for a continuance of the same prosperity and honours, finds that he is outdistanced and his place taken by some humble competitor, he should not feel surprised, it is only a sequence in the natural order of events. Daily experience goes to prove that the most respectable, the most honorable, most wealthy, and oldest establishments, no matter in what branch of trade, naturally die out, unless invigorated by new blood in the shape of "men of the time."

If this hypothesis be correct, it will fully account for so many of Milners' Safes having of late years so ignominiously succumbed to the attack of the burglar in various parts of the Kingdom. We fear Messrs. T. Milner and

Son* have trusted too much to their acquired prestige, and too little to the absolute necessity of going with the times, entirely forgetting that burglars are no respecters of safe-makers' names. In proof of this we have only to take a Milners' safe, "List 3," of the year 1865, and compare it with the same "List 3" safe of 1846. In what does the difference consist? Simply this. The 1865 safe is painted in brighter colours, and is ornamented with more stamped brass, than the 1846 safe, but the construction—the build—is essentially the same in both. The improvements required to make a safe secure against skilled burglars have been patented by other makers. Little or nothing has been left to this old-established firm, besides the red-painted projections we saw in one safe exhibited some short time ago in the window of their Manchester depôt.

We can fancy we hear many of our readers exclaiming, with manifest surprise, "What! *That* all that T. Milner and Son have done to make safes burglar-proof? Why, they state in their price-lists, at the head of their quality 'LIST 3,'—'Nett Prices and Outside Sizes of Milners' Quadruple-Patent (Sealed, 1840, 1851, 1854, 1855, and 1859) Strong Holdfast, Fire, Violence, Robbery, and Fraud-resisting Safes, Chests, and Closets, recommended for Cash and Valuables.' What! Do you mean to say they have no improvements under these four patents to render their safes burglar-proof? Is it possible?"

We answer. Incredible as it may appear, such is the fact. We will endeavour to substantiate it by reference "to the law and to the testimony" of the Patent Office copies of their specifications. We find the 1840 patent was obtained by the late Thomas Milner for making safes fire-proof on the steam-generating principle, than which nothing can be better, and as the patent expired in 1854, it is now the property of all safe makers who like to use it. The 1851 patent, which expired last September, was taken out by the present Mr. William Milner, for "fastening or securing the doors or lids of such safes, boxes, or other depositories by means of continuous bolts or bars of iron extending or expanding on all sides of the door or lid of the same (in place of or together with the ordinary bolt or bolts of the lock) into suitable grooves, rebates, or recesses formed within the front of the safes or boxes, and thus constituting a perfectly flame-proof joint;" also for "lining the inner surfaces of the outer plate with a coating of pulverized quartz or other infusible material formed into a cement, with a small proportion of hardwood dust, which is to be laid on in that state and subsequently dried."

The only safe we ever saw with these "flame protectors" was one in T. Milner & Son's window, in Liverpool, some ten years ago. It is certainly a novel invention for keeping out of the safe "flames" that could not, by any means, ever get in.

---

* Although Messrs. T. Milner and Son behaved so cruelly to us (when, ten years ago, we were endeavouring to lay the foundation of our present position) by mutilating one of our safes and having it in this state drawn about the streets of the City of Manchester on a lurry, then exhibiting it in their depôt window, next sending it for exhibition to Bury, Coventry, and other towns; also by removing the lock-chamber from a very inferior and common chest of our then make, and sending it to their agent at Newcastle-on-Tyne, to be placed at his shop-door, with the words "Price's Patent" chalked thereon, and in various other ways, we disclaim all desire in our remarks in these pages to act vindictively, and could we consistently state the case without mentioning their names, we would gladly do so. Indeed, we should have been better pleased if some talented author had taken up this subject instead of the writer, but the great difficulty in that case would have been the want on his part of that practical knowledge of the details of the construction and manufacture of the articles under discussion, to do justice to it. That even professional and scientific witnesses make great mistakes, and form very erroneous opinions on the principles of construction of machines with which they are imperfectly acquainted, was never more apparent than at the late trial—WALKER *v.* MILNER. We hope not to exceed the bounds of fair and honourable discussion.

The 1854 patent is for reducing the space in the small lock which secures the large bolts of the safe door "which has ordinarily formed a receptacle for a large and destructive quantity of gunpowder, to the smallest possible capacity;" and the 1855 patent is for reducing this same "available space for the presence or action of gunpowder, to the minimum." Also "for filling up all the open space or spaces usually left between the inner and outer plates, forming the door, with wood or other similar suitable material, leaving only sufficient space for the seat or position of the lock, and the working or passage of the bolts."

The patent stated as having been sealed in 1859, we have failed to discover, as Mr. Milner's name does not again appear in the lists of patents since 1855, till March 31st, 1865, when he (with his son-in-law, Mr. D. R. Ratcliff) petitioned for another patent, but which they appear subsequently to have abandoned.

To enable our readers to arrive at a right understanding of the Cornhill and other celebrated burglaries enumerated in these pages, we think it desirable to describe the construction of the several kinds of iron safes that yielded to the attack of the burglars, and also those that withstood every attempt to open them.

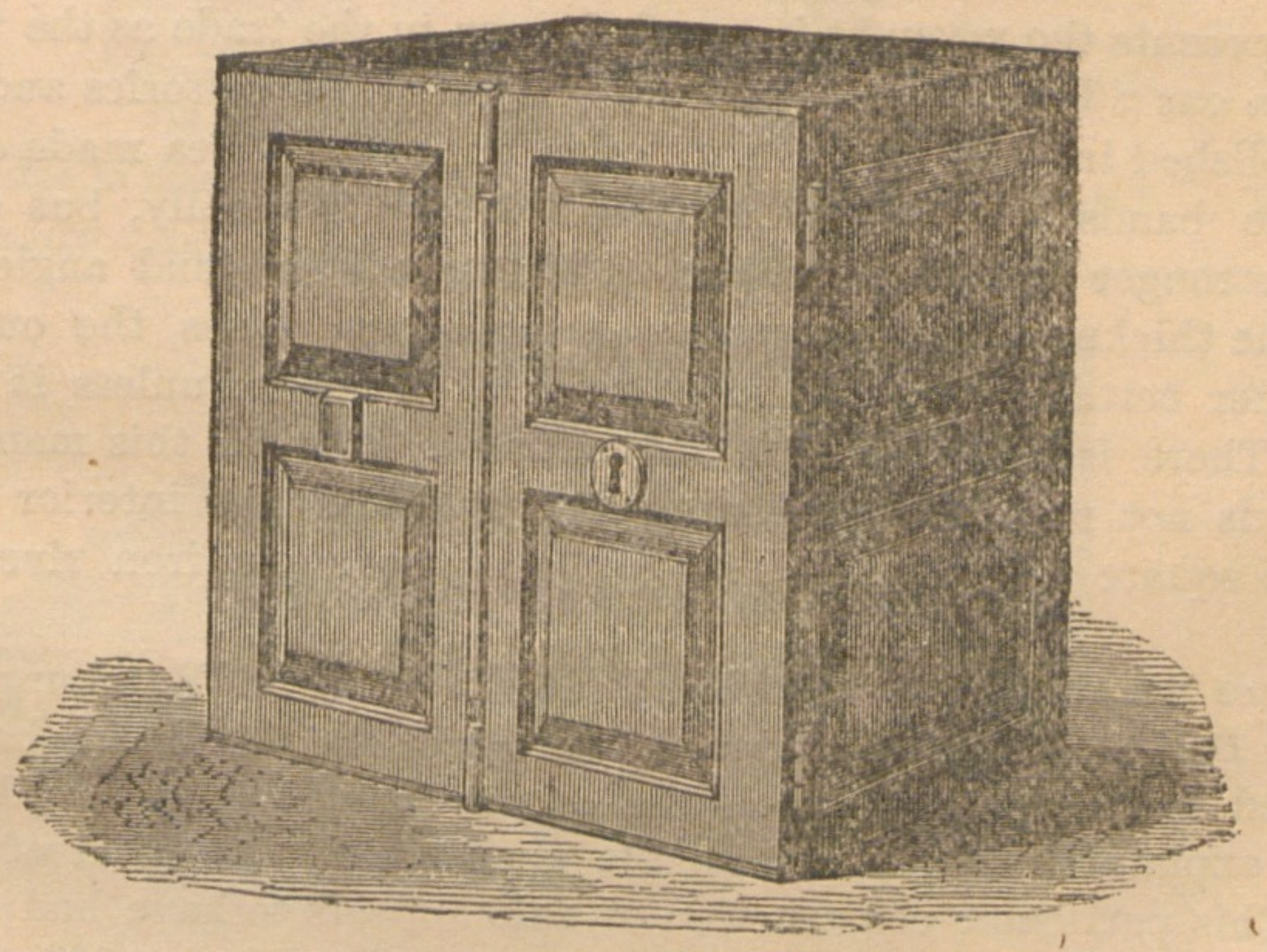


Fig. 1.—Double-door Cast-iron Safe. (From a photograph of Mr. Howard's Safe.)

Fig. 1 represents the old-fashioned cast-iron safe, thousands of which are still in use, and are nightly entrusted with the custody of millions sterling of cash and other valuable property, the owners of which it is difficult, even at the present time to convince of their folly, in placing reliance upon such worthless depositories. They do so simply because it has so happened, that in the absence of any attack by thieves, these safes *have* preserved the property of their forefathers for such a great number of years, that they see no reason why they should not be still capable of preserving their's equally safe. We have cautioned scores of persons not to trust anything valuable inside them, as they are utterly worthless both against thieves and fire. A few have taken our advice, whilst others have waited to be robbed first, when they have immediately ordered from us one of the best safes we could make them, irrespective of the expense, whereas,

one at half the cost before would have preserved their property intact. When the horse is stolen they double lock the stable door.*

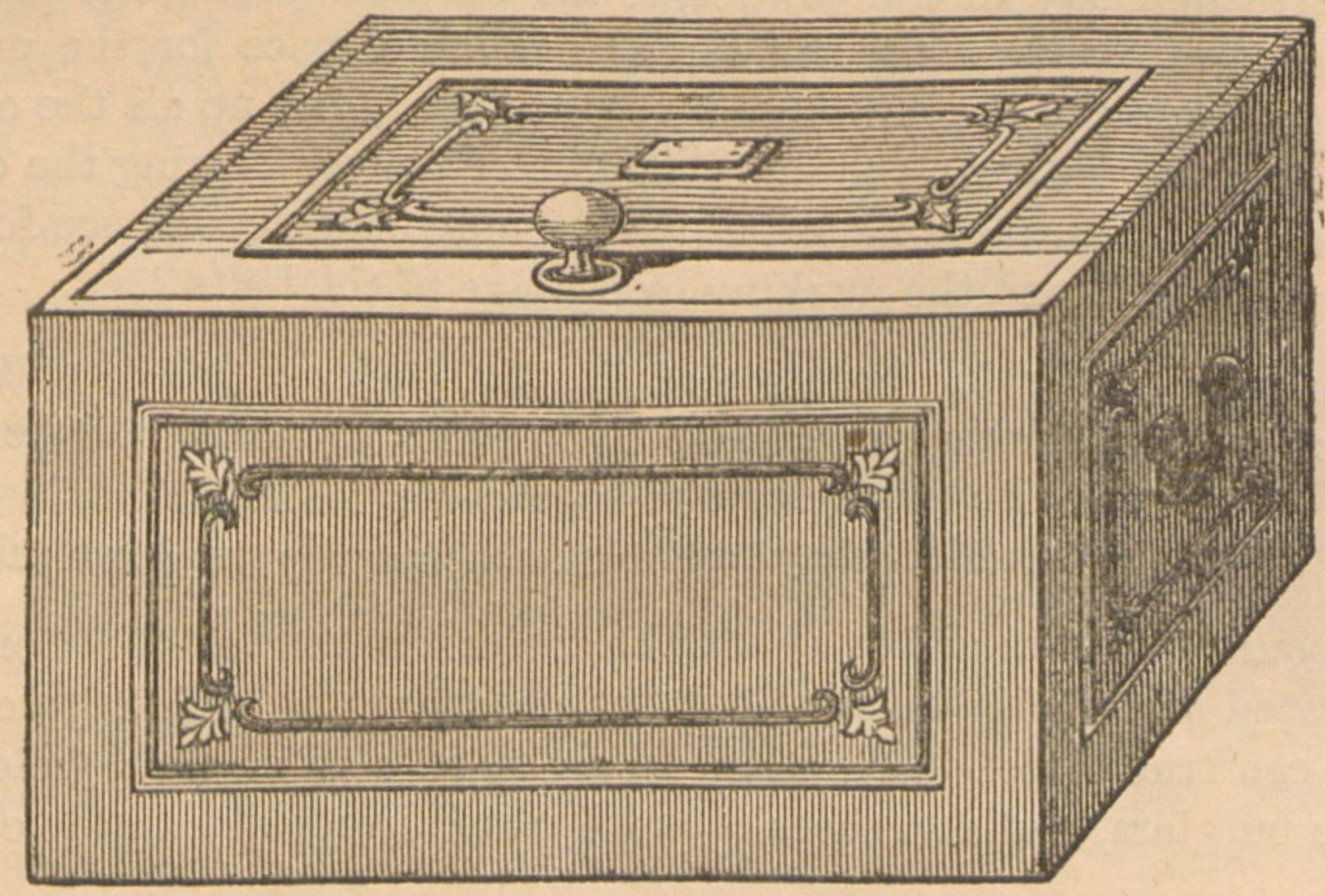


Fig. 2.—Cast-iron Chest.

Fig. 2 represents a cast-iron chest of the same quality and worthlessness as Fig 1.

Fig. 3 represents the wrought-iron safe known in the trade as the "Holdfast" pattern. In our "Treatise on Fire and Thief-proof Depositories and Locks and Keys,"† published in 1856, we have stated at page 37, "Safes made on this plan with outside bands and massive hinges, are very generally, but erroneously, considered stronger than those made with inside strips and angle iron; but supposing the thickness of the plates the same in both cases, the outside bands on the former certainly lessen the security of the safe, unless it be built in masonry. There is no advantage in making a safe in this manner, except where such is not required to be fire-proof, it allows the interior of the safe to be quite square (see Fig. 4.), there being no angle iron rivetted to the corners."

At a lecture we delivered on this subject in 1855, in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin, and Belfast, and which formed the basis of the treatise before named, we exhibited the safe from which the engraving (Fig. 3.) is taken, for the purpose of explaining the bad principle upon which this kind of safe is constructed. This particular construction of safe appears to have had its origin in South Staffordshire, whence the pattern was carried to Messrs. Milner and Son's establishment, about the year 1846, by their present foreman. It is simply the old-fashioned sort of safe made of wrought-iron instead of cast-iron. As soon as we became practically acquainted with the construction and manufacture of wrought-iron safes, we at once gave up making safes after this model, unless

---

* "It is almost incredible in these days, when the arts and sciences are lectured upon in almost every provincial town in the kingdom, when the artisan is taught not only that such a result follows a certain law, but the why and wherefore—the cause as well as the effect—that persons of general intelligence and scientific knowledge should place their valuable convertible property in a cast-iron safe, with a box of wards for a lock, expecting that *it* will preserve such contents from destruction by fire and abstraction by thieves. That others, for the sake of saving a few shillings in the primary cost of a lock for the safe keeping of their property in an iron safe or other receptacle, will purchase one that can be readily picked with a quill or a skewer, not only by the accomplished burglar, but by any ordinary mechanic or intelligent artisan, as well as by the amateur lock-picker."—Preface to our "Treatise on Safes and Locks," published in 1856.

† Only a few copies of this work are now left. These are in the hands of the author, and can be had only from him. Price 21/, or post-free, 22/4. No further edition will be published.

specially so ordered by our customers. It is, perhaps, impossible to conceive a worse principle of construction. As it is the *earliest* style of English *wrought-iron*

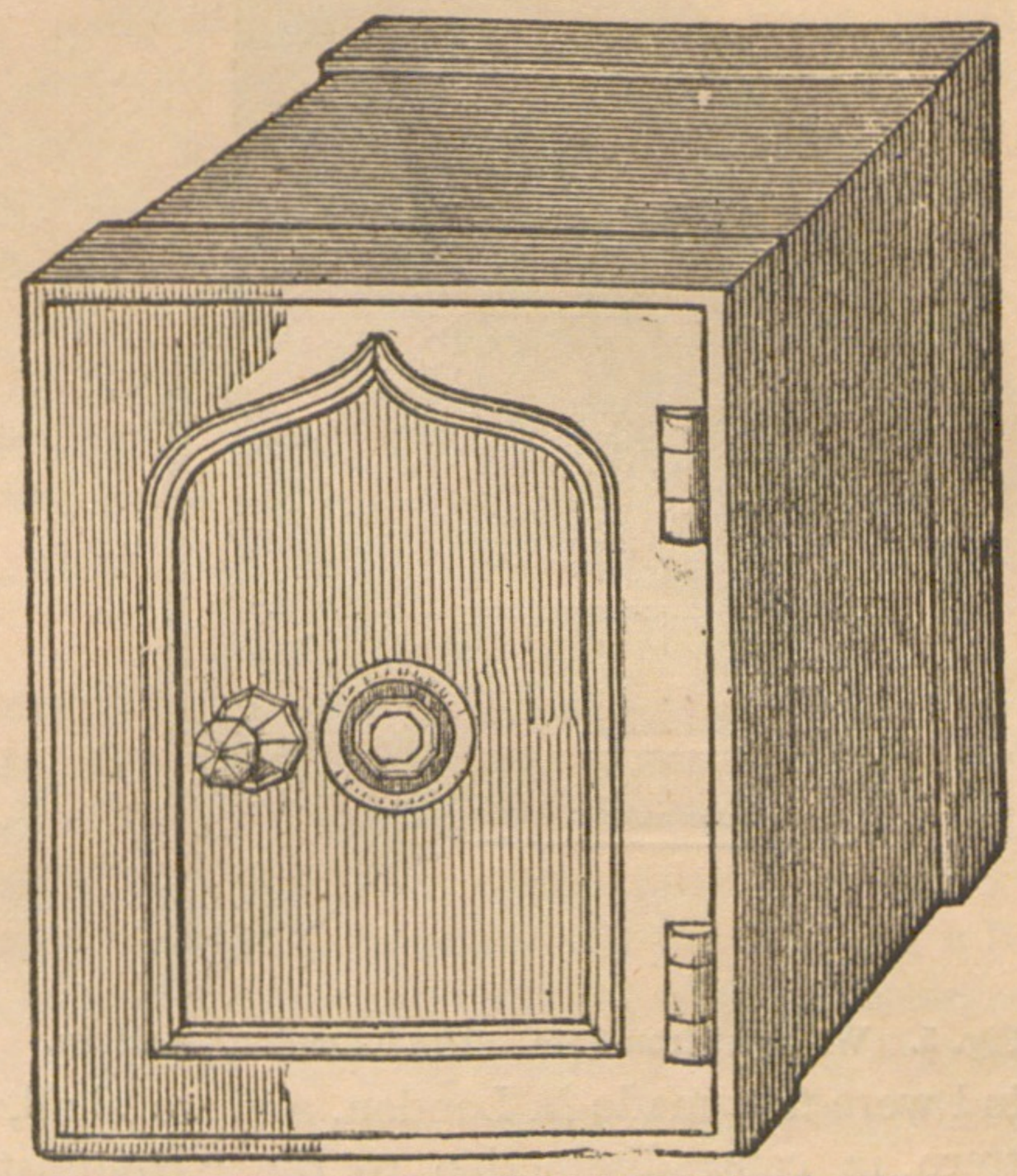


Fig. 3.—Wrought-iron Safe, "Holdfast" pattern.

safes, the wonder is that it has continued to be made by Messrs. T. Milner and Son, and some few other makers of less repute, to this very day.

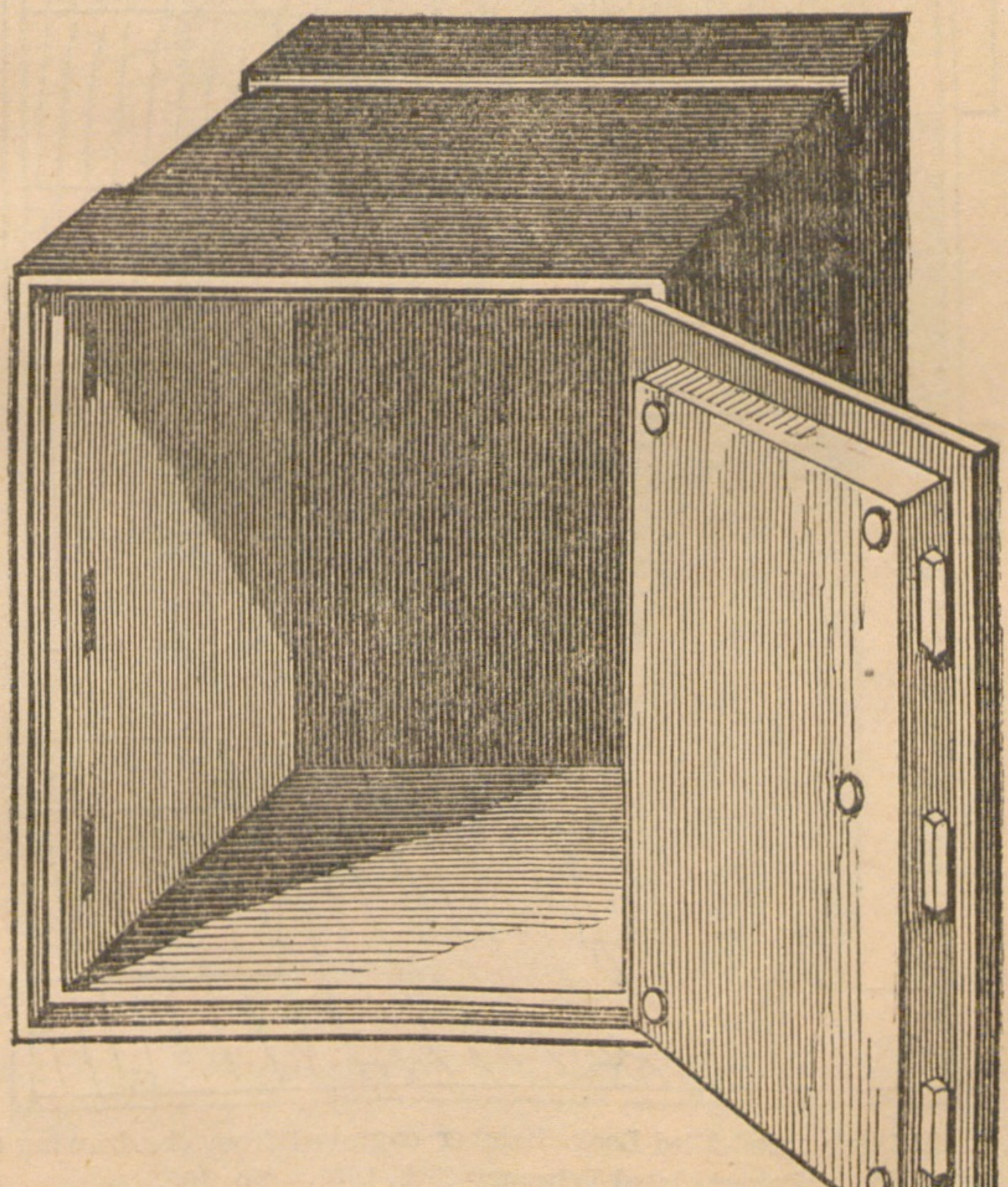


Fig. 4.—Wrought-iron Safe, "Holdfast" pattern. Not fire-proof.

Fig. 5 represents a safe constructed upon a principle directly opposite to the "Holdfast" as shown in figs. 3 and 4. We are not quite certain, but we believe

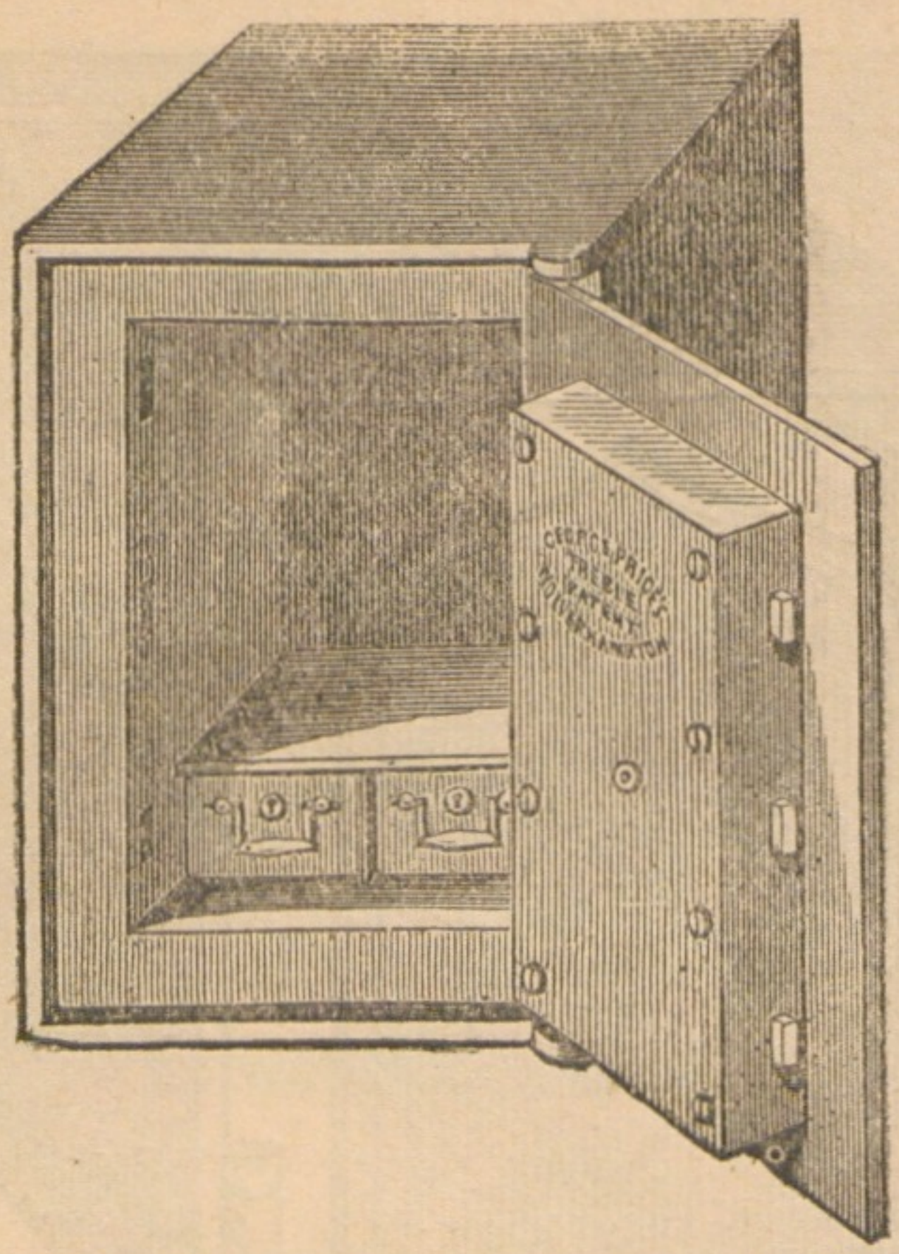


Fig. 5. Wrought-iron Safe. The "London" pattern.

that safes of this kind were first made in London, and we shall, therefore, call it the "London" pattern, in contradistinction to the "Holdfast" pattern. On

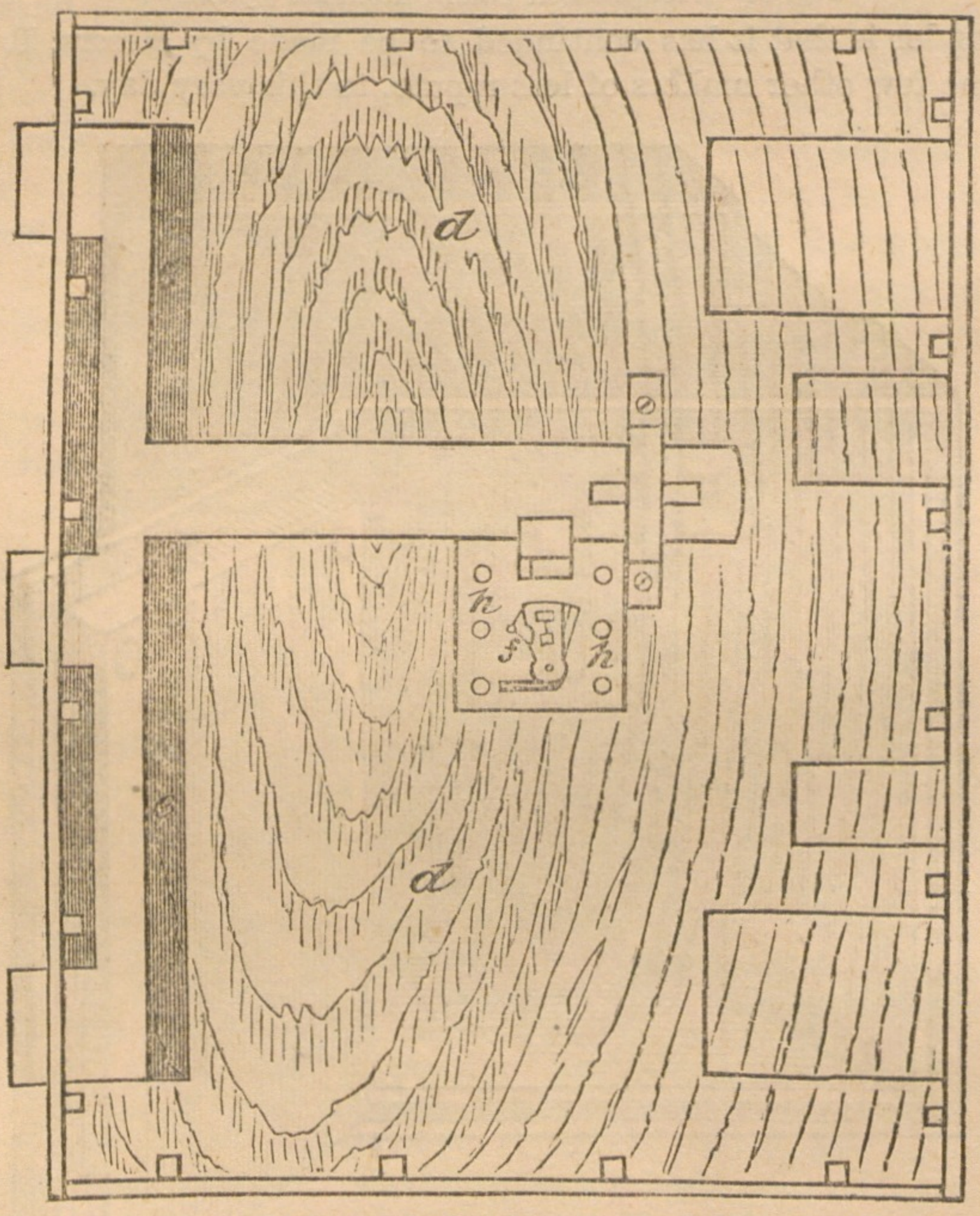


Fig. 6. Milner's wood-filled Lock-chamber engraved from the drawing attached to the specification of Patent, dated February 20th, 1854.—No. 405.

comparing fig. 5 with fig. 3, it will be noticed that the strengthening strip or bar in the "London" is put *inside* the body-plates instead of *outside* as in the

"Holdfast."* Rivetting this bar inside the body adds very materially to its strength, and, as a consequence, considerably increases its power of resistance to the operation of wedging. In the "Holdfast" there is nothing between the edge of the door-plate and the outside bar or band, and the door-plate in Milners' quality "List 3," being only half-an-inch in thickness, it is an easy matter to drive one wedge after another between the door and the outside band, till a sufficient opening has been made to allow the point of a crowbar to enter and bite under the back of the door-plate. The outside band then becomes the fulcrum for the crowbar-lever, when one good wrench is sufficient to tilt the bolts and open the door. This operation with Milners' safes is greatly favored through having the bolts on one side only of the door. The use of "dogs" instead of bolts, at the other side are perfectly useless against this mode of attack.

Fig. 6 represents a Milners' wood-filled lock-chamber showing the bolts on the left-hand side, with the position of the dogs indicated on the right-hand side. The wooden filling of these lock-chambers, like putting the strengthening bar outside instead of inside the safe, cannot possibly do any good, but it is about the best contrivance that could be conceived for enabling a burglar to blow the door open with a comparitvely small quantity of gunpowder, as we demonstrated at the celebrated "Burnley Test," by publicly drilling and blowing a safe open of their "List 3" quality, in the short space of eighteen minutes.

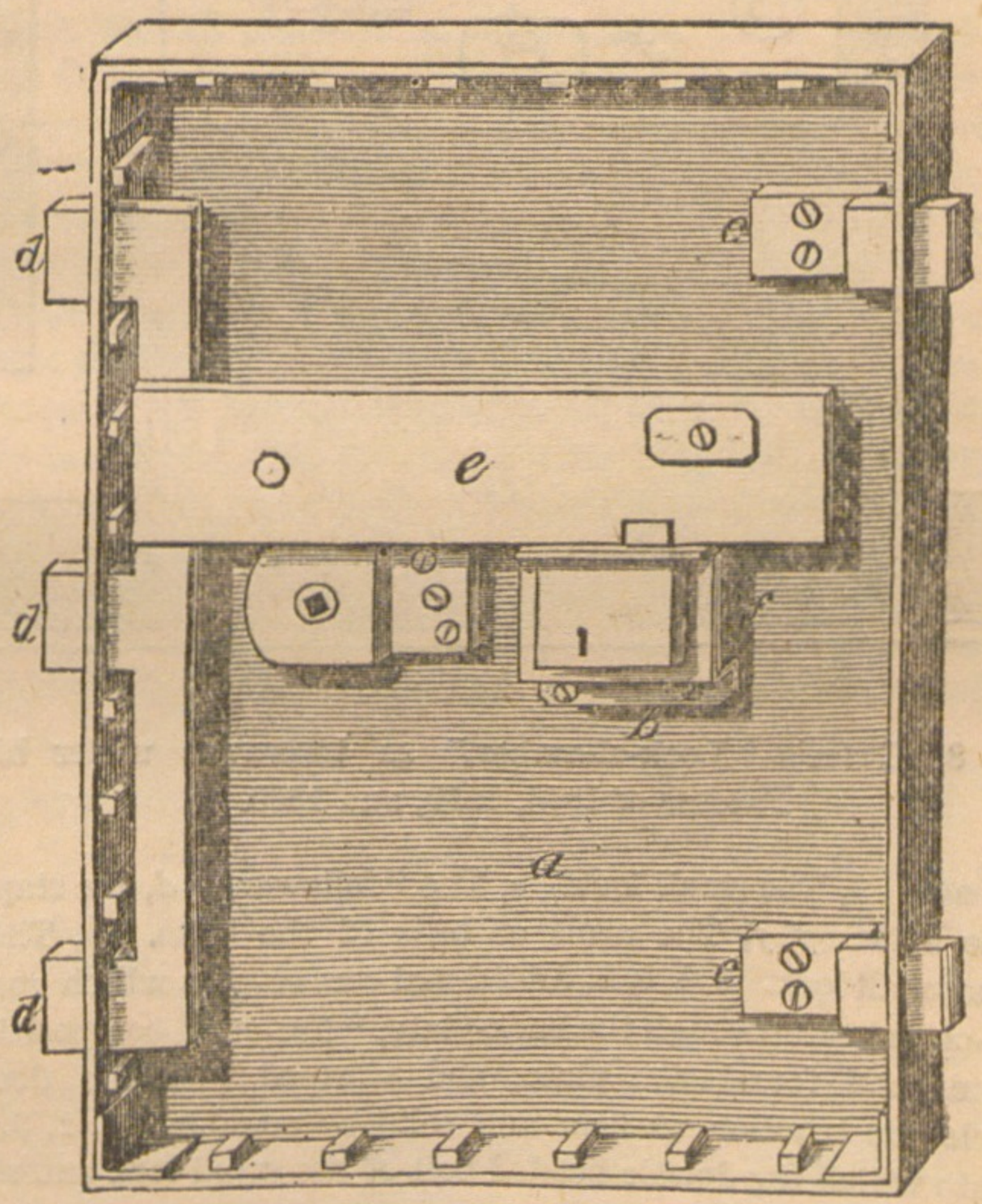


Fig. 7.—Lock-chamber with bolts and dogs. *d*, *d*, *d*, the bolts; *c*, *c*, the dogs.

Fig. 7 shows more distinctly a lock-chamber of the ordinary description, with bolts on the one side and dogs on the other.

---

* Previous to the year 1846, Messrs. T. Milner and Son made only the tin-plate and sheet-iron fire-proof boxes and safes.

Fig. 8, represents a lock-chamber with bolts on *both* sides, and will show at a glance the superiority of this construction over the other. These bolts, when the door is closed, are shot into the bolt-holes as close to the outer surface as possible; but with the fixed dogs some space must be left in order to allow for the sweep required to pass the angle of the dog-holes, so that the face of the dogs and the face or the dog-holes are always at some distance from each other when the door is closed.

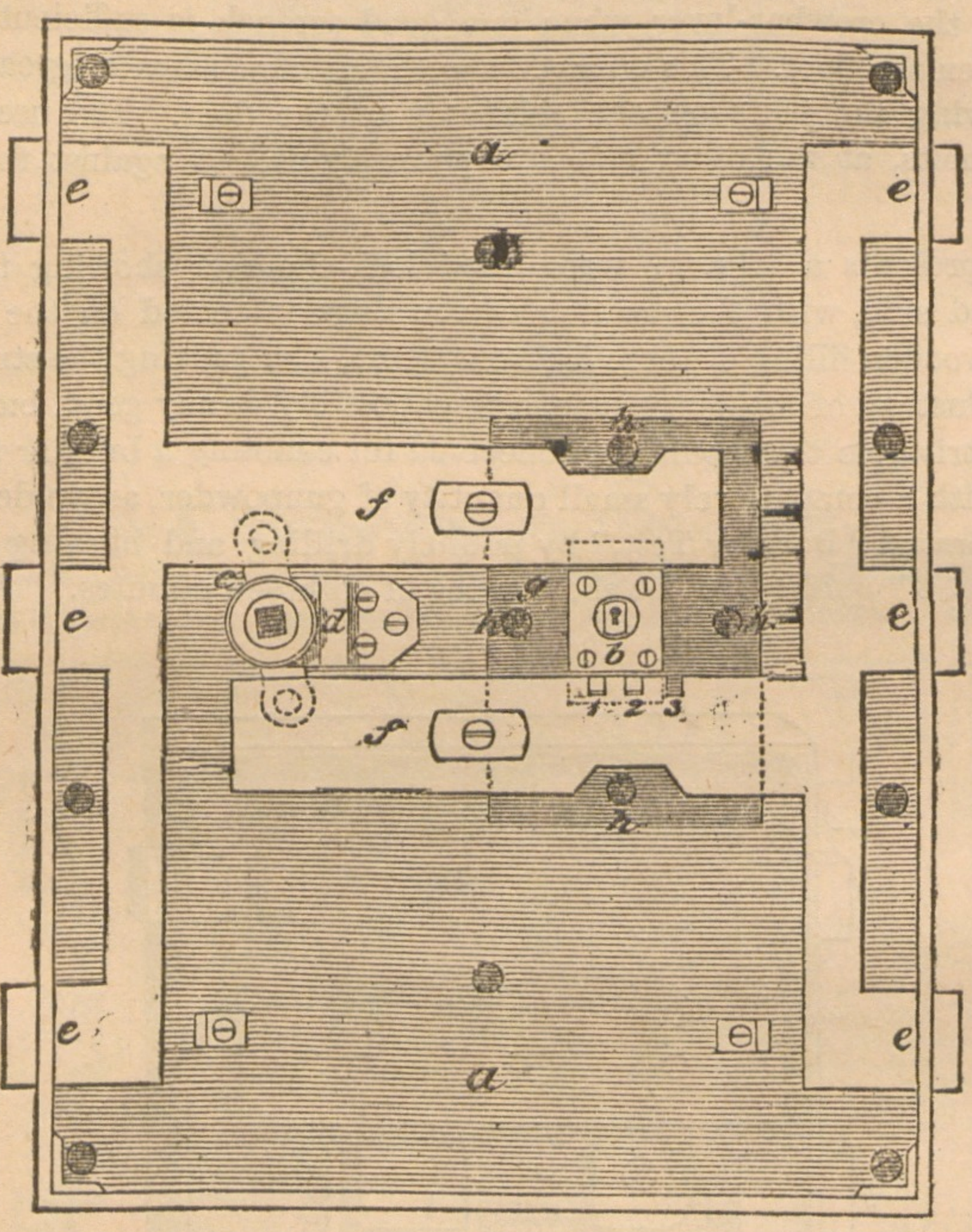


Fig. 8.—Price's "Lock-chamber," as improved under his Patents of 1855, 1859, and 1860.

a, *a*, The open space. *b*, The small lock. *c*, The "follower." *d*, the staple or bracket. *e*, *e*, *e*, *e*, *e*, *e*, The bolts. *f*, *f*, The arms or tails of the bolts. *g*, The foundation-plate or seat of the small lock. *h*, *h*, *h*, *h*, Additional screws-pins which go from the outside of the "lock-chamber" through the back-plate, "fire-proof composition chamber," intermediate-plate, and foundation plate, and wormed into the door-plate, thus making the whole construction as firm and solid as possible. 1, 2, 3, The notches in the bolt-tail into which the double-headed bolt of the small lock enters.

The London-made safes, with but few exceptions, are of very light construction, and we say it advisedly, that not one in a hundred would resist the attack of a modern burglar for more than a few minutes. Casely in his evidence at the late trial stated as much, and the makers themselves appear to admit it, for on reference to their published descriptive price-lists you look in vain to discover the strength of the plates forming the body and door of their safes. They appear to be afraid of stating the thinness of the iron plates (or sheets) of which their safes are made, lest the public should be convinced beforehand of their insecurity.

FORTY BURGLARIES

Selected from those occurring in the years 1863, 1864, and 1865.

In the years 1863-4-5, a great number of well-planned and extensive robberies was effected by several gangs of skilful burglars, in London, Manchester, and other towns and places, which for audacity and cool daring, and for the violent means adopted for the completion of their nefarious designs, has never been equalled in the history of thieving. Before the excitement produced by one of these burglaries had subsided, another of greater magnitude was recorded in the public prints of the day, to be followed by the announcement of *two* of the same extraordinary character that took place at the *same time*—Walker's in London, and Howard's in Manchester, in the interval between Saturday night and Monday Morning, Feb. 4—6, 1865.

This series of remarkable burglaries commenced with the one at Messrs. Brearley's, at Batley, in Yorkshire. The following account is taken from the *Leeds Mercury* of January 15th, 1863:—

[1.]—DETERMINED BURGLARY AT BATLEY.

ONE OF MILNERS' SAFES FORCED.

Yesterday (Wednesday) morning, between three and four o'clock, the warehouse of Messrs. Robert Brearley & Son, woollen manufacturers, Batley, was entered by a number of men, by means of skeleton keys, and an attempt made to break open the safe in the counting-house, in which were upwards of £500 in gold, besides other valuable property. The men had with them a series of powerful, elaborate, and well-made tools, and they commenced to drill a hole in the front of the safe (one of Milners'), and apparently soon accomplished their work. They then put in a tool which broke the bolt of the lock, and then opened the door. A second, (not a second door but the lock chamber) however, opposed their progress, and this they attempted to drive inwards, but, being bevilled on the edges, it became faster with the pressure they applied to it. Foiled in this part of their work, they applied a large crowbar, stolen from a quarry near at hand, and endeavoured by repeated blows to burst it open. The noise thus made aroused Mr. Brearley, sen., whose house adjoins the warehouse, and he went to the window of his bedroom and shouted, with the view of alarming his watchman. The fellows must have heard his cries, for they hastily decamped, so hastily that they left part of their instruments behind, including a portable and very powerful wheel drill, wrench and screw, two jemmies, dark lantern, three sacks, and several other articles. Some of them were found in the warehouse, some in the road adjoining the premises, and the rest in a field near at hand. A reward of £50 has been offered for the apprehension of the guilty parties. The implements are now in custody of the West Riding Constabulary, at Dewsbury, and they have been examined by great numbers of persons.

The largest burglars' machine (see Fig. 9.) ever constructed for the purpose of opening iron safes, was carried to the scene of this burglary by, it is supposed, not less than seven men in three sacks. It consists of a powerful turned iron bar, four feet long, which is made up of three lengths for the convenience of carrying about. At the front and back, there is a cramp, nine inches long, both of which are made fast to the front and back of the safe with set-screws. On the main bar the wheel-drill apparatus slides and is kept in its position also by a set-screw. The radial arm of the machine measures nine inches from centre to centre. The wheel for putting on the pressure is seven inches diameter, and the handle for turning the drill is nine inches long. As the drill is made to penetrate the door-plate, the wheel follows it up and makes it fast. It is computed that a pressure of 1 lb. on the handle produces a pressure of 108 lbs. at the point of the drill. The drill bit is 3 × 1 inch. The tap used in tapping the hole bored in the safe was never found, but the screw measures 11 × $1\frac{1}{16}$th inches. The lever for turning the screw measures 3 feet 6 inches, and the cramp

through the centre of which the screw can be made to work, measures 3 feet × 3 inches × 1 inch. The screw-wrench, which fits all the nuts and the tap and screw, is 17 inches long. The mode of operating was this. The tool was first made fast to the safe and a hole drilled at the top left hand corner of the door, which was afterwards tapped and the large screw made to worm itself through the door-plate against the inside chamber, which forced the door right off. This was the first time (and as it proved, the last also) that this machine was employed; and had the thieves been acquainted with the construction of safes in general, instead of trying to drive the lock-chamber inside the safe with a crowbar, they would simply have withdrawn the bolts and lifted the lock-chamber out, which operation only took the owner and his man a few minutes to accomplish. Fortunately for Messrs. Brearley & Son, the burglars were *not* "cracksmen," otherwise a clean sweep would have been made of the valuable contents of the safe.

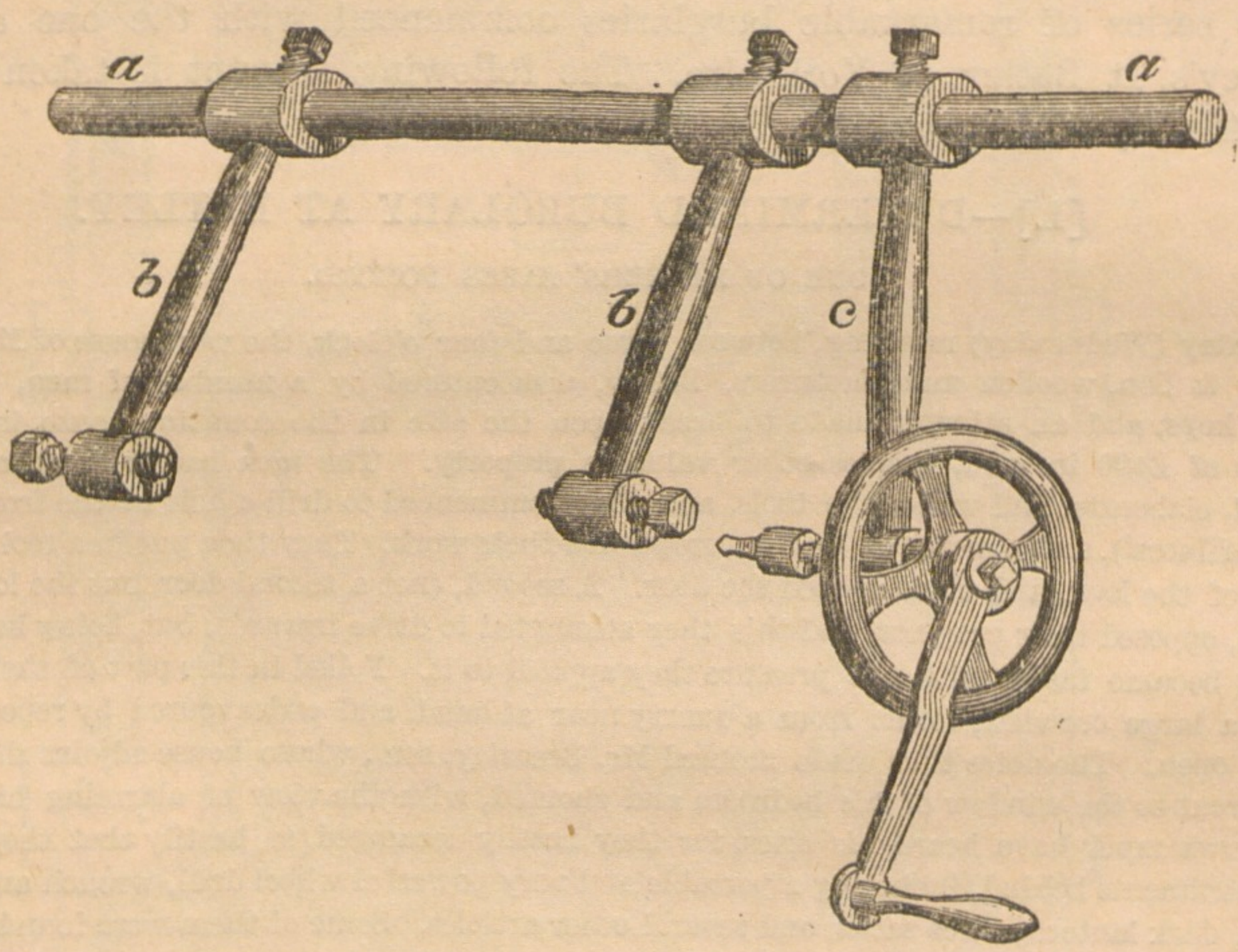


Fig. 9.—The Burglars' Wheel-drilling Machine, from Messrs. Brearley's, Batley.

a, *a*, the main bar; *b*, *b*, the clamps; *c*, the radial arm.

A few days after the burglary, a public test was arranged by Messrs. H. Cullingworth & Son, of Dewsbury, to take place in their warehouse, with the burglars' drilling machine left behind, on a George Price's patent *case-hardened* safe, which these gentlemen had had in use for several years, and which test took place accordingly on the 23rd of January, 1863. After fixing the machine to the Price's safe, it was made additionally fast with "drill claws."

The *Dewsbury and Batley Herald*, in giving an account of the test, says—"The foreman at Mr. L. A. Shepherd's foundry, and a person named Crosland, then operated near the edge of the front plate above the lock with the wheel-drill used by the burglars at Batley, which they held firm with a powerful cramp, but although practical mechanics, the safe defied their utmost efforts. They first hammered a centre with a punch, and then applied drill after drill of the hardest metal, but not one of them would bite, and to all apperance the on-lookers seemed perfectly satisfied as to the impregnability of the safe."

The *Dewsbury Reporter* says—

"The men now used a punch, and with a few heavy blows with a hammer made a small indentation in the plate, where it was intended the drill should operate. Having set the bit, they commenced

drilling, but the 'jenny' soon showed symptoms of giving way, and in a few minues more the point of the bit was turned, and it was necessary to discontinue operations. It was then taken away to be sharpened and re-tempered, and then another trial was made with a like effect, the safe remaining intact."

To prove that the drills and the machine were "all right," a bar of steel was obtained from Messrs. Shepherd's foundry, and placed in front of the safe, which the drill penetrated without difficulty.

[2.]—ROBBERY AT THE BANK OF MANCHESTER.

An audacious robbery was accomplished, between Saturday afternoon and yesterday morning, at the Bank of Manchester, in Pall Mall, near the corner of King-street. No trace of the thieves has yet been obtained beyond the tokens of their skill and activity which presented themselves on the opening of the bank for the daily business, about nine a.m. yesterday. These comprised a large hole through a brick wall, 18 inches thick, in the bank cellar; an old-fashioned "safe" forced open, and £1060 4s. taken therefrom; and a collection of burglars' tools left behind, including a drill for working a hole in the safe door, a jemmy for completing the breakage, and some other weapons; also a dark lantern, and two bottles, one of which had held brandy, the other sherry. The bank had apparently been entered from the adjoining premises of the Liverpool and London Insurance Company, in King-street. The perpetrators of the robbery may be reasonably believed to have prepared themselves with a thorough acquaintance with the interior of the building. It wonld appear that they availed themselves in the first place of the open door at No. 57, King-street, before the time of closing (two o'clock) on Saturday afternoon; then secreted themselves in a coal cellar, which had been left insecure, and, having with them a sufficiency of provisions, &c., including the brandy and sherry, they remained locked in the building, though not in their original hiding-place, until the customary arrival of a charwoman to clean some offices overhead, at seven o'clock yesterday morning, allowed them to escape quietly through the King-street door, two hours before the opening of the bank. No person lives or sleeps either at the bank or on the other premises, consequently the thieves had little disturbance to fear from the time the bank and other offices closed on Saturday. Coming out of their coal-hole, they would pass along a passage on the same floor through two doors, with keys in them, which would give an outlet to a yard at the rear, level with the bank cellar. They would then force off the iron bars outside a closet window, looking into the yard. Next, the iron bars inside the same were removed, and access was thus given through the closet to a room divided by the 18-inch wall from the bank cellar. Their tools enabled the thieves to make their way through the wall, and attack the old-fashioned safe before mentioned, which was kept in the cellar, and which afforded very inadequate protection against skilled operators, the lock being fixed, not within the safe door, but on it attached by four bolts. The safe is perhaps less than two feet wide, and about three-quarters of a yard in height, and the door is in one piece, opening from left to right. A hole would first be drilled through the upper left-hand corner of the door, and then the door would be torn open by a jemmy worked through the hole. The thieves abstracted from the safe a quantity of silver and odd gold, &c., from the teller's boxes, amounting to £1,060 4s. The principle safe, in another part of the bank, proved secure against their efforts.

A reward of £200 has been offered for the apprehension of the thieves. It is a circumstance worth remembering in the case of robberies of this sort, when the depredators at work within the building are probably acting with confederates on the watch outside, that a publication of the exact amount stolen often leads to a discovery of the actual robbers, who are tempted to deceive their accomplices when sharing the spoils and are themselves informed against by way of retaliation when the truth is made known.—*Manchester Examiner and Times*, February, 1863.

In this burglary the robbers secreted themselves in the adjoining premises on the Saturday afternoon, before they were locked up, when, after getting through doors, brick walls. and iron bars, they found themselves in front of the iron safe, in the cellar of the bank premises. This safe being of an old-fashioned and inferior kind, took but little time to open. The thieves, as in the Batley burglary (No. 1) first drilled a hole with the common drill (see Fig. 10) at the top left-hand corner of the door, which was then tapped, and the screw worked till the door came away. We examined, at the Police Station, the tools left behind, which

are of a very superior quality, but possess no features of novelty. They are carried about the person of the burglars in leathern cases, in which each has its own separate place. The large tools are in two or more pieces. A few days after the robbery two of the burglars were apprehended, and were finally convicted and sentenced to long terms of penal servitude. The proceedings before the magistrates are so interesting, that we cannot refrain from printing the account in full from the *Manchester Guardian*.

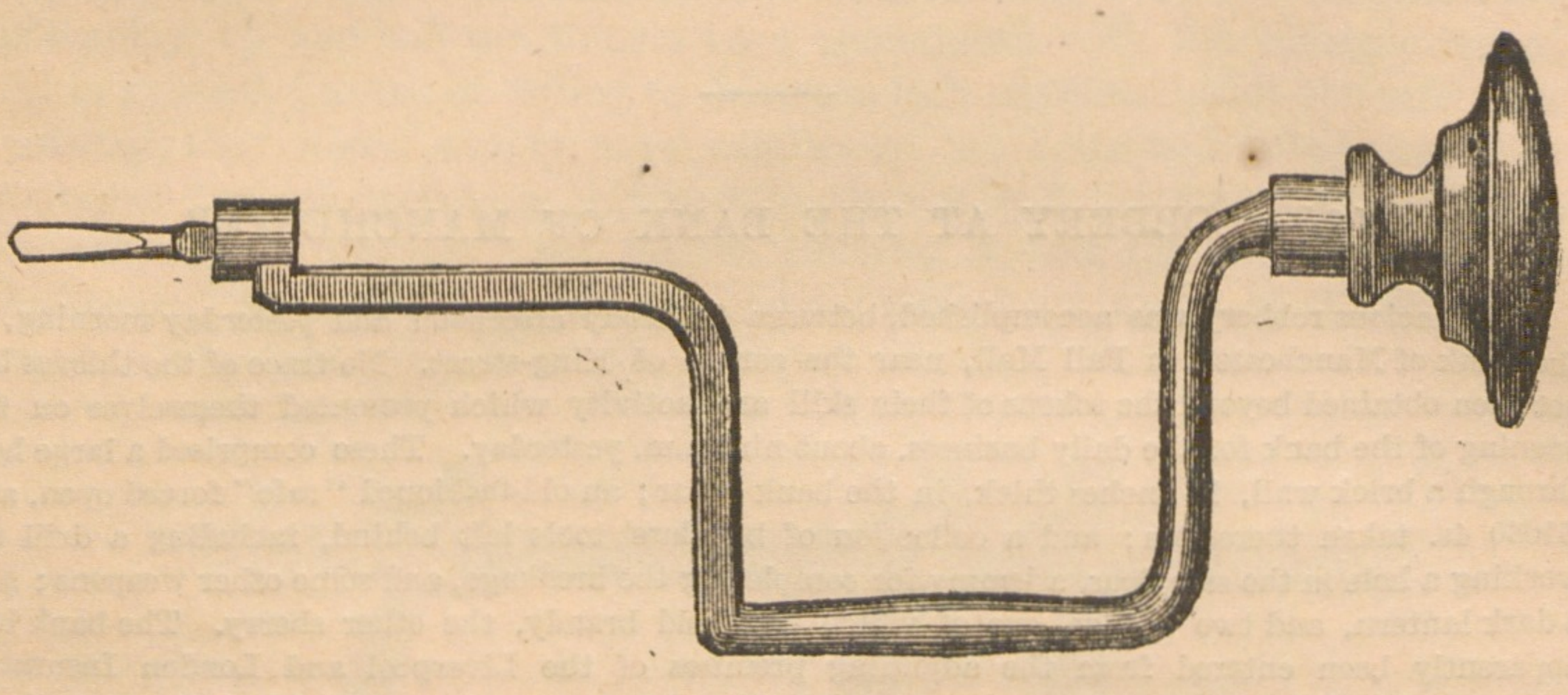


Fig. 10.—Breast-brace and drill.

THE ROBBERY AT THE MANCHESTER BANK.

COMMITTAL OF THE PRISONERS FOR TRIAL.

At the City Police Court, yesterday, George Potter and the second man in custody, who now gives the name of James Welby, were brought up, on remand, charged with robbing the Bank of Manchester of £1,056 16s. between Saturday, the 14th, and Monday, the 16th, of February. The circumstances of the case were published in the *Guardian* of February 17. The following witnesses were now examined:—Mr. Joseph Rice, one of the bank managers, said that on Monday morning, the 16th of February, he arrived at the bank at nine o'clock, and in consequence of information received he sent to the detective police-officer, at the Town Hall. Inspector Buckley and Sergeant Watson came to the bank, and witness and the officers made an examination of the premises. They found that one of the safes had been broken open, the tellers' boxes had been forced, and a portion of their contents taken away. When witness left the premises on the previous Saturday, the safe was locked by the cashier in witness's presence. The safe then contained £4,307 16. 5d. in gold and silver; and on Monday witness discovered that £1,056 16s. had been stolen. The stolen coin consisted of £390 in gold, £170 being in half sovereigns, and £666 16s. in silver.—Mr. John Wreaks, the bank cashier, said when he locked the safe on Saturday, it contained a small bag holding £3 10s. in threepenny and fourpenny pieces; on Monday this bag could not be found. It was now produced, and witness identified it as the property of the Bank of Manchester. Considering the circumstances of the case, witness had no doubt that the bag produced belonged to the bank.—Mrs. Mary Sadler, Wellington Grove, Stretford Road, said that she was occasionally employed by the Bank of Manchester as a charwoman, and to make cash bags. She made the bag produced, it was her own work; she knew it well.—In cross-examination, the witness said she had made at least thirty dozen bags for the bank. She knew her sewing as well as a man knew his writing.—Mr. Wreaks, re-called, said, in answer to Mr. Ellison, that it was very rarely any bags were given to bank customers. After they were worn out they were thrown away or burned. They did not give bags away above once in six or twelve months. These bags were not returned after they had once been given away. In reply to Mr. Pope, who appeared for the prosecution, the witness said the bag produced was not such a bag as he would burn or throw away.—Inspector Buckley, of the detective police, said that on Monday morning, the 16th ult., he and Sergeant Watson, with Mr. Rice, inspected the premises of the Bank of Manchester. He examined the bank safe, and found that it had been broken into. A hole had been drilled at one of the top corners of the safe door, an instrument had then been introduced into the hole, and the door forced open. He also found that the tellers' boxes had been broken open; and outside the safe witness saw several parcels of money which the thieves had not taken away. Witness found the tools and lantern produced in different parts of the premises. The safe was placed in the cellar at the back part of the bank, and witness could trace the course which the thieves had taken to get access to the safe. They had

entered the Liverpool and London Insurance Chambers, where they had secreted themselves till those premises had been closed. They then passed through two doors into the back yard, and, breaking off the stanchions of the water-closet window of the bank, they got into the bank building; from the water-closet they got into a cellar called a book-room, and by taking out the brickwork of the book-room wall, they obtained access to the cellar in which the safe was kept. On Wednesday, the 18th, witness went to Crewe, and received the prisoner Welby into custody at the police office. Receiving a telegram from London, he left Welby at Crewe, and went to London, where Sergeant Clarke, of the detective police, handed Potter into custody. Clarke also gave witness the property produced, which had been found in Potter's possession. When witness was on the bank premises, he examined another safe, and found that it had also been tried with a brace and bit like one found in Welby's possession.—Inspector Wilson, of the Cheshire Constabulary, said that from information he received on the 18th ult., he went to the Crewe Railway Station, where he communicated with Mr. Padmore, the station master. Witness and Mr. Padmore went into the refreshment room, and they there saw the prisoner Welby. Mr. Padmore asked him where he was going, and he produced a second-class ticket from Stockport to Euston Station, London, adding that he was stopping at Crewe to see a friend. Witness asked whether the portmanteau produced was his property, and he replied that it was, whereupon witness took him and the portmanteau to the station master's office. He there told the prisoner that he suspected there was something not altogether right in his portmanteau, and he should like to see it opened. The prisoner told him he had not got a key, and the portmanteau was opened with one of Mr. Padmore's keys. The portmanteau contained the small carpet bag produced, and within this bag were a silk handkerchief, holding £5 1s. in silver; a wash-leather bag, containing £180 in gold; and a canvass bag, containing two stockings full of silver. Witness was about to bring out a second canvass bag, and the prisoner told him that he need not go any further as it was all alike. In the portmanteau and upon his person (about £15) witness found £389 13s. 7d. Witness also found a large quantity of housebreaking tools, an Inverness cape, a pair of socks, and a key that would open the portmanteau. Witness told him that he should take him into custody on suspicion of robbing the Bank of Manchester, to which he replied, "Very well; it's all right." He refused to give his name or address, and alleged that he was a respectable man. Several of the tools had iron filings or dust adhering to them; the filings appeared to be quite fresh.—Sergeant Clarke, a detective police officer stationed at Scotland-yard, said that in consequence of the receipt of a telegram from Manchester he went on the afternoon of the 18th February to the Camden Station of the London and North-Western Railway. He saw the train due from Manchester at 5 o'clock arrive at the platform. The prisoner Potter was in one of the carriages, and immediately after the arrival of the train he saw him following one of the porters, who was carrying a black portmanteau. He asked him whether the portmanteau was his? Potter replied "No." Witness then asked him where he had come from, and he said "From Stockport." Witness informed him that he belonged to the police force, and inquired where he was travelling. The prisoner answered that he had come to London on his own business, but he was not going to any particular part of the city. Witness took him into custody, charged him with being concerned in the bank robbery at Manchester, and the prisoner made no reply. When he was examined at Scotland-yard the prisoner said he lived at Manchester. Witness found £8 2s. 4d. on his person, and in the portmanteau were two canvas bags, one of them being the bag identified by the witness Sadler. It contained £179 in gold, and in the second canvass bag were three stockings containing £166 17s. 7d. in silver.—Inspector Shandley, of the detective police, said that on Saturday noon, the 14th February, he twice saw the prisoners in King-street, between 60 and 70 yards from the Bank of Manchester.—Mary Ann Edge, Camden-street, Crown-street, Hulme, said that she cleaned a set of offices in the Liverpool and London Chambers. At half-past six o'clock on the morning of the 16th ult. she went to clean these offices. She unlocked the street door, and closing it after her went upstairs. Anyone in the back yard could have passed through the building into the street without witness's knowledge.—Mary Wood, the wife of a constable, living in Clopton-street, Hulme, said that she knew the prisoner Potter by the name of Watson. About seven months since he went to lodge with her. About 11 o'clock on the morning of the 14th February he left home, saying that he was going to see his sister in Yorkshire. He did not return until the following Monday night, about nine o'clock. On the Tuesday morning he left home again, saying that he was going to see his mother, and he should perhaps stay away about a month. Witness did not see him again till he was in the custody of the police.—By Mr. Ellison: When the prisoner went to see his sister in Yorkshire he took no luggage. He represented to witness that he was a commission agent.—Mrs. Jane Pearce, Ambrose-street, Hulme, said that the prisoner Welby went to lodge with her on Thursday, the 12th February. He slept there on the Thursday and Friday nights. On the 14th he left home between nine and ten o'clock, and said that if he did not go into the country he would return at seven o'clock for tea. He did not come home again till half-past six on Monday night. When he left on Saturday he took a carpet bag like that produced by Inspector Wilson, and when he came back on Monday he brought a portmanteau. He had also a bundle, which he took upstairs. He shortly afterwards left the house, and returned in half an hour with the prisoner Potter. They went upstairs, and remained there perhaps a quarter of an hour,

after which Potter left. On Tuesday evening Potter called again; they had tea together, and shortly afterwards went upstairs, and about eight o'clock they left. Witness went upstairs while they were away, and observed two portmanteaus in the prisoner Welby's room; they were like the portmanteaus produced. On Wednesday morning witness called Welby at ten minutes to seven o'clock, and while he was taking breakfast Potter called on him, and they shortly afterwards left the house, each of them taking a portmanteau. Witness did not see them again till they were in custody.—Phœbe Pearce, daughter of the last witness, corroborated her mother's evidence, and added that when Welby went home on the night of the 16th, he was carrying a carpet bag and a black portmanteau like those produced.—Hannah Clayburn, residing at the Greenheys Hotel, Vine-street, said that on Tuesday, the 17th February, the prisoners went into the vault of the hotel. They called for some ginger beer and a railway guide. They remained about an hour. Potter returned to the hotel about six o'clock, and remained about another hour. On Wednesday morning Welby also called again, carrying a black portmanteau like the one produced, and shortly afterwards Potter joined him. Potter had likewise a portmanteau, light coloured, and like the portmanteaus produced. Potter asked if there had been a cab there that morning, and witness replied that there had not. They then had some sherry, and while they were drinking it they conversed in a low tone. All that witness heard was an observation from Welby, who said, "or we shall be too late." Potter shortly afterwards went out, and returned with a cab. The portmanteaus were placed in the vehicle, and the men drove off.—George Simpson, a cab driver, in the employ of Mr. Payne, said that on Wednesday morning, the 18th February, he took the prisoners and the two portmanteaus produced from the Greenheys Hotel, to the Railway Inn, Cross Lane, Salford. The prisoners said that they wanted to go away by a train that left Cross Lane at 10.15 a.m. When they reached the Railway Hotel witness carried the light-coloured portmanteau out of the cab; he observed that it was very heavy.—Mary Ann Hawkes, barmaid at the Railway Hotel, Cross Lane, said that she remembered the prisoners driving to the hotel in a cab on the morning of Wednesday, the 18th February. They asked for a railway guide, but witness could not supply them, and Welby went out and bought one. Welby afterwards fetched a cab, the portmanteaus were placed inside, and they drove away.—George Poole, a cabman in the employ of Mr. Greenwood, said that on the morning of the 18th February, he was hired at Mr. Greenwood's Pendleton office by the prisoner Welby, to take him to the Longsight Railway Station. As he was driving along Broad-street, the prisoner directed him to go to the Railway Inn, Cross Lane, and witness did so. The portmanteaus produced were placed on the cab, witness observing that one of them was very heavy. Welby and Potter also got into the vehicle, and witness drove to the Longsight Station. When they reached Longsight, Welby went into the station to ask something about the train, and finding that it did not stop there he requested witness to drive on to Stockport to catch the 12.10 train for London. Witness drove them to Stockport, and they were just in time for the train. After the train had gone witness went to the Stockport police station, and afterwards to the detective office at Manchester, and communicated the suspicions that he entertained.—Luke Crawshaw, a millwright in the service of Messrs. Parr, Curtis, and Madeley, said that he had examined the two safes previously spoken of at the bank of Manchester. He had also seen the tools found on the bank premises and on the prisoner Welby. Some of these tools would make a hole like the hole drilled in the safe door. One of the rose-bits would exactly fit that hole. The marks on the second safe, which was not broken into, were simply drill marks.—The prisoners, who reserved their defence, were committed for trial at the assizes.

---

[3]—ANOTHER EXTRAORDINARY SAFE ROBBERY AT BRADFORD.

During Friday night, the counting-house of Mr. D. W. Fox, manufacturer, of Upper Croft Mill, Bowling Back Lane, Bradford, was entered by thieves, and a large iron safe, of Milners' manufacture, weighing eight cwt. was stolen therefrom. The safe contained two £20 Bank of England notes, £59 in gold, several Cheques and Bankers' drafts, of the value of £1800, and all Mr. Fox's books. Payment of the cheques and drafts has, of course, been stopped. The loss of the books is the most serious part of the robbery. Considerable time must have been occupied in effecting the removal of this heavy safe; and yet the night watchman on the premises was unaware, till informed of the fact at about seven o'clock on Saturday morning, that a robbery had been committed. Upper Croft Mill is very near the Bowling Ironworks, and any noise created would probably hardly be distinguished amidst the incessant clatter of the hammers at these works. The premises were entered by means of false keys and the doors through which the theives passed were re-locked on their departing. Two large crowbars were left behind. The safe was apparently first thrown from its pedestal on to the counting-house floor, which had been covered with silk warps found in the place. The stone step of the outer door through which the thieves left the premises presented indications of the safe having been dropped there. Thence it was removed into an adjoining field, and there repeatedly rolled over; as the deep indentations made by its progress on the turf shows, along a distance of about 200 yards

into the centre of the field, where, as appears by the marks of the wheels of the vehicle, it was raised into a cart, which crossed two other fields, emerging ultimately into an old road, called Parry Lane, leading towards Cutler Heights, just within the boundary of the borough. The police have thus far endeavoured, in vain, to discover either the thieves or the property. A handsome reward has been offered for information which may lead to such a result. A similar robbery, it will be remembered, was committed less than a year ago, at the goods station of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company at Bradford.—*Manchester Guardian*, Sept. 14th, 1863.

On Tuesday evening the safe stolen from this mill was found in deep water in an old quarry at Claverley, near Bradford. The occupier of a field had his attention directed to the marks of cart wheels to and from the edge of an old quarry in his field, and on an examination of the water the safe was discovered. It had been opened. four perforations having been made in the lid for that purpose. All the money and cheques were taken out. The books and some papers were left in the safe. Thomas Hayes the night watchman, has been discharged from custody.—*Manchester Courier.*

Here we have another instance of getting into the premises with skeleton keys, then throwing the safe down from its pedestal and carrying it bodily away, and opening it at leisure. It was a 30 × 24 × 24 inch, weighing from 5 to 6 cwt., and was eventually opened by drilling only four holes in the door.

DISCOVERY OF BURGLARS' IMPLEMENTS.

Detective officers Bower and Campbell, on learning that a person, more than suspected of being an accomplice of the Huddersfield cloth robbers, had, with others, been seen loitering suspiciously about Woodroyed farm, not far from the residences of two of the convicted offenders—Pearson the platelayer, and Deighton the pattern-dyer, Bowling Old-lane—went to examine the place, and there found concealed under the stones a number of burglars' instruments, and a green and a brown silk umbrella. The "cracksmen's" tools included cutting and boring screws of various sizes, with powerful levers to work them, a strong iron brace and bit for piercing wood, and other heavy instruments, capable of wrenching open iron safes and forcing strong doors. The brown umbrella is in good repair, and has a massive ivory handle, but the green one has partly been consumed, apparently by rats. As Pearson had been employed by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company, there can be little doubt of his having been engaged in the robbery of the safe from their goods station office; and as little about his complicity in the well organised and completed robbery of Messrs. Fox's heavy safe and contents in Bowling Back-lane. With such instruments and others which they would carry about with them, they were prepared for any emergency; but we are now safe from their depredations for the next two years. Three watches, apparently the produce of robberies, with several rings torn off, were also lately found when workmen were taking down an old wall in Rooley-lane, Bowling, and given up to the police, and remain still unclaimed.—*Leeds Times*, May 28th, 1864.

[4.]—ROBBERY AT A BULLION DEALER'S IN LONDON.

The great robbery of £3,000 in notes, gold, and jewellery, which is reported to have taken place at the shop of Mr. Thomas M'Keown, bullion dealer and money changer, in Fenchurch-street, London, in the course of Monday night and Tuesday, has excited considerable attention among the banking and mercantile establishments in the City. The shop is on the south side of the street, a few doors from Philpot-lane, and being a money changer's, a large amount of foreign money was exhibited in bowls in the window; as also rolls of foreign bank notes, and watches and other articles of jewellery. The doorway of the shop was in the side passage, leading to a suit of offices on the upper floors, occupied by respectable firms. Mr. M'Keown managed the business, and had two assistants. At the close of the day the money and notes and other valuable property were put into a large iron safe at the back of the shop, when it was locked up, Mr. M'Keown having charge of the keys. The shop door was fastened with patent locks, and there were two holes in the shutters to enable the police on duty in the street to survey the interior during the night, the gas being left lighted. On the evening of the night of the robbery the place was left as usual, and the policeman looked through into the shop several times in the course of the night, and saw nothing to excite his attention. On the shop being opened on the following morning it is stated that there were no indications of the place having been forcibly entered; but on the safe being unlocked the whole of the valuable contents, reported to be worth £3,000, were found to be missing. No marks of violence to indicate how the shop had been broken into could be traced, and it would seem that the shop door had been opened in the ordinary

way. Several of the most eminent locksmiths were called in to examine the safe and the locks, with a view of ascertaining the manner in which they had been operated upon. It was evident that the safe had not been subjected to any rough treatment. However, the safe had been opened and the treasure was gone. More remarkable, in order to enter the shop and reach the money, some four or five patent locks had also to be opened. In a short time the police were furnished with a list and description of the valuable property missing, which comprised 68 watches, several diamond pins bracelets, rings, gold chains, brooches, diamond crosses and ear-rings, a quantity of plate, and other jewellery, foreign bank-notes, and a large quantity of foreign gold coinage, eagles, Australian sovereigns, Napoleons, doubloons, Spanish five dollars, old guineas, Spanish ducats, and several bowls of foreign silver. This is the second time within a very short period that Mr. M'Keown, has suffered from a similar robbery.—London Paper, March, 1864.

This robbery was effected by picking the locks of the outer door and the lock of the safe.

[5.]—BURGLARS AT THE TOWN HALL.

The greater part of the night between Friday and Saturday appears to have been spent within the Manchester Town Hall by some thieves who had entered the Waterworks Offices, and attempted to break open the iron safe used by the cashier in that department. The thieves entered the building by means of skeleton keys, with which they unlocked a cellar door leading from a yard near to Cross-street, and obtained an easy access to the collectors' office, where the safe is placed. They bored five holes close together, and just in front of the lock, but as this is protected by a steel plate, which is impervious to all "boring" apparatus, the thieves, seeing they could not succeed in that direction, resorted to another mode of treatment. It seems that in attempting to force the lock they broke the instrument and left a portion of it in the works, rendering futile all their exertions. It is supposed that the return of morning light made them anxious about their personal safety, and that they must have left the building about five o'clock, after being at work probably eight or nine hours. The party left a strong jemmy, a mortise chisel, and a small oil-can, together with all the refuse caused by boring the safe. The attempted robbery was not discovered until nine o'clock, when the clerks arrived. The police were communicated with, and Mr. Milner, of Market-street, (who is the patentee of the safe), was sent for. A locksmith was set to work to try and open the safe, but had failed up to noon on Saturday. He will resume his task to-day. Some money was in the safe, but this, of course, the thieves were unable to touch.—*Manchester Examiner and Times*, May 30, 1864.

In this case the burglars operated on the safe by drilling numerous holes near to the keyhole over the lock; but in this instance the steel plate that covers the small lock evidently baffled the efforts of the burglars for the time. We understand that had the thieves continued their work for a short time longer, the safe would undoubtedly have been opened. However, a testimonial published by T. Milner and Son, states that

"A locksmith was employed for upwards of five hours on Saturday in trying to open the safe, in which he broke and spoiled all his tools; and, after repairing them, he only succeeded in doing so after upwards of four hours' additional work on Monday, when the valuable contents of the safe were found perfectly secure."

[6—7.]—CLEVER ROBBERIES FROM SAFES.

In the course of Monday night some thieves effected an entrance into the office of Mr. W. Morris, accountant, Cooper-street, by picking the box and padlock, on the outer door. The safe, which was somewhat old, was fastened with a triple-bolted lock, to open which the thieves drilled a hole near the keyhole. Having once opened the safe, the thieves broke into the cash drawer, and took its contents, which were fortunately not more than £2. A similar robbery was committed in York-street about a week ago, by, it is believed, the same thieves. The police consider that as nearly nine-tenths of the safes are old or weakly made, the thieves to whom these two robberies are attributed will have little difficulty in committing even more serious depredations.—*Manchester Guardian*, April 13th 1864.

In these two robberies both safes were "old or weakly made," and appear to have been opened by drilling but one hole near the keyhole of the lock. In all safes fitted with common or warded locks (see Fig. 13) one hole is sufficient for the operator to effect his purpose. Through this one hole he gets an instrument to move back the bolt without interfering with the wards of the lock; or if the lock be of a better sort he drills out the "main stump" of the bolt of the lock, withdraws the bolt, and so opens the door. Mr. Morris's safe was a double-door cast-iron one, similar to Fig. 1, but with raised bands round the front and back, similar to Figs. 3 and 4.

[8.]—SERIOUS ROBBERY AT THE AIRE AND CALDER NAVIGATION COMPANY'S OFFICE, AT LEEDS.

During Friday night, the office of the undertakers of this Canal Company, in Dock-street, Leeds, was entered by thieves, and a sum of £850, in notes and gold, stolen from the safe. The thieves not only carried off this plunder, but they had also impudence enough to penetrate into the drawing-room, (where the undertakers of the Company hold their meetings), and swallow a quantity of wine there deposited.—Leeds Paper, 1864.

This robbery was most easily effected through the thieves finding the key of the safe in a drawer on the premises.

[9.]—BURGLARY IN LONDON.

In May, 1864, a burglary was committed on some premises in London, where there was a George Price's Safe, containing £400. It was a D quality, but not case-hardened, nor had it even a steel plate over the lock. The door-plate, however, was $\frac{5}{8}$ inch thick, which evidently made it such a work of labour to the thieves to drill a sufficient number of holes through it to destroy the works of the lock, that the safe was left unopened, and the contents intact. Had they have had more time at their command and more tools, from the circumstance of the door not being case-hardened, they would certainly have got at the contents.

Messrs. D. and W. Price, wholesale ironmongers, Newington Causeway, Borough, London, through whom the safe was sold, sent it to us afterwards to repair. The owners would not replace it with a better, and it is still doing duty as before.

[10.]—SAFE ROBBERY.

On Tuesday night the warehouse of Messrs. Fox, wholesale grocers, Fennel-street, was entered by thieves. Entrance was effected by their removing the padlock on the street door, which they afterwards replaced. Both the padlock and the boxlock (which also secured the door) were common ones. The thieves, on gaining entrance, commenced work on the safe, which is one of Messrs. Milners', but we are informed it is one of a very common make. Inside the outer covering of the safe door is a fire-proof lining, about an inch and a quarter in thickness, which is secured to the outer texture by means of half a dozen screws, one at each corner of the door, and one half way down each side. The thieves, knowing they could not get to the lock, as this was protected by a steel plate, operated in another direction. They bored holes in the safe door to meet the various screws before-mentioned, and this having been effected, the outer covering (the lock and composition chambers) of the safe was loosened, and the thieves obtained an easy access to the interior. They wrenched open the drawers (which are encased with steel), containing about £150 in gold and silver and a bank note, and, having secured this, made off with the booty. No trace of the robbers has yet been discovered. A reward has been offered for their apprehension.—*Manchester Examiner and Times*, June 2nd, 1864.

We examined this safe a day or two after the robbery, and found that instead of it being, as stated in the newspapers, "one of a very common make," it was one of Milners' "List 2" quality, described by them as "Holdfast," "well-constructed, stronger than most of the safes sold as 'thief-proof,' fitted with Milners' Double-patent Gunpowder-proof, Drill-proof, Picklock-proof, Solid Lock; with Hobbs' Patent Protector, and solid Lock-cases and Doors." It has a steel plate over the lock, and is, in fact, one of their Quadruple-patent *modern* safes, as the following letter shows :—

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'EXAMINER AND TIMES.'

"SIR,—Please allow us to state in to-morrow's edition that the safe purchased by us from Messrs. Milner some two years ago, was represented to us as their burglar-proof safe, therefore not of common manufacture, as stated in your impression of Wednesday; and oblige yours, &c.,

"June 2. 1864. "J. & R. FOX."

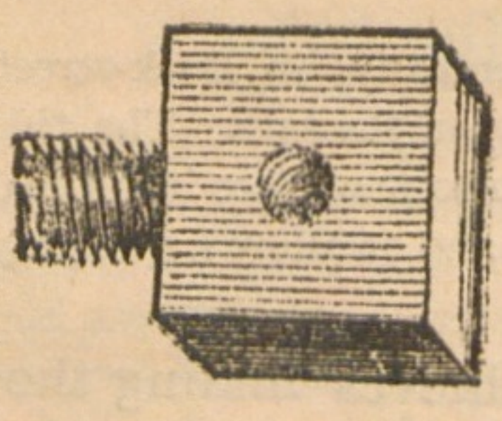


Fig. 11.—Lock-case stud.

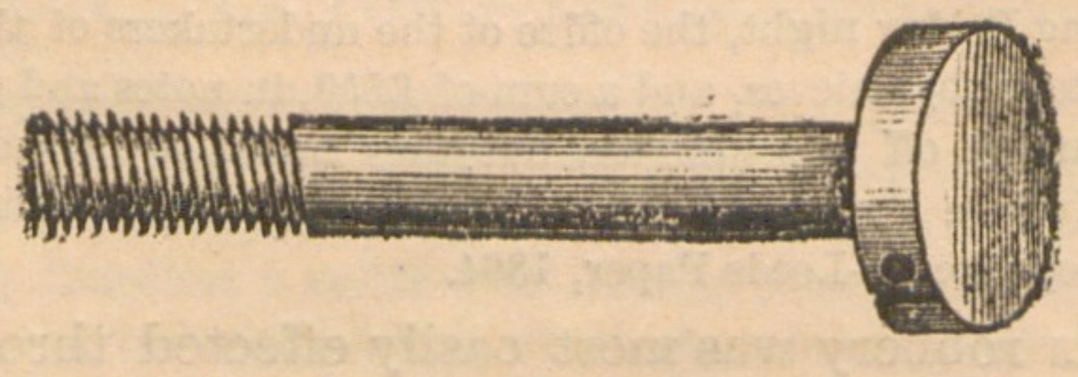


Fig. 12.—Cheese-headed Lock-pin.

This quality of Milners' Safes is made thus :—The small lock is screwed to the door-plate. The composition-chamber, with the chamber enclosing the large bolts, is fastened to the $\frac{3}{8}$-inch door-plate by small countersunk screws, screwed through the rim into six or more flat lock studs (fig. 11) which latter are screwed nearly through to the outside face of the door.

The thieves appear to have at once set to work to drill over the lock-stud points at the left-hand side of the door (which would not occupy many minutes) till all were released, which, when accomplished, the door-plate was pulled away at this side from the chambers, and acted as a lever in breaking away the entire lock and composition chambers from the lock-studs at the hinge or right-hand side of the door. The door with the steel plate and lock upon it, being thus free and open, the chambers had only to be lifted out, and the contents of the safe were then at the mercy of the thieves. In Milners' stronger quality, "List 3," the lock-chamber is secured to the $\frac{1}{2}$-inch thick door-plate by cheese-headed screws (fig. 12), but these, like the studs (fig. 11), are screwed nearly through to the outside face of the door-plate, and in being drilled out only consume a little more time in the operation. The principle of construction is the same in both qualities.

Although this method of opening safes has been known to ironmongers and others for some years, and is, in fact, our own mode of operating upon safes with *soft* doors, this is the first instance on record of a safe having been opened in this manner by *burglars*. In most safes with thin doors the ends of the lock-pins or studs come through to the outside. No plan of opening iron safes is more easy or certain of accomplishment. The only effectual plan of protecting the ends of the lock-pins from being drilled and punched out, is by case-hardening the door-plate itself; or better still, by forming the door of two $\frac{1}{2}$-inch case-hardened plates, and screwing the pins into the inner $\frac{1}{2}$-inch plate only, which leaves the whole of the lock-pins protected by the other $\frac{1}{2}$-inch case-hardened plate. Here, again, the outer street door locks were opened with skeleton keys and re-locked.

[11.]—ANOTHER ROBBERY OF A SAFE IN MANCHESTER.

In the course of Tuesday night some thieves effected an entrance into the premises of Messrs. J. Reddish and Co., wholesale druggists, Withy Grove, and took about £7 from a small old-fashioned safe, which they forced open with a jemmy.—*Manchester Guardian*, July 13, 1864.

From the fact of its having been made at the Cleveland Safe Works, Milner and Son were so overjoyed that they could not rest until they h informed the public of the fact, in the following advertisement :—

"I hereby give notice that the safe opened by thieves, at Messrs. Reddish and Co.'s, was not, reported, an old-fashioned one, but one that was made by a modern and comparatively new maker, viz., George Price, of Wolverhampton.

"9, Hanging Ditch." "GEORGE Y. GREGSON.

Had "George Y. Gregson," Milners, and Co. been satisfied with simply stating it was made by George Price, he would not have complained, but instead of this, they have had the temerity to publish a naked untruth, as the following further facts will prove :—

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'MANCHESTER GUARDIAN.'

"SIR,—In your issue of this day I notice an advertisement signed 'George Y. Gregson' asserting that the safe opened in my office 'was not of an old make.' I cannot understand what Mr. George Gregson has to do with this affair, as I am totally unacquainted with him, and he cannot possibly know the facts. Not only in contradiction to his false assertion, but as an act of justice to Mr. George Price, I distinctly affirm that the safe in question was (though of Mr. Price's make) an old-fashioned one, having been in my office more than ten years. To prove the great confidence I place in the present manufacture of Mr. George Price, I have purchased one of his "Burnley" quality, and have recommended them to several of my neighbours, who have also ordered similar safes.—I am, dear sir, yours truly,

"JOHN REDDISH.

"39, Withy Grove, Shude Hill, Manchester, "Witness: WM. SCOTT BROWN.
"13th July, 1864."

The above appeared in the *Manchester Guardian* of July 14th ; and the following on the 15th :—

"THE MOUNTAIN HAS CONCEIVED AND BROUGHT FORTH A MOUSE.

Veritas nihil veretur nisi abscondi.

The safe opened by violence at Messrs. Reddish's, George Y. Gregson, the valiant but 'comparatively new agent of T. Milner and Son, has advertised in Wednesday's *Guardian* that it 'was not, as reported, an old-fashioned one.' The simple truth is, it was made at George Price's works during the first year he took to the business from his predecessors, viz., in 1854, and before he introduced any patented or other improvement into the construction of iron safes. It was one of a few made at that period precisely in the same manner as Milners', but which construction George Price immediately improved upon, though T. Milner and Son are making them in the same way to this day. It was sold to a Mr. M'Candlish, a broker, and in the same year (1854) was sold by him to Messrs. Reddish, and further, Messrs. Reddish were specially cautioned a few months ago by George Price that the safe was untrustworthy. They, like many other gentlemen, delayed the purchase of a better 'till a more convenient season, but which the thieves did not kindly consider. Messrs. Reddish have since purchased one of George Price's "Champion Burnleys" for their cash, retaining the 'old-fashioned' one for their books. If T. Milner and Son want to prove to the public which is the only safe to be trusted with the custody of cash against burglars, why don't they accept George Price's eight-year-old challenge of £100 to publicly test both makes with drills, chisels, gunpowder, and sledge-hammer George Price again, for the 100th time, cautions the public against using any safe for cash except his patent case-hardened drill-proof ones.

Wolverhampton, July 13, 1864.

MANCHESTER DEPOT, 18, BLACKFRIARS' STREET."

These advertisements render any further explanation unnecessary.

[12.]—SHOP ROBBERY IN LEEDS.

Early yesterday morning the shop of Messrs. Ward and Co.. provision dealers, Kirkgate, Leeds, was entered. The roof was reached by climbing a shutter box in the passage leading to the Golden Cock-yard, and a hole made through it, by which the thieves got into an upper room, and from thence through a trap door into the shop. Their object was money. All the drawers in the shop and counting-house were turned out. One of Price's treble-patent case-hardened drill-proof safes seems not to have been touched. A quantity of old copper coinage, which the firm had been collecting for the Mint, was kept in a desk, and £4 to £6 of this was stolen, and another bundle of about the same amount, which the thieves had tied up in an apron, was left behind them in the passage. They appear to have intended to make their exit by the passage door, but being unable to open it, they had to make their way back again through the roof, leaving half their booty behind them. A reward is offered for such information as may lead to the detection of the burglars.—*Leeds Mercury*, July 25th, 1864.

This is another instance in which the burglars entered the premises by making a hole in the roof. The value of possessing a *good* safe was proved by the fact of the thieves not even *attempting* to open it after discovering the kind of safe it was.

The burglary at Mr. Johnson's, jeweller, Threadneedle Street, London, in July, 1864, is thus described in *The Times* of February 17th, 1865 :—

[13.]—THE GREAT ROBBERIES IN THE CITY.

The robbery at the shop of Mr. Johnson was, if possible, more daring than that in Cornhill, both in its conception and the manner in which it was effected It took place in the heart of the City of London, in a great public thoroughfare, and under the very shadow of the Bank of England. There is reason to believe, too, that it was committed at mid-day on a Sunday, and was attended with such an amount of sheer violence, after all other means had failed, as ought to have attracted the attention of the police on duty, had they been ordinarily vigilant. The thieves actually tore away by main force the bearings of a strong door, after having in vain attempted to pick the lock and to cut through panels encased with iron; they smashed to atoms a large mirror, nearly half an inch thick, and then, having in that way made an entrance into a place lighted with gas and visible by eight apertures in the shutters from without, they ransacked it, unobserved and undisturbed, of jewellery, watches, and chronometers of the value of not less than £4000 in all. That done, they walked into Threadneedle-street, carrying the whole of their booty, unchallenged by a single policeman, and to this day, although more than six months have elapsed, they are still at large. What was more, the police on duty were not the first to discover that a robbery had been committed, though they had only, during some part of the 36 hours in which it had been effected, to look through any one of the eight apertures in the shutters to see the counter and shelves denuded of the gems and articles of gold with which they were ordinarily laden, and to observe the *débris* of broken mirrors and of brickwork scattered about the floor. The fact of the robbery was not discovered until 9 o'clock on the Monday morning, and then by a servant of Mr. Johnson, the proprietor. All the treasure stolen was of the most costly kind, both intrinsically and in point of workmanship. It included, among other articles, gem-rings, the cost price of which was, upwards of £370; brooches, £430; bracelets, £420; lockets, £390; signet-rings, £156; studs, £120; pencil-cases, £100; ear-rings, £180; and about £1000 worth of articles of jewellery belonging to customers, for which Mr. Johnson was answerable. It cost him, moreover, about £150 to repair the damage alone done to his premises by the robbery, in addition to the loss of property worth £4000.

The shop of Mr. Johnson is situated at the corner of Hercules-passage, which leads from Threadneedle-street and Old Broad-Street to the Stock Exchange, and it fronts the esplanade at the eastern end of the Royal Exchange. It has a front door in Threadneedle-street and a side entrance from Hercules-passage, the whole shop being one apartment, not larger than any ordinary dining-room, and at the time of the robbery it was stocked with jewellery of the estimated value of from £15,000 to £20,000. The price of one diamond alone was £1,200, and of another £800. The whole house, which is several stories high, belongs to Mr. Johnson, and he lets the upper part of it as offices to merchants and stock-brokers. Access to these is had from a side door in Hercules-passage, open during the day. At that time no one slept on the premises, and they were left, in consequence, over night, with all that they contained, to the sole guardianship of the police. Mr. Johnson, however, had taken extraordinary precautions to guard his shop. He had expended about £200 in steel shutters for the windows; a door at the back, opening upon the stairs leading to the offices above, besides being extraordinarily massive, was lined throughout the whole of its inner surface with sheets of steel, and

secured at night by a strong lock; and the interior of the shop, which was lighted with gas at night and during Sundays, could be seen from without through apertures in the shutters both from Threadneedle-street and Hercules-passage. It is admitted by Mr. Johnson that it could not be seen very distinctly in daytime from Threadneedle-street, as a strong sunlight tended to dim the gas light inside, but it was otherwise from Hercules-passage, which is a shady place.

The point of attack selected by the thieves, as being apparently the vulnerable one, and against which, besides, they could hope to operate unseen, was the massive door at the back of the shop, encased with steel as we have stated, opening upon the staircase leading to the offices above from the side door in Hercules-passage. On the Saturday night of the robbery they must either have concealed themselves upstairs before the premises were closed for the night, or picked the lock of the side door in the passage afterwards. Once inside that door, they had set to work first to cut out the lock, and then to pierce the panels of the inner door leading from the foot of the stairs into Mr. Johnson's shop, using for that purpose a centre-bit, which would be almost noiseless; being completely foiled in all those attempts by the steel lining inside the door they had tried to force it off the hinges, but equally in vain. They then cut away the solid brick and iron work of the door jamb on the opposite hand into which the bolts of the lock shot, breaking to pieces in the operation a looking-glass on the inside of the door, and much of the mirrored panelling with which the interior of the back part of the shop was covered. By this means they entered the shop and swept it of every portable article of jewellery it contained. A formidable iron safe most ingeniously constructed by Mr. Tann, of Walbrook, had resisted every effort of the burglars to force it, and fortunately for Mr. Johnson, for it contained gold watches and gems worth about £12,000. They then departed by the way they entered, locking the side door in Hercules-passage behind them.

Now it afterwards turned out that one of the constables on that particular beat at that time, as in the case of Mr. Walker, had been but a short time in the force. He was expected to make the circuit of his beat, which at that part of the city is made a small one, probably from the concentrated mass of valuable property there, once in every seven minutes, and he was liable to be reported by a sergeant who goes round it the reverse way, if he failed to make the circuit in the stipulated time. There is but one jeweller's shop, it is said, in the beat, so that, unlike Cornhill, the vigilance of the constables on duty was not unduly taxed by the multiplicity of establishments of that kind, and yet this daring robbery was committed in a house in a principal thoroughfare, within a few hundred yards of the official residence of the Lord Mayor, and probably during the day, without their having heard of it until after it had been perpetrated. At the same time it is right to state that on one occasion a constable on duty at night there, observing some disarrangement of the furniture inside the shop through one of the apertures, remained outside during the remainder of the night guarding the place. A cover which was used in concealing some part of the jewellery had slipped off, and the circumstance alarming the constable he never left the premises until he was assured all was safe. On another, the key had been inadvertently left in the outer door in Hercules-passage for a few minutes. The circumstance was promptly discovered by the policeman on duty, and he felt it his duty to report it in the customary way to his superior officer. On the other hand, one evening Mr. Johnson, having forgotten a watch in his iron safe, returned about nine o'clock to get it. The shop was then, as usual, lighted inside. He opened his safe, took out most of the contents, got the watch, and then restored the rest of them. He was there about half an hour; it was long after the usual time of closing his premises for the night, and yet he was never challenged by the policeman on duty. He was so struck by the circumstance that he at once complained to the constable on leaving the shop. Since the robbery, Colonel Fraser, the Commissioner of Police, has placed three active officers on that particular beat, and the inhabitants are well satisfied of their vigilance. It remains to be stated that at a meeting of inhabitants of the ward of Cheap, held on Wednesday, Mr. Alderman Allen acting as chairman, a resolution was passed to the effect that it is most undesirable that large masses of valuable property should be left in the city without resident protection, such a course acting as an encouragement to skilful and daring thieves, and casting thereby a most onerous and difficult duty upon the police force, by withdrawing their attention from other and equally important duties.

Unfortunately for Mr. Johnson, the door in Hercules Passage was secured only by a *spring* lock of the ordinary description and quality. It is well known to those who understand the mechanism of locks that, except in first-class patent ones (in which a special provision is made to prevent it), the spring-bolt can be withdrawn by a very simple instrument without interfering with the security parts of the lock, and hence the insecurity of nearly the whole of this class of *spring* locks and street-door night latches. No one knows how often the thieves had been into Mr. Johnson's side entrance, as they had evidently in their possession an instrument as effective as the key itself to let themselves in and out at pleasure. On the night of the burglary the thieves quietly entered the premises

and closed the door, when it fastened itself by the bolt of the lock springing back to its true position. They were then shut in from the outer world, and altogether unobserved by the police, although there were no less than eight "peep-holes" in the doors and shutters of the shop. When here (the landing to the basement and upper rooms), they tried the door leading into the shop with a gimlet in various parts, and found that an interior sheet of iron prevented their cutting out a panel as they desired. Although for the moment foiled, being men of cool daring and determination, they next tried to force the door with its lock-bolt out of the frame, which they could not accomplish until they had removed some of the adjoining brickwork. They ultimately succeeded in getting an opening for the crowbar to work, and the wrench must have been a fearful one, for it broke the plate-glass mirror at the shop side of the door to atoms, and moved a range of shelves filled with heavy clocks and time-pieces five or six inches from the wall. Once in the shop they were masters of the situation, and, from the marks on the iron safe and the stone chimney-piece opposite to it, they must have tried hard to open it. In this, however, they failed, and had to content themselves with the valuable property in the glass cases and windows.

This safe, the manufacture of Mr. *John* Tann, is a double-door one, constructed on the same principle as the "London" pattern (Fig. 5.), with *one inch* thick doors. It is a fact worth recording, that at the burglary at Messrs. Green and Kershaw's Flour Mills, at Halifax,* in 1859, a safe of our make, with *one-inch solid case-hardened doors*, was attempted with steel wedges, precisely in the same manner as the one at Mr. Walker's, Cornhill, for some hours on the Sunday during the absence of the watchman. On his return at night the burglary was at once discovered, and the safe examined, when it was found that great and violent efforts had been made to open it, but all to no purpose, the points of the wedges having broken in the safe and so made the doors the faster. It was steel against steel, and so the valuable contents were saved. The inch thick case-hardened door, as in the "Burnley" and all our "improved" safes, is an immense advantage, and affords

---

* "ROBBERY AT THE FLOUR MILLS.—On Sunday last this extensive establishment, situate at the bottom of the town, was broken into by parties who must have been well acquainted with the premises. The private watchman, William Stead, left the place at nine o'clock in the morning, all being then safe, but, on returning at half-past five in the afternoon, he found that an entrance had been effected. * * In the small room, which was partitioned from a counting-house on the same floor, were a quantity of shelving filled with books and papers, and the stone in its fall broke the shelving and the wooden partition. Through the opening thus made the thieves descended, and entering the first counting-house took ten or twelve shillings in copper, and some receipt stamps which they found lying on the desk. They then descended to the counting-house on the ground-floor, where the safe was, its contents being the main object of which they were in search. At this safe they must have laboured hard for two or three hours, but all in vain, for it resisted their united efforts at prising and breaking by main force. All they could accomplish was to break off the brass handle and the brass plate surrounding the key-hole, bearing the maker's name, and also the projections which cover the junction of the doors. Chisels had been used to little or no purpose, in order to force an opening, their points having been left in the narrow apertures; and as to the blows to which the safe had been subjected with a heavy hammer, there was scarcely any appearance of the effects,—the fact being that the safe was case-hardened, and defied the utmost energies which the depredators could bring to bear upon it. In fact, *the safe would resist the penetration of a drill, even if backed by a power of three tons.* Had the safe been forced open, the thieves would certainly have found booty sufficient to reward their nefarious labours. * * From the amount of money which it contained at the time, it may be said to have abundantly repaid its cost, by its sturdy and effectual resistance on this occasion to the desperate attack made upon it."—*Halifax Guardian*, February 12th, 1859.

The *Halifax Courier* of February 12, 1859, after giving an account of the robbery, says:—"From the upper office they (the thieves) descended to the lower, and there, it is evident, concentrated their efforts on the safe. A safe it proved in reality. Chisels, hammers, crowbars, &c., were used upon it with the intention of smashing in the doors, to spring the doors, or break the lock."

the greatest protection against every mode of operating. There is no instance on record of a safe with an inch thick solid door having been opened by burglars.

We may here observe, that after the robbery Mr. Johnson ordered another safe from Mr. Tann of still greater strength; and, also, that at the present time we are making him another, not because he thinks Mr. John Tann's safes are bad ones, but simply on account of our patented improvements (which no other maker can use), he believes ours to be better.

[14.]—ANOTHER SAFE ROBBERY.

On Friday evening or Saturday morning, thieves entered the shop of Messrs. J. and W. Leigh, ironmongers, Market-street, and took from the safe (about 20 years old), which had been secured in the usual manner when the shop was locked up, about £130 in gold and silver, one £20, a £10, and fourteen £5 bank notes. The thieves are known. and, singularly enough, two of them were taken to the Police Office after the occurrence, but unfortunately there was not then sufficient evidence to warrant the police authorities in detaining them.—*Manchester Guardian*, August, 1864.

This safe was an old-fashioned one of a similar kind to Fig. 1. Its employment as a depository for money was only offering a premium to the most ordinary thief to try his hand at safe opening.

[15.]—RECENT BURGLARY IN MANCHESTER.

On the night of Friday, September 23rd, 1864, the premises, No. 1, Greenwood-street, Corporation-street, were entered by burglars, who broke open the drawers in the office of Messrs. Allcock and Holme, in which was a George Price's Safe containing a considerable amount of cash. The escutcheon was removed, and an attempt made to force open the door, by means of a jemmy or chisel. Having evidently concluded that any further attempt was useless, they removed part of the flooring, and breaking through the ceiling, gained access to the shop of Mr. John Cope, in whose office was a double-door safe, which they forced open and carried off £25.

Here is a burglary where two safes in the same building were operated upon with the same tools. In the first case, the safe was a good one, and withstood all the efforts of the thieves to open it; in the other case it was one of those cheap (?) Birmingham safes, hundreds of which have, during the last few years, found purchasers on account of their "astonishingly low prices," though affording no security whatever, but only tempting the burglars to open and rob them of their contents with impunity.

[16.]—BREAKING OPEN AN IRON SAFE IN A WAREHOUSE.

The warehouse of Messrs. Turner, Norris, and Turner, calico printers, George-street, was locked up and left apparently safe about half-past six o'clock on Friday evening. At eight o'clock on Saturday morning, when some of the servants came on duty, they found the warehouse door in Back George-steeet open, and ascertained that thieves had been on the premises. From examinations that have been made it appears that a thief secreted himself in the warehouse before it was closed, and subsequently admitted one or more of his confederates by the back door, which was fastened on the inside with bolts and crossbars. The thieves then went into the counting-house, drilled seven holes, each about half an inch in diameter, in a circle in front of the large iron safe, and then wrenched out the centre piece. The works of the lock were thus exposed to their operations. The bolts of the lock were moved back by instruments, the door of the safe was opened, and £36 in gold, silver, and £5 notes, and postage stamps worth £2 were stolen. The safe is one of Milners' manufacture, and was apparently strong and substantial. After the robbery the thieves let themselves out by the back door, which they left open. The police are investigating the case. *Manchester Guardian*, November 28, 1864.

This is another, in this series of robberies, that was effected by the new experiment—so frequently acted upon—of the thieves getting locked up in the premises, or some room of the building of which the premises formed part, or in some room or place of the adjoining premises. It proves, that by drilling seven holes around the keyhole of the safe, the works of the small lock which secures the large bolts can be so destroyed or removed as to allow the door to be opened without further difficulty; but it must be understood that this robbery could not have been effected, had the door been rendered drill-proof by being case-hardened. The holes were drilled by the ordinary breast-drill, as shown in Fig. 10.

[17.]—DARING BURGLARY IN LONDON.

One of the most daring burglaries that have been committed for some time took place the other night, on the premises of Mr. Abrahams, silversmith, Lowther Arcade, No. 438, West Strand, London. It appears that three men asked for beds at Lowther Coffee House, in the Strand, near the Lowtner Arcade. Only two beds were vacant, and they stated they would arrange to make the two beds serve, and they would pay for them, as they wanted to go away early to Dundee in the morning. It appears they then made an aperture in the ceiling of the room to gain an ascent to the roof, and passed along the parapet of the houses, until they arrived at Mr. Abrahams'. They then bored the lead with centre bits, cut an opening in the roof through the ceiling, and descended on the top floor, br ke open a door on the top staircase, broke open the workroom, and took away a quantity of things under repair. They next found their way into the kitchen, where there is an iron shutter to protect that portion of the shop where the jewellery is kept, and having procured the key, lifted the shutter, and took away a quantity of chains, gold watches, several trays of diamond rings, signet rings, lockets, and other valuable property, to the amount of nearly £2000. They left a cap behind them, although they entered the coffee-shop with hats on, and also left a set of housebreaking implements. There can be no doubt somebody well acquainted with the premises was concerned in the burglary. The private door in the shop is in the Arcade, where a private watchman is on duty, and holes are bored to show if any lights are on the premises. Mr. Abrahams has offered a reward of £200 for the recovery of the property, or £100 to any one giving information that may lead to the conviction of the thieves. They left all the cards the gold lockets, &c., were attached to in the bed-room of the coffee-house, and in leaving early in the morning wished the servant, "Good morning," and said they were off to Dundee.—*London Paper*, November, 1864.

Here is another robbery effected through the thieves breaking into the premises from the adjoining property. In this case no safe appears to have been employed, as the whole stock of jewellery was left loose about the shop.

[18.]—GREAT BURGLARY IN LOMBARD-STREET.

Yesterday a discovery was made of a robbery of bullion, bills of exchange, foreign notes, and other valuable securities, to a large amount in the whole, which is supposed to have been effected some time during Saturday or Sunday night, on the premises of Messrs. Baum, Sons, and Co., long established in Lombard-street as bullion dealers and money changers. The manner in which the burglary appears to have been effected, and many of the attendant circumstances are mysterious, and for the present baffle all the more experienced of the city police. The premises of Messrs. Baum are situated a few paces on the further side of Birchin-lane, going eastward from the Mansion-house, and on the northern side of Lombard-street. They are upon the ground floor, with cellars below, and the rest of the house, which is very large and lofty, is let out as offices to merchants and others. At night the whole house is in the charge of a respectable elderly woman, the widow of a sergeant of police, as housekeeper, and with her a niece and her husband reside, the three occupying the topmost story. A watch-dog has the run of the whole of the passages and staircases at nights, and is accustomed to bark on the slightest unusual noise. He was found yesterday morning with a strap, which had been used in tying up some of the securities that had been stolen, hanging loosely round his neck, but he was still going at large about the house, and the circumstance of the strap, inexplicable itself, unless used in restraining the animal, which would only have made him the more noisy, is one of the mysterious incidents connected with the robbery. Messrs. Baum closed their premises for the night on Saturday evening about 9 o'clock.

They had then in gold in an iron safe, securely locked to all appearance, and itself inclosed in a strong-room equally well secured, 62⅛ Spanish and one Isabella doubloons, 378½ eagles American), 48½ guineas, 7 louis-d or, 244½ napoleons, 7oz. of sterling gold, 4oz. of ancient gold, and 2oz. of melting gold. Of notes they had 71*l.* Irish, 48*l.* Scotch, 2,678f. French, 120 Belgian, 2,647 thalers; 1,802 Russian roubles; 1,745 florins, Dutch; 750 florins, German; 225 Austrian; two 5*l.*-notes of the Leeds Banking Company, 356*l.* in Australian notes, 465 rupee notes, 99 Canadian dollar-notes; 37 American, 1*l.* Nova Scotia, 100 Spanish dollar notes, 5*l.* in Guernsey notes, and six Baden bonds of 35 florins. They had likewise certificates for shares in the Thames and Mersey Marine Company, the Alliance Bank, the Mariquita Mining Company, and the Austrian New Loan; two Dutch and three Russian bonds, two Lombardo-Venetian bonds, one Portuguese bond, 57 gold and 37 silver watches, numbers of every description of foreign silver coins, and many bills of exchange. Yesterday morning, at about 9 o'clock, one of the partners in the firm opened the premises, and shortly afterwards went to the strong-room, accompanied by a boy with a lighted candle. The room is guarded by double doors with formidable locks. On applying his key to the lock of the outer door he found that the scutcheon had been torn off and the lock itself tampered with. Looking around a corner of the room he discovered that a hole about 18in. square, and large enough to admit a boy of ordinary size, had been cut through the solid brickwork, and an entrance thus made into the room. The iron safe was open, three of the locks of the inner door of the room had been wrenched off, empty cashboxes were strewn about, and the place was in disorder in other respects. The way in which the iron safe appeared to have been opened was most inexplicable. The door, indeed, had been removed from its hinges, but although four formidable crowbars were lying about there was no mark visible about the door to show that any of them had been used in prising it open, nor were there any indications of recent use on the crowbars themselves. Not only had the doors of the safe been removed by the hinges, but a most formidable lock inside of it had been broken in pieces, and the wards scattered about. The safe was completely empty, and a couple of mortising chisels, such as are used by joiners, and the points of which had been broken, lay on the floor. How the thieves got into the premises remains to be explained. The street door, which is common to the whole house, opens into a passage, on the right-hand of which is a door communicating with the counting-house of Messrs. Baum. The street door cannot be unlocked from the outside. It is in two halves, opening inwards, and at night is secured by bolts and crossbars on the inside, there being no lock either on the outside or inside. A person leaving the house after it had been closed for the night might remove the crossbars and bolts inside the street door, but he could not fasten the door after him, and a passing policeman would probably soon find that it was open as he went his round. To prevent such a discovery the thieves had recourse to an extraordinary expedient. Before leaving they actually screwed a spring latch inside the door, and on closing the door behind them as they passed out it fastened itself on the inner side, and so presented afterwards an appearance from the outside of being secure. The robbery and the mystery which hangs about it have excited a good deal of interest in the city. The Messrs. Baum, or some of them, have been in business in Lombard-street for 30 or 40 years, and many of their friends and clients called on them in the course of yesterday to express their sympathy with them on the occasion. They themselves estimate their loss, though they speak with diffidence on that point, at less than 10,000*l.*, but an evening paper represents it, on what authority it does not appear, to be from 25,000*l.* to 30,000*l.* The firm has offered a reward of 200*l.* for the discovery and conviction of the burglars.

The housekeeper and her nephew and niece, who are reported to be respectable people, are unable to give any explanation of the affair. They live at the top of the house, five or six stories from the basement, and had not been disturbed either on Saturday or Sunday night The dog had barked a good deal at one part of the night, but that was not at all an unusual circumstance.—*Times*, Dec. 5th, 1864.

This robbery, from the daring of the thieves, the great violence used in the operation of opening the iron doors of the depository, the enormous value of the plunder, and the mysteries that, at one time, seemed to surround it, cast all previous depredations of the kind far into the shade; and the news of it startled the good citizens of London from the even tenour of their daily commercial pursuits like the sudden shock of an earthquake. There can be little doubt but that the intended commission of this burglary formed the principal subject of discussion at a "council of war" for a considerable time, by the gang of desperate burglars which at this period infested the city of London, and who were doubtless, in communication with others, as daring as themselves, in Manchester, as most of the burglaries in both cities were effected by practising the same system of tactics and by the same means. The first step taken by the thieves was, undoubtedly, to secrete themselves in the premises before the folding doors in the

passage were finally barred for the night. They well knew the custom of the proprietor of the premises, and also the habits of the inmates of the house. As to the dog, in *their presence* he became a poor harmless creature, from whose bark or bite they had little to fear. As soon as the hour fixed upon had arrived the real operations of the siege began. The strong room was entered through a hole made in the solid brickwork, and the door of the safe removed from its hinges by using the mortise chisels as wedges and the crowbars as levers. The treasure now found became the property of the captors, who had only to pack it up, pat the dog, and place one of the owner's straps round his neck as a memento of their close and familar acquaintanceship, screw a "street door night-latch" on the outer lockless door, as a hint to the bankers to patronize the lockmakers a little more, and then walk leisurely away, fully satisfied with the result of their few hours' labours.

This robbery adds another to the number already recorded in these pages that might have been prevented, had a *modern* safe been employed. The strength of the safes made twenty years ago consists altogether in their *appearance*, and in that only. The massive locks and bolts in Messrs. Baum's safe were only elements of weakness, through their imperfect construction. If the several parts of a safe which go to make up its strength can be operated upon in detail on the outside, it must succumb to the attack of the present race of calculating and daring thieves. The crowbar is as harmless a tool without a "bite" as the ratchet lever drill is without a fulcrum.

[19.]—DARING ROBBERY AT A CONCERT HALL.

A skilful robbery, evidently perpetrated by expert thieves, was committed at the People's Concert Hall, Lower Moseley Street, on Saturday morning. The premises were locked up as usual about midnight on Friday, and the proprietor, Mr. Burton, had left in an *iron safe* in the office a considerable sum of money consisting of about £40 in gold, £93 in silver, and £20 in copper. On the following morning it was discovered that the safe had been forced, and the contents stolen, with the exception of a few shilings' worth of coppers, which probably made the weight of the booty more heavy than the robbers could conveniently carry away. It is surmised, from the fact that the thieves had regaled themselves with porter during their necessarily protracted operations, and that three glasses were found on the table, that there must have been at least a triumvirate of safe borers. The safe was discovered turned over on its back, holes had been drilled through the bolts which fixed the lock to the door plate, and two holes had been drilled above, at the right top corner to enable the burglars to use a wrench to force the safe open. Not content with the plunder thus obtained, the robbers ransacked a quantity of drawers, and scattered the contents about the floor. Some boxes were also broken open, and two gold pencil cases, a gold fob chain, and a locket were stolen. As there was no appearance of the premises having been forcibly entered, it is conjectured that the men who committed the robbery must have secreted themselves in some part of the building before it was locked up for the night, and must have contrived to escape, unnoticed, after the doors were opened next morning. Information was given to the detective police, and a reward of £20 has been offered for the apprehension of the delinquents, but no clue has yet been ascertained.—*Manchester Courier*, Monday, 19th December, 1864.

Here is another robbery effected through the thieves getting locked up in the premises before they were closed for the night, and another instance of another Milners' safe being opened by drilling over the lock-pins and then forcing open the door, precisely in the same manner as the one at Messrs. Fox's, Fennel Street, Manchester, as described in Burglary No. 3, which see.

[20.]—ROBBING A SAFE.

During Thursday night, one of Milners' safes was broken open at the warehouse of Mr. Joseph Andrew, New Brown-street. The robbery was discovered yesterday morning. Having entered

the place by means of a skeleton key, the thief, who seems to have known the easiest way, broke open an office door which led into Mr. Andrew's room, where the safe was deposited. The marks on the door show that great force must have been used, the lock being completely wrenched away. The safe was evidently operated upon by skilled hands, and none but a smith could have done it so cleverly or so neatly. The case containing the lock is fastened by means of a number of screws to a plate of iron, ¾ of an inch thick, composing the door. The positions of these screws, on the side on which the bolts of the lock were shot, were hit to a nicety, and the screw bored away entirely. A piece of the door at one corner was bored away, and then the door was forced open. There was not much cash in the safe, but it was all taken.—*Manchester Examiner and Times*, January 14, 1865.

This forms another example, in this list of burglaries, of the same method practised in the last and in No. 3, of operating on iron safes. It is well known to the skilled burglars, that the lock-chamber which contains the large bolts, and the small lock that secures them, is fastened to the door-plate with lock-pins screwed from the back of the door into the door-plate itself, and that by drilling on the outside of the door over these screw-pins they can be punched out or drilled out, which at once releases the door-plate, so that it can be pulled open, the lock-chamber removed, and the contents of the safe placed at the mercy of the operating thief. This method can only be successfully employed on safes with *soft* doors. By case-hardening the outer surface of the door no drill can be made to operate upon it. In our "Burnley" and our other "Improved" Safes, the doors are made of two half-inch case-hardened plates, so that as the lock-screws go only through the *inner* half-inch plate, there is the other half-inch plate to cover and protect the points of the screws on the outside.

[21—22.]—TWO SAFES OPENED BY BURGLARS.

On Friday night some thieves entered the office of Mr. J. Diggles, coal proprietor, Granby-row, by removing some slates from the roof, and broke open an iron safe, in which they found and stole fourteen pence. They left behind them an oil can. Between Saturday afternoon and yesterday morning the offices of the Midland Railway Company, Piccadilly, were robbed. It is not certain whether the thieves entered the premises by means of false keys, or whether they were secreted in the building on Saturday. They drilled a hole in one of the safes, and stole all it contained, namely, £9 4s. 6d. in gold, silver, and copper. Among the coin were a guinea, a half-guinea, and an American dollar. An unsuccessful attempt was made the other night to enter other premises in the same building.—*Manchester Guardian*, January 31st, 1865.

The robbery at Mr. Diggles' was effected by getting through the roof. The safe, which was an old-fashioned cast-iron one, similar to fig. 1, was opened by drilling one hole over the lock, the same as was done with Mr. Howard's safe.

The safe at the Midland Railway Company's office was a cast-iron one, similar to fig. 2, and bore the name "Crane, Wolverhampton." It was easily opened by drilling one small hole over the lock, as in the last case.

[23.]—SKILFUL ROBBERIES IN MANCHESTER.

£3000 WORTH OF JEWELLERY STOLEN.

Another ingenious robbery of uninhabited premises stocked with valuables has occurred in the interval between closing on Saturday night and commencing business on Monday morning. In this case Mr. Howard's jewellery shop, at the west corner of Corporation and Market-streets, has been literally stripped of all its contents, save one or two small articles dropped by the thieves, and what was contained in one drawer. The first door in Corporation-street is a new one, recently put up by Mr. Monie, hairdresser, at the bottom of the flight of steps leading to his rooms. His principal room is immediately over Mr. Howard's and the adjoining shop. On Saturday night, at

eight o'clock, Mr. Monie and his principal assistant closed the premises, after having looked through the building, and ascertained that all was right. Three shutters were put up outside the door, and a crossbar of iron was padlocked. It was probably during Saturday night that this padlock was opened by a skeleton key, and the burglars having entered, a confederate outside replaced the padlock and locked them in. Proceeding up stairs, the first obstacle was the door to Mr. Monie's principal room. To open it they tore away the woodwork about the lock, and broke the glass panel. They then commenced operations upon the floor over Mr Howard's shop. The oilcloth and drugget were torn up, and two or three attempts were made to remove the floor in places which would not answer the burglars' purposes. Ultimately they made a hole about two feet wide and some five feet long. In the space between the floor and the ceiling below they came upon some iron sheeting, with which Mr. Howard's shop is entirely lined, as a protection against fire and thieves. This was no obstacle, as it was only rivetted in a few places, and the plate, that over the the sun-light, was taken away. The sun-light was next displaced, and the way was comparatively easy. One of the strong India rubber cords used by Mr. Monie in his hair brushing machinery was taken to enable one of the thieves to lower himself to the shop floor below, a depth of about 12 feet. But the India rubber would not bear the weight, and was broken into several pieces. The clean cotton dressing gowns which lay in the drawers ready for the morning's work, were then taken, and of them a strong rope was made. This rope was hanging through the hole when the robbery was discovered yesterday morning, and by it the thieves got into and out of the shop. When in the shop they emptied the glass cases and drawers (except one), being careful not to encumber themselves with anything but the jewellery, and leaving the velvet-lined cases in which brooches, bracelets, and the like are usually displayed. Most of the stock was in an iron safe, which was opened by drilling, and all its contents taken. The safe was an old one, and we believe it bears no maker's name. This robbery confirms the statement of the detective police, that no ordinary safe will withstand the operations of burglars, if the latter have time given them. The exit of the thieves was made in the same way as their entrance. Nothing, so far as is known at present, was taken from Mr. Monie's stock as they went out. The confederate outside opened the street door; and when Mr. Monie's *employe* arrived to the premises yesterday morning, he found the shutters resting against the door, and the bar lying on the ground, as though some one had commenced to open the door in the ordinary way. The padlock had been carried off. Mr. Howard's loss exceeds £3000, and includes the following articles:—Seven gold watches, four numbered as follows: 7045, 7018, 7012, 7002; sundry fine long gold chains and Alberts; a large quantity of coloured gold brooches, set with stones; a large quantity of pink and red coral ditto; a quantity of onyx and cameo brooches, all mounted in fine gold; a quantity of fine gold ear-rings; coloured gold sleeve links; a large quantity of gold lockets; one ruby and diamond locket; a great quantity of gold studs; a large assortment of west-end signet rings; four sets of fine oriental pearl studs; about eighty-six diamond, emerald, and ruby gem rings; a quantity of wedding rings; a quantity of wedding ring guards; an assortment of stone and gold crosses; one large case of ladies fancy rings; two small ditto; one case of gold pencil cases; about twenty-two valuable gold bracelets, with stones and without; one case of stones; five diamond half hoops; a large tray of fancy coloured gold charms, and various articles not described. It is singular that it has been Mr. Howard's invariable custom to come to the shop on Sundays, to see that all was right; but that for the last few weeks he has been unable to do so from ill health. Mr. Howard offers a reward of £200 for the discovery of the thieves. Seeing that such burglaries as these fall so heavily on the victims (and this is the third or fourth time that Mr. Howard has suffered), it might be well for the trade to combine for self-protection. A large reward may lead to detection when the police are baffled.

Either the gang engaged in this nefarious work was a large one, and divided into two parties, or the party that had cleared Mr. Howard's shop subsequently proceeded to a block of buildings, where, if they had not been disturbed, they might have dealt with two jewellers' establishments in the same way. The block is that between Market Place and Victoria-street, Market-street and the Fish Market. Between the shops in Market Place, occupied by Messrs. Richardson and Roebuck, and Messrs. Duncan and Foster, is a passage leading on the ground floor to the back door of the shop in Victoria-street, occupied by the executor of the late Mr. W. Tebbutt. This passage is closed to the street by an iron gate. Half the passage is covered by a staircase leading to offices above, which is secured below the first storey by an oblique trap-door, barred, and fastened with one of Chubb's locks. A person attempting to break through this trap-door would be seen from the street, and therefore no thief would think of getting into the building that way. Consequently the iron gate was opened by a skeleton key, which was afterwards found near Mr. Tebbutt's back door, with a pipe filled with tobacco. On the ground floor half of Mr. Tebbutt's back door was concealed by the stairs. Out of the lower part of this door a panel was cut with an auger, and so access was gained to the shop. The shop was ransacked, and the drawers and cupboards opened, about 10s. worth of postage stamps stolen, and the receipt stamps and a prayer book displaced, but nottaken away. A cask of rice weighing 6 cwt. was moved from behind the door to the middle of the back part of the shop. Upon it was placed a 2-cwt. box of soap, a cask of almonds upon that

and upon this solid pile the end of a ladder found on the premises was placed horizontally, the other end resting on a chest of tea moved from another part of the shop to a shelf. A plank placed upon the rungs of the ladder afforded a platform from which the thieves could reach to cut a hole in the ceiling. To prevent noise an open box of soda was placed upon the platform, into which the *debris* fell. Through the hole in the ceiling, which measures about 18 inches by 12 inches, the thieves came out upon the first landing from the staircase communicating with the offices. The first persons in the building this morning were Mr. Taylor, of the firm of Sharp and Taylor, printers and lithographers, and Mr. R. P. Beverley, in the employ of Mr R. H. Sharp, printer. They opened the trap-door a few minutes before six o'clock, and in the dark passed over the hole without noticing it. Mr. Taylor had occasion to go down stairs, and put his foot through the hole, only saving himself from a dangerous fall by clutching the balustrade. Procuring a light he descended by the thieves' improvised platform to the grocer's shop, and found no one there. Information was at once given to the police, and a constable was on the spot in five minutes. In the meantime Mr. Taylor went up the staircase to the top of the building, where he found that a piece of the woodwork of the skylight had been removed and the glass broken. A rope was attached to the iron bar which crossed the skylight, and the other end hung over an adjoining chimney. Mr. Taylor climbed up to the skylight and looked through, when he heard a whistle, which was several times repeated. Mr. Taylor suggested to the constable, who was then in attendance, that the thieves would probably escape by the staircase to the Wellington Chambers, between Mr. Slater's and Mr. G. Wood's shops, in Victoria-street; but the constable did not think so, and did not go to see. There can be little doubt, however, that they did escape that way, as one large pane of glass was removed from the dome lighting that staircase. The door at the foot of the stairs was locked; but it had been opened last week, the thieves probably then trying a skeleton key. Their object upon the roof of this building was doubtless to descend into Mr. W. M'Ferran's shop in Victoria-street, or into Mr. W. Dodge's, in Market Place.* Mr. Taylor subsequently went on the roof through the skylight, and found several articles which the thieves had left in their haste. There were a new ladder of ropes, and a black leather carpet bag, which contained a number of housebreaking implements,—two large bunches of skeleton keys, jemmies, two candles, a dark lantern, some wire, a ball of twine, a quantity of loose twine, a bundle of rope, some bracebits, and four calico bags, two large ones and two smaller. All these articles were handed to the police.

This is one of those extraordinary and extensive robberies that must be placed in the same category with Mr. Johnson's (13), Messrs. Baum & Son's (18), Mr. Abraham's, of the Strand (17), Mr. Walker's, Cornhill (24), and Mr. M'Ferran's, Manchester (36), which set all the jewellers and watchmakers in the kingdom to ask themselves and one another, which of them would be the next to be "cleaned out" by these unscrupulous and unfeeling robbers. This burglary taking place at the same time as the Cornhill one, added considerably to the consternation and nervous anxiety previously existing with those persons who had cash and valuable property, which, from various causes, they were obliged to trust to the sole unaided custody of their iron safes.

Never will the writer forget the morning of Tuesday, the 7th of February, 1865, for on that day he was travelling to Manchester, when, at the Stafford Station he bought the "*Times*," and in larger type than usual, saw the headings of Mr. Walker's and Mr. Howard's robberies. On reading the account of the Cornhill Burglary, the first impression produced on the writer's mind was that, it would cause a revolution in the safe trade, for although so many of Milners' safes had been opened in Manchester, this fact was unknown to the London public, who continued to place every reliance upon their presumed impregnability; but the announcement of Mr. Walker's safe being opened,—and this a Milners' too,—and at a watchmaker's in the heart of the city of London, would soon travel all over the world, and would induce such a feeling of general dis-

---

* At this period Mr. Dodge used an old-fashioned safe, which, had the thieves attempted, would certainly have yielded them its treasures. He, however, took warning by the narrow escape his valuable property had had of being carried off, and immediately parted with his old one and replaced it with one of Price's Quadruple Patent Royal Climax Safes. Mr. M'Ferran delayed following such a wise example till *after* his £12,000 robbery, since which event we have had the pleasure of building him a large and powerful safe.

trust in any safe, that a new era in this important manufacture would be the result. This has happened. For every hundred light and inferior safes sold before that time not ten are sold now. Fewer have been made during the last year than for many years past, and the demand has been almost exclusively for those of a heavy and expensive character. All sorts of plans have been proposed in and out of the trade to remedy the supposed defects of safes in general, whilst some thirty-six patents for what the respective patentees call "improvements," have been granted during the last fourteen months, the particulars of which we propose to notice in a subsequent part of this book.

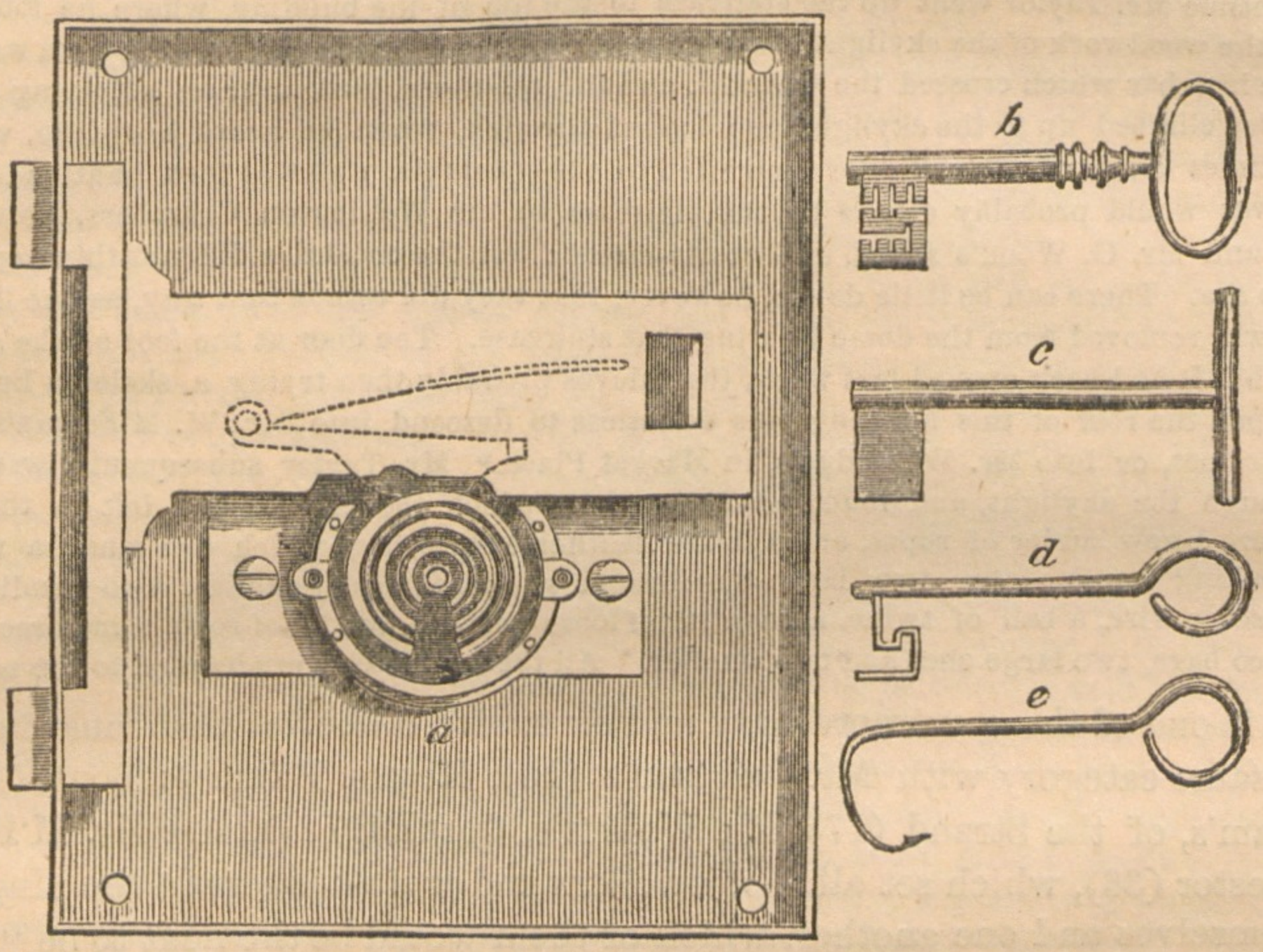


Fig. 13.—Lock-chamber and "box of wards," as used on the Cast-iron Safes and Chests. *b*, the key; *c*, a blank; *d*, skeleton key; *e*, a pick.

The opening of Mr. Howard's safe caused the writer no surprise, as he knew it to be a cast-iron one (see Fig. 1), and had cautioned the owner never to trust any property of value to its custody. On arriving at Manchester we called at Mr. Howard's shop, and the melancholy appearance of the emptied glass cases which had previously glittered with gems and jewellery of a very expensive kind, was depressing in the extreme, and what made the feeling worse, was the conviction that the whole stock might have been preserved intact, had a *good* safe been employed to take care of it. Fig. 1 represents the safe as it now appears.* The black dot above the keyhole on the right-hand door is the hole the thieves drilled—just under the "talon" of the bolt-tail—with the ordinary breast-brace and drill (Fig. 10), and through which the bolt was easily withdrawn and the safe at once opened. Fig. 13 represents the lock-chamber with the box of wards usually fitted to the cast-iron safes and chests; and fig. 14 shows the size of the key and keyhole. With these locks the key

* This safe is in our possession, and may be seen at our Manchester Depôt, 18, Blackfriars Street. Since the robbery, we have supplied Mr. Howard with one of our "Improved Champion Burnley" Safes.

invariably throws the bolts. Locks of this kind are easily opened with a pick (*e*, fig. 13) alone, without drilling or using violence of any kind.

This burglary, like many others, was effected through the room over the shop being in the occupation of another tenant, the entrance to which was in Corporation Street. The padlock to the door at the foot of the stairs of Mr. Monie's

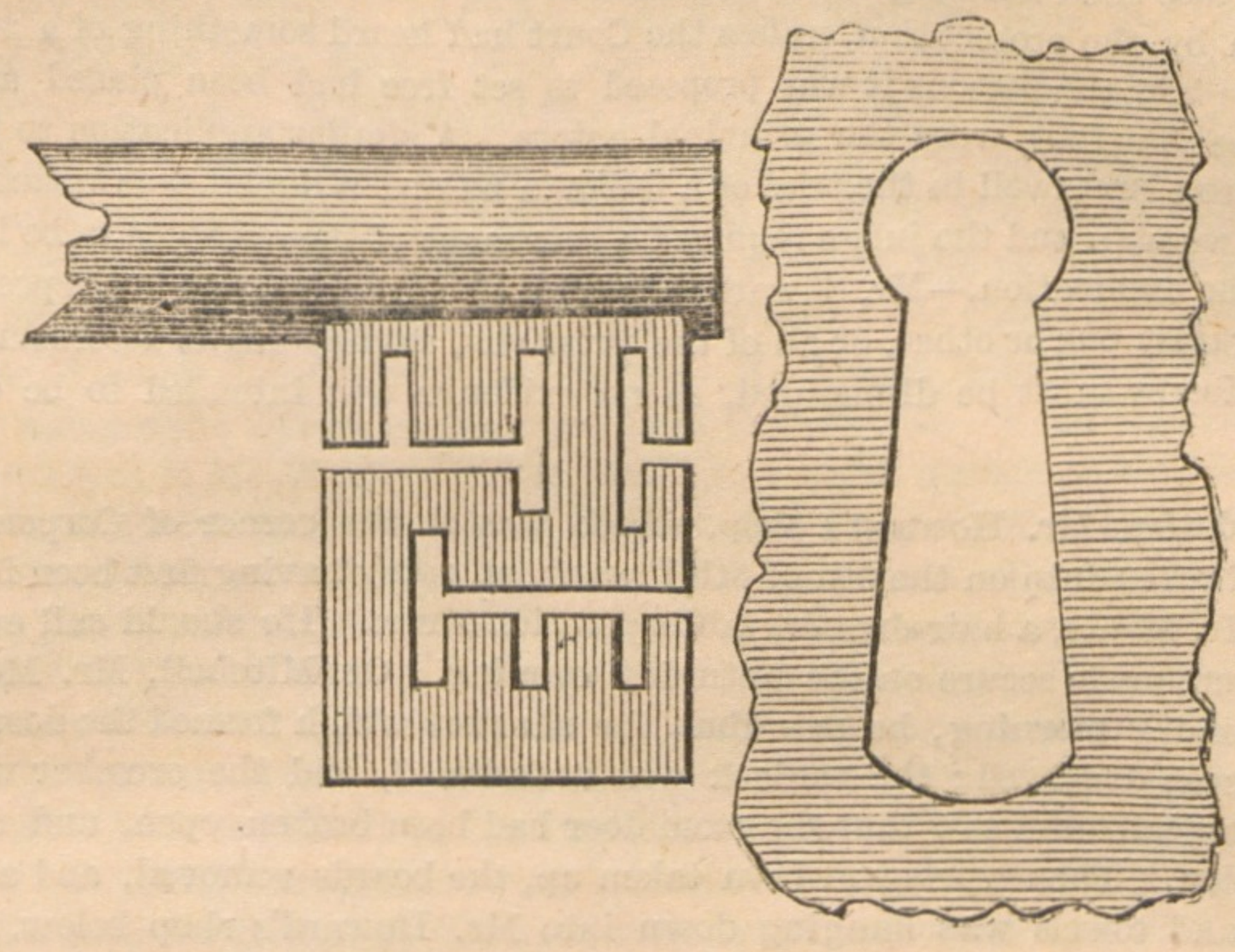


Fig. 14. Key and keyhole of a "box of wards."

premises (if a common one) was opened by a skeleton key, and re-locked by a confederate outside after the thieves had entered. They then set to work, in what we must now call the "approved style," and, no doubt, laughed at the idea of being kept out of the shop by the *sheets* of iron with which the floor above had been lined. Arrived here they cleared the safe and shop of all their valuable contents, retraced their path, and quietly departed without challenge or molestation. The sheet-iron lining had, doubtless, caused Mr. Howard to cherish the belief that it was simply impossible for his pretty little shop to be burglariously entered except by the door at the corner of the two streets. Sheet-iron when attacked by determined thieves offers but little resistance to their progress. Where iron is used at all, it should be in plates of a quarter to half-an-inch in thickness, and even then, great care is required in arranging and securing them, to be of any service against daring and skilled burglars, who have the opportunity of using the drill, the jemmy, and the crowbar.

THE JEWELLERY ROBBERY AT MR. HOWARD'S.

Yesterday, at the City Police Court, John Moores, Dominick Daly, John Kay, John Hartley, Lucy Moores, and Elizabeth Moores, were brought up, on remand,—the men charged with entering the shop of Mr. J. Howard,, Market-street, sometime between the 4th and 6th inst., and stealing a quantity of jewellery, worth about £3000, and the women with being accessories after the fact. Mr. Edwards appeared for the prosecution; Mr. Torr for Hartley; Mr. Ernest Jones for Daly; and Mr. Bennett for Kay.—Mr. Torr asked that the Court would allow him, before proceeding with the case, to mention a circumstance which had come to his knowledge. The attorney (Mr. Bennett) who instructed him had been refused access to several of the prisoners for whom he had been engaged. This had led not only to delay in preparing their case, but to an unfairness to the prisoners. Jervis's Act was intended to enable prisoners to prepare their defence.—Mr. Fowler asked if the Act provided that a man should be visited in prison.—Mr. Torr replied that he did not think it did.—Mr. Bennett

said that he had attended the City Gaol for 13 or 14 years and had never before been refused permission to see prisoners.—Mr. Fowler said that for the refusal there might be good reasons, of which the Court knew nothing at present.—Mr. Torr said that the question was a very important one, and he was sorry that that was not the first time he had observed such a proceeding at the City Gaol. Mr. Edwards, before stating the case for the prosecution, said that it was not intended to offer any evidence against the prisoners John Moores and Lucy Moores, husband and wife, and he had therefore to request that they should be discharged from custody.—Mr. Torr said that he had been looking into a case tried not long since, in which it was ruled that it was improper to listen to such an application by the prosecution, unless the Court had heard something of a *prima facie* case to enable them to see how the persons it was proposed to set free had been placed as regarded the offence. It might be that they were the principal actors. A similar application to that now made was made to Mr. Baron Bramwell in the trial of a German named Wilhelm, committed by Mr. Maude for the murder of a woman, and the judge required a statement of the evidence to be laid before him before acceding to the application.—Mr. Edwards argued that the prosecution in the present case had a right to proceed against one or other, or all of the prisoners, as they might determine.—Mr. Fowler said that the two Moores must be discharged, as no evidence was intended to be offered against them.

Mr. Edwards said that Mr. Howard's shop, which was at the corner of Corporation-street and Market-street, was broken into on the 5th or 6th instant, an entry having first been forced through a room occupied by Mr. Monie, a hair-dresser, in Corporation-street. He should call evidence to show that the premises were made secure on the Saturday evening. On Mitchell, Mr. Monie's assistant, arriving on the Monday morning, he saw that the shutters which formed the door leading to Mr. Monie's rooms had been displaced; the padlock was unfastened, and the crossbar was lying on the ground. He went upstairs and saw that the room door had been broken open, and that everything was in great confusion. The carpets had been taken up, the boards removed, and a rope composed of dressing-gowns and towels was hanging down into Mr. Howard's shop below. That shop had been safely locked up on the Saturday evening by one of Mr. Howard's men, who, before leaving, put the key of the safe in a place known only to himself and Mr. Howard. On the Monday morning the safe was found opened and a large quantity of jewellery was missing. A number of drills and other implements were strewed about the floor. On Friday, the 10th inst., Police Constable Sutcliffe visited the house of Elizabeth Moores, Mill-street, Ancoats. He asked her if she had any property which was not her own, when she pointed out a bag and a basket in which were a great number of housebreaking instruments, several jemmies, sixteen steel drills, a life preserver, two brace bits, and nearly a hundred skeleton keys. Several of the instruments had been fitted to marks on the premises of Mr. Monie and of Mr. Howard. One of the implements in the bag was a drill, from which a piece had been recently broken, and which fitted with the greatest accuracy a piece of a drill which had fallen from the inside of Mr. Howard's safe lock. When Elizabeth Moores was asked how she became possessed of the tools, she said that they had been brought to her by a woman named Robinson. Sutcliffe afterwards went to the house of the prisoner Daly. He waited there till one o'clock the next morning, when Lucy Moores, the woman discharged that morning, and the prisoner Kay came in. Lucy Moores said that she had come in search of Esther Ann Robinson, *alias* Barker, and Kay said that he had merely accompanied Moores. In about half an hour Mrs. Robinson came in. Sutcliffe sent the three to the police station, and shortly afterwards Daly came in. He was taken into custody, and £13 or £14 were found in his possession. Daly said that the money had been given to him by his uncle. He had been a porter, earning 18s. a week, in the employ of Mr. E. Urquhart, Marsden-street, but had not returned to his work after Saturday, the 4th, and the beard which Daly had worn up to that Saturday had been shaven off. He should bring evidence that Daly was seen in company with Hartley and others on Monday, the 6th inst. He should also produce a witness, named Margaret Sutherland, who would say that Lucy Moores and Esther Ann Robinson brought to her house on the Monday morning a bag containing tools.—Mr. Jones said he should object to her evidence in the absence of the woman Robinson, so far as it would implicate her.—Mr. Fowler said that Robinson must be in court before the evidence could be received.—Mr. Edwards continued to say that the bag was afterwards removed to the Blue Bell, in Mill-street, and after the women had come out, Daly and another man joined them. He (Mr. Edwards) should show that on the afternoon of the 5th instant a gentleman saw four men in Corporation-street, near Mr. Monie's, two of whom he believed to be Daly and Kay. He should call other important witnesses, one of whom would be Lucy Moores.—The following witnesses were called :—

Henry Mitchell, assistant to Mr. Monie, hairdresser, Corporation-street, said on the evening of Saturday, the 4th inst., he left Mr. Monie's shop, which was partly over that of Mr. Howard, safe. He returned shortly before half-past eight o'clock on the Monday morning following. The shutters of Mr. Monie's door in Corporation-street were displaced, the padlock being off the door, and the crossbar lying on the footpath. On going upstairs, he found that the door of the room over Mr. Howard's shop had been broken open, and he saw that some of the flooring had been torn up and a sunlight in

Mr. Howard's shop lowered, there thus being a hole sufficiently large to admit a man. Witness missed from Mr. Monie's shop a number of gowns and towels, a pair of dark whiskers and a dark moustache. The gowns and towels had been employed as a rope, and were suspended from a beam in the room to Mr. Howard's shop below.—Edward Leadbeater, a man in the service of Mr. Howard, said that he closed his employer's shop about five o'clock on the afternoon of Saturday, the 4th inst. He then sent the shop boy with the keys to Mr. Howard's house. Before locking up he placed five gold watches in the safe, together with three other watches, several rings, and the keys of various jewellery cases. He then put the key of the safe in its usual place. Witness came to his work soon after eight o'clock on the Monday morning. He found that the shop had been cleared of all the jewellery. The safe had been forced open, and from the ceiling were hanging towels, &c., as described by the last witness. He found on the floor a gold pencil case, a locket, and a topaz stone. There had been stolen a number of watches, bracelets, rings, brooches, pins, lockets, guards, &c., many of the articles having parchment labels attached to them, the whole amounting in value to above £3000. Witness remembered a police officer coming to the shop, with some housebreaking implements, on the morning of the discovery, and comparing the marks on the safe with the ends of the implements.—Thomas Hammersley, assistant to Mr. Monie, hairdresser, said that he closed his employer's shop about eight o'clock on the evening of the 4th inst.—Mark Harrison, police constable, stated that he was sent to Mr. Howard's shop soon after eight o'clock on the Monday morning, and found the place as described by Leadbeater. He picked up from the floor a gold pencil case.—Aaron Hodgson, police sergeant, said that he examined the shop also. He found a piece of iron on the floor, also a steel pin, apparently the end of a drill, and a lantern under the counter. A jemmy was afterwards handed to him by the chief constable. Witness took off the inner plate of the safe, and a piece of steel, now produced, fell from the lock. He afterwards found a drill end inside the plate. A cash drawer in the safe was locked, but attempts had apparently been made to force it, and the jemmy corresponded with the marks on the face of the drawer. There had been several holes drilled in the safe door, which had been prized at the bottom. Witness was with police-constable Sutcliffe at Mr. Howard's shop on Saturday, the 11th inst., and saw him fit some drills to the marks on the safe door. The marks were then in the same state as when witness was at the shop on the Monday.

Lucy Moores, wife of John Moores, labourer, Scholes-street, said that on Monday, the 6th inst., about a quarter past six in the morning, a man named Barker came to their house, and called her husband down stairs. Hartley, Daly, and two strange men were called into the house by Barker, after he had lighted a candle. One of the men had a bundle in a towel. One of them took out of his pockets a gold article, something like a candlestick. They untied the bundle, spread out on the table a pocket-handkerchief, and all the five sat round the table. She thought from the sound she heard that the bundle contained jewellery. She could not see what the bundle had in it, she being in bed a few feet from the table, which stood higher than the bed. They tied up the bundle, after examining it and counting the various articles. She heard them counting chains. She heard Hartley say there were so many Albert chains. She had forgotten what number he stated. Hartley picked up a watch, which he said was worth £16. They left the house about half-past six or twenty minutes to seven o'clock. Before they left Barker took some paper from the things on the table, and threw it into the fire. Two canvass bags which they brought with them were left at the house. They contained tools, and Barker, who remained with Daly a short time after the others left, asked witness to leave them with Mrs. Sutherland, in Sheffield-street, for him. Witness and her sister (the woman Robinson, who has been confined, and who is said to be the wife of the man Barker), whom Barker sent to help witness, carried the bags to Mrs. Sutherland's about half-past eight o'clock that morning. They left for a time and afterwards returned to Sutherland's. They got the bags, and the brace and drill now produced, and took them to the Blue Bell public-house in Mill-street. They sent a boy for the prisoner Elizabeth Moores, and on her coming they delivered the bags, brace, and drill to her. An hour afterwards they saw Barker and Daly. Witness told Barker that she had removed the tools as he had directed her. Barker said he would go and take them away, and he went away with Daly. When the men came to witness's house Barker, Hartley, and one of the strange men took off their whiskers, which were false, and put them in the fire. Daly had a beard, and he continued wearing it. The whiskers Barker wore were black. She had seen him with whiskers of his own, and they were of a sandy colour. She never knew Hartley to have whiskers.—Mr. Jones and Mr. Torr said that they should decline to cross-examine the witness unless they could do it at a future stage of the case. They thought the witness should be kept in custody for the present, as it would be unsafe for the interests of justice that she should be at large.—Mr. Fowler said he had no power to keep her in custody.—Mr. Torr said that requiring her to find heavy bail for her appearance to give evidence might effect such an object.—Mr. Fowler said that the ordinary course must be adopted. If Mr. Jones and Mr. Torr desired to cross-examine the witness on any special point he would allow her to be re-called at a later period. John Moores, husband of the last witness, corroborated his wife's statement in many particulars. He identified the bags produced as those which the men brought to his house. There were rings, pins, lockets, and a watch or two, very much like gold, among the articles brought by the men. He could not distinctly hear

what the men were talking about. Barker said that they were going to take the things away with them, and they did so. Witness's wife's sister came into the house while the men were there, and she got into bed with his wife.

Mr. Stanley Thompson, buyer for Messrs. Thomas Carr & Co., said that about half-past three o'clock on the afternoon of Sunday the 5th instant, he was near the corner of Corporation-street and Market-street, when he saw four or five men standing close to Mr. Monie's door. Witness was about fifteen yards from the men, and as he was looking at them they all turned round and looked at him. Witness then got on the Broughton omnibus, and the men continued to have their eyes fixed on him till the omnibus passed. One of them was Daly, who then had a beard. Witness could not speak positively as to Kay, but thought that he was one of the men. He would rather say nothing about him.—Cross-examined by Mr. Jones: Witness could not tell whether Daly or any of the others was smoking. Daly wore the hat now produced. He paid more attention to a man among them who was not in custody.—Margaret Sutherland, wife of George Sutherland, a joiner, living in an entry in Sheffield-Street, said that on Monday, the 6th instant, Lucy Moores and Esther Ann Robinson came to her house. Lucy brought a parcel in white cloth, at one end of which witness saw a key. Robinson had the drill now produced. They carried a bag made of dirty canvas. Robinson had also a brace. They placed the several things in the coal-hole, and left the house. Lucy afterwards came back, and witness fastened the door at her request. Robinson came back some time afterwards, and took away the things they had brought. Witness helped to carry them to the Blue Bell, to which house Elizabeth Moores came and received all the things from Lucy Moores. Elizabeth Moores and Lucy Moores then went away, leaving witness and Robinson standing on the canal bridge. Witness saw a man named Barker and the prisoner Daly. Robinson told Barker (her husband) that a policeman had been to the house. Barker asked if they had got the things from Lucy's and Robinson said they had taken them to witness's house. Witness and Lucy Moores told Barker that Lucy Moores and witness had taken the things to Betty's (the prisoner Elizabeth Moores). Daly asked Barker if there was any fear of the police going to his (Daly) house, and Barker told Robinson that she had better go and sit with Daly's wife; Barker said that the things which were at Daly's had better be removed; that Daly had better take them to his wife's mother's. Witness was at Robinson's house on the Sunday evening about seven o'clock, and there were Daly and a tall man in the house. They were about to leave it.—Cross-examined by Mr. Jones: Witness knew from the tools being left with her, and from their being carried about, that something was wrong.—Re-examined: When witness heard Barker and Daly talking and say "Shift the stuff," she thought there had been a robbery.—It was now proposed to adjourn, and Mr. Bennett said that as there was no more evidence to be tendered against Kay, he thought he was entitled to his discharge.—Mr. Edwards said he could not carry the case against Kay any further, and that the evidence already given was insufficient.—Kay was then discharged, and the other prisoners were remanded for a week.

THE LATE JEWEL ROBBERY IN MARKET-STREET.

On Wednesday, at the Manchester city sessions, before the recorder, R. B. Armstrong, Esq., Q.C., Dominic Daley, warehouseman, 35, John Hartley, smith, 26, and Jonn Barker, bootcloser, 24, were indicted for breaking and entering, on the 6th of February, the shop of James Howard, and stealing jewellery value £3,000. Elizabeth Moores, factory operative, 58, was also charged with being an accessory after the fact.—Mr. Leresche (with whom was Mr. Edwards) appeared for the prosecution; Mr. Torr, Mr. Ernest Jones, and Mr. Hopwood were for the prisoners.—Mr. Leresche, in opening the case, briefly described the premises in which the robbery was committed, and then proceeded to connect the prisoners with the robbery. The robbery was committed some time between the afternoon of Saturday the 4th and the morning of Monday the 6th of February, the premises having been left quite safe on the Saturday afternoon. About eight o'clock on Monday morning one of Mr. Howard's men, Edward Leadbeater, opened the shop and found that an iron safe in which on Saturday afternoon a large quantity of watches and jewellery was deposited had been forcibly opened, and that all the jewellery had been stolen, with the exception of one or two articles which were found on the floor. On examining the premises he observed a sort of rope made by twisting some towels, shaving gowns and other articles of that kind hanging from the sunlight in the ceiling. The upper floor communicated with the room occupied by Mr. Monie, hairdresser, Corporation-street, and it was ascertained, on examination, that the sunlight had been taken down and a large aperture left in the ceiling. The sunlight was found on the floor of Mr. Howard's shop. Immediately afterwards a man in the employ of Mr. Monie arrived, and found some of the shop shutters, and the iron bar by which the shutters were held together, lying on the floor. On going inside he found that in the room over Mr. Howard's shop the carpet had been removed, the boards of the floor taken up, and the sunlight broken through. A police officer immediately arrived, and on examining Mr. Howard's shop, he found on the floor opposite the safe a piece of iron and a piece of steel. On the counter was a lantern and a "jemmy," one end of which was broken. While

removing the inner iron plate from the door of the safe a piece of steel fell from the lock. Inside the plates of the safe door was also found another piece of steel, which had formed the end of a drill, and several marks of a drill were found upon the door. The prisoner Daley up to Saturday the 4th of February, the day on which it is supposed the robbery was committed, was employed as a porter in a warehouse. At that time he had a beard on his chin. He left his employers on the 4th of February, without giving notice of his intention not to return, and he did not resume his employment. The prisoner Hartley kept a beerhouse in a small street off Long Millgate, and Barker was a person about whom there was no information as to how he got his livelihood, but he would be shown to have been living in Manchester at the time of the robbery, and that he was associated with the prisoners Hartley and Daley. On Sunday, the 5th of February, Daley and Barker were together. About two o'clock on that day Daley went to Barker's house, and shortly afterwards they went out for a walk. About half-past three o'clock Daley and Hartley, with three other men, were seen near to Mr. Howard's shop—in fact standing close to the shutters, and near the entrance to Mr. Monie's premises. Daley and Barker returned during the afternoon to Barker's house, but about seven o'clock in the evening they again left. Nothing is known of them from that time until six o'clock on the following morning, when five men went to the house of a person named Moores, the husband of the female prisoner, in Scholes-street, London-road. Moores was upstairs in bed, but his wife was sleeping in the room downstairs with her sister. Two of the men were unknown to Moores or his wife, but there could be no doubt that the other three men were Daley, Barker, and Hartley. On entering the house Barker lit a candle, and one of the men produced a handkerchief containing what would be clearly shown to be watches, albert guards, and other articles of jewellery corresponding exactly with the property which had been stolen from Mr. Howard's shop. One of the articles resembled a candlestick, and it would be proved that this was a pastile burner. One of the men said, "How many chains are there?" A watch was also produced, and Hartley said, "I should think this will be worth £16. The men then burned several pieces of paper, in which the jewellery was wrapped, and they also burned a pair of false whiskers and a false moustache. They then all went away, taking the handkerchief and its contents with them. They left behind them two bags, and as they were going out, Ba ker asked one of the women to take them to a Mrs. Sutherland's as soon as she got up. The bags were accordingly taken to Mrs. Sutherland's house, in a court in Sheffield-street, and subsequently to a public house, called the Blue Bell. Subsequently the bags were taken to the house of the prisoner Elizabeth Moores, and concealed by her amongst some coals under the stairs. Shortly afterwards the prisoner Moores and the woman Sutherland went into Beswick-street, and there met Barker and Daley on the bridge. Moores said that the police had been looking about the house, on which Barker said, "Then the stuff must be shifted." Accordingly a woman named Esther Ann Robinson, who lived with the prisoner Barker, and Daley's wife carried a basket to the house occupied by Daley's wife's mother, and it would be clearly proved that this basket contained a large quantity of jewellery. From this house the basket was afterwards taken to Daley's house, where Daley received it, and took it away. From this place nothing more is seen of the basket and its contents. From that time it will be found that Daley and Barker were constantly together; and that Daley, instead of wearing his beard, as he had done up to the time of the robbery, had no hair whatever on his face. A few days afterwards Barker disappeared from Manchester. On Friday the 10th of February, the police proceeded to the house of Betty Moores, the female prisoner, who told them that some things had been brought to her house by Barker and Esther Ann Robinson, and produced from a cupboard the two bags, which were found to contain a large quantity of housebreaking implements, including 88 skeleton keys. The prisoners Hartley, Daley, and Moores were apprehended. On Daley was found £12 10s. 7d., and on being asked to account for the possession of so much money he said that he had received it from his uncle that morning for the purpose of paying a bill, but that, having been on the "spree," he had not paid it. There were also found upon him a watch and guard. Amongst the tools found in the bags given up by the female prisoner was a steel drill, one end of which was broken off, and it was ascertained that the piece of steel which dropped from the lock of Mr. Howard's safe exactly corresponded with the piece missing from the end of the drill.—Witnesses were called to prove the above facts, and the court adjourned at half-past six o'clock, until the following morning.

The trial of the prisoners was resumed on Thursday morning at the city sessions, before the Recorder (R. B. Armstrong, Esq., Q.C.) The case for the prosecution having closed, Mr. Ernest Jones addressed the jury on behalf of Daley, dwelling principally on the suspicion which was attached to the evidence of the three witnesses—Esther Ann Robinson, Lucy Moores, and John Moores—who had been admitted as approvers. Mr. Torr, before addressing the jury on behalf of Hartley, expressed his regret that this would be the last time he should have the honour to address the learned recorder, who for 26 years had presided at the quarter sessions. He could not doubt that the recorder would tell the jury, as he had done frequently before, that there must be a complete corroboration as to the person of Hartley; and he (Mr. Torr had no hesitation in saying there was none whatever. Mr. Hopwood having addressed the jury in behalf of Barker, the learned Recorder then read over the evidence to the jury, and told them that with respect to Hartley there

was no confirmation of the evidence that had been given, but there was corroboration as to Daley and Barker. The jury then retired to consider their verdict, and returned into court in about twenty minutes. One of the jury then asked the Recorder if they could be informed of the conversation that passed between the police officer and Daley's uncle as to the money found upon him. The Recorder said that as neither side had asked the question, the jury could not make the enquiry now. The jury then returned a verdict of guilty against Daley and Barker, but acquitted Hartley and the woman Moores.—Barker pleaded guiity to a previous conviction.—The Recorder in passing sentence, said this was a most serious robbery. He quite concurred in the propriety of acquitting Hartley, as there was no confirmation of the evidence which the witnesses had given. He sentenced Daley to be kept in penal servitude for seven years; and Barker, who had been four times previously convicted, to fourteen years penal servitude. The other case against Barker was not proceeded with. The business was concluded on Thursday.—*Manchester Courier*, April 8, 1865.

[24.]—DARING BURGLARY IN CORNHILL.

The shop of Mr. John Walker, chronometer-maker and jeweller, of No. 63, Cornhill, at the corner of Sun Court, was broken into on Saturday night, when articles valued at £6,000 were carried off. The upper portion of the house No. 63, let out as offices, was approached by a side door in Sun Court, which at night was secured on tne outside by strong patent locks, no person being left in charge. The ground floor was converted into two shops, one occupied by Mr. Walker, and the other by Messrs. Mitchell and Harris, tailors, who also occupy the basement under both shops as cutting rooms. The shop of Mr. Walker, when closed, was entered by a door at the back, which was gained by the side entrance in Sun Court to the upstairs offices. The shutters of the shop were of iron, and had some openings in them, through which the police could see the interior, the gas being kept alight day and night when the premises were closed. At the rear, which looked into Sun Court, there were similar apertures in the shutter, while inside the shop there were looking-glasses so fixed as to reflect the iron safe and everything about it, and which could be readily seen by persons looking through the openings in the shutters in Sun Court. The robbery was discovered about eight o'clock yesterday morning. Mr. Walker's assistant, on unlocking the side door in the court, found it only partially locked, but the inside door was secure. On his getting into the safe-room at the back of the shop he saw at once what had happened. The safe-door had been burst open, and all the most valuable portion of Mr. Walker's stock which had been removed from the shop windows and counters on the previous Saturday evening, consisting of gold watches, chronometers, diamond rings, pins, studs, bracelets, earrings, and other kinds of jewellery, and the cash-box, containing a quantity of gold and some valuable securities, was gone. As soon as the robbery was made known to the police, Mr. Hamilton, the superintendent of the city detective force, and several experienced officers made a minute examination of the place with a view of ascertaining how the burglary had been committed. It appeared that the thieves in the course of Saturday afternoon must have secreted themselves in some of the offices in the upper part of the building, and have been locked in the house when the housekeeper left at six o'clock. The burglars commenced their operations in the offices of Sir C. Crosley, the ex-sheriff, on the first floor, by cutting a hole by means of a centrebit through the flooring, into the shop underneath that of Messrs. Mitchell, the tailors. With the aid of a kind of rope-ladder, which they made fast to a pair of tongs placed across the hole, the thieves lowered themselves into the tailor's shop. It would appear that their reason for not cutting a hole at once into Mr. Walker's shop was to avoid the noise and damage which would have ensued by the mortar and plaster of the ceiling falling on and shattering the glass frames on the counters and the glass shades over the clocks, and which would have instantly attracted the attention of the passers-by, who, by looking through the aperture, could have noticed what was going on. The burglars having safely got into Mr. Mitchell's shop, attempted to cut through the partition at the back so as to gain the safe-room attached to Mr. Walker's place, but after removing some of the panels they met with an iron lining which successfully resisted their efforts. They then descended into the tailors' cutting-room, which extended under the shop of Mr. Walker, in addition to that of Messrs. Mitchell, and by means of a chair placed on one of the cutting boards, they succeeded in cutting their way through the ceiling and flooring above into Mr. Walker's safe-room. It is tolerably clear that the possession of the valuable contents of the iron safe was their chief object, as none of the other stock of jewellery and watches in the frames on the counters and shop-windows had been disturbed. The safe is one of Milner's patent, about 4ft. or 5ft. in height, 3ft. in breadth, and some 2½ft. in depth, and stood in a corner of the room. It bears ample proof of having been operated upon with great violence for the purpose of bursting it open, a task which required probably the united strength of three or four men. Small steel wedges had evidently been introduced in the opening of the door, and by the aid of crowbars

and a powerful leverage, the door had been burst open, tearing away the bolts and inner casing. The burglars must have returned to the offices of Sir C. Crosley by hauling themselves up with the plunder through the hole in the flooring, and afterwards reached the street by breaking open the side-door, which was secured by patent locks on the outside, and got clear off with the booty unobserved. It should be stated that while in the offices of Sir C. Crosley they contrived to open an iron safe, and possessed themselves of the contents of the cash-box, money and documents. They left behind them a rope ladder, and a very formidable life preserver, showing that they were prepared to offer a most deadly resistance in the event of their being detected.—*Times*, February 7th, 1865.

This burglary has been so fully commented upon by the London Press, as to leave the writer very little to say in addition to his remarks on the evidence of Caseley, and that of the professional engineers, at the late trial WALKER *v.* MILNER, in another part of this pamphlet. It is, however, noteworthy that this

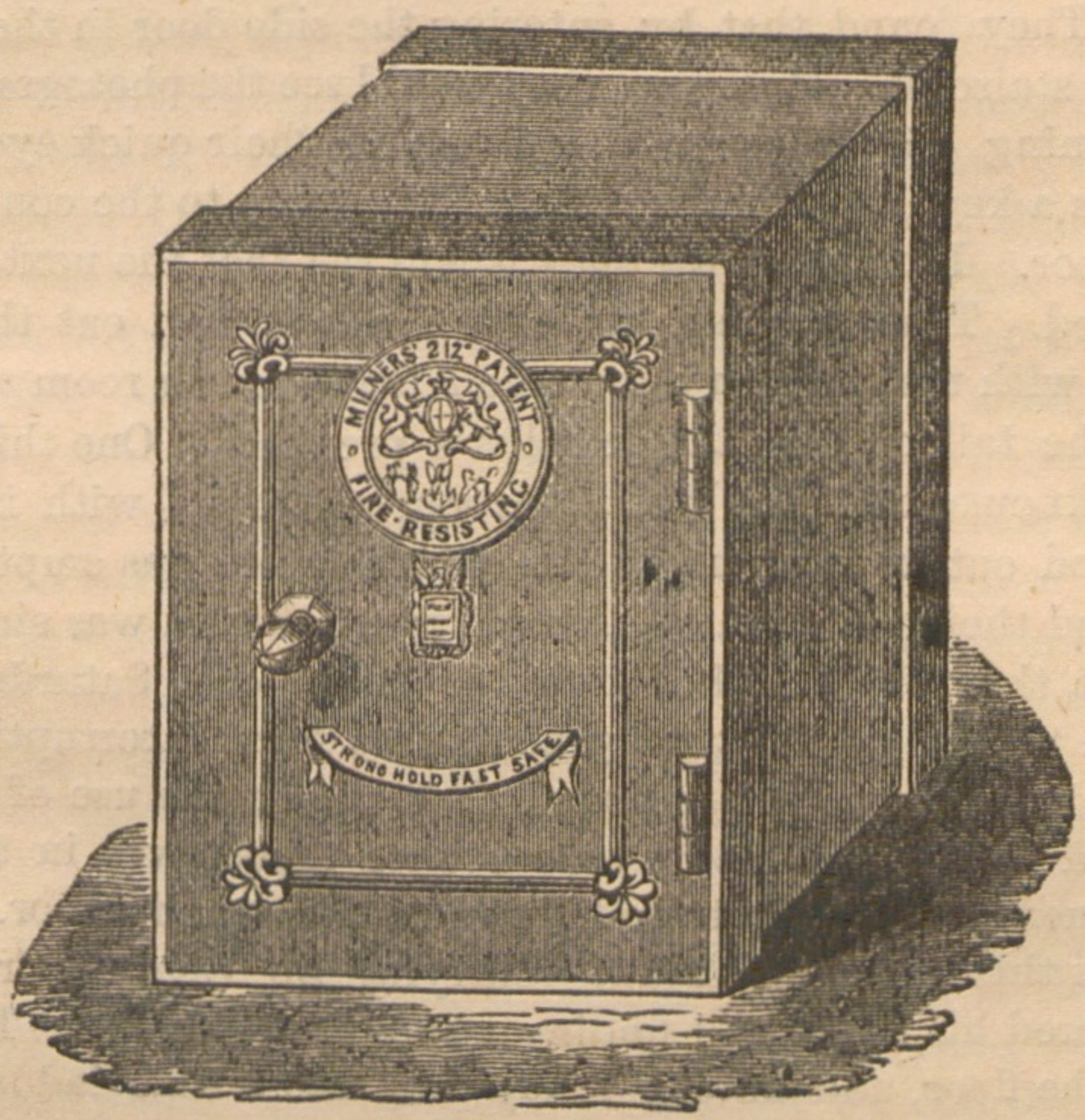


Fig. 15. Milners' "List 3" Safe, described in their price-lists as "Milners' Quadruple Patent (Sealed 1840, 1851, 1854, 1855, and 1859) Violence, Robbery, and Fraud-resisting Safes and Closets, strongly recommended for Cash and Valuables. Doors half-inch, Bodies quarter-inch thick, wrought-iron, very strongly constructed, lined throughout with Milners' unequalled double Fire-resisting Chambers."

robbery, like so many others recorded in these pages, was effected by the burglars secreting themselves on the premises before the outer door was locked for the night, and that the safe so successfully operated upon, and so quickly opened, was one of Milners' "List 3" quality, as shown in fig. 15.

BURGLARS AND SAFES.

Whose safe is safe? The details of recent robberies in the cities of London and Manchester show that a corps of scientific burglars is in our midst. No strong box, it seems, can resist the modern free companions, whose weapons are

the centre-bit, the noiseless saw, the steel wedge, and the steel lever. Well may the rich merchants meet to consider the best means of defending their property. Now that the enemy applies the principles of war to the acquisition of gold and jewels it is time to devise defensive plans even more scientific than those already adopted. The superb operations in Cornhill are nearly perfect as specimens of a successful attack. The strong box to be stormed and sacked was built into a room in a house which stands in a thronged street. The room was iron-clad, or rather iron-lined. Within it, and within the next room opening into it, gas burned from Saturday at eve until Monday morning. Apertures in the shutters, back and front, permitted any one who pleased to peep in, and mirrors were so placed that the strong box reflected in them was visible to the observer. But by some odd fatality the view was partly obstructed by a low partition. The first question was how to get into the room. We can imagine that the reconnoitring parties of our free lances made an ample observation of the premises. They found that by entering the side door in the court they got the range of the staircase. Going up, they would see the photographer's premises at the top. Coming down, it would not escape their quick eyes that on a gas meter there was a key, and they would readily jump to the conclusion that the key opened a door. Further down they would see that the next floor was more carefully guarded. Then it would not be difficult to find out that the tailor's shop, on a level with the jeweller's shop, had beneath it a room which extended beneath both the tailor's and the jeweller's premises. One thing they do not appear to have known, that Mr. Walker's room was lined with iron. They also must have found out that at night the whole house was empty. Upon these grounds they laid their plan, which, like all great things, was simple. The first thing was to get themselves locked into the house on a Saturday night, which gave them more than four–and-twenty hours free from interruption. How they did this is not known, but it is assumed that they made use of the key so conveniently placed on the gas-meter to ensconce themselves in the third story. Being in, the next thing was to get down to the ground-floor. As they were expert engineers this was not difficult. Carrying Sir Charles Crosley's lock by storm, they entered his room, and finding a safe they rifled it. Then they deftly broke through the floor, and having ready prepared a rope ladder, they secured it by the use of a pair of tongs, and descended into the tailor's shop. Once, here, there was only a partition between them and the strong box. A direct attack on the partition was made. It was found to be iron. But men so skilled were not to be baulked by such a trifle. They determined to turn the iron wall. This they did by descending into the basement, and working upwards by cutting a hole through the floor. This successful application of a sound principle brought them within reach of their prize. But how they got at it, what devices they used to avoid that detection, supposed to be ensured by mirrors, apertures in the shutters, we know not. Perhaps their tactics, if known, would not be unworthy of study at the Staff College. Think of the vigilance, the steadiness, the ingenuity that must have been displayed. How ceaselessly they must have watched the apertures for the policeman who never came; how coolly they must have listened for the sound of coming feet; what a lesson in outpost duty is here! By strength and skill they broke into the strong box—into the safe—and packed and carried off their booty. They retreated by the line of their advance, leaving only a tool or two and their scaling ladder behind them. It must be admitted this was comparatively easy. But it could only have been by a combination of skill and watchfulness—they were throughout more watchful than the watch—that they got out of the house and into the broad thoroughfare of Corn-

hill, without being seen by the police. How are these operations of an organised band of plunderers to be met and frustrated? The only remedy lies in greater watchfulness. It is fairly assumed that, given sufficient time, the strongest safe may be entered. Safes may be made stronger; floors, as well as walls, may be plated with iron; but if time will place safes at the mercy of the thieves, the burglary at Manchester shows that plates are no real protection, for there a plate in the floor was removed. If you cannot trust to human supervision, depend upon it you cannot trust to iron, gas, and mirrors, especially in houses where the key of a room is left on a ledge in a staircase common to everybody. The remedy must be found in the 'master's eye,' and only in a limited degree in the eyes of the servants. If the remedy of human supervision cannot be applied to the protection of property, then the thieves, acting on sound military principles, will overcome all inanimate obstacles, and every now and then surprise us by a fine display of skill and audacity.

Mr. R. F. Fairlie, C.E., who has examined the safe which was broken open by burglars at Mr. Walker's shop, explains, in a letter to the *Times*, how thieves succeed in overcoming apparently insuperable obstacles. He says:—"The parties are provided with several flat-pointed chisels (each lightly chequered or roughed on the flat side, to prevent their springing back while being hammered or forced in) about $\frac{3}{4}$-in. broad; the first used tapering on the flat from the thickness of a sheet of paper to one-eighth of an inch, in a length of from one-half to three quarters of an inch. The thin edge of this chisel is then inserted between the edge of the door and the side of the safe, in a line with the keyhole, and hammered in till it has bulged out the side to the width of the thickest part of the chisel. The side of the safe being now forced outward one-eighth of an inch, another chisel is inserted tapering to a quarter of an inch; then another, until a sufficient opening is made for the point of a crowbar or lever, formed of cast steel, and immediately the crowbar gets a bite the door of the safe must give way. The power of the lever in this case is enormous, on account of the fulcrum being perfectly solid, and not over $\frac{1}{4}$in. to $\frac{1}{2}$in. from the end. If we suppose the lever to be 3ft. long, $\frac{3}{8}$in. fulcrum, 1lb. weight on the end of the lever would be equal to 108lbs. on the point; and, assuming that a man can push his own weight, —taking this at 168lbs—we have a force exerted on the door of the safe of 18,744lbs. or about $8\frac{1}{2}$ tons, sufficient to wrench open the door of any safe I have ever seen. Safes, excepting size, appear to be all made to one pattern; the sides, especially that into which the bolts are shut from the top to the bottom, have no lateral stiffness; hence the facility with which they can be broken open. I am convinced that it took no more than ten minutes to see the inside of the safe in Mr. Walker's shop. To prevent this being done, it only requires that a good stiff angle-iron ring, with the flat side outward—say 4in. by $\frac{5}{8}$in.*—should be fitted round the outer edge of the safe, and strongly rivetted to it. By this means a lateral stiffness would be given to the safe that would make it utterly impossible to break it open in the manner described.—*The Globe*, February 9th, 1865.

Since the forgeries systematically organized by "JEM THE PENMAN" and his accomplices no crimes have caused a greater sensation than the late burglaries in the Metropolis. They followed each other in such rapid succession, partook so largely of the same character, and were committed with such uniform success,

---

* The application of strong angle-iron bars *outside* the front of the safe was patented by George Price and William Dawes, March 3rd, 1863, No. 594. See the engraving at the end of this pamphlet of our "Royal Climax Safe." The rigidity at the sides of the safe obtained by this construction is immense. See also the description and engraving of "The British Safe."

that it was impossible not to connect them with the existence of an expert, active, and daring gang of thieves established in the midst of us. Nothing is so alarming as this idea of an ever present and yet unknown and inaccessible enemy. It was this which so frightened the public in the case of the MARR and WILLIAMSON murders, more than fifty years ago, when each successive butchery betrayed the same hand. Murders had often been as frequent, but never so much like each other. In the same way these extraordinary robberies indicated so much system, concert, audacity, and skill, that it seemed as if a fresh item in the catalogue might be expected any Saturday night. They were all robberies of bullion, jewellery, or watches. They all gave evidence of deep design and bold execution. In each case the amount of spoil was unusually large. Mr. JOHNSON, the jeweller in Threadneedle street, lost £4,000 worth of property; Messrs, BAUM the bullion dealers in Lombard-street, nearly £10,000 worth. At Mr. ABRAHAM'S, in the Strand, the plunder was valued at above £1,000, at Mr. WALKER'S in Cornhill, at £6,000. In every instance the robbery was effected in spite of what was considered sufficient precautions, and the thieves eluded the vigilance of the police and broke into the strongest safes with complete success. At last, however, if present suspicions should be verified, the gang has been tracked. The discoveries made by the police on Friday afternoon warrant a strong belief that the prisoners now under examination were concerned in two, if not three, of the recent burglaries; and the public will follow with no common interest the development of so remarkable a story.

Great credit is given to the police for their successful exertions, and not without reason. They have evidently been at work for the last three weeks to redeem a reputation which had been somewhat rudely assailed, and it speaks well for their professional science that we should have heard nothing of their operations till the end had been accomplished. Not a syllable transpired of their proceedings or their expectations till the house in which the prisoners lodged was suddenly surrounded, its contents seized and its inmates captured. Whether the charges can actually be brought home to the accused remains to be seen, but at any rate a large proportion of the stolen property has been recovered. Thieves now-a-days are prudent as well as dexterous. They require as good investments for their money as are sought for more honest gains. A year or two ago there was a felon with £4,000 in Consols. In the present case the robbers, whoever they were, had selected the London and Westminster Bank as an eligible place of deposit for the realized portion of their spoil. Besides the jewellery found on the premises and identified by its lawful owners, two "deposit notes" were discovered, one for £250, and one for £150. The thieves of JACK SHEPPARD'S time never reached this mark. With them it was ill-gotten, ill-spent; but now your burglar works on a far grander scale, with more scientific appliances, and a more frugal mind to boot. No sooner had the police effected the first capture than they proceeded with equal success to a second. Two houses had apparently been used as receptacles for plunder, and both have been searched to good purpose. The suspicion is that the "investments" represent the produce of some earlier burglary, and that the spoil obtained from Mr. WALKER'S safe had yet to be converted and put out to interest. On Monday a very extraordinary fact transpired. The police had not only arrested, as they believed the perpetrators of the robberies and recovered much of the plunder, but they had obtained information which induced them to search the bottom of the Thames for the remainder. So an expert diver was sent down near Blackfriars-bridge, and five gold watches have actually been fished up already. Alarm must have succeeded to confidence pretty abruptly when people who could plan and execute such

robberies as these no longer dare to retain even a few gold watches in their possession.

Meantime, while the inquiry is proceeding and the charges against the prisoners are tested by evidence, it will be of some advantage to consider the circumstances by which these great burglaries have been characterized, and the lessons which they ought to teach us. It is now known that the most experienced and responsible of the police authorities do not approve or sanction the practice of trusting to gaslight and publicity for the security of valuable property left without a guard. The system may not be without its recommendations; in fact, we are told that it is adopted to the exclusion of all other precautions in Wall-street, the Lombard-street of New York. But it implies what is apparently an excessive reliance on the resisting power of safes, and, besides that, the publicity in this metropolis was never carried quite far enough. In Wall-street, as we understand, the shops of the bullion dealers and money-changers have no shutters at all, so that their whole fronts of plate glass are blazing with gas all through the night. Now, in London our jewellers, on leaving their shops and safes to the custody of the street patrol, only cut peep-holes in the shutters, through which the policeman or the passer-by has to get his glimpse of the interior. In the case of the Cornhill robbery the security thus provided had been accidentally diminished by another circumstance. In the back shop, which contained the safe, a partition had been raised which to a considerable extent intercepted the view of the safe from the peep-hole, and it was under cover of this partition that the thieves first ascended into the shop through a hole in the floor, and then operated upon the door of the safe. But the chief of police distinctly stated his opinion that the whole system was unsound. He said that the main duty of the police consisted in the protection of houses from the outside. Their beat was in the street. They were bound to see that no house was *broken into*, but they could not guard equally against operations conducted by thieves left snugly locked up in houses by their own occupiers, and indulged with six-and-thirty hours of license. That was the explanation of the Cornhill robbery. The thieves gained their first great point in being left alone in the house on Saturday night, with which, of course, the police had nothing whatever to do, and then they obtained so much protection from the partition recently erected in the back shop, that they eluded the detection of the police from the outside.

Another feature of these robberies deserving special attention is the unexpected insecurity of the best iron safes. It should be remarked, too, that in no instance have the locks been picked or otherwise opened. The safes were forced open by sheer violence, and, as is supposed, by a steel crowbar acting at a powerful leverage. In Lombard-street the door of the safe had been lifted clean off its hinges, but though the wards of the lock were shattered to pieces, there were no marks of force either upon the door itself or upon the crowbars which had been left in the room. In the Cornhill burglary, again, the door of Mr. WALKER'S safe was left apparently so intact that when the shopman came in the morning he could not at first sight detect that it had been forced open. Now, what do our leading locksmiths [and safe-makers] say to all this?* We were not prepared for so complete a failure of their art when matched against that of the burglar. No doubt, in the examples before us the robbers were first-rate hands, but then

---

* We have taken the liberty of adding "and safe makers," as "locksmiths" alone is clearly a mistake. Safe-making and lock-making are two distinct trades, and the making of a safe to resist violence belongs entirely to the safe-maker. Very few locksmiths are also safe-makers.

they operated against first-rate articles, and it is unpleasant to find them winning so easily. Better, apparently, the old system of a good watchman than that of a faithless strong box and a perforated shutter.—*The Times*, March 1st, 1865.

THE GREAT ROBBERY IN CORNHILL.

The daring burglary on the premises of Mr. Walker, the jeweller, continues to excite intense interest in the city, and has produced a strong feeling of apprehension among merchants, bankers, and tradesmen for the safety of movable property of enormous value which they are accustomed, and, indeed, obliged to leave behind them at night to the guardianship of the police, and in some instances to that of private watchmen. In Cornhill, in particular, where most of the leading gold and silver smiths carry on their business, and in Lombard-street, where the iron safe of a bullion dealer was ransacked under similar circumstances only a few months ago, the event has given rise to great dissatisfaction, and the negligence of the police is strongly censured. To-day, at twelve o'clock, a meeting of the inhabitants of the ward of Cornhill will be held in pursuance of a requisition signed by 30 of the principal firms in that part of the city and presented to Mr. Alderman Carter, the chief authority in the ward. The requisitionists refer to the various robberies of late in the city, and state they deem it desirable that the inhabitants should meet "to take into consideration the insecure state of the property of the bankers, merchants, and shopkeepers, and what measures should be taken in consequence; at the same time to inquire generally into the working of the City Police, and as to their efficiency for the protection of the vast amount of property necessarily intrusted to their care." Mr. Alderman Carter, sharing in the common feeling of insecurity, as a leading citizen of the ward, at once convened the meeting on the receipt of the requisition, and it will be held to-day accordingly. He tried, indeed, to gain a hearing on the matter at the meeting of his brethren of the Court of Aldermen on Tuesday, but in vain. Most people would probably have thought, with him, that a meeting of the magistrates of the city of London furnished a legitimate occasion for his calling attention, as one of themselves, to a matter which was engrossing the attention of the citizens at large, and upon which he might be presumed to have a peculiar right to speak as the Alderman of the populous and wealthy district in which the robbery had occurred. It is understood that he had meant to call their attention to the apparent negligence on the part of the police which these repeated and daring robberies indicated, and to the consequent feeling of insecurity; but he was stopped by an artifice to which some of the older members of the Court of Aldermen resort when they wish to shirk an unwelcome subject, or to deal with it free from the safeguard of public supervision. First of all, at the very mention of the matter, Mr. Alderman Finnis, a leading member, if not the chairman of the Police Committee, moved that strangers withdraw, upon which the court was cleared of the people present, including, of course, the representatives of the press; and that done, on the motion of Mr. Alderman Copeland, the Court was counted out, although they had with the same number of members been discussing for some time before the stale question of brokers' rents. Yesterday one of the firm of Messrs. A. B. Savory & Sons, the silversmiths, of Cornhill, attended at the justice-room of the Mansion-house, before Alderman Sir Robert Carden, who was sitting for the Lord Mayor, and offered to contribute £50 towards a second sum of £1,000, in addition to the £1,000 already offered for the apprehension and conviction of the thieves and the recovery of the stolen property, trusting that other firms would join in the subscription. He was accompanied by Mr. Walker, who stated

that he had been 40 years in business in London, the last nine of them in the city, and that all his arrangements for the safety of his property, especially that of having no one on the premises at night, had been made on the express advice of an inspector of city police.

For years no event of the kind has occasioned more excitement. Throughout yesterday, as on Monday and Tuesday, a crowd of people assembled in Cornhill, near the scene of the robbery, and many of the principal inhabitants called on Mr. Walker to express their sympathy and to see for themselves the way in which it had been effected. Like many of the places of business in the city, that of Mr. Walker, with the whole of the offices above, under the same roof, was left entirely unoccupied at night. At the top of the house, several storeys from the ground, is the workshop of a photographer, which is enclosed from the rest of the premises by a door on his own landing. The floor below that is let out as offices, and the floor below that again, which is the first floor, is in the occupation of Sir Charles Crosley. The whole of the upper part of the house is accessible in day time by an open door and a flight of stairs leading from a passage running from Cornhill to a paved yard called Sun Court, at the back of Mr Walker's premises. The ground floor is divided into two shops, one of which is occupied by Mr. Walker, and the other by Messrs. Mitchell & Harris, tailors, each of which has an entrance from Cornhill, and that of Mr. Walker a side entrance from a passage leading into Sun Court. The whole of the basement between the two shops is used as a cutting room by the firm of tailors, and access to it is had by stairs from their shop above. Mr. Walker's part of the building is divided into a front and back shop, which communicate by a very narrow passage, and both of which are lighted by gas during the whole night and on Sundays. In two places in the front, in Cornhill, there are iron gratings in the shutters, through which a passing policeman, or any other person, can at any hour of the night command a full view of the whole of the interior of the front shop, and the greater part of the back one if the door between the two be left open. From Sun Court, again, at the rear, a view is had of the interior of the back shop by a similar arrangement in the window, but with this addition, that a policeman or any other person looking through one of the two apertures there can see reflected in a mirror nearly the whole front of an iron safe, which is erected in a party wall in a corner of the back room. The view, it is true, is somewhat obstructed by a partition, partly of wood and partly glazed, enclosing a workman's bench placed against the window; but practically a policeman with a strong light inside the shop could see the safe reflected in the mirror. The office on the floor immediately below the photographer's work-shop has two doors communicating with the landing on the stairs, and it was the custom of the occupants of that office on leaving for the day to lock one door on the inside, and then to lock the other on the outside, and to place the key on the bracket of a gas-meter on the landing of the stairs. From morning till night the stairs leading to the whole of the house above the shop was open to any one having business there, and after 4 o'clock in the day a person descending the flight from the photographer's shop might see the key of the offices of the floor below on the bracket of the gas-meter. The offices of Sir Charles Crosley, on the first floor, were locked in the same manner, except that the key was taken away at night. All the occupants of the upper part of the house are accustomed to leave for the day some hours before Mr. Walker and his servants, and it is the practice of Mr. Walker before locking up his shop for the night to send a boy upstairs to see that every one there has left the premises. No one answering, he assumes that they have all gone, and Mr. Walker locks the side-door leading to the court on the inside, and then leaves

with his servants by the front door in Cornhill. It is now beyond all doubt that Mr. Walker, however unknowingly, or the person who was the last to leave his shop, locked the thieves in his premises on Saturday night. They were then probably secreted in the offices immediately below the photographer's shop, the proof of which is that a candlestick which had been taken from those offices was found after the robbery in the floor below in the occupation of Sir Charles Crosley. Being thus masters of the position, they appear first to have entered the office of Sir Charles Crosley—probably by picking the lock—and then to have picked the lock of his iron safe—for there were no marks of violence on it, from which they took a small sum of money, though all that was there. The thieves then in the most workman like manner, cut a hole in his floor, by which they descended into the tailor's shop below, into which no one could see from the outside, as in the case of Mr. Walker's shop, which adjoins it. They must then have tried to cut through a partition dividing the tailor's shop from Mr. Walker's back shop, but, encountering an iron lining, to have desisted and gone down to the basement or cutting room, in the ceiling of which and the floor over it they cut a hole and so entered the back shop, containing the iron safe, and immediately above. The partition enclosing the workmen's bench, round the window of the back room, is partly of wood, about breast high from the floor; and the hole in the floor was cut immediately behind the partition, so that the thieves entering the back shop by that way could conceal themselves behind the woodwork without being seen through the aperture in the window, and afterwards operate on the iron safe at intervals as opportunities presented themselves. How that could have been done with so much effect, and without being seen by the different policemen on duty on that particular beat between the Saturday evening and Monday morning, and each of whom is presumed to go his round once every eleven minutes, is for them to explain. A very strong opinion prevails on the subject in the city. Once in possession of the whole contents of the safe the thieves must have returned by the way they came to Sir Charles Crosley's office, using for the purpose a rope-ladder, which they eventually left behind them, with a gimblet, a finely tempered steel wedge, used in prising open the safe, and a most formidable life preserver. They must then have made their exit by the side door, taking off first a lock on the inside for that purpose, and then closing the door behind them on a latch. The key of the offices on the second floor, which is left on the gas-meter on the landing, was found on Monday morning in the lock, and on the inside of the door, the door itself standing open, showing that the thieves must have secreted themselves on the premises before they had been closed for the night.

In the meantime, Colonel Fraser, the City Commissioner of Police, has instituted a rigid inquiry into the whole of the attendant circumstances. He denies that there has been any change of the old constables in that part of the city, such as has been imputed to him, except, perhaps the incidental one of a man leaving the force and another being appointed in his stead. For some time past repeated complaints have been made to his predecessor and himself by the constables on that particular beat of negligence on the part of Mr. Walker, or his servants, in the insecure manner in which their premises were left at nights. Eight of those complaints have been made in writing to the chief office between July, 1858, and January, 1864. The constables on duty at nights have repeatedly had to use a pair of handcuffs in the place of a padlock which had been left off the shutters at nights; once they had to enter an open window in the course of the night, and search the place for thieves, no one being resident in the house. These complaints, made in writing at the time, and now produced, are somewhat

remarkable. In July, 1856, Police-constable Bull reported that he had "at 9.15 in the evening found the padlock unfastened on the shop shutters of Mr. Walker, jeweller, in Cornhill; no one residing on the premises; they were left in charge of the night constable at 10 p.m." In February, 1859, the same officer reported that "at 7.30 p.m. he found the shutters open, and a window insecure on the first floor, at the rear of the premises of Mr. Walker. No one residing in the house. Sergeant Wreford secured it by nailing the shutters, and informing the night constable at 10 p.m." On the 21st of October, 1859, Police-constable Stobart reported that "at 10 p.m. he found unfastened the office window in Sun-court, belonging to Mr. Walker, and no person residing there; the house was left in the care of the night constable when he came on duty until 6 a.m." On the 21st of August, 1861, Police-constable Grace reported that "at 10 p.m. he found a padlock unfastened on the shop shutters of Mr. Walker; that Sergeant Carter secured them with a pair of handcuffs, and left the padlock at the station, because nobody resided in the house." On the 3rd of December, 1861, Police-constable Whale reported that "at 8.15 he found the padlock left off the shutter-bar of the shop of Mr. Walker, where it was usually put as an additional security, and no person residing on the premises; the bar was secured by a pair of handcuffs, and the key left at the station all night." On the 11th of March, 1862, Police-constable Botting reported that "at 10.15 p.m. he found the staircase window in Sun-court open at the rear of the house occupied by Mr. Walker; no person residing there; Sergeant Westwood and Police-constable Adams examined the premises, and found all apparently correct. The night constable remained watching the premises until relieved by the day constable at 6 a.m., who remained until the arrival of the foreman at 8.30 a.m., who found all correct." On the 10th of January, 1863, Police-constable Hallett reported that "at 10 p.m. he found the side door leading into Mr. Walker's premises from Sun-court, and to all the offices above, open; no person residing there; a constable was left in charge during the whole night." On the 21st of January, 1864, Police-constable Bethel reported that "at 7.50 p.m. he found unfastened the padlock on the shutters of the shop of Mr. Walker, and no person residing on the premises; a pair of handcuffs was placed on the shutters, and the padlock taken to the station."

Up to last evening none of the thieves had been apprehended.—*The Times*, February 9th, 1865.

THE GREAT ROBBERY IN CORNHILL.

Yesterday a committee of the whole Court of Aldermen, which had been specially convened by the Lord Mayor, was engaged for upwards of two hours at Guildhall inquiring into the circumstances connected with the recent burglary in Cornhill. The meeting was private, as meetings of committees of the Corporation always are, but after they had separated the result of the proceedings became pretty generally known. The Lord Mayor is understood to have explained to the committee that he had felt it his duty to call them together for the express purpose, holding that it behoved them as magistrates of the City to investigate a matter which had naturally caused great public excitement and apprehension, particularly in relation to the conduct of the police, which was called in question for the moment. Mr. Alderman Carter presented the memorial adopted at a public meeting of the inhabitants of the Ward of Cornhill, of which he is the alderman, on Thursday, expressive in effect of their dissatisfaction with the conduct of the police and their concern that so daring a robbery should have been possible in the City of London. Colonel

Fraser, the City Commissioner of Police, was in attendance, and, at the request of the committee, explained all the attendant circumstances in detail. Either at his suggestion, or that of a member of the Court, the circumstantial account of the burglary, which appeared in the *Times* of Thursday, was read to the committee, and the Commissioner is understood to have said that it was a very full and correct version of the affair in the main. He explained in a lucid manner the whole interior arrangements of the premises in which the robbery took place from top to bottom, and their relation to the adjoining property, particularly to Sun-court at the back. He also showed in detail the manner in which the burglary had been effected, laying stress on the circumstance that but very little of the iron safe in the back shop was reflected in the mirror at the opposite corner of the room in consequence of a partition partly intervening, and that that partition was used by the thieves—first, in choosing the part of the floor through which they cut the hole from the basement below, and so entered the back shop, and then to conceal them while operating on the safe. He remarked upon the difficulties the police had all along experienced in dealing with this particular house, from its being wholly unoccupied by any living soul at night, from the carelessness of Mr. Walker and his servants, and from the stairs leading from the side door to the offices above, and the photographer's shop at the top, being open to the public from morning till night. The thieves were actually locked in the house by Mr. Walker himself or his servants on Saturday night without his knowing it. He is also understood to have explained that Mr. Walker was in error in stating that it was by the express desire of an inspector of police that the premises were left unoccupied at night, and that what the inspector really advised him to do was to light up his shop during the night, so as to be visible to the police through apertures in the shutters, in consequence of no one sleeping in the house. The result of the deliberations of the committee yesterday was that a special Court of Aldermen was ordered to be held on Tuesday next, to take into consideration the memorial of the inhabitants of Cornhill on the subject, and to adopt such measures as may be deemed necessary for the better protection of the property of the citizens.

This will now have become the more imperatively necessary in consequence of another burglary in the city early yesterday morning, and of a tea robbery—the third within the last four years on the same premises—in the warehouse of Mr. Batten, a merchant, at 126, Lower Thames-street, about the very time at which the burglary in Cornhill was being effected. Mr. Jacob Herman Epstein, a leather merchant, has recently taken premises at 11, Newgate-street, and stocked them with a large quantity of material in the way of his trade. During Thursday night his warehouse was broken into, and 35 dozen of skins, of the value of about £70, stolen. The thieves are supposed to have concealed themselves in the upper part of the premises, which was undergoing repair, after the workmen had left for the day, and to have bided their time until Mr. Epstein's warehouse was closed for the night. Failing to pick the lock, they cut bodily away with a centrebit the part of the door to which it was fixed, and so entered the place. There they broke open and ransacked the desks, but without finding any money, and then decamped with the 35 dozen skins. These were of very considerable weight and bulk, and probably a cart or cab was used in removing them; and yet the thieves escaped with their booty unchallenged by the police, which is the moral of the story. Again, 22 packages of tea, worth about £80, were stolen from the warehouse of Mr. Batten, in Lower Thames-street, between last Saturday evening and Monday morning. On two previous occasions, in February, 1862, and again in February, 1864, a cartload of tea in chests was stolen from the same premises. The ware-

house of Mr. Batten adjoins that of Messrs. Keeling, and on Saturday or Sunday ast, as in February, 1864, the thieves entered the premises of Messrs. Keeling, and cut through a partition-wall of brick eighteen inches thick on one occasion, and fourteen inches on another, to get at the warehouse of Mr. Batten. There is also a rumour that about 2,600 gallons of brandy have recently been stolen from a bonded warehouse in Lower Thames-street, in the occupation of a private firm of wharfingers, the revenue on which alone will amount to a large sum and be lost to the Custom-house.

Up to last evening the thieves in Mr. Walker's case were still at large. The reward of £1,000 continues to be offered for their apprehension and conviction.—*The Times*, February 11th, 1865.

[25.]—ANOTHER BURGLARY IN THE CITY.

Early on Saturday morning a daring robbery was committed at a branch post-office, with a money-order department attached, in the city of London. About two o'clock Police-constable Johnson was patrolling his beat in Doctor's-commons. Snow was falling at the time. As he was emerging from an obscure street, called Sermon-lane, leading from the south side of St. Paul's-churchyard to Little Knightrider-street, he observed some marks in the newly-fallen snow on a window-sill of the Horn Tavern, kept by Mr. Pullar, which has an extensive frontage in Little Knightrider-street, and looks also into Sermon-lane. His suspicions being aroused, he went stealthily to the front door, and heard voices whispering inside. He listened more attentively, and heard some one inside say, "Now's your time; open the door." With that the door was opened, and two men made their appearance. The constable, confronting them, demanded to know what they were doing there, upon which the thieves made a desperate attempt to escape; but, thrusting them back into the house, the officer slammed the door to upon them with one hand, and with the other sprang his rattle. This had the effect of alarming the inmates, and of bringing Sergeant Pearson to the spot, with whose assistance the burglars were captured and marched off to the Bow-lane police-station, hard by. The landlord and his wife presented themselves from the upper part of the house just in time to see them taken away. On being searched at the station five pairs of sugar tongs, a number of cigars and other articles, three chisels, and a quantity of stamps were found upon them. Attached to the house is a branch post-office, kept by the landlord, and on an examination of the premises made by the police immediately after the thieves had been secured, hand-marks were seen n the snow close by the first-floor window, which is about twelve feet from the ground, though, rom snow still falling, they had become scarcely visible. The window, it appears, had been left unfastened, and it is supposed that one of the thieves had reached it by climbing upon the shoulders of the other, and had so entered the house. That done, he descended to the ground floor, and, opening the street door, let in his confederate, and then bolted the door on the inside. With the aid of a dark lantern—for one which they had left behind them was afterwards discovered on the premises—the thieves found their way to the post-office part of the house, where they broke open and ransacked the drawers. In two of the drawers during the previous evening there had been £130 worth of postage stamps, and about £40 in money; but these the landlord had fortunately taken with him to his bedroom on retiring for the night. On Saturday morning it is understood that he communicated the burglary to the solicitor to the General Post-office, who expressed his warm approval of the conduct of Johnson, the constable, and gave his sanction to prosecute the thieves. As much has been said of late about some of the old officers in the city police having been removed from important posts to others of less consequence, and been replaced by younger men, by which arrangement it is alleged that those districts had become less secure than formerly, it may be mentioned that the policeman Johnson, who displayed such gallantry on this occasion, is a young officer, and has not been long in the force.—*The Times*, Feb. 13th, 1865.

This is the first case in this list of burglaries in which the entrance was made through the bedroom window, and in this particular instance the window was, of course, as thousands always are, left unfastened. When the common sash-fastener is used (which is easily pushed back with a knife), it is a good plan to fix a screw, or an iron pin, through the one sash into the other. This plan is simple, inexpensive, and effective, against the mode of opening windows from the outside. In modern windows a rebate is formed in each sash, which is an excellent improvement on the old method.

THE GREAT BURGLARIES IN CORNHILL AND THE STRAND.

Thomas Brewerton, William Henry Jeffrey, Thomas Caseley, and Louisa Brewerton, Martha Jeffrey, and Anne Caseley, three women who passed as their wives, were placed at the bar of the Bow-street police-court on Saturday, before Mr. Flowers, charged with being concerned in the robberies of jewellery and watches recently committed on the premises of Mr. Walker, of Cornhill, and of Mr. Abrahams, of the Strand.

The inquiry naturally attracted a great many persons to the court, and we observed upon the magisterial bench the Duke of Roxburghe, Lord Methuen, and Sir R. Mayne.

Mr. G. Lewis, jun., of Ely-place, attended for Mr. Walker, the principal prosecutor; and Mr. Abram, of Bow-street, appeared for Mr. Abrahams. The male prisoners were defended by Mr. Kemp, barrister.

Mr. Abrams observed that as there was a man named "Scotty" already under examination, in connection with the prosecution instituted by his client, he proposed for the present to offer sufficient evidence only to justify the remand of the prisoners to a day when they could be examined conjointly with "Scotty," and a man and woman named Hurley, who were also under remand.

Mr. Lewis said the premises of his client, Mr. Walker, had been lately stripped of property to the value of £6,000, and a large portion of that property was now in the hands of the police, together with a considerable sum of money supposed to have been realised by the disposal of other portions of the goods stolen. He was prepared to prosecute the prisoners at the bar for burglariously entering Mr. Walker's premises, or being otherwise concerned in the robberies in question; but the offence having been committed in the City, he should apply to have the prisoners transferred to the jurisdiction of the City magistrates. He appeared also for Mr. Johnson, of Threadneedle-street, whose premises had been broken into, and robbed of goods to the value of £4,000, under circumstances precisely similar. He considered it more convenient for all the parties concerned in the present investigation that it should be conducted within the district where the burglaries had taken place, or, at least, where the most important of them had been committed.

Mr. Flowers said it was open to him to hear any evidence which Mr. Lewis might have to offer in reference to the robberies committed within the City, and then to act upon his own judgment as to the ultimate disposal of the case. Indeed, it was necessary to hear some evidence to enable him either to detain the prisoners or to remit them to another court for further inquiry; for it was quite possible that it might be his duty, in the absence of such evidence, to discharge the prisoners altogether. It would be better, therefore, to go fully into the case, and then he could decide as to the expediency of sending it to another court.

Mr. Lewis quite concurred in this suggestion, and said he would examine one or two witnesses whose statements he felt certain would justify him in seeking for a remand, even if his worship declined to accede to his former application.

The examination of the following witnesses was then proceeded with:—

Mr. John Thomas Walker, son of Mr. John Walker, 68, Cornhill, and of Regent-street and Princes-street, jeweller, said—I assist my father in his business. On the 4th of February I left the premises in Cornhill at half-past five o'clock. Mr. Smith, another assistant, was left in charge of the shop, and it was his duty to see all safe. On Monday morning, at half-past nine, when I again returned to the Cornhill premises, I found them in charge of the police, and I ascertained that property to the value of £6,000 was missing. It consisted chiefly of watches and jewellery which had been deposited in an iron safe. The safe was broken open and the contents gone. I have seen a quantity of property in the hands of the police to-day, which I identify as the property of my father. There are fifty-two watches and a quantity of chains. They are part of the property which I left in the safe on the 4th of February. I should think the property in the hands of the police amounts to about £1,300. The house in Cornhill had been broken open, and an entrance effected through the premises of Sir Charles Crosley. Then a hole had been made in the floor, and the burglars had descended by means of a rope-ladder to the shop of Marshall & Harriss, tailors, cutting through a partition which divided their premises and ours. They failed to get through, however, owing to some iron plates; but, descending to a workshop underneath, they cut a hole through the ceiling and through the floor, and thus obtained access to our shop.

Inspector Potter, of the G division of police, said—Between two and three o'clock on Friday afternoon I went to 142, Whitechapel-road, in company with Inspector Brannan, of the F division, Sergeant Moss, of the City police, and other officers. I placed constables at the back of the house, and then entered the shop, where I found the two Jeffreys and the two Brewertons. I said, "Barret and Bruton," the names by which I knew them, "you must consider yourselves in custody for being concerned in several jewel robberies in the City and the Strand." We seized the two men by the collar, upon which I saw the woman Jeffrey pass something to the woman Brewerton. I immediately gave her into the custody of Ranger and another officer. The woman Brewerton ran up-

stairs, and I followed her. She succeeded in locking herself into a room before I could get to her. I said, "Let me in immediately, or I will break open the door." She did not open it, and I therefore broke it in. I saw her putting jewellery into her pockets, and I seized her. She struck me in the face, and caught hold of me by the whiskers. Sergeant Moss came to my assistance, and released me. I said, "Give me what I saw you putting into your pocket." She said, "I have nothing." We secured her, and took from her pocket three parcels, containing ten, twenty-five, and thirty gold chains respectively, together with some other articles of jewellery, all of which have been identified by Mr. Walker. Hearing a scuffle below, I left her in charge of a constable and ran down-stairs, where I found Brewerton struggling with the officer who had him in charge. We took the four prisoners to the police-station, and, returning afterwards to the house, we found more jewellery there. At the station I took three gold rings from the woman Brewerton's fingers, and a pair of ear-rings from her ears. Subsequently, I went with Sergeant Moss and others to 13, Ely-terrace, at the back of the Bow-road. I there saw the woman Caseley. She put her head out of a window, and asked who we were. I told her we were police-officers, and as she refused to open the door, we forced it in. I ran up-stairs and saw a woman leaving a room.

Caseley.—I beg your pardon, sir. I met you on the stairs, if you will please to remember.

Witness.—On reaching the top of the stairs I saw Caseley in the front room, where I had seen the other woman. By this time I had officers in uniform posted at both the front and back door of the house. I entered the apartment which the woman had just left, accompanied by Moss. Caseley said that "Billy" (meaning Jeffreys) lived in the room. There was a box in the room locked. It was broken open by Moss. It contained a number of gold watches—I believe, fifty-two—several gold Albert chains, and various other articles of jewellery. There was a life-preserver lying on a bed in the room, with a false moustache and whiskers. There was besides a quantity of silks and other property, all of which I believe to be the produce of robberies. We made a further search, and then removed the prisoners and the property to the station-house.

By Mr. Kemp.—I am sure the woman whom we found in the first house with Jeffrey was not his wife, but I believe the other woman, Brewerton, was the wife of the prisoner of that name. They were the only persons living there. I knew this by having watched the house. The other house is three stories high, but only certain rooms in it are occupied. The house in Ely-terrace is a four-roomed house. Two days before the prisoners were taken I saw goods taken into both the houses.

The witness continued:—The whole of the watches have been identified by Mr. Walker. On our way to the station the male prisoner, Caseley, said to me, "What robberies are you going to 'buff' to me?" That is a slang phrase, meaning "to accuse me of." I replied, "That is an after consideration. You will be told that at the station." He continued, "I had nothing to do with the Strand robbery. I was in Liverpool at the time; nor with Johnson's. I was doing time" (meaning he was in prison). He said, "I will tell you all about Walker's. I am in right for that. If you will square it for me, I'll tell you all about it." I said, "Remember, I make you no promise as to that." He then asked me, "Is it true that Jemmy Hurley (meaning the man under remand from this court) has told you all about it?" I replied, "No; he said something about it, I hear, but I don't know what." I found £240 in gold and two receipts, one for £250 and one for £150, paid into the Westminster Bank. He said, in reference to the burglary at Mr. Walker's, "that Bill and Velvet were two of them."

Mr. Lewis.—I believe you found property relating to other burglaries in the City?

Witness.—Yes, I believe we did.

Mr. Lewis said he would now ask his worship, upon this evidence, to remit the case to the City magistrates, and in doing so he was requested by Mr. Walker to express his admiration of the zealous conduct of the metropolitan police in this matter.

Mr. Flowers asked if there was any evidence to connect the prisoners, or either of them, with the robberies in the Strand?

Mr. Abrams replied that there was evidence to that effect, and he was prepared to go into it at once, if desired.

Mr. Flowers.—The property, at any rate, was found within the Metropolitan Police district, and I think I ought to remand the prisoners to next Tuesday, when they will be placed at the bar with the others, already under examination, on suspicion of being concerned in the Strand robbery.

The prisoners were remanded accordingly.

The immediate effect of the arrest on Friday has been the recovery of about £1,400 worth of the jewellery stolen from the premises of Mr. Walker, in Cornhill, and a considerable sum of money supposed to have been the produce of previous burglaries. During the greater part of Saturday Mr. Walker and his sons were engaged with the police in identifying property found in the possession of the prisoners, and the result was that they recognised 128 gold chains and 52 gold watches, some of which, of great value, belong to customers, and were in their hands, at the time of the robbery, undergoing alteration or repair. In the search £220 10*s*. in gold was found, in three separate sums of

£196 10*s.*, £19, and £5, together with a £50 Bank of England note, seven £5 notes, and two deposit notes of the London and Westminster Bank (Whitechapel branch) for £250 and £150; so that the money, and securities for money, in the possession of the prisoners amounted in all to £655 odd. The dates of the deposit notes of the London and Westminster Bank for £400 show that the money had been lodged there after the great robbery of jewellery at the shop of Mr. Johnson in Threadneedle-street in July last, and before that on the premises of Mr. Walker. By some, therefore, it is surmised that the £400 was part of the proceeds of the robbery at Mr. Johnson's, and the more so as, with single trifling and doubtful exception, none of the jewellery found in the possession of the prisoners has been identified by him. Of that, however, there is no proof, and probably never will be. It is not generally known that a very serious robbery was effected at the shop of Mr. Johnson only a fortnight after the far greater one in the beginning of July, when he was plundered of property worth £4,000 in all. On the occasion referred to, a well-dressed man and woman alighted from a brougham, and, entering his shop, the man asked to look at a gold scarf-pin set with a precious stone. It was about mid-day, and while the pin was being shown to him the woman contrived to open a door of a glass case, and take from the front window of the shop a tray of seven diamond rings, of the value together of £400—one of them alone being worth £150—which she concealed about her dress. Her companion did not buy the pin which he had asked to see, and it was not until about an hour after they had left that Mr. Johnson discovered his loss. The same woman, after victimising three other of the principal jewellers in the metropolis, if not more, was at length caught in the act of a jewel obbery at Portsmouth, and the two having been convicted, the woman was sentenced to seven years', and the man to five years', penal servitude, which they are now undergoing. The real name of the woman is said to be Emily Lawrence, but she was much better known to the metropolitan police by an *alias*.

The manner in which the capture of the six prisoners now in custody was effected is a subject of very general admiration. They were completely surprised and overpowered, the plans of the police having been so well arranged that escape was impossible. Every outlet from the house in White-chapel-road had been guarded by policemen in plain clothes before the entry was made in front by Inspector Potter and City Detective-sergeant Moss. At one time—when Inspector Potter relinquished his hold of the man Jeffrey, whom he had just before seized, to follow up-stairs the woman Brewerton, to whom he had seen the Jeffreys pass something—the male prisoner, Brewerton, made a desperate attempt to escape. The woman Brewerton, on reaching a room at the top of the house, locked the door inside, and, refusing to open it at the bidding of the inspector, he kicked a panel in, and entering by the hole he had made, he confronted her while she was in the act of concealing three packets, containing in all sixty-five gold rings. She, too, made a determined effort to escape, tearing the inspector's hair and face, but Sergeant Moss having come to his assistance, she was overpowered. While the struggle with the woman was going on up-stairs, the man Brewerton was engaged in a conflict with the rest of the constables in a shop on the ground floor, but with no better result, for he was completely mastered in the end.

It is said that, besides the jewellery and money found in the possession of the prisoners, quantities of silk and a number of shawls, supposed to have been stolen from warehouses in the City, and particularly from that of Mr. Bennoch, of Wood-street, were also discovered. They had likewise a number of well-made implements and tools, such as might be used for purposes of burglary, some of them being of steel of the finest temper and finish. One of these, a hand-gouge, they had been trying on a joist of a house in which some of them lived. It may be remembered that it was with an implement of that kind that a hole was cut in the floor of Sir Charles Crosley's office, by which access was obtained to the tailor's shop below, and thence from the cutting-room on the basement to the back shop of Mr. Walker, containing his iron "safe." Two of the houses in the occupation of the prisoners are said to have been recently furnished in a costly manner, and both men and women had each a stock of fashionable attire when they were arrested.—*The Times*, February 27th, 1865.

THE GREAT BURGLARIES IN THE CITY AND THE STRAND.

It will be remembered that the burglar "Scotty," *alias* Brown, *alias* Price, but whose real name it now appears is Millar, after repeated remands, was once more remitted to the House of Detention, to be brought up for final examination yesterday (Tuesday), on the charge of being concerned with two others not in custody in breaking and entering the house of Mr. Abrahams, jeweller, of the Strand, at the corner of the Lowther-arcade, and stealing upwards of £1,000 worth of jewellery. From the time of "Scotty's" apprehension, the police had no doubt that he was not only concerned, but was the leader in most, if not all, of the great burglaries at jewellers' in the city and in the provinces which have lately excited so much alarm. In the course of investigations instituted by the police, with a view to the apprehension of "Scotty's" accomplices in the Strand burglary, they discovered facts

which led to the apprehension of eight others—four men and four women, living with the men as their wives. These persons were apprehended in this order:—first, James Hurley and Ellen Hurley were brought up and remanded to yesterday, to be brought up with "Scotty;" secondly, William Henry Jeffrey and Martha Jeffrey, Thomas Brewerton and Louisa Brewerton, Thomas Caseley and Ann Caseley were similarly brought up and remanded.

Yesterday from an early hour a large crowd had assembled in front of the court-room, and as soon as it was opened every available space was filled. Among those present and accommodated on the bench were Sir Richard Mayne, Lord Lennox, Lord George Gordon Bruce, Lord Ingestre, Lord Hay, &c. Mr. Nelson, the city solicitor, occupied a seat at the attorneys' table.

Considerable delay in opening the proceedings arose from two circumstances. It was found in the first place necessary that certain witnesses should have an opportunity of identifying one of the prisoners. As it would have been manifestly unfair to place the prisoner in the dock, where his conspicuous position would at once indicate to the witnesses that he was the person they were called upon to identify, he was placed in the gaoler's room, surrounded by about a dozen persons of nearly his own stature and general appearance. This proceeding, of course, occupied some time. The second cause of delay was that one of the prisoners expressed a desire to make a statement to the police, amounting, as we understood, to a confession of his guilt, and an exposure of certain proceedings of the gang. An opportunity was afforded to him to do so, and this circumstance involved some further delay.

Ultimately, about 1 o'clock, the proceedings were opened by placing in the dock eight prisoners—viz., Thomas Brewerton, *alias* Bruton, and Louisa Brewerton, his wife, William Henry Jeffrey and Martha Jeffrey, Thomas Caseley and Ann Caseley, James Hurley and Ellen Hurley. The women all pass as the wives of the men, and are represented to be so; but, except in the case of the Brewertons, this is not admitted by the police.

Mr. Abrams appeared for the prosecution on behalf of Mr. Abrahams, of the Strand; Mr. G. Lewis, Jun., solicitor, of Lewis and Lewis, appeared also for the prosecution on behalf of Mr. Walker, of Cornhill, and of Mr. Johnson, of Threadneedle-street; Mr. Kemp appeared as counsel for the three male prisoners, Jeffrey, Brewerton, and Caseley; and Mr. Beard defended the three women, the wives, or reputed wives, of those prisoners.

Mr. Abrams said that on the former occasion he had applied for the remand of those prisoners until yesterday, to be brought up in company with the man Brown, or "Scotty," because, as he was then instructed, he had reason to believe that some of the property found upon the prisoners would be identified as a portion of the booty carried off in the burglary at Mr. Abraham's, and also that some of the prisoners would be proved to have been connected with that act. He now found that he was not in a position to offer any such evidence, and therefore, as far as his client, Mr. Abrahams, was concerned, the prosecution against the prisoners was withdrawn.

Mr. G. Lewis, Junior.—Then, Sir, I again appear on behalf of Mr. Walker and of Mr. Johnson, to prosecute these prisoners upon the charge of committing burglaries upon their premises. As I stated to you on Saturday last, possibly there will be further charges against them in reference to other burglaries which have also been committed within the jurisdiction of the city of London. My application to you is the same which I made on Saturday, that the prisoners be remitted to the Mansion-house. The offences were committed in the city, and nearly all the witnesses reside there.

Mr. Flowers.—Mr. Abrams now informs me that he is not prepared with any evidence to connect these prisoners with the crime which has been committed within this district, and it is also stated on behalf of the prosecution that the principal witnesses reside in the city; I, therefore, think that cause has been now shown to justify me in remitting these prisoners to undergo an investigation at the Mansion-house.

A warrant was accordingly granted for the removal of the prisoners.

Mr. Abrams then proceeded with the case against "Scotty," and said he had no further evidence to offer, but should now apply for his committal for trial.

The prisoner reserved his defence, and was fully committed.

A warrant of removal was framed under which the prisoners could also be removed to the Mansion-house without an application for a writ of *habeas corpus*.

At 3 o'clock Thomas Brewerton and Louisa Brewerton, William Henry Jeffrey and Martha Jeffrey, Thomas Caseley and Ann Caseley, James Hurley and Ellen Hurley, David Roberts and William Brown, *alias* "Scotty," were brought before the Lord Mayor, at the Justice-room of the Mansion-house, charged with being concerned in the recent robberies of jewellery at the shops of Mr. Walker, in Cornhill, and of Mr. Johnson, in Threadneedle-street.

The dock was not large enough to admit all the ten, and the four women were allowed to sit in front of it during the proceedings. The prisoners examined at Bow-street had been brought in a prison van from the police-station there under a strong escort of the Metropolitan and City police. To prevent the possibility of escape, or any attempt at escape, five of the male prisoners being desperate and determined men, the van was backed close against the little low archway by which prisoners are

admitted to the police cells connected with the Justice-room, and a similar precaution was observed on their being conveyed to Newgate in the evening. A great crowd had collected about the Mansion-house, both to see them arrive and depart, and much excitement prevailed both outside and inside the court. Alderman Sir Robert Carden, Colonel Fraser, Commissioner of City Police, Mr. Nelson, the city solicitor, Mr. George Moore, of Cheapside, and Mr. Payne, the Assistant Judge at the Middlesex Sessions, were present, among others, during the examination.

Mr. Lewis, Jun., solicitor, conducted the examination on behalf of the prosecutors; Mr. Beard defended some, if not all, of the prisoners; and Mr. Mullens attended to watch the proceedings on behalf of Messrs. Baum, Sons, and Co., money-changers and bullion-dealers, in Lombard-street, on whose premises, it may be remembered, a burglary was committed a few months ago, and money, securities for money, and jewellery, of the value in all of about £5,000, stolen.

Mr. Lewis prefaced the examination of witnesses by a short explanatory statement of the circumstances that had come to the knowledge of the police, and as they appeared to affect the various prisoners. He referred in particular to the arrest of six of the prisoners on Friday afternoon, and to watches and jewellery of the value of about £1,400, all of which had been identified by Mr. Walker as having, with other costly articles, been stolen from his premises between the 4th and 6th of February, having been found at their lodgings, together with a considerable sum of money in gold and Bank-notes. About £100 worth of the stolen property had also been traced to the possession of the prisoner Roberts, and six valuable watches, all of which had been identified as belonging to Mr. Walker, had been recovered from the bottom of the Thames, near Blackfriars-bridge, within the last day or two, by the exertions of a diver, who was still engaged in the search for more of the stolen jewellery. He also appeared to prosecute some of the prisoners for being concerned in a robbery of watches and jewellery of the value of about £4,000 at the shop of Mr. Johnson, in Threadneedle-street, in July last, committed under circumstances somewhat similar to those attending the robbery in Cornhill, but more daring in its character, if possible. The evidence, he said, would show that the same persons were implicated, more or less, in both, and likewise in other robberies, of silk principally, in different parts of the city.

The evidence taken at the Justice-room, when the prisoner Roberts was first examined there and remanded, was then read over by Mr. Oke, the chief clerk, and made part of the general case against all the prisoners. It was reported in detail at the time, and was to the effect that Roberts was arrested by two of the city detective officers, at a working jeweller's shop in Wilderness-row, St. Luke's, while in the act of trying to dispose of two of the watches stolen from Mr. Walker's shop, and of the value together of about £100, a few nights after the robbery.

Thomas Ambrose Potter, Inspector of the G division, was called. He said,—On Friday last, between two and three in the afternoon, I went to the shop, 142, Whitechapel-road, accompanied by Sergeant Moss, of the city detective force, Inspector Brennan, of the F division, and other police officers. It has recently been fitted up as a pie shop. After posting officers at the front and back of the house, I entered with Sergeant Moss, and saw the prisoners Jeffrey (the man), whom I had known by the name of Barrett, and who was very roughly dressed; a woman with whom he was living, and whom I have mostly known by the name of Parker, though she has at times gone by many others; and the prisoner Thomas Brewerton and his wife. I said, addressing the two men, "Ned and Billy, you must consider yourselves in custody, with the women, for being concerned in numerous burglaries in the city and the Strand," taking Jeffrey by the collar. Moss at the same moment seized Brewerton, and a struggle took place. While it was going on I saw something pass from Jeffrey to Mrs. Brewerton, upon which both the women, Jeffrey and Brewerton, turned round and ran up-stairs. At that moment Ranger, an officer, and Inspector Brennan entered with a constable in uniform from the rear of the house, and two of them having taken charge of the men Jeffrey and Brewerton, I followed the two women up-stairs, followed by Moss and Brennan. Before reaching the top of the stairs I saw one of the women run into a bed-room, and the other turn into another room. I said, addressing the woman Brewerton, "Open the door immediately." It was not opened, and I burst it in. I then saw her stuffing something into her pocket. I ran across the room and caught her by the arm, saying "What have you got there?" She said "Nothing," and seized me by my whiskers. Moss and a constable in uniform came up and held her hands, upon which I took from her pocket four paper parcels containing gold chains, and a purse containing gold and parts of gold chains which had been broken. I handed her over to an officer of the K division, and we took all four prisoners to the Leman-street police station, with a number of skeleton keys, a "jemmy," a life preserver, and other housebreaking implements which we had found upon the premises, leaving Ranger and other officers in charge of the house. We found the house had been newly furnished, and I had seen some of the furniture taken into it a few days before. After seeing the prisoners safely lodged at the police station, I went with Moss and Brennan to 13, Ely-terrace, Friendly-place, Bow-road. We knocked at the door, upon which the woman Caseley, whom I knew as Thomas, looked out from the first floor window, and asked "Who are you, and what are you?" I said, "Police officers. Open the door." Waiting half a second and the door not being opened, I

burst it in. On going up-stairs I saw the woman Caseley run out of a room at the back of the house, followed by Sergeant Moss. I said "Stop!" but she went into a room in front, where I found the man Caseley. I asked Moss to take charge of the room. At that moment Inspector Brennan came up, took charge of the two Caseleys in the front room, and I and Moss searched the back room. There we found a small deal box, locked, and Moss took a pair of tongs and broke it open. On lifting the lid we found fifty-two gold watches, a number of gold chains, Alberts and ladies' neckchains, about £240 odd in gold, a £50 bank-note, and other valuables. On a further search we found a second box, unlocked, two pieces of black silk, which have since been identified by Mr. Bennoch, of Wood-street, and a new Paisley shawl which had been stolen from a warehouse in the city. On the bed I found a life-preserver, and I saw a number of housebreaking implements found in the room by other officers, all of which we took charge of. In a snuff-box I found several gold lockets, and two receipts for money paid into the London and Westminster Bank, one being for £250 dated the 23rd of January last, and the other for £150, dated the 30th of the same month. On last Monday I went with Moss to Hawick, in Scotland, and there saw a person named Gideon Murray, otherwise Miller, a brother-in-law of the prisoner "Scotty." From him I took a check-book and a pass-book of the Royal Bank of Scotland. In the pass-book there is an entry of £55 paid into that bank on the 14th of January last. On searching the house Moss found two shawls, also the produce of burglaries. Moss received from him a gold brooch, a pin and a ring, part of the property stolen from Mr. Johnson, of Threadneedle-street. We brought Murray to London, and he is now here to-day, but not in custody. [Mr. Lewis.—I am going to call him as a witness.] Last Saturday week Moss, Brennan, Ranger, and I apprehended Hurley, with two other men, who are not present, at Cambridge-heath-road, and charged all three with having committed a tea robbery in Thames-street. There not being sufficient evidence against the two other men, they were liberated. I charged Hurley with having been concerned in the robbery at the shop of Mr. Johnson in July last, having, I said, traced some of the jewellery to his possession, but did not say what. He made no reply. Yesterday week Mrs. Hurley was outside the police court at Bow-street, and was apprehended by Sergeant Moss by my directions. I then charged her with having been concerned with her husband and others in custody and not in custody in Mr. Johnson's robbery, at the same time showing her some jewellery which I held in my hand—namely, two gold brooches and a pair of gold earrings. She looked at them, and said "Yes." I asked where she got them. She said "My husband will tell you." The husband was not present at that time. When I and Sergeant Moss were taking the male prisoner to the station, the prisoner Caseley said, "What robberies are you going to 'buff' to me? I can prove where I was at the time of Johnson's robbery and the shawl robbery. I was doing time," meaning being in prison. He said, "The poor —— you have in custody for the two watches (meaning Roberts) is innocent, so help me God. I'll tell you all about it if you will allow me to give evidence." I said I should make him no promise. He said "For Walker's job I am all right."

The prisoner Caseley interposing, said "Meaning by that, I was in the house where the property was found."

Witness.—I then said "Who are the others?" He replied "Billy and Ned," meaning Jeffrey and Brewerton. I said "Can you throw any light on Mr. Johnson's robbery? You can say what you like, but I shall make you no promise." He mentioned the names of two other persons. With reference to Mr. Johnson's robbery, he said Billy, ("Scotty,") and Jemmy Hurley had done that "bit."

By Mr. Beard—On searching Brewerton's premises a marriage certificate was found. I know the Brewertons are married. The Jeffreys are not married. Brewerton was present when something was passed to her. The place was being fitted up as a pie-shop, and a great many implements were found at the rear of the house. I do not think the Caseleys are man and wife. Half a minute, and not more, had elapsed before I broke in the door. She had had time to come down and open it before I broke it in. The house has been furnished with new furniture. I apprehended Hurley last Saturday week, and the others last Friday. I had not in the meantime received any information from Hurley.

The prisoner Caseley.—I was not aware at that time that Hurley was captured. I say for my wife that she was only in her right place when we were apprehended.

Witness said Caseley's wife had been a thief for years. He added that he found in the house in the Whitechapel-road the transfer of a lease to Brewerton and Jeffrey, the consideration money for which being £260, and Mr. Beard, who was there defending them, being the attesting witness. (A laugh.)

Mr. Beard said he had been engaged in the assignment of the lease.

The prisoner Hurley said his wife was near her confinement, and he did not wish her to suffer for him. He gave her the jewellery himself.

Mr. William Johnson.—I am a watch manufacturer and jeweller at 54, Threadneedle-street. On Saturday, the 2nd of July last, I left my premises at three in the afternoon, and my assistant to lock them up. It would be his duty, according to custom, to put the more valuable parts of the stock in

an iron safe, and to leave the rest in the front window, and under glass cases on the counter. About half-past nine on the Monday morning I went to my shop. I found the outer door leading into the street was secure, but an inner door, partly of wood and partly of iron, and in a lobby leading from Hercules-passage into the shop, had been forced. The upper part of the house is let out by me as offices to stockbrokers, and I occupy the shop and basement. At that time nobody slept on the premises. At the back of the shop there is a door leading to the offices above Hercules-passage, and inside that door in a sort of lobby was a strong door, lined with iron, communicating with the shop from behind. By the latter door we used to leave the shop, and in doing so we locked it on the outside with two of Hobbs's patent locks, and by a bar secured by a padlock. There are iron shutters all round the rest of the shop at nights. I found that the thieves had tried to force the inner door off its hinges with a crowbar, but had failed. They had then tried to force the bolts of the locks, and failed in that too, though they had bent back the bolts until they were nearly double. They then cut through the solid brickwork on the lock side of the door and the door jamb, and so forced the door at length inwards, breaking in pieces as they did so a thick mirror with which it was lined on the inner side, pushing backward a heavy shelf laden with time-pieces, and breaking also some of the mirror panelling at the back part of the shop. I found a mass of rubbish and broken brickwork on the inner side of the door, which had been caused by the thieves springing the door inwards. The front bar of my iron safe was broken in two, and I found a cold chisel, about four inches in length, left in a joint of it. It had been used to spring the safe, but the safe had resisted all the efforts of the thieves, and all the property in it remained untouched. But the whole of the costly jewellery which had been left in the front window and under the glass cases were gone, except a solitary gold chain, which I presume they had overlooked. The cost price of the property stolen was about £4,000. Every case had been emptied of its contents, and the fire-place was found to be heaped up with the empty cases. There were twelve perforations in my shop shutters. I recognise as mine among the jewellery now produced two brooches, a pair of turquoise earrings, and a black enamel garter brooch, traced to the possession of the prisoner Hurley; a locket, a keeper-ring, some heavy wedding-rings, a gold watch, sleeve-links, studs, and various other things, traced to that of the prisoner "Scotty."

"Scotty" (or Brown) asked witness if he could say that he had not sold a particular brooch, which he now identified.

Witness replied that he could, for he had it entered by a distinctive name in a book as having been stolen.

Gideon Murray.—I live at 5, O'Conner-street, Hawick, Scotland, and am a weaver. The prisoner Brown ("Scotty") is my brother-in-law. I married his sister. His real name is Thomas Millar. He came down to Hawick in August last, and stopped at my house. He brought a bag with him. The day after he came my wife told me, in his presence, that he had given her a brooch. He said the glass in it had been broken in coming from the "Jeddart" (Jedburgh) games. I know the ring produced. It was given to my wife by the prisoner. She said so in his presence. I looked at it in his presence, and observed that it was a very nice one. He said there were three small diamonds in it, but that they were of very little value. He did not say how he had got it. He gave the gold pin produced to my wife to give to me. I told him I never wore such things, and that it would never be worn by me. In the latter end of December he came down to Hawick again. As he was having breakfast with me he said he would give me a certain sum of money to bank in my name. I told him that was a thing I knew nothing about, and that I wanted nothing to do with it. I asked why he did not do it himself. He said some recommendation was needed for that. I refused to have the money deposited in my name, and he never asked me again. One day when he came to dinner my wife told me he had placed £55 in the Royal Bank of Scotland, and I afterwards saw the two books produced. (One was a banker's pass-book and the other a check-book.) He left Hawick without saying anything about them, and he gave my wife £80 to put in a drawer.

Mr. Lewis at this stage applied to have the prisoners remanded.

Mr. Beard was understood to urge that the wife of Brewerton might be discharged, on the hypothesis that she had acted in the matter at the instance and, it might be, on the pressure of her husband.

Mr. Lewis remarked that she was found with about £550 in her possession.

Inspector Potter added that only a few weeks ago he had seen her sitting at an oyster stall in Lambeth.

The prisoners were then remanded for a week.

The circumstance which led to a diver being employed to search for some of the missing jewellery at the bottom of the Thames, at a place near Blackfriars-bridge, was very remarkable. About eight o'clock on Saturday morning a Thames Police galley, under the charge of Inspector Bennett, was being rowed below the bridges there, when one of the men in the boat observed something glittering on a horizontal beam used in bracing some of the piles of the temporary bridge. On examining the place they found two handsome gold watches, and they at once inferred that they were part of the stolen property. The tide was then on the ebb, and the men came to the conclusion that the watches

had been thrown from the bridge when the tide was above the beam on which they were discovered, and that they had sunk gently down upon it; for otherwise they must have been broken in the fall. The watches were identified by Mr. Walker, and the incident led to the diver being employed.—*The Times.*

THE GREAT ROBBERIES IN THE CITY.

Yesterday, at twelve o'clock, ten of the eleven prisoners—seven men and three women—who stand charged with breaking and entering the premises of Mr. Johnson, jeweller, in Threadneedle-street, between the 2nd and 4th of July last, and those of Mr. Walker, jeweller, in Cornhill, between the 4th and 6th of February, and stealing property of the estimated value in all of £10,000, were again brought before the Lord Mayor (Alderman Hale), at the justice-room of the Mansion-house, for further examination, in the custody of Inspector Hamilton, of the city detective police. Their names are David Roberts, William Henry Jeffrey, Martha Jeffrey, Thomas Caseley, Ann Caseley, Thomas Brewerton, Louisa Brewerton, James Hurley, William Brown, otherwise Millar, but better known by the *sobriquet* of "Scotty," and Frederick William Wilkinson. One only of the eleven prisoners were absent—namely, the wife of Hurley—and a letter was received by the Lord Mayor from Mr. Jonas, the governor of Newgate, stating that she had given birth to a child there on Saturday last, and was now in the infirmary of the prison.

As on the previous occasions, the court was crowded during the examination. Besides the Lord Mayor, there were present on the bench Alderman Sir Robert Carden and Alderman Lusk, Colonel Fraser, the Commissioner of the City Police, and Mr. Nelson, the city solicitor.

Mr. Lewis, jun., solicitor, again conducted the prosecution; Mr. Beard defended the women; the rest of the prisoners defended themselves. Mr. Davis, from the office of Mr. Howell, was present, watching the examination on behalf of Messrs. Bennoch, warehousemen, of Wood-street, Cheapside, who in November last were robbed of 11,000 yards of silk; and Mr. Webb, of Euston-road, solicitor, whose iron safe, containing money, plate, and securities for money and property, was bodily carried off from his offices there on the night of Christmas-day, attended to watch the case on his own behalf.

Some of the prisoners are charged with being concerned in Mr. Johnson's robbery, some in that of Mr. Walker, and some in both.

From the first, during the examinations the conduct of the prisoner Caseley has been marked by a reckless effrontery. He is a good-looking young man, of about twenty-four, wearing a light overcoat, and in other respects fashionably dressed. At a Judge-and-Jury Club which he frequents he is known by the *sobriquet* of "Counsellor Kelly," and when before the Lord Mayor he cross-examines the witnesses for the prosecution in a very amusing manner, but seldom with discretion. Some of the police, especially Inspector Potter and Constable Ranger, appear particularly obnoxious to him, and he never loses an opportunity of exercising his wit and sarcasm at their expense. On the last occasion, when Ranger was making his way to the book to be sworn, he said, "Here he comes, crawling in like a dog." He strongly objected to Inspector Potter being in court until he was called as a witness, and the inspector was requested to withdraw. At one part of the examination, yesterday week, when he fancied the evidence of Sergeant Brennan was tending to implicate him in Mr. Johnson's robbery, he amused the whole audience by saying, "I have *alibis* in my pocket, my Lord Mayor, showing that I could not have been concerned in Johnson's affair. One of the *alibis* is a certificate from the chaplain of the new prison at Birmingham, stating that he had a conversation with me on the day Johnson's robbery was committed. What the other *alibi* is I am not obliged to state now, as the police might try to upset it." This sally occasioned some laughter. Again, he chuckled greatly when a locksmith, who had been called to identify another of the prisoners as having spoken to him when he was engaged putting a lock on a door at Mr. Johnson's shortly before the robbery, pointed to him (Caseley) as being the man. It was known to the police, as had been incidentally stated in evidence, that he was at that time in prison for another offence, and therefore could not have been the man. Addressing the puzzled witness, he said, with a look of scorn, "You can go down; you have for once made a grand mistake, and you'll have no share of the £1,500 reward, I can tell you." When he speaks of his wife, who stands near him at the bar, he always calls her his "old woman." The prisoner Hurley is a man of immense *physique*. From the first all the rest have stood aloof from him in the dock, as if they suspected that he, if any, would be the man who would turn against them; and it will be seen, by the evidence of Superintendent Durkin yesterday, that they were not deceived. Brown, or Millar, otherwise "Scotty," is about thirty-five years of age, and is said to be the captain of the gang. He contrived to evade the police for some time after he was suspected of being concerned in the jewel robbery in the Strand. Two of them at last tracked him to a house in Hackney, and surprised him in bed; upon which he sprang out and

waged a desperate struggle with the officers, one of whom, Inspector Brennan, a powerful young man, he tried to strangle. The rest of the male prisoners are slightly-made young men, presenting nothing remarkable in their appearance. The prisoner Roberts, who is a poor, cowed-looking creature, is said to have had no actual hand in either of the robberies, but he was found trying to dispose of two of the stolen watches shortly after that of Mr. Walker's.

As the examination was about to commence, the prisoner Caseley complained to the Lord Mayor that persons had been brought into the court to identify some of them, and that Inspector Potter was pointing them out to the witnesses.

The inspector denied that he had done so.

The Lord Mayor told the prisoner that the court was an open one, and that persons summoned as witnesses had a right to be present.

Maria Mears, examined by Mr. Lewis, jun.—I live in Great Cambridge-street, Hackney-road, with my father, who is foreman to a hearth-rug maker. I know the prisoner Brown ("Scotty") by the name of Price. He came to live in our house in May, 1863, and left three weeks before Christmas last. I last saw him on Chrismas-eve. He told me he attended sales. He occupied one furnished apartment, at 5s. 6d. a week. A woman who passed as his wife lived there with him. While he was there he often went out at night, and mostly stopped at home in the daytime. I also know the prisoner Jeffrey as "Mr. Parker." He used to call to see Brown. I have likewise seen the prisoner Wilkinson there, but I did not then know his name. Jeffrey came to lodge at our house about the end of August last, and left about a week before Christmas. He occupied two parlours unfurnished, for which he paid 6s. a week. The female prisoner, Jeffrey, lived with him there. I have often opened the door to Jeffrey before he lodged with us. He came to see Brown ("Scotty"). Before Jeffrey came to lodge I often heard filing going on in Brown's room. About a fortnight before Christmas Brown gave me upwards of £100, in gold, to take care of for him. I took charge of it only for a night, and returned it to him in the morning. That was about Christmas last. He slept out of the house very often. His wife on those occasions slept at home. I once saw a small gold hunting watch in her possession, about July last. The watch produced is it, and I also identify the gold necklet produced. She showed the necklet to me on one occasion. She also showed me two gold lockets set with large pearls. The prisoner Brown was not present when they were shown to me. They were shown to me in my drawing-room. I did not see any bracelets. Brown recommended Jeffrey to us as a lodger, saying he was in the same trade as himself. After Jeffrey came to lodge in the house I heard a great deal of filing. That was only when he was at home. I never looked through the keyhole. After they left I found some paper over the lock of the door inside. I once looked through the window. (A laugh.) I saw something screwed on a table with a long handle underneath. Jeffrey often stayed out till two, and sometimes till five o'clock in the morning. [Mr. Lewis.—Very late hours for young men.] (A laugh.) He used to come home with Brown. I remember Jeffrey's furniture being removed after he left. I think the prisoner Caseley, or some one very much like him, helped him to remove it.

The prisoner Caseley.—Why does she not say it was Inspector Potter? (A laugh.)

By Caseley.—The goods were removed in the afternoon. I cannot say what coloured clothes you wore at the time.

By the prisoner Brown.—I remember the night you gave me the money. I knew the amount, because I would not take charge of it until you counted it, and you counted it into my hand.

The Lord Mayor insisted on knowing distinctly from Mr. Beard (who was about to cross-examine the witness) for whom he appeared, and having been told that he appeared for the women, his Lordship said peremptorily that Mr. Beard must confine himself to defending them, for he could not allow him and a prisoner for whom he appeared to question witnesses.

Charles Coombe.—I live at 33, Golden-lane, and keep a chandler's shop. I know the prisoner Brown by the name of Price. I have heard him called "Scotty." I don't know any of the other prisoners. I have known him about eight years. He always dressed respectably. I know the woman with whom he lived. I received from her the bag produced, on the 19th or 20th of December last. [It contained jewellery identified by Mr. Johnson.] A few days after she left it with me the prisoner Brown, otherwise Price, called on me. I told him Mrs. Price had not been for her goods. He asked what goods, upon which I produced the bag. He remained for a few minutes. I left the bag on the counter, and went to the other end of the shop. On my return he asked me to take care of it. [Mr. Lewis.—I shall show that the key of the bag was found on "Scotty" when taken into custody.] I afterwards gave the bag to Inspector Brennan. The woman had been in the habit of leaving parcels with me. I did not know their address, but I understood it was somewhere in the Hackney-road. I must have had the bag about a month.

By "Scotty."—The woman left the bag on her own account. She did not say I was to give it to you.

George Albert Palmer.—I keep the Pitt's Head public-house, in Old-street, St. Luke's. I know the prisoner Brown ("Scotty") by the name of Price. I first knew him when I lived at Holloway,

seven or eight years ago. He was then a kind of labouring man. I lost sight of him for five or six years, and after that he visited my house. He was then much more respectably dressed than when I formerly knew him. In the beginning of December last he left with me the Finsbury Savings'-bank book produced and £50 in gold, to take care of for him a short time, as he said he was going into the country. I objected at first. He said he had sufficient money without the £50, and that it would oblige him very much if I took charge of the book and the money. I said he had a deposit in a bank, and asked why he did not put it there. I agreed, at length, to take charge of them. About six weeks afterwards he called, and said he would call next morning and get the book and the money. He did not call, and I suppose then he must have been taken into custody. [Mr. Lewis.—It was not his fault that he did not call.] (A laugh.) He sent a woman afterwards twice, and she got £11 of the money—£5 on the first occasion, £6 on the second; and by his directions I gave a man named Morris, outside the prison, whom he described, £1 for him, as he had complained of not getting enough to eat in gaol. He has never offered me any jewellery. He said he was a general dealer, and dealt in cigars and silks. I believe he offered me some cigars, but I did not buy them, nor anything else. I afterwards gave the money and the book to the police. I gave it up to them without their asking for it. [Inspector Potter dissented.] The prisoner had never slept at my house.

By the LORD MAYOR.—I do not know any of the other prisoners.

Thomas Edward Smith, assistant to Mr. Upsall, a pawnbroker at 125, Whitechapel-road, deposed that he received into pawn the gold ring produced (a thick, heavy one) on the 10th of December, for 10*s*., from a woman who gave the name of Ann Hurley. He had not seen her since. He did not know any of the prisoners. He gave a duplicate to her. She gave the address, 7, John-street.

Mr. Lewis, in reply to the Lord Mayor.—That ring has been identified by Mr. Johnson.

Police-constable Ranger, 199 G, produced the duplicate in question, which he said he obtained on the 20th of February last at a house in New Somerford-street, Bethnal-green, where the prisoners Hurley lived. He found it on a mantel-piece, with other tickets relating to jewellery. The woman Hurley had then been taken into custody, and had given her address. The man Hurley had not then been apprehended.

Superintendent Durkin (F division, Metropolitan Police), examined by Mr. Lewis.—I was present when the prisoners were removed from the Bow-street Police-court to this court. I was told the male prisoner Hurley wanted to make a communication to me, and he was taken to a private room, where I saw him in your (Mr. Lewis's) presence. He was told any statement he made must be purely voluntary, and no promise of any kind was made to him either by you or by me. He then made a statement, which you reduced to writing in his presence.

Mr. Lewis read it as follows:—

"About the 27th of June I met Barrett and Brown (both now in custody), and they told me they had a jeweller's 'wanted doing.' I said, 'Where?' Barrett said, 'In the city,' and he said he would go and show me. I said, 'Very well.' He took me and showed me Mr. Johnson's. I said, 'Why, it is impossible you could do that.' He said, 'Yes, I can, for I have the side-door up the court ready.' I said, 'When shall we go?' It was agreed we should go on the 4th of July. We did go, and got in from the door up the court. Barrett, Brown, and another man since transported went in. I remained out, and then went home, and went again on the Sunday evening between 10 and 11, and they came out, and we all went to Barrett's house, close against the Victoria Park. I left the things there, and we met him on the Monday. They took from Johnson's a large quantity of jewellery, and he paid all of us alike out of his pocket our shares—between £50 and £60 each. I told Barrett I was about taking a shop, to see if I could better myself. 'Well,' he said, 'if you have any tools you don't want leave them with me.' (A laugh.) I did so, and went and took a shop as a marine-store dealer in Portsmouth, and failed in business. I came up to London about December, and sold my horse and harness, and I saw a reward up about Mr. Baum's robbery (a bullion place). I thought in my own mind, 'Who could that be?' and thought no more of it for two or three days. Afterwards Brown and Barrett came to me, and Barrett said (both were together), 'I am very sorry, for that thing you lent me I left behind in the bullion place.' He asked me would I have some beer. I said, 'Yes.' We had some beer, and I saw no more of him for two or three weeks afterwards, excepting just passing the time of day, until I saw the bill up of Walker's robbery, and I then concluded it was he who did it.

"Feb. 28, 1865." "JAMES HURLEY.

Mr. Lewis.—I must say Hurley's principal object in making the statement was to relieve his wife, who was then suffering imprisonment, and near her confinement.

Witness.—It was read over to the prisoner Hurley, and he was afterwards removed with the other prisoners to this court. The person named Barrett in the statement is the prisoner Jeffrey, and Brown is the prisoner "Scotty."

Inspector Potter.—It is quite true that Hurley was at Portsmouth, keeping a marine-store shop, at the time he mentions.

The rest of the evidence had reference to the robbery at Mr. Walker's.

City Police-constable Hitchcock (680).—I remember hearing of the robbery at Mr. Walker's in Cornhill. On the previous Sunday, about 6 o'clock in the morning, I had seen the prisoner Wilkinson in Gracechurch-street, coming towards Cornhill. I afterwards saw him in Cornhill. There was another person with him, but I should not know him again. He went into Bishopsgate, and returned four times to Cornhill.

Mr. Lewis.—Did he appear to be taking a constitutional walk at 6 o'clock on the Sunday morning? (A laugh.)

Witness.—He appeared to be watching the police on the beat, and I took particular notice of him. When he came near the shop of Mr. Carter, the chronometer-maker, at the corner of Cornhill, I saw him by the light of the lamp, and I pointed him out to other officers.

Mr. Lewis.—You could not, of course, take him up for walking about, but you kept your eye on him?

Witness assented.

The prisoner Wilkinson said he was not near the place.

Mrs. Janet Tarriff.—I live at 66, Guildford-road, Bromley-by-Bow, and am the wife of a shipwright. I know the female prisoner Jeffrey by the name of Turner. I should say the prisoner Jeffrey was her husband, but I could not swear. They lodged with us. The prisoner Brewerton used to come there to see Jeffrey. The Jeffreys came there to lodge on the 9th of December, and staid until the 16th of February last. Jeffrey said he was a traveller. I remember sitting up on the night of Saturday, the 4th of February, with my husband. The robbery at Mr. Walker's was committed on that night. I don't think Jeffrey was at home that night. He returned home about 2 o'clock on the Sunday (next day), with other men. Mrs. Jeffrey opened the door, and he said to her, "Good morning, mistress, if it is not too late." She said, "You scamp! where have you been?" or words to that effect. I afterwards heard the men walking about in the room above my kitchen, which the Jeffreys occupied, and talking and laughing. I remember seeing the male prisoner Brewerton there, but I never knew his name. The men left somewhere about 10 or 11 o'clock at night.

By the prisoner Brewerton.—I did not see you there on the Sunday. You used to come to see Jeffrey regularly once or twice a day, and you came in many dresses. You often wore a white comforter.

By Mr. Beard.—I remember Mrs. Turner (Jeffrey) coming home from marketing about 11 o'clock on the evening in question. She went out again, but returned, and she was in bed a little after 11 o'clock—at least I heard her in her bed-room.

A child, ten years of age, daughter of the previous witness, was about to be called, when the prisoner Caseley, with much effrontery, asked her if she knew the penalty of telling a lie.

Mr. Lewis told him he must leave that to the Court.

Caseley.—Why, Mr. Lewis, I remember your taking the same objection to me five years ago. (A laugh.)

Janet Tarriff, the child in question, being called as a witness, also identified the two Jeffreys as having lived in her parents' house. She used to open the door to them sometimes, and to Brewerton, the male prisoner, who used to come. She had seen him several times there.

The mother was recalled, and said after the Jeffreys had left she noticed that scutcheons had been placed over the keyholes of the locks on the inside.

City Detective Sergeant Moss was recalled, and said he had made a mistake on the last occasion as to the pin which he said he had taken from the scarf of the prisoner Brewerton, and he now produced the real pin.

Mr. Lewis said that was as far as he could go that day with the prosecution, and he asked to have the prisoners again remanded.

Mr. Beard again applied to have the women admitted to bail, remarking that no additional evidence had been given against them, and that, for anything that appeared to the contrary, what they had done in the matter they might have done under the coercion of their husbands. Large bail would be given for them.

Mr. Lewis objected, saying that it was always a question with a jury where a woman was indicted with her husband whether she had acted under his coercion.

Mr. Beard said he applied particularly for Mrs. Brewerton, who was almost dying from consumption.

Mr. Lewis said she was, until lately, keeping an oyster-stall in the open air in Lambeth.

The Lord Mayor declined to admit any of the women to bail at that stage of the inquiry.

The Prisoner Jeffrey asked the Lord Mayor if he would allow him some of the £700 or £800 in money that had been taken from them for professional assistance to conduct his defence.

The Lord Mayor said he should make no order. The money might be the proceeds of the robberies.

Inspector Potter.—All the prisoners have plenty of money, my Lord Mayor.

The prisoner "Scotty" asked if he could see his brother-in-law, who had been called as a witness, before witness's return home to Scotland, remarking that it would be a long time before he saw him again. He added that he had not a friend in London.

Mr. Lewis.—Yes, you have; I have called several who have spoken to your acquaintance (A laugh).

The LORD MAYOR gave the required permission, and remanded the prisoners until Tuesday next.—*The Times, March* 15.

THE GREAT ROBBERIES IN THE CITY.*

Yesterday, again, ten of the eleven men and women charged with being concerned in the great jewel robberies at the shop of Mr. Johnson, in Threadneedle-street, in July last, and at that of Mr. Walker, in Cornhill, in February last, were brought before the Lord Mayor, at the Justice-room of the Mansion-house, in the custody of Inspector Hamilton, of the City Police, to undergo a further examination. Their names are William Henry Jeffrey and Martha Jeffrey, Thomas Brewerton and Louisa Brewerton, Thomas Caseley and Ann Caseley, William Brown, otherwise "Scotty," but whose real name is Millar, Frederick William Wilkinson, James Hurley, and David Roberts. The absent prisoner was the wife of Hurley, and she is now in the infirmary of the gaol of Newgate, having recently given birth to a child while in prison.

The Justice-room, as on all previous examinations, was extremely crowded, and hundreds of people, unable to obtain admission, besieged the entrance outside.

Colonel Fraser, the City Commissioner of Police, and Mr. Nelson, the City Solicitor, were again present, as were several members of the Common Council and many gentlemen of note in the City. A rumour had been current for some days that a woman who had lived with one of the prisoners as his mistress would attend and give material evidence, and it will be seen that she did so. The whole interest of the day's proceedings, in fact, centred in her story.

Mr. Lewis, jun., solicitor, again conducted the prosecution. A gentleman from the office of Mr. Mullens, solicitor, watched the proceedings on behalf of Messrs. Baum, of Lombard-street, bullion dealers and money changers, whose premises were entered and ransacked of money and securities for money to the amount of £5,000 a few months ago. Most of the male prisoners, and especially Caseley, who is known by the *sobriquet* of "Counsellor Kelly" at a judge-and-jury club he used to frequent, defended themselves, except Wilkinson, for whom Mr. Josiah Merriman appeared; and Mr. Beard defended the three women. Mr. Pater, barrister, attended to prefer a fresh charge against some of the prisoners.

Sarah Jane Price, a young woman of about twenty-eight, was called by Mr. Lewis. It was deemed necessary to place Police-inspector Potter between the prisoner Brown and her, to prevent any attempt at intimidation on his part while she gave her evidence. The prisoner became greatly enraged at that arrangement, and repeatedly protested against it, but it was continued, nevertheless. The witness said,—I live at 14, Alfred-street, Barnsbury, and am a single woman. In May, 1863, I became acquainted with the prisoner Brown ("Scotty"). He introduced himself to me by the name of Brown, and said he was a traveller. About a month after I first knew him I went to live with him as his wife, and continued to do so until the time he was apprehended. I was then living at York-house, Constable-alley, Hoxton. In July, 1864, I was living with him in Great Cambridge-street, Hackney. I remember the robbery at Mr. Johnson's in July, 1864. Once before the robbery the prisoner Jeffrey, whom I know as Barrett, called at our house. I have also met him in the streets when I have been with Brown. After the robbery he came to live in the same house with us.

The prisoner Brown (interposing) demanded to know why the witness should not be allowed to give her evidence face to face with him.

Mr. Lewis.— I may say, my Lord Mayor, that this woman has suffered dreadfully from the violence of the prisoner. She has already had a rib and an arm broken by him.

Brown.—I cannot see the witness.

Mr. Lewis.—You need not see her.

The prisoner at this point became so violent that Detective Sergeant Moss had to interfere to restrain him.

Brown.—I object to evidence that is not given face to face with me. Is it right that Inspector Potter should stand before the witness and me? Need anybody be afraid to speak the truth? It is simply with me now a matter of speaking the truth.

---

* *The Times*, March 25th, 1865.

The Lord Mayor.—You can hear all that the witness states, and you can cross-examine her afterwards.

Mr. Lewis said he must request the Lord Mayor to have the prisoner removed from the court unless he became quiet.

The witness Price (to the prisoner).—Why do you wish to see me face to face?

The Prisoner.—Because I fear you will not otherwise speak the truth.

Witness.—Oh yes, I will. She went on to say, in answer to Mr. Lewis,—Before the robbery, perhaps a month, Brown took me to Mr. Johnson's premises in Threadneedle-street. I walked there with him. I did not know where I was going to until I got there. When we got to the place he opened the side door in the passage with a key. That was between 7 and 8 o'clock on a Sunday evening. While he opened the door he told me to stand by his side lest any one hould see what he was doing. On opening the door he did not go in. He simply tried the door and shut it again. Afterwards he said they were going to break into Johnson's. I know the prisoner Hurley. He came two or three times to our house to see Brown; but I have not seen him for the last 12 months. They talked together, but not about Johnson's. They said they were going to "do" such and such places if they could. That was generally the subject of their conversation. On Saturday, the 2nd of July, Brown went out about 6 o'clock, saying he was going to meet Barrett (Jeffrey). Barrett had the tools. I heard that from a conversation with the prisoner Brown. Brown did not come home at all that Saturday night. He returned about 4 o'clock on the Sunday afternoon, and he was then alone. He brought some jewellery home with him. He took it out of his pockets. It consisted of earrings, pins, lockets, brooches, and different other things. He gave me a pair of earrings. He did not say where he got the jewellery. Next morning Brown said he expected the prisoner Hurley to dispose of the goods. Hurley did not come. Later in the day, about 12 o'clock, Brown went out and said he was going across the park to meet his friends Barrett and Hurley. He took out with him the jewellery he had brought on the previous day, and he brought it back the same evening. About a fortnight afterwards I was with Brown when he met Barrett in the Bethnal-green-road. On that occasion Brown complained to Barrett that he was not satisfied with his share. He said his share was £60, and he ought to have had more. I do not know exactly what Barrett said. I think he said it was all nonsense; that he had given him his fair share, and that they had shared alike. He did not say he had lost money by the transaction. In September Barrett came to live in the same house with Brown. Brown had recommended him to the landlady. Barrett came and lived in the house, occupying two parlours. Brown occupied the second floor front, furnished. After Barrett came I have seen him and Brown filing keys in the parlour.

Mr. Lewis.—Was there a vice screwed to the table?

Witness.—I do not know what a vice is. (Shown a watchmaker's vice.) That belongs to my room, and I have seen it used for holding keys while they were being filed. It was fastened on the mantelpiece. Before Christmas I remember taking a bag of jewellery to a man named Coombes, who keeps a chandler's shop in Golden-lane. Brown told me to take all the jewellery there, as he was afraid the place would be searched, and that "they" were after him and Barrett on account of the silk robbery. She supposed "they" meant the police. The bag produced is the one, and I put into it the articles of jewellery which it now contains. When I took it there it contained the watch and rings which Brown was wearing when he was apprehended. I locked the bag and gave the key to Brown. [Mr. Lewis.—The bag contains jewellery, which has been identified by Mr. Johnson.] I remember Mr. Walker's robbery happening by seeing bills about it posted on the walls. Months before that robbery I heard Brown and Barrett speaking about Walker's place—that is, about trying to get in there. I heard them say they were going to a blacksmith's, but I don't know for what purpose. I have seen them with augers, crowbars, and skeleton keys. I know the prisoner Brewerton. He visited Barrett, but he never came until after September. He did not visit Brown. I have seen him three or four times during their stay there. I have not heard Barrett and Brewerton speaking together. I have heard them conversing with Brown. I suppose it was about their "business," but I cannot tell what they said in particular. They were all three together.

Caseley.—When she says "all three," I am of course, excluded, my Lord Mayor. (A laugh.)

Witness, resuming.—I could not exactly say what they were talking about, but as far as I remember it was about what they had done concerning "Johnson's and Walker's," and what they were going to do. After Brown's apprehension I went to the House of Detention to see him. I saw him there. He directed me to go to Mr. Palmer, a publican, and see the prisoner Caseley, whom I had never seen before. I went to Palmer's. (Mr. Oke.—Of the Pitt's Head.) Brown told me to go there, and asked me to find a solicitor for him, giving me £1 1*s.* for that purpose. I paid half-a-guinea to Mr. Beard's clerk to go to the House of Detention to see him. I saw Caseley on the Saturday morning, Brown having been apprehended on the Wednesday. He told me to tell Caseley he was in trouble. That was the first time I had seen Caseley. On my telling him Brown had been taken for the jewel robbery in the Strand, he said he was sorry to hear it, for he heard

that he (Brown) was innocent, and that he would find him a solicitor. I inquired for "Mr. Thomas" when I went to see Caseley. I did not know him then by the name of Caseley.

Cross-examined by Brown ("Scotty").—I was in the house when the police came to take you. I opened the door to the landlord, and he asked me if "Mr. White" was in. I said he was not; but the police pushed me on one side, and rushed by. You were then in bed. I never saw the officers until they entered the room. One of the constables (Brennan) took you by the throat, and said he apprehended you for the jewel robbery in the Strand. They scarcely allowed you to get out of bed. I did not see you seize Brennan by the throat. If you had done so I should have seen you. (Brown.—Brennan in his evidence said I attempted to strangle him.) They certainly took you in a very indecent way. They would not allow you to dress. You did not give them the least provocation. One of them (Ranger) took a gold watch off the mantelpiece. He also put his hand in my pocket, and asked me what I had got there. I replied "Nothing." They remained until about half-past two in the morning searching the place. They did not find any skeleton keys. They took the vice away.

Brown.—How long have you been in the service of the police?

Witness.—Me? I don't know what you mean. I never had the pleasure of seeing Inspector Potter until last Wednesday, when he apprehended me for being in possession of the bag.

The prisoner Brown then put questions to the witness with the view to elicit from her how she had been living while he had been in prison; but the Lord Mayor interposed, saying they were irrelevant, upon which the prisoner said, with much vehemence of manner, "I want to show how she has been living, and I have got a public duty to perform." (Laughter.)

Cross-examination resumed by Brown.—I know Bow-lane. I never stole a key to get to a place there; you made your own key.

The Lord Mayor.—What place do you mean?

Brown.—It is a place from which Hurley and I took some property.

The Lord Mayor.—She denies she stole the key, and you at the same time acknowledge that you broke into the place and took the property. (A laugh.)

Witness, in cross-examination.—I carried a bag of chenille away, and my sister and I made it up into nets. I never "shopped" the nets; your friend, Mrs. Coombes, did that.

The Lord Mayor (to the prisoner).—All that is irrelevant. If you choose to make confessions you have no right to accuse her.

Brown.—But she was with me.

Witness (to the prisoner).—If you speak of one thing, why not of another? I can speak o others. You know you broke into the bullion place, and you know you broke into Bennoch's Why did you break my ribs?

Prisoner,—Because you went with another man.

Witness.—You are a liar. You can go on. I will go on.

Prisoner,—We will have no argument. Did you not carry the tools one night?

Witness.—Suppose I did.

Prisoner.—Did you carry the tools?

Witness.—Of course I did, and where did you leave them?

Prisoner.—You must not ask me questions. (Laughter.)

Witness.—Oh, yes, I may.

Prisoner.—I left them with you.

Witness.—Never. You left them with Coombes, and I carried them for you.

Prisoner.—Did not your sister get me the keys of Harris's place (as was understood)?—No; but you offered her £10 after the Bramahs had been put on.

Did not the police come too "handy" upon us?—I don't know. You were in the place; I was not in it.

Did you not want me to break into a tailor's shop in Cheapside?—No.

Where did you get the linsey dress you are now wearing? Was it not stolen from a place in Redcross-street?—You gave it to me for my trouble. (A laugh.)

Did you not rob a man of £32?—I never robbed a man in my life.

How many times have you been in prison?—I never was in prison.

Were you not in Clerkenwell for stealing dresses?—No.

Did you not give information to the police about me?—No; your friend Morris did you that service. (A laugh.)

To the prisoner Caseley.—I never saw you but once, and that was not in any part of December last. I remember the prisoner Brewerton saying he was going to shoot you. (A laugh.) I never heard any of the prisoners speak of you until I was sent to you by Brown. I think I know all the men who committed Johnson's robbery. You are not one of them, I believe.

To Brown.—I know you were not in the Strand robbery; I never said you were.

Brown.—Your friend Inspector Brennan said I was.

Witness.—He is no friend of mine.

By Mr. Lewis.—I have seen the prisoner Wilkinson. I don't know by what name he passed. I don't know his name at all. I have seen him at our house visiting Brown. The last occasion was about twelve or fourteen months ago.

George Bennett, Inspector of Thames Police, deposed that on the 25th of February, about seven in the morning, he was on the river in a boat with others, and, while passing below the temporary bridge at Blackfriars, he saw the two gold watches produced, lying upon a cross pile, just above the water. He gave them to Police Inspector Hamilton.

Cornelius Wilkinson, a diver, deposed that he dived eight times in the Thames at Blackfriars Bridge in search of some of the missing watches. He found nine gold watches. The glasses of none of them were broken. He used Mr. Heinke's patent apparatus and lamp on these occasions.

Mr. Lewis.—I suppose, Wilkinson, that is the first time you found nine gold watches there? (Laughter.)

The prisoner Caseley.—You did not see any of us down there, did you? (A laugh.)

George Smith said he was a diver in the employ of Messrs. Heinke, engineers, in Great Portland-place. (Caseley.—Divers witnesses are being called now.) (A laugh.) He went down on the 9th of March with one of their lamps and found the gold watch produced. Twelve altogether were found, and he thought there were no more there.

Superintendent Durkin.—That makes twelve, with the two found by Inspector Bennett.

Mr. John Walker, jun., identified the watches as belonging to his father, and as having been put into the iron safe on the night before the robbery. The water had not injured such of the watches as were crystal-faced.

Joseph King, a warder at Coldbath-fields Prison, proved that in June, 1860, the prisoner Caseley was sentenced to four years' penal servitude at the Surrey Sessions, for stealing a basket of plate, he having been thrice before summarily convicted.

Caseley.—It is that four years' sentence that will prove my innocence of Mr. Johnson's robbery. That is the very witness I wanted to see. (A laugh.)

The Lord Mayor asked the witness if any part of the sentence was remitted.

Witness replied that if the convict had behaved well, three months of each year would be remitted.

Caseley.—I did not behave myself, my Lord Mayor. (A laugh.) Besides, I was nine months in Birmingham after my discharge from prison.

George Agar, a warder at Holloway Prison, produced a previous conviction against Brewerton for stealing a watch, upon which he was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment in October, 1863. The prisoner was liberated on the 25th of July last.

Inspector Potter said there was a previous conviction, with penal servitude, against Brewerton.

James Cobbett, sub-warder of Coldbath-fields Prison, said he knew the prisoner Brown by the name of Robert Elliott, and that he was convicted and sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment at the Middlesex Sessions, on January 20th, 1862, for stealing a quantity of toweling and fifteen pocket-handkerchiefs.

Mr. Lewis said at the trial he should prove a previous conviction against him for a felony in Scotland, and ten years' penal servitude.

A previous conviction was proved against the prisoner Jeffrey for a jewel robbery in Brown's-lane, Spitalfields, in March, 1857, in concert with a man known by the *sobriquet* of "the countryman."

A police-constable, named Smith, proved that Caseley had also been convicted of deserting from a Rifle regiment.

Caseley explained, with respect to that offence, that having been previously taken to a police-station and charged with another which the police could not prove against him, they called in a recruiting sergeant and enlisted him for a soldier. (A laugh.)

Mr. Lewis said with respect to the prisoner Wilkinson the evidence was not sufficient to support a conviction, and he proposed that he should be discharged.

The prisoner was discharged accordingly, but was immediately afterwards charged with another offence.

Mr. Beard said he did not know whether the Lord Mayor had made up his mind to commit for trial the women for whom he appeared.

The Lord Mayor said he had.

Mr. Beard was sorry for that, because there was no evidence against the woman Jeffrey, except her being with her husband when he was apprehended; and there was, if possible, less against the woman Caseley.

Mr. Lewis said she was in possession of part of the stolen property.

Mr. Beard replied that would not make her amenable, assuming she was a married woman. All the women might be presumed to have acted under the coercion of their husbands.

The Lord Mayor said that he should leave that to a jury to decide.

Mr. Beard took occasion to deny the truth of a statement in the deposition of Inspector Potter, that he (Mr. Beard) was an attesting witness to the transfer of the lease of the house in Whitechapel to the prisoners Brewerton and Jeffrey.

Mr. Oke, the chief clerk, said Mr. Beard's name appeared in the bill of costs for the transfer, and that his clerk attested the execution of it.

The Lord Mayor (ironically).—Don't be ashamed of your clients, Mr. Beard. (A laugh.)

Mr. Beard said he was not, and that he had only to say that his name was not attached to the deed.

Mr. Pater then charged the two Jeffreys, Wilkinson, Brown, and Brewerton, with being concerned in a silk robbery on the premises of Messrs. Bennoch, of 80, Wood-street, Cheapside.

Mr. John Andrews, whom he called, said he was a warehouseman in the service of Messrs. Bennoch, and that about a quarter past six o'clock on the evening of the 8th of November he fastened up the premises and took the keys with him. No one slept on the premises. Next morning, a few minutes before eight, when he returned, he found the door open, and it appeared to have been opened from the inside, as the lock was wrenched off. The place was in great confusion, the goods being strewn about, and seventy-six pieces of silk were missing, of the value together of about £500.

A boy nine years of age, whose father is now undergoing a sentence of ten years' penal servitude for being concerned in the robbery as a receiver, gave evidence tending to implicate all the male prisoners, as did also his grandmother and Police-inspector Potter.

The evidence given was just sufficient to justify the prisoners being remanded, and they were remanded on that case accordingly.

Mr. Oke, the chief clerk, then told the prisoners Joseph Hurley and Ellen Hurley, Jeffrey, Martha Jeffrey, Ann Caseley, Louisa Brewerton, and Brown, that they would be charged on their trial with having, on the 4th of July last, broken and entered the shop of Mr. Wm. Johnson, in this city, and stolen six gold watches, 300 lockets, 100 rings, 300 brooches, 150 bracelets, 120 earrings, 40 pencil-cases, 50 chains, and other articles, of the value together of £4,000. They would also be charged as receivers with a guilty knowledge. The prisoner Roberts, the two Jeffreys, the two Caseleys, and the two Brewertons, he said, would be charged with having, on the 4th of February last, feloniously broken and entered the shop of Mr. John Walker, and stolen 400 watches, 150 chains, and divers brooches, rings, and other articles, of the value together of £6,000, with £70 in money. They would likewise be charged as receivers with a guilty knowledge.

The prisoners, on receiving the usual caution from the Bench, said, one and all, that they reserved their defence.

The Lord Mayor said they would stand committed to Newgate for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

The prisoners were then removed from the bar, and were shortly afterwards escorted to the prison van, guarded by a strong body of the City police, amid a scene of great excitement. As they left for Newgate, the crowd outside evinced their gratification by derisive cheers.

[26.]—DARING ROBBERY IN BIRMINGHAM.

AN IRON "SAFE" BROKEN OPEN.

For some years the general public have been made acquainted with the respective merits of the various descriptions of "fire-proof," "thief-proof," and "burglar-resisting" safes, each maker claiming some peculiar merit for his own invention, but all agreeing that their safes were perfectly secure, and challenging the world to open one without the key. One of the latest inventions was the substitution of steel linings to the locks and doors, which resisted all attempts to effect an opening by means of drills. But though makers have been so far successful in their exertions to produce an "impregnable" iron safe, their competitors, the "cracksmen," have been equally persevering and industrious, and the papers a few days ago recorded the breaking open of one of these safes, and the carrying off of a large amount of property. The announcement excited much surprise at the time in London, and we have now to record a similar instance in this town, which will, it is to be hoped, be a caution to persons possessed of a large amount of property as to how far they may place it with confidence in a thief-proof safe.

On Saturday morning information was given to the police that the office of Mr. W. H. Dixon at the Old Wharf had been broken into, and a safe broken open and its contents carried off. The case was placed in the hands of Inspector Tandy and Sergeant Seal for investigation. On arriving at the spot the active officers soon discovered that the outer door had been forced with a "jemmy" or crowbar, and that a large iron fire-proof safe had been forced open, and its contents carried off. The safe, which was affixed to the wall by a bolt through the back, was about 3 feet by 2½ feet, and was made of ⅜-in iron, and though it had been considered fire and thief-proof, it presented a very dilapidated

appearance. The door was forced open, and such was the violence that had been employed, that one of the sides was not only bent and broken, but the bolts by which the safe was riveted together were forced completely out of the metal. It is supposed that the thieves must have procured what is technically known to blacksmiths as a "set," and placing the thin edge of the wedge between the edge of the door and the side of the chest, have driven it home by means of blows from a sledge-hammer. A book was found on the premises, which had evidently been placed on the edge of the "set" to prevent the noise being too great. As above stated, so great was the force employed that the rivets or bolts which secured the angle of the chest were forced from their places, and in one place the wrought iron outer casing was broken. It is satisfactory to know, however, that after all

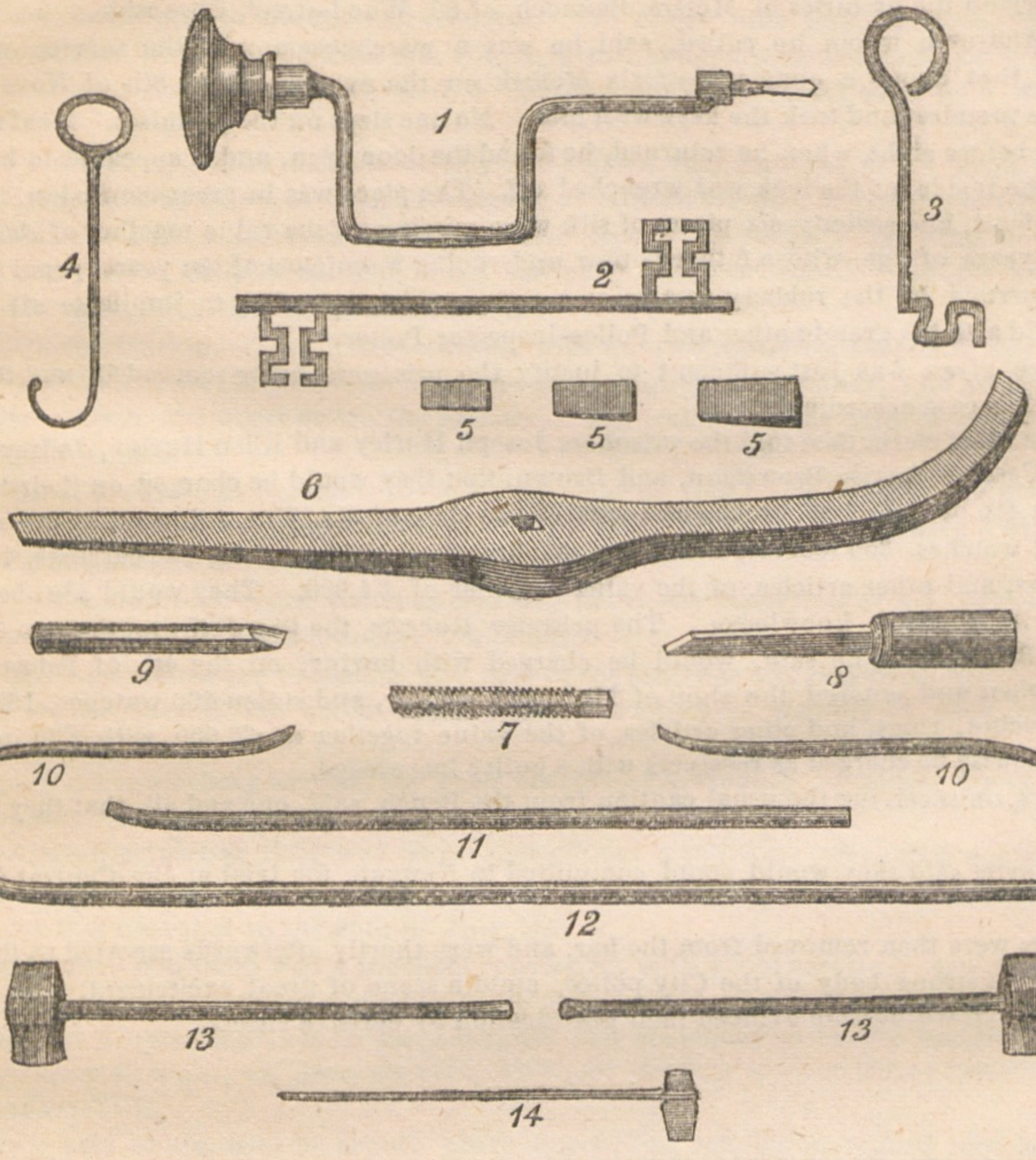


Fig. 16.—Burglars' Tools.—1, iron brace and bit; 2, 3, skeleton keys; 4, picklock; 5, 5, 5, steel wedges;" 6, wrench; 7, screw which is worked by the wrench 6; 8, joiners' mortise chisel; 9, steel chisel for cutting iron; 10, 10, jemmies; 11, small crowbar; 12, large crowbar; 13, 13, sledge-hammers; 14, blacksmiths' "set."

their labour, and though they carried off the contents of the safe, the booty obtained by the thieves was not very large. The sum contained in the safe amounted only to three-pence half-penny. Still, the fact remains that thieves have discovered the means by which these iron safes may be opened, and it is to be hoped that jewellers and others will not rely too much upon the vaunted impregnability of these "safe" repositories for their valuables. The various safe-makers must now endeavour to devise some means of meeting this plan of opening these chests—either by an improved plan of manufacture which shall render the angles of the safes more secure, or by preventing the possibility of a wedge being inserted in the opening of the door. As the parties concerned in the transaction have not yet been taken, it is impossible to say whether they are local hands or not; but as this is the only occurrence of the kind that has taken place in the provinces, and as it follows so close upon a simliar transaction in London, it is not unlikely it may be the work of the same men or their confederates. The matter is, however, in the hands of two clever and efficient officers, and if it is possible we have no doubt we shall soon hear something of the parties concerned in the transaction.—*Birmingham Daily Gazette*, Feb. 13, 1865.

In this burglary the thieves, instead of wasting time in trying to pick the outer-doorlock, at once effected an entrance into the premises by forcing the door with

a "jemmy," or crowbar. The iron safe (one of Taunton & Hatton's), though considered by its owners a "good safe on the old construction," was never expected to be attacked with the wedge and crowbar; and, therefore, was never intended to resist such extraordinary violence. The wedge, in this case, is supposed to have been a blacksmith's "set" (see 14, Fig. 16), which, with the sledge-hammer and crowbar, soon did the business, by forcing asunder the angles of the safe and releasing the door from its fastenings.

[27.]—DARING HOUSEBREAKING IN NEWHALL STREET.

BREAKING OPEN OF ANOTHER SAFE.

Yesterday morning it was discovered that a daring robbery had been committed, during the previous night, on premises adjoining the Newhall-wharf, Newhall-street, occupied by Messrs. Bass & Co., the celebrated Burton brewers, as a branch store. The depredations of the thieves were confined to the office, which is on the ground floor, fronting the street. Entrance had been effected by a side door, in a passage leading to offices over the premises of Messrs. Bass. The passage is not open to the street, but communicates with the adjoining wharf by a door which fastens with a spring latch. This latch can be undone by any ordinary skeleton key, and had evidently been lifted by the thieves without violence. Once in the passage, they had cut out one of the panels of the door leading into Messrs. Bass & Co.'s offices, and having unfastened the bolts inside found themselves in the office, where there was a small cast-iron safe, containing £21 10*s.* in gold and silver, and some postage stamps. From marks on the safe, it is evident that they first tried to open it with a chisel, by introducing it at the edge of the door near the lock; but finding it would not give way, being cast iron, they applied a huge sledge-hammer (left by the thieves in the place) to the door, and shivered the door to pieces. Having possessed themselves of the contents of the safe, they had ransacked every drawer, desk, box, or corner likely to contain money, and, finding nothing else, made off with what was, no doubt, to their expectations, a meagre booty. It is a curious circumstance that on Monday last the clerk in charge of the safe, reading the account of the safe-breaking case that occurred at the Old Wharf on the previous Saturday night, felt alarmed, and removed £75, which thus escaped the clutch of the thieves. Detective-sergeant Mountford has the case in charge, but has not yet been able to obtain any clue to the thieves. No one was sleeping near the place, otherwise the noise attending their operations would have led to their detection, or, at all events, to the interruption of their work. The occurrence of two safe-breakings in one week is calculated to destroy confidence in these contrivances as a means of security. We may state that the detectives assure us there is no use in a safe unless it is made of wrought iron and of large size. As the safest precaution against such felonious visitations, they strongly recommend that some one should sleep on the premises where valuables are kept.—*Birmingham Daily Post*, Feb. 16th, 1865.

Here we have another instance of the folly of trusting the outer door of the premises to the security of a "spring latch." We again repeat that in all "spring" locks and "street-door night latches," unless specially constructed to prevent it, the bolt can be withdrawn by the most simple skeleton key. Such locks or latches should never be used singly, but the doors should always be fitted, in addition, with an unpickable "dead" lock. The safe—a cast-iron one, similar to fig. 2—was smashed to pieces with a "huge sledge-hammer." When will the public cease to trust their cash in such worthless receptacles?

[28.]—BURGLARY AT MOTHERWELL, NEAR GLASGOW.

On the night of the 7th and morning of the 8th of February, 1865, the office, at Motherwell, of Mr. Robert Ward, contractor, 19, Germiston-street, Glasgow, was entered by breaking a square of glass in a window, and removing the sash-fastener. The burglars then broke open two doors leading to the office, in which was a George Price's safe. This they carried outside into an adjoining field, and, with a sledge-hammer, commenced operations. They first broke away the "ears"

and "centres" of the door, and then employed several masons' chisels (by appearance sharpened for the purpose) as wedges, which they drove in between the edge of the door and the outside body-plates. This operation forced the dovetails at the angles, and enabled the thieves to cut through the rivets that held the inside angle-irons and corner-pieces to the lining and outer plates of the safe. This much accomplished, they next forced out the door, but which still held fast to the inside frame or lining. Through the latter (made of sheet-iron) they cut a hole into the interior, large enough to admit a man's hand, and took out some papers and books. Their time now being exhausted, the drawers containing the cash were left intact. From the marks of the sledge-hammer on the safe, and the mutilated condition of the latter, it must have taken the burglars a considerable time to accomplish what they did.—*From a communication from Mr. Ward and his Foreman, at Motherwell.*

The safe above referred to is one of our X 201 C quality (see fig. 5), and was never intended to resist the amount of violence it did. We feel great satisfaction in recording the particulars of the desperate attack it was subjected to, as they go to prove the amount of violence even a *light* safe will stand, when the whole frame is well built up, each part assisting the other, and properly constructed. The safe was sent to us to repair, and it is again doing duty as before. The opening of this safe is the third out of upwards of 8,000 safes, chests, and strong-room doors we have made, that has been opened by burglars. The first was one of our 101 C's, at a colliery office, in Yorkshire, in 1859, and which succumbed to an attack of extraordinary violence; the second was the one at Mr. Reddish's, Manchester, described in burglary No. 11. Neither of the three was constructed or ever expected to resist great violence.

[29.]—ANOTHER ROBBERY IN THE CITY.

A very daring robbery has been committed at a house in Birchin-lane, one of the busiest thoroughfares in the city, connecting Cornhill with Lombard-street, and in the immediate vicinity of the Royal Exchange and the Bank of England. The premises in question, No. 6, consist of a shop on the ground floor, with offices above, all of which have a common entrance from the street. The first floor is occupied by Mr. Lyons, a stock and share-broker, the second by Mr. Crane, an agent for the sale of fire-arms, and the third is at present unoccupied. No one sleeps upon the premises, and the occupant of the shop, being the last to leave in the evening, closes them for the night, as in the case of Mr. Walker, the jeweller in Cornhill. Like him, too, there is reason to believe that the shopkeeper himself unknowingly locked in the thieves, who afterwards ransacked the place, and escaped with the spoil. It so happened that Mr. Lyons, on Saturday last, before leaving his office for the day, took from an iron safe in it the money and securities for money which he had there, and deposited them with his bankers, but he left in it a cash-box, which, however, contained only a few documents of value to himself. That being so, he thought he would at once leave the safe door open, for otherwise, in the event of the house being robbed, the thieves might spoil his safe by forcing, or attempting to force it open. Failing to pick the lock of his office door, the thieves had cut away the jamb into which the bolt shot, and had then prized the door open with a crowbar. They wrenched open a drawer in the same way, but without finding in it anything of value, and they took from an open drawer a quantity of postage-stamps. Of course, they soon discovered the cash-box in the unlocked safe, and that they forced violently open, leaving it afterwards bulged and broken in a room above. They were more successful in the apartments on the second floor, in the occupation of Mr. Crane, which were stored with a choice selection of small arms, especially revolvers, in which he trades, in the capacity of an agent. Having forced an entrance by cutting away the bearings of the lock, and prising open the door, they carried off about 50 revolvers, some of them worth five and six guineas each, and of the value, in all, of £130. On Saturday the premises were closed for the night at 7 clock, and the robbery would appear to have been effected in little more than an hour afterwards, for two

of the pistols stolen from the rooms of Mr. Crane were pledged about 9 o'clock the same evening at the shop of a pawnbroker in the Borough.

Yesterday a man who gave the name of James Roberts, but refused his address, was brought before Mr. Alderman LUSK, at the Justice-room of the Mansion-house, and charged with being concerned in the robbery.

Mr. John Henry Crane was the first witness called. He said: I am agent for fire-arms, and occupy an office on the second floor of the house, 6, Birchin-lane. I do not know the prisoner. No one sleeps on the premises. The robbery was effected between the night of Saturday last and Monday morning. On Saturday evening, about 6 o'clock, I locked up my office, leaving the shopkeeper below, Mr. Chamberlain, who is always the last to leave the premises, to lock the outer door. I pass through his shop to get into the street. On that night I had left nearly 140 pistols in my office. They were sample revolvers and others, and some lay on a table in cases, and others below the table in holsters. On my return on Monday morning I found my office had been broken into and about 50 pistols, of the estimated value of about £130, stolen. On examining the premises, I found that a padlock which I had placed on the door over and above the ordinary lock had been wrenched off, and the door itself had been prised open from the jamb, without the lock having been injured. When I arrived the place was in charge of the police. The revolver produced is one of those stolen from my office. The cost price of it would be about £3. Of the 50 stolen 16 were in holsters, and the thieves left the holsters behind.

Mr. John Chamberlain, umbrella manufacturer, at 6, Birchin-lane, said he occupied the shop on the ground-floor, and was the last to leave the premises on Saturday night. He left at 7 o'clock. He first locked and bolted the front door of the shop on the inside, according to his custom, leaving the key in the lock on the inside, and then left by the back-door, on which were two good locks and a padlock besides. Before leaving he did not go up-stairs to see if any one was in the upper part of the house. He returned on Monday morning, a little before 9 o'clock, and found the back-door by which he usually entered all right, but he was alarmed on going into the shop and not finding the key of the front door in the lock on the inside, where he had left it on Saturday evening. He also missed a green bag from the shop. He then went up-stairs, and found that the office of Mr. Lyons, on the first floor, had been forcibly entered, and on going to the second floor he found that that of Mr. Crane had also been forced open. He called in a policeman, and left the premises in his charge. Witness did not know the prisoner.

Frederick William Jarrey, assistant to Mr. Folkard, a pawnbroker, at 160, Blackfriars-road, deposed that on Tuesday afternoon the prisoner, whom he did not know, entered the shop and offered to pledge the revolver produced, asking 30*s*. on it. Having taken two similar pistols previously in pledge, and having received some information, his suspicion was excited, and he communicated with the police, the prisoner in the meantime being detained in the shop by witness's master. Witness returned with a constable, and gave the prisoner into custody.

Edward Hancock.—I am a city detective officer. On Monday morning last I went to 6, Birchin-lane, and examined the premises. I found that a great part of the door-post of Mr. Lyons's office on the first floor had been cut away, and the lock forced. I went to the second floor, and found that the door of Mr. Crane's office had been forced with the "jemmy" produced. Mr. Crane had handed me the "jemmy" and a dark lantern, which he said a constable had found on the stairs. I compared the "jemmy," with marks on the door and the lock, and found them to correspond. The "jemmy" had been inserted into the ring of the padlock, and the lock wrenched off. The desks in Mr. Lyons's office had also been forced open. I afterwards went to the shop of Mr. Folkard, pawnbroker, and gave certain information there. This morning I took the prisoner into custody at the Southwark police-court. On the way there I told him he would be charged with breaking and entering the warehouse of Mr. Crane, in Birchin-lane, and stealing a number of revolvers, and that he would also be charged with receiving the particular revolver produced, knowing it to have been stolen. He said, "I had it from a man in Blackfriars-road, and I was to have for myself all I could get for it over £1." He did not, he said, know the man, nor did he know where to find him, but he would try to do so if he was liberated. He gave the name of James Roberts, and refused his address. He said he had no occupation.

Mr. Alderman LUSK remanded him.—*The Times*, March 9th, 1865.

Here we have another robbery, effected, in the first instance, by the thieves getting made up in the premises before the outer door leading to all the offices was locked for the night. Fortunately for Mr. Lyons, he saved his cash and securities by removing them from a depository in the security of which he could not place any confidence. It is far better to lock one's money in a *wooden* box than trust it in an inferior *iron* safe.

[30.]—BURGLARY IN MARK-LANE.

Yesterday, at one o'clock, Robert Rowland, 25, of Half Moon-passage, Whitechapel, described as a clerk, and William Bell, 18, living at 5, Newman's place, Bishopsgate, a porter, were brought before the Lord Mayor, in the Justice-room at the Mansion-house, charged with breaking and entering the premises of Messrs. Twiss and Browning, of 47, Mark-lane, merchants, and stealing three cash boxes, containing money, and securities representing money and merchandise, to the amount of many thousands of pounds. City Police-serjeant Jennison was called. He said,—About two o'clock this morning my attention was called by Mr. Young, of 47, Mark-lane, to a light in the premises of Messrs. Twiss & Browning. The house is principally let out as offices, and Mr. Young lives on the top floor. The light I saw was on the ground floor. Mr. Young let me in by the street door, and I found that a hole, large enough to admit a man's arm, had been broken in the glazed door leading from the lobby, on the ground floor, to Messrs. Twiss and Browning's offices. By the time I had got into the lobby the light had been put out, and neither Mr. Young nor I could get into the offices. While I was speaking to him I heard a bell ring in an inner office. Not being able to get in, I placed a constable at both the front and back door of the premises, and I waited there until 8 o'clock this morning. The porter (Rye) then came and opened the door of the offices. We went in and found prisoner, Bell, sitting in an easy chair in the private room of Mr. Browning, smoking a cigar and drinking rum. (A laugh.) The other was sitting at a table by his side. On my asking what they were doing there, they made no answer. On looking round, I saw the iron safe had been opened by a key; that the key was in it, and that two cash-boxes were lying on the floor broken open, and empty. Several papers were strewn about the floor, and the place was in a state of general confusion. Messrs. Twiss and Browning are large wine merchants. I charged the prisoners with burglary. They made no reply, and I took them to the Seething-lane Station. They are known to the police. I found half-a-crown on one of them.

Mr. Robert Moore.—I am a solicitor at 47, Mark-lane, and reside in chambers there connected with my office. I had been out last evening at a friend's house, and returned home about one o'clock this morning. I had a dog in my room, on second floor, which I was going to send into the country, and I took it out for an airing before I went to bed. When I got about halfway down stairs I saw a flash of light through a skylight over Messrs. Twiss and Browning's offices. but it was put out immediately afterwards. Knowing that no windows reflected on the skylight, I suspected something wrong. I tried Messrs. Twiss and Browning's doors, and found they were fastened. I went out with the dog, and on my return, in about ten minutes, having my suspicion excited by what I had seen, I sat down on the stairs near my own rooms, and remained quiet for a few minutes. I then saw the gas lit up in Mr. Browning's offices. I crept quietly down-stairs, and, tapping loudly at the window in which I saw the light, I asked who was there, adding that if no answer was made I should call the police. The light was put out directly after I tapped at the window, and I went to the front door to look for a policeman. I waited for a few minutes, and Serjeant Jennison presented himself. I called him in, and he looked round and found a square plate of glass in the inner door of Messrs. Twiss and Browning's offices broken. All the doors were locked. I went and called Mr. Young, who lives at the upper part of the house. We placed pieces of tape on the locks outside with seals, and constables were stationed outside the house, in various places, during the remainder of the night.

The Lord Mayor.—Do you suppose the prisoners had been locked in?

Witness.—From the appearance of the place we think they had broken the glass door which is one of the entrances to the offices, and had then put their hands through and opened the door from the inside.

Samuel Speck, a City Police-serjeant, said that morning, about six o'clock, by the direction of Inspector Lennard, he placed two constables, one in Tower-street and another in Mark-lane, front and back of the house. He then went with Inspector Jennison into the offices of Messrs. Twiss and Browning, a door of which the porter unlocked. On entering the private offices the two prisoners were found seated as described by Serjeant Jennison. On searching the prisoner Bell he found a florin and a fourpenny piece, with a hole in it, upon him. He sent the prisoners to the police-station, and continued to search the place. There is a large strong-room in a corner of the private office, enclosing an inner iron safe, with three or four compartments. He found the key of the strong-room door. He also found the key of the iron safe in the door. The three cash-boxes produced had been taken from the safe, and two of them broken open. The other, which was not broken open, contained a number of dock warrants. He found a key in the outer office door in the private room of Mr. Browning, and also six other keys, none of which fitted any locks on the premises. He also found a jemmy in one of the rooms, with a chisel at one end and a hammer on the other, and it fitted the marks made on the cash-boxes in breaking them open.

George Rye, head porter to Messrs. Twiss & Browning, said they occupied part of the ground-

floor. He was the last to leave the premises on Wednesday night, which he did at a few minutes past eight o'clock. He locked the office up in the usual way, and took the key of the front door away in his pocket. There was an inner door leading to the offices. He had first to see that the iron safe as well as the strong-room was locked.

The Lord Mayor.—Do they leave the key of the safe on the premises all night?

Witness replied in the affirmative, and mentioned in what part of them it was left. On his returning to the office next morning he found the inner door sealed up, and two officers in charge of the place. He unlocked the door and went in with the officers, and found the prisoners sitting in the governor's room. The strong room and the safe were both open, and two cash-boxes were lying on the floor broken open.

By the Lord Mayor.—The key of the safe was placed in an open pigeon-hole over night. (A laugh.)

Serjeant Speck said he had forgotten to state that on searching the water-closet on the ground-floor he found a cheque for £5, signed by Mr. Browning, a copy of a will, and other papers. One of the cash-boxes, an iron one, contained fifty-seven dock warrants.

Thomas Young, a junior clerk in the office of Twiss & Browning, said he locked the iron safe and left the office a few minutes before seven on Wednesday evening, leaving the witness Rye to lock up the premises. From the iron cash-box produced, containing dock warrants, a £5 bank note had been taken. The cheque, signed by Mr. Browning, had been taken from one of the smaller cash-boxes, as had also the will. He had not locked the cash-boxes, but put them in the safe before he locked it. Money, but he could not say how much, had been taken from one of the smaller cash-boxes. After locking the safe he placed the key in a pigeon-hole of the office.

The Lord Mayor asked if it was a usual practice with him, after locking the safe, to leave the key on the premises.

Witness replied in the affirmative.

The Lord Mayor.—I see that the key of the iron cash-box, containing all the dock warrants, is attached to the lid by a string. Is it always kept so attached?

Witness.—It is. (Laughter.)

Mr. Henry Wood, cashier to the prosecutors, deposed that there were seven £5 bank notes, an Australian sovereign, a bad half-crown, wrapped up in a piece of paper, and they did not take had money (a laugh), but they took everything else. Another of the cash-boxes, which had been broken open, contained stamps.

Bridget Johnson.—I am a servant to Mr. John Young, jun., architect, 47, Mark-lane, who lives at the top of the house. I never saw the prisoners before, except one of them on the previous evening. About ten o'clock last night the street door bell was rung, and I opened the door. The premises were all shut up for the evening. On my opening the door the prisoner Rowland gave me a letter, and asked if he could see a young woman named Bridget. I said, I am Bridget. (A laugh.) He said, I have brought a letter from Mrs. Notley. I took it up-stairs to the housekeeper, not knowing what the letter meant, and shut the outer door, leaving the prisoner inside the passage. I know a Mrs. Notley. She is in the habit of calling to see Mrs. Young, of whom she was an old servant. I was absent about five minutes. The housekeeper read the letter, and told me to say I could not write an answer that night. When I came down I saw the prisoner still standing inside where I left him. I did not see anybody with him. The letter was as follows:—

Whitecross Place.

DEAR BRIDGET,—I write this note hoping to find you in the enjoyment of good health, which, I am sorry to say, I am not at present. Dear Bridget, I write for a favour, which I know, if possible, you will oblige. I wish you to call and see me on Sunday, as, I am sorry to say, I am very ill. Dear Bridget, send a written answer by the young man who forwards this to you, as he has got to give it to a relation who is kind enough to call for me. Please to put it in the letter what time you will call, as I may be prepared for you. Be sure to come, as I wish to see you very particular.

I remain, dear Bridget,

Your affectionate friend,

MARY NOTLEY.

I told the prisoner I could not write an answer that night, but I would do so in the morning. He then left, and I closed the door behind him. I don't know either of the prisoners.

Charlotte Tillett, a servant to Mr. Young, deposed that the prisoner Rowland came to the street door about nine o'clock on the previous evening, and asked if a person named Bridget was in. Witness, who had answered the door, said she was not. Upon which he said he and a friend of his particularly wished to see her. He did not leave his name, but he said he would return at ten o'clock. He then went away.

The prisoners were then remanded to Friday.

Police-serjeant Speck believed a previous conviction would be proved against one of the prisoners.

Mr. Wood, the prosecutor's cashier, asked to be allowed to see the dock warrants, which he said

were exceedingly valuable, in order to find if any of them were missing. He also asked to have back the keys of the strong-room and safe.

The Lord Mayor gave the required permission, observing ironically, that as to the keys he thought they might do without them for any use they had made of them.—*The Times*, March 3rd, 1865.

THE BURGLARY IN MARK-LANE.

Yesterday the three men named Rowland (otherwise Hogan), Bell, and Notley, who stand charged with breaking and entering the premises of Messrs. Twiss and Browning, commission agents, at 47, Mark-lane, and stealing three cash boxes containing bank notes and a number of securities representing merchandise of great value, were brought before the Lord Mayor, at the Justice-room of the Mansion-house, for further examination.

Mr. Humphreys, solicitor, of Newgate-street (Humphreys and Morgan), conducted the prosecution. The prisoners, who are all very young men, defended themselves.

The manner in which the prisoners Rowland and Bell contrived to get within the front door of the premises in question in Mark-lane, by one of them taking a letter addressed to a servant girl living at the top of the house, and saying he would wait until she wrote an answer, has already been reported, as has also the way in which they afterwards effected an entrance into the offices of Messrs. Twiss and Browning, on the ground floor, by breaking the glazed panel of a door, and turning a key which had been left in the lock on the inside; but the rest of the attendant circumstances, some of which are very remarkable, were not brought clearly out until yesterday. It appears that Messrs. Twiss and Browning, who are extensively engaged as commission agents, have two iron safes, and that these are inclosed in a strong-room in their office. In one of the iron safes they kept all their more valuable documents, including securities for money, and the key of this was never out of the possession of one of the partners. It was secured by one of Chubb's patent locks, and had resisted all the efforts of the burglars to open it. The other safe contained the books of the firm, some petty cash, and papers in two cash-boxes, and nearly sixty dock warrants in an iron box, representing merchandise to a large amount, but which a thief could not have negotiated. All negotiable bills and moneys belonging to the firm were kept at their banker's, according to a custom common among merchants. On the evening preceding the burglary, Thomas Young, a clerk of the firm, before leaving the office, which he did a few minutes before seven, locked up the one iron safe of which he had the key, and the strong-room, and left the porter, George Rye, to lock up the premises. There were then in the iron safe the two cash-boxes and the iron box containing dock warrants. Mr. Henry Wood, a principal clerk, had previously locked the boxes, and there was then in one of them seven £5 Bank of England notes, an Australian sovereign, a bad half-crown, and a bad sixpence; in another a check for £5 and some papers, and among the dock warrants, fifty-seven in number, in the iron box, there was a £5 bank note. On locking the strong-room, Mr. Young placed the key of it, according to custom, in a pigeon-hole in the office. The porter Rye, at eight o'clock, on leaving for the night, locked the outer door and put the key of it in his pocket. He had previously observed that the strong-room door was locked, and that the key was in the pigeon-hole. It is already known how the thieves were surprised, about one o'clock in the morning, by the unexpected return of Mr. Moore, a solicitor, who occupies chambers in the upper part of the house, and how, on their refusing to answer on his tapping at a window where he saw a light, and

asking who was there, he called in the police, who guarded the house for the remainder of the night. The thieves, on getting into the offices, had locked the door by which they entered on the inside, and therefore the police could not gain access to them without breaking open the door, which they did not do. On the arrival, at eight o'clock next morning, of the porter Rye, he opened another door of which he had the key, and entered with the officers, City Sergeants Jennison and Speck. The prisoners Rowland and Bell were then found, as stated on the first examination, seated at a table in Mr. Browning's private room, drinking rum from a sample glass, and Rowland was smoking a cigar in an easy chair. The strong-room door was then open, as was also that of one of the safes; two of the cash-boxes lay on the floor broken open, and the place was strewn with papers and in general confusion. The lock of the other iron and more private safe, of which the principal partner always kept the key, had been tampered with, but the safe itself remained secure and intact. An iron instrument, having a chisel at one end and a hammer at the other, and which belonged to the premises, was found in one of the offices, and on comparing it with marks on one of the cash-boxes which had been broken open, it was found to fit them exactly. The key of the strong-room was found on a shelf in the strong-room, and the key of the iron safe which had been opened lay on the floor. The dock warrants had not been touched, but the eight £5 bank notes, the Australian sovereign, and the check for £5 were all missing. Not so the bad half-crown and the bad sixpence; they remained in the cash-box in which they had been left on the previous evening, and the check for £5 was afterwards found with some papers in a water-closet on the premises. The Australian sovereign was found secreted in a stocking of one of the two prisoners, but they had made away with the £40 in notes, and the presumption is that they passed them to a confederate outside by the front door before Mr. Moore, the solicitor, returned home at one o'clock and surprised them. The prisoner Notley, who is only eighteen years of age, had been in the service of Messrs. Twiss and Browning as a porter until about eighteen months ago, when he was discharged. Suspicion having attached to him in connexion with the burglary, he was apprehended on Wednesday last, and he then admitted that he had been in the company of Rowland and Bell on the night before the burglary, that they wanted to commit it that evening, but that he advised them to wait until some other night, his intention, he said, being to have nothing to do with it; that he met them again on the following night, when they had some words, and he refused to join them in carrying it out.

It may be recollected that the letter which the prisoner Rowland delivered to the girl Bridget, who lived in the upper part of the house as servant to Mr. Young, an architect, purported to have been written by Mary Notley, a former servant of Mr. Young. Yesterday Mary Notley, the woman in question, and now the wife of a cellarman, was called, and declared the letter to be a forgery, and that it was written without her knowledge or authority. She is married to a brother of the prisoner Notley. A waiter at the City Arms Tavern, in Great Tower-street, proved that he saw the prisoners Bell and Notley drinking together in the tap-room there on the night before the robbery. On the lodgings of the prisoner Rowland, in Half Moon-place, Whitechapel, being searched by Smart, a city detective officer, two extraordinary documents were found—one containing prescriptions for killing and fascinating dogs, and the other a dietary table for convicts.

Mr. Humphreys, the solicitor for the prosecution, read them as follows:—

"To Kill Dogs.—A little liver cooked and some chloroform mixed with it. Let them eat it." (A laugh.) "A little liver cooked and some aniseed mixed with it. Let the dog smell it, and it will not bark." (Laughter.)

"Convict Diet.—The following is the new scale of diet for all convicts employed on public works:—Sunday, 5oz. of cheese, 28oz. bread, 1 pint cocoa, 1 pint gruel; Monday, 5 oz. mutton, and its own liquor, flavoured with onions (laughter) and thickened with any bread left from previous day, 1lb. potatoes, 28oz. bread, 1 pint cocoa, 1 pint gruel; Tuesday, 1 pint soup made from 7oz. shin of beef, 4oz. fresh vegetables, 2oz. pearl barley flavoured with onions (a laugh), 1lb. potatoes, 28oz. bread, 1 pint gruel, 1 pint cocoa; Wednesday, 5oz. mutton same as Monday, 1lb. potatoes, 28oz. bread, 1 pint cocoa, 1 pint gruel; Thursday, 1lb. suet pudding, 1lb. potatoes, 28oz. bread, 1 pint cocoa, 1 pint gruel; Friday, 5oz. beef, 1 pint beef liquor, flavoured as on Tuesday, 1lb. potatoes, 28oz. bread, 1 pint cocoa, 1 pint gruel; Saturday, 5oz. beef, 1 pint beef liquor, flavoured as on Friday, 1lb. potatoes, 28oz. bread, 1 pint cocoa, 1 pint gruel. Each allowance of meat is weighed after being cooked, and must be free from bone. The potatoes are good." (Laughter.)

The Lord Mayor.—They appear to have been anticipating their fate. (A laugh.)

Mr. Humphreys said at present it did not appear whether the dietary table was a thing the prisoner Rowland had himself concocted, or a copy of an authentic document.

The Lord Mayor was inclined to believe it was a copy of the dietary in vogue; if so, it was a great deal more liberal than that in workhouses, and was almost calculated to induce a certain class of people to commit crime. (A laugh.)

It was then proved that a rough sketch on paper of the internal arrangements of the prosecutor's office had also been found at the lodgings of the prisoner Rowland. It was also proved that the key of the strong-room was kept at the time of the robbery in the same place as when the prisoner Notley was in their service.

On that evidence Mr. Humphreys applied to have the prisoners committed for trial.

The Lord Mayor asked if any of the eight £5 notes had been found.

Mr. Humphreys replied in the negative.

The prisoner Notley demanded to know upon what evidence he was about to be committed for trial.

Mr. Oke, the chief clerk, said the evidence that he knew beforehand that a felony was about to be committed, and yet kept that knowledge to himself, which was a crime in law. He would be charged as an accessory before the fact.

The prisoners, on being cautioned severally, reserved their defence.

The Lord Mayor committed them for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

[31.]—ANOTHER DARING SAFE ROBBERY.

A CHURCH ENTERED.

Emboldened by the impunity with which "safe" robberies have latterly been effected, the professional thief of this town has ventured on the perpetration of another most daring and disgraceful theft, the crime this time being increased by a new item—the robbery having been committed in a church. In Bishop Ryder's Church, Gem-street, a safe—of course of the most approved "patent" description—was used for the purpose of storing the plate, &c., used in service, and in it also the money collected from Sunday to Sunday was deposited. Early on Saturday last the money, amounting to about £5 or £6, and including nearly 260 farthings, was found perfectly safe, but the plate had been removed from some cause we have not been able to ascertain. However, about nine o'clock on Saturday evening a person connected with the church had his suspicions aroused on entering the edifice, and he was very much alarmed on finding that the "safe" had been smashed open. Further search disclosed that the contents had been removed, and that the sides of the "safe"—the majority of which may now be looked upon as ordinary iron boxes—had been punctured with a "jemmy." The burglars had evidently been in search of more vlauable booty than the sum which rewarded their labours; and the accident which removed the plate from the ordinary place of keeping was a most

fortunate one. The sum taken was almost entirely, if not exclusively, copper money, and included a large quantity of farthings. The robbery was discovered soon after nine o'clock, and on information reaching the police, the usual steps were taken. We have not heard, however, that any trace whatever has as yet been discovered leading to the arrest of the guilty parties.—*Birmingham Daily Gazette*, March 13th, 1865.

The safe referred to in the above burglary, so far from being of "the most approved patent description," was nothing more than a common *cast*-iron one, said to be fireproof. It was firmly built into the wall of the vestry, and the door was evidently smashed open with a sledge-hammer.

We fear that most of the safes now in use in the vestries of our churches are of the commonest description, and would yield their contents to the sacrilegious thieves as readily as this one did. Unless the safe be really a *good* one, the plate and money should always be removed after service to the residence of the incumbent.

[32.]—ANOTHER ROBBERY IN THE CITY.

Early on Thursday morning a robbery was committed in Queen-street, Cheapside, on the premises of Mr. H. Lowman Taylor, a Middlesex magistrate, and a member of the Court of Common Council. They have a frontage in Queen-street, and two side entrances in a little narrow street called Well-lane, at right angles with it. At night the whole of the front is well secured by iron shutters, and the rest of the premises guarded by strong iron bars at points which would otherwise appear to be vulnerable. It is the custom for Mr. Taylor's manager, on closing the warehouse for the night, to fasten one of the side doors on the inside, and to leave by the other, which he locks on the outside, and this he did as usual on Wednesday evening. It so happened on that particular evening that a sum of money, chiefly, if not wholly, in gold and silver, which had been received after bank hours, was placed in an iron safe for the night. A policeman on duty had tried all the doors in passing about two o'clock next morning, and found them secure; but an hour and a-half after, on going his round, was surprised to see one of the side doors ajar. This exciting suspicion, he kept guard outside until his sergeant, who makes a circuit of the beat the contrary way to him, should pass; and on the sergeant presenting himself they entered the premises together, and made a careful search, but without finding any one. Inspector Foulger was brought from the neighbouring police-station in Bow-lane, and the result of a more minute examination of the place was to find an iron safe with the door open, and the key in the lock. The safe, one of two on the premises, proved to be that in which the money had been placed on the previous evening, and to be empty. The thieves appear to have discovered the key of the safe, which had been left in the warehouse overnight, and, having in that easy way possessed themselves of its contents, to have let themselves out by the side door, which is ordinarily fastened on the inside. There had been no attempt to tamper with the lock of the other side door, by which the manager leaves at night, nor was there the slightest indication that the premises had been forcibly entered from without. No one sleeps there at night, and the police authorities believe either that the thieves managed to secrete themselves in the warehouse before it was closed for the night, or to enter it by the side door. Oddly enough, not a single drawer or desk had been opened, nor had any attempt apparently been made to open the other safe, and nothing was stolen but the money in the safe, the key of which had been left on the premises. This being mostly, if not wholly, in coin, the police despair of finding any clue to the robbery.—*The Times*, April 8th, 1865.

In the above robbery, as in so many others, the thieves either got locked up in the premises before they were closed for the night, or they picked the lock of the outer door, or by some means possessed themselves of a duplicate key. Arrived in the counting-house, the money—the object of their visit—had been put into the safe ready for them, and they had only to unlock the door *with its own key*, which had been left in the warehouse for their discovery, to fill their pockets with coin and walk leisurely away. It may be supposed that no one having cash to take care of would put it in a safe, and leave the key about in the same room; yet, although such an act may be considered the height of folly, it is astonishing in how many instances the same thing is regularly practised. Where the safe is an old-fashioned cast-iron one, the key of which is so ponderous, there may be some little excuse for leaving it behind to save the wear and tear of the pocket; but with a modern safe, the key of which is so small, there can be no excuse whatever.

[33.]—DETERMINED BURGLARY AND ATTEMPTED IRON-SAFE ROBBERY.

Between Saturday evening and Monday morning a daring and determined burglary and attempted iron-safe robbery were perpetrated on the premises of Messrs. Ratcliff & Co., patent electro gilders and platers, Suffolk-street. The works of the firm are situate near the Suffolk-street end of Gough-street, and extend a considerable distance in the direction of Exeter-row. The burglars entered from the last-named locality, and after surmounting what would appear almost disheartening difficulties, reached a window leading into the brass-works of Mr. Stroud. They smashed the fastenings of two iron window-bars, and having gained an entrance into Mr. Stroud's premises, they proceeded to demolish every lock and bar which stood in the direct route to Messrs. Ratcliff's premises, displaying a thorough knowledge of every part through which they passed. Having secured a ladder they gained the roof over the electro works, and here a serious difficulty seemed to have occurred to them. They removed the tiles, &c., but they could not smash through the ceiling at the part first tried. They changed position with success, for several feet of the covering was removed, and a convenient and easy passage to an attic was secured. In their progress to Mr. Heeley's office the burglars broke away several locks, inflicting very considerable destruction of property; but in the lower rooms and offices they displayed extraordinary ability in carrying every barrier which is usually supposed to stay the thief. In Mr. Heeley's (the manager's) private office they broke open several desks, including a small writing-case, but, with a fatality which seems to attend operations of this kind, they omitted paying attention to one or two small safes, which might have repaid trouble. To the intruders, however, the grand point of attraction lay in a large, strongly-constructed iron safe, securely embedded in the wall of an apartment adjoining Mr. Heeley's office; and they evidently laboured under the impression that this safe contained money. They had passed through several of the rooms in which valuable property lay scattered about, but they were not to be detained in their pursuit of that which they deemed a more convenient booty. With the assistance of three powerful crowbars, a sledge-hammer, and four iron wedges, they attacked the safe; but their exertions, it would appear, proved unavailing. They next resorted to certainly a novel and effective mode of demolishing the safe doors. Through the keyholes they poured a large quantity of gunpowder, and by means of a match they ignited it, causing what must have been a terrific explosion. The doors of the safe were shattered and twisted in a wonderful manner, and the centre bolts, acting as levers, pressed against the left door of the safe, smashing it open. The brickwork above and around the safe was thrown from its position, the hinges of the safe were completely damaged, and the interior "backing" of the safe doors was hurled inwards from its position. The surprise and disgust of the burglars must be imagined when, after extraordinary trouble and great labour, they found the safe to contain merely a few old ledgers. After this unpleasant discovery it would appear that the burglars gave up the idea of prosecuting their researches, and it is imagined that, seeing that they left the crowbars, the hammer—the head of which was covered with cloth—a powder-flask, a dark lantern, a long piece of rope, and other interesting implements used in safe and housebreaking, lying on the ground near the safe, they were frightened off, or that one of the gang received injuries by the explosion. They certainly made a great mistake in attacking the premises of Messrs. Ratcliff, if their object was to gain possession of money, for Mr. Heeley is addicted to the judicious practice of keeping as little gold and silver as possible on the works. We have carefully gone over the scene of the attempted robbery, and we can safely say that we never had a case under notice in which the burglars showed a more utter disregard for the general damage they inflicted, and a stronger determination to accomplish the object of their visit. The wonder is, that they were able to carry to a finish an extensive raid on property into which the noisy element entered largely without attracting the attention of those who reside at hand, or perhaps "the watchful guardians of the peace." Such, however, is the case, as nothing transpired as to the buildings being entered until the porter opened the premises yesterday morning.—*Birmingham Daily Gazette*, April 11th, 1865.

This burglary, from the amount of violence used, and the determination of the thieves to effect, at any cost, the object of their design, rivals the celebrated London and Manchester burglaries of this year. There were in use in the offices several iron safes, and a closet fitted with a pair of folding iron doors and frame, set in the masonry. Leaving the smaller safes untouched, the thieves commenced the attack on the large one (the closet), doubtless in the hope that its size only indicated the large amount of booty they felt assured of carrying away. This closet or safe was built of brick and stone from the floor to the ceiling, with an arched roof. The iron doors were secured in the ordinary way by large bolts, which resisted every

effort of the thieves to prise them open, when, from ignorance of the enormous destructive power of the agent they were going to employ, they poured a flask of gunpowder through the keyhole into the right-hand *lock-chamber*, and exploded it. This at once forced open the doors with a tremendous report, bending the bolts, drawing the rivets, cracking the 9-inch walls, and forcing forward about 3 feet length of brickwork near the ceiling. The explosion must have been terrific, which, if it did not seriously injure the operators, so alarmed them that they beat a hasty retreat without the booty, leaving behind them three powerful crowbars, a sledge-hammer, four iron wedges, a powder-flask, and a rope. One thing is quite certain, the thieves were not "cracksmen," or they would not have resorted to such "unlawful" means, especially as all the five safes were of the old construction, and would have yielded to any of the well-known "lawful" modes of operating.

From the large quantity of gunpowder these lock-chambers will hold, its use has generally been adopted by burglars in the opening of iron safes in those situations where the explosion of such a considerable quantity could be risked without the fear of raising an alarm. It is from the certainty of the operation being successful that so many safes have been opened in all parts of the kingdom, previous to the general adoption by the burglars of the application of the drill, the screw, or the wedge and crowbar.

All the *cast*-iron and other old-fashioned safes can be opened in this manner with perfect ease and celerity, there being no obstruction whatever to the communication between the keyhole on the outside of the door, and the open space inside the "lock-chamber;" a flask or a packet of gunpowder, a piece of fuse, and a lucifer-match, being all that is required for the completion of the operation.

Many of the modern safes can be opened with the same ease and certainty as the old ones, from the circumstance of the *small lock* being fixed to the *back-plate* of most "lock-chambers," and the *intermediate-plate* of others, which leaves an open space between the back of the door-plate and the face of the small lock, and thus permits of the same communication with the interior open space of the "lock-chamber," as in the former class. Whilst most of the principal makers have adopted various means to prevent this communication through the *keyhole*, strange to say, the communication through the *spindle-hole* has been generally overlooked. As a general rule, it must be understood, that wherever a communication can be had with the interior of the "lock-chamber" from the outside of the door, that safe, no matter how it may be constructed in other respects, can easily, and with perfect certainty, be blown open with gunpowder.

The fatal accident at the celebrated Burnley Test, in 1860, was caused by our opponents, after being cautioned of the probable consequences of their foolish and insane proceeding, doing exactly what the thieves did in this burglary. They poured a very large quantity of gunpowder through the keyhole into the right-hand lock-chamber of an old-constructed double-door safe, and exploded it, which blew the safe to pieces, scattering them in all directions, like an Armstrong's 29-piece shell. Some years ago a safe was opened by burglars with gunpowder, in a detached office in Somersetshire, when the explosion was so great that it blew the roof off the building.

[34.]—DARING BURGLARY AT MR. ALLIS'S, BRISTOL.

A deliberately-planned burglary took place on Wednesday night, or early yesterday morning, at Mr. Allis's, chronometer-maker, jeweller, &c., Small-street, and was carried out in very much like London style, but fortunately not with the same amonnt of success, so far as the results are con-

ccrned. On Mr. Allis's shop being opened yesterday morning, it was discovered that two cases of jewellery, consisting of gold chains, pencil-cases, seals, rings, pens, &c., had been emptied, and the contents removed. On looking about to find the mode of ingress of the thief or thieves, the side-door opening into the passage of Albion-chambers was found unfastened, and a rope was seen hanging from a round hole, about a foot and a half in diameter, in the ceiling, which had been cut through from the floor of Mr. Livett's office, in Albion-chambers, and which is directly over Mr. Allis's shop. Two pieces of plank had been cut off, or rather bored off, a number of holes closely following one another having been made by a carpenter's large beetle. When these holes reached across the plank, it was capable of very easy and quiet removal; and the mortar of the ceiling was then brought up through the hole, and deposited on the carpet of the room. The hole being finished, a pair of tongs belonging to the office was placed across the opening, and a rope-ladder fastened round it. It is probable that the thieves secreted themselves about Albion-chambers Wednesday night before eight o'clock, at which time the gates were locked, and that during the night they entered Mr. Livett's office, made the hole in the ceiling, through which they descended by means of the rope, and then secreted the property about their persons. The next difficulty for them must have been the getting off with it, and this they managed with an audacity which it is surprising to find did not fail them. They must have unfastened the side-door, and waited the opening of the Chamber gates. There can be no doubt that the men were in the shop at four o'clock, for a clock which had been removed by them, and placed down unevenly, had stopped at that hour. About half-past six the gates on either side of the passage were opened by the porter in charge of the Chambers, Mr. Collis, who resides on the Broad-street side. Just after he had unlocked the Small-street gate, and while going back to the Broad-street side of the Chambers, he heard a noise, and looking back saw three men walking out at a hurried pace. He watched them, and saw that two turned down Small-street, and the other went in the contrary direction; but, instead of following them, knowing, as he must, that they could have had no right on premises which had been locked up for the night, he merely looked round to see where they could have come from, and then forgot the circumstance. Had he followed them, or reported the affair at once to the police, the thieves might not have got off so easily; but he did not even take so much notice of the men as that he should be able to identify them, if called upon to do so. Fortunately, the large stock of gold and silver watches, worth several thousands of pounds, had been, as usual, placed the previous evening in three large and powerful safes, which Mr. Allis had had constructed some years since. It may be remembered that it transpired at the examination of the London burglars recently, that although the safes which they robbed contained very valuable property, and although they were locked, the keys were hung up in the same or an adjoining room; and it was even admitted in one case, that the safes might be locked some nights, and the keys allowed to remain in them! Mr. Allis seems to be aware of the foolishness of such a course: his safes were locked, and the keys taken off the premises in the custody of one of the shopmen, Mr. Bell. The property stolen is worth between £150 and £200, and comprised about 18 or 20 gold Albert chains and guard-chains, 140 gold seals and keys, 50 gold pencil-cases (chiefly Mordan's), 90 silver ditto, 20 gold pens, 60 gold split rings and swivels. A reward of £20 has been offered for the apprehension of the thieves and the recovery of the property. The case has been placed in the hands of the police, and of course every effort will be made to trace the burglars; but up to last night no clue had been obtained. We understand it is usual for a large dog to be allowed to roam over the Chambers at night; but it seems he was asleep on Wednesday night.

This burglary was committed precisely in the same manner as the Cornhill one, as far as getting into the front shop went, except that the burglars were not locked in the premises over the shop in the occupation of Mr. Livett, but entered them during the night of the robbery. Here the "three large and powerful safes" (one of which was a George Price's) proved their usefulness and value by preserving their costly contents intact.

---

[35].—BURGLARY AT SOUTH SHIELDS.

(FROM MR. JOHN P. WARDLE, TIMBER MERCHANT, SOUTH SHIELDS.)

"South Shields, 23rd May, 1865.

"Sir,—I beg to inform you that an attempt was made during last night to force open one of your safes in my office, but which, you will be happy to hear, was unsuccessful, it having resisted what must have been a very determined and for-

midable attempt. Although the burglars employed crowbars, hammers, wedges, &c., they had to give it up in despair. I require another, but it must be larger.

"Yours truly,

"JOHN P. WARDLE.

"To Mr. George Price, Wolverhampton."

In this burglary the thieves set to work at the safe in the true orthodox style, with "wedges, crowbars, and hammers;" but although only of a light construction (Price's B quality), it resisted all their efforts to force it open. The appearance of the safe showed the great violence that had been used. We afterwards repaired it, and it has since been doing duty at another place. This failure on the part of the burglars to open the safe corroborates what we have before stated—that it is astonishing the amount of violence even a *light* safe will stand if the parts composing it are well put together. The following burglaries furnish additional evidence in proof of the truth of this theory :—

BURGLARY AT ROSE HILL COLLIERY, WILLENHALL.

"Rose Hill Colliery, Willenhall, September 19th, 1859.

"Sir,—Our office at the Rose Hill Colliery was entered by thieves on Saturday night last, when a most determined attempt was made, for the second time, to open the fire-proof safe you made for us some months ago; but although the thieves tried their best to break it open, by means of a very large sledge hammer, a chisel, and crowbar, their efforts were in vain. The ornamental parts and the 'centres' are in part knockcd off, and show the great violence that was used; but we are satisfied that had they continued their efforts for a much longer time, the safe would have withstood the attack. The confidence we placed in your representations has thus been signally confirmed, and we shall take much pleasure in recommending your safes to the notice of our friends.

"Yours respectfully,

(Signed) "Rose Hill Colliery Company, per W. FELLOWS.

"Mr. George Price, Cleveland Safe Works, Wolverhampton."

BURGLARY AT MESSRS. DRAFFINS', BUILDERS, MANCHESTER.

"81, Oxford-street, Manchester, 26th June, 1861.

"Sir,—Between Saturday evening and Monday morning, the 22nd and 24th instant, our office was burglariously entered, when a most determined attempt was made to open the safe we purchased from your agent (Mr. Underhill, 2, Corporation-street,) some months ago; but we have much pleasure in stating that all their efforts were fruitless, although the burglars supplied themselves with tools from our works, with which they cut and mutilated the safe in a most extraordinary manner. We are so convinced of the burglar-proof qualities of your safes, that we shall take every opportunity of recommending them.

"We are, sir, yours respectfully,

(Signed) "H. and W. DRAFFIN.

"To Mr. George Price."

BURGLARY AT LEEDS.

"Bowman-lane, 7th Mo. 23rd, 1864.

"Mr. George Price.

"Sir,—On the night of Friday last, the 15th instant, my counting-house was broken into by what appeared to have been well-practised burglars, and a determined attempt made upon the safe I have of your manufacture; but although both a hammer and a crowbar were brought into requisition, and left in the office, the safe remains *practically* uninjured. It appears that after spending their efforts in vain upon the door and lock of the safe, the burglars threw it down off its pedestal, in the hope of better success by adopting other means, *but they were alike unavailing*; and I have great pleasure in testifying to the *value* and *security* of your safes.

"I remain, yours respectfully,

(Signed) "JOHN HALL THORP."

BURGLARY AT MESSRS. JOHN HARPER & CO.'S, ALBION WORKS, WILLENHALL.

"Sir,—On Wednesday night last our office was broken open and entered; all the drawers were broken open, and such contents as could be easily turned into money taken. The plunderers, not being satisfied, made an attempt to get into the safe (your make). The lock was tampered with, but with no success; resort was then made to violence, and our blacksmiths' tools (all of which were at their hands) were made use of, but such was the quality of your safe, that it resisted all attempts to force it open. The burglars, foiled in their intention, made their retreat, leaving their tools, to show their littleness, beside the safe, which bade defiance to all.

"We are, Sir, yours truly,

(Signed) "Pro JOHN HARPER & Co.,

"W. H. THOMPSON.

"To Mr. George Price, Cleveland Safe and Lock Works, Wolverhampton."

[36.]—GREAT JEWELLERY ROBBERY IN MANCHESTER.

£13,000 WORTH STOLEN.

The greatest robbery ever known to have occurred in Manchester was discovered yesterday morning to have been committed during the previous night. The shop of Mr. W. M'Ferran, one of the leading jewellers and watchmakers in the city, in Victoria-street, opposite the fruit market, was entered by thieves, and stock was stolen of the net value of £13,000.

The manner in which the robbery was effected shows no small amount of ingenuity and perseverance on the part of the thieves, and judging by the way in which they got into the premises, there is great reason for believing that some of them were concerned in the attempt to get into the same block of buildings towards the end of last winter, on the night that Mr. Howard's shop was plundered at the corner of Corporation-street. The thieves appear to have first entered the building No. 19, Market-place, which is occupied as offices, and to which access is obtained through an iron gate at the end of a short passage in the Market-place. This gate is locked at night, and the offices up-stairs are further secured by a sort of trapdoor over the stairs, which is also locked. Judging from the circumstance that the trapdoor and gate were found locked this morning at about six o'clock, there is reason to believe that the thieves got into the premises before they were locked on Monday night. After leaving the staircase, they appear to have first entered the office of Messrs. P. M. Crane & Co., oil manufacturers, between whose premises and Mr. M'Ferran's shop were the workshops of Mr. Nathan, jeweller. Between Messrs. Crane & Co.'s office and Mr. Nathan's shop are two walls, each nine inches thick, but which are so close that they form a solid structure. The thieves first pierced this wall at a point a few inches to the rear of Mr. Nathan's premises, and the hole they thus made admitted light. About a yard nearer to the front they again pierced the wall successsfully, and passed through into an old staircase leading to an upper workshop in Mr. Nathan's premises. They descended this staircase into Mr. Nathan's workshop on the second floor, and there broke through a wall about a brick thick, in an old doorway which had been built up, and which at one time gave access to the premises now occupied by Mr. M'Ferran. As, however, Mr. M'Ferran had lined this wall with sheet-iron, and finding it impossible to.get through, the thieves went into the workshop in Mr. Nathan's third storey. They again attempted to pass through the same wall, and as Mr. M'Ferran had used no sheet-iron upon that storey, they succeeded in piercing the wall and passing into Mr. M'Ferran's upper show-room, on the third storey. The stock in this room consisted of clocks and heavy articles, none of which was disturbed. The thieves descended by a staircase to the second storey, the only obstruction to their course being a heavy sliding door lined with iron, and of very strong make. Mr. M'Ferran was on the premises on Monday night, a little before nine o'clock, but it appears that either he or his workmen only closed this door, and neglected to lock it. The staircase was of iron; the walls, floor, and ceiling of the show-room on the second storey were lined with iron, and the only point at which it was likely any thieves could get into the premises, entering as they did in this instance, was through the very door that happened on that night to be unfastened. The property in the show-room on the second storey, like that in the storey above, was left untouched, and the thieves descended to the shop. There they found no safe; the goods were invitingly before them, on the counter and in the window; the thieves lighted one or two of the gas-lights, and at once commenced to sack the place. They took property the net cost of which was £13,000. It included between 600 and 700 gold and silver watches, more than 1,000 hoops and rings, upwards of 100 pins, about 80 bracelets, and a vast number of lockets, chains, guards, and other articles of jewellery. They took little or none of the plate. Some of the

watches were very valuable. After turning out the gas they appear to have returned through Mr. Nathan's premises to the room occupied by Messrs. Crane, and to have waited there till the staircase shutters and iron gate leading to the Market-place were opened, which was done at about six o'clock yesterday morning. While in Messrs. Crane's offices they used a wash-bowl, and left behind a small comb. A small door in the office commanded a view of the staircase, and in one of the lower panels they bored a hole, by which means they were enabled to watch when the gate was opened, and the way of egress was made clear. They left no tools behind them. The police were early on the alert; notices have been issued containing a full description of the property, and a reward of £500 has been offered.—*Manchester Guardian*, July 19th, 1865.

Here we have another instance of one of the greatest jewellery robberies ever committed being effected by the thieves first getting access to the adjoining premises, through an outer gate, to the passage used in common by the different occupiers of the several offices in the same building. The thieves, after being foiled in various attempts at ingress into Mr. M'Ferran's premises, at last discovered that the vulnerable point was the walls of the *third* storey, for here Mr. M'Ferran had neglected to use the sheet-iron in their construction, as he had done in all the other parts of his premises. The thieves here succeeded in making an entrance, and got into the top showroom, and thence proceeded down a staircase to the showroom below, through a sliding door, which, although cased with sheet-iron, had, unfortunately, on that particular night, been left unlocked. They now descended into the front shop, and from here alone they took the £13,000 worth of watches and jewellery, not having touched any of the property in either of the two showrooms. As it was thought impossible, from the precautions taken to keep out the foe, for a burglary to be committed, an iron safe was considered unnecessary. The event, however, proved the contrary; and, although the proprietor has since made the *whole* of his premises additionally secure, he has shown his wisdom—purchased at such a fearful cost—by securing the principal portion of his large and costly stock in a PRICE'S PATENT JEWELLERS' SAFE.

MANCHESTER JEWEL THIEVES.

"The gold and silver all of a row," and the thrice-dazzling sheen of the precious stones illuminating the windows of the jewellers of our great cities, recals to the imagination our early and brilliant Arabian acquaintance Aladdin, and that bright oriental dreamland where princesses were fed on pearls and emeralds, and amethyst and ruby formed the usual materials of an elegant collation.

It is nothing to the purpose to object that a glittering refection of diamonds is but ill-calculated to supply nutrition to the human subject. That is obviously the objection of an unromantic materialist. It may be all very well for the slaves of a prosaic and scientific generation to suggest that this indigestible splendour is much less agreeable inside than outside the stomach, and to allege that as a reason why we moderns have abandoned the practice of refreshing ourselves with topaz or turquoise, or lunching expensively on brilliants of the first water. Certainly it would slightly startle the respected proprietor of "the Clarence" or "the Queen's," or the neat-handed Phyllis who dispenses elegant hospitality in the respective bars of those princely hostels, to be quietly requested to furnish a pearl sandwich, or a fresh plate of emeralds. We have not forgotten the "ruby" wine of the ballad, but that, we presume, can only be vended by gentlemen who have obtained a poetical licence. It must be confessed that the appetite for jewellery, although it has undergone a great modification since the days of Haroun Alraschid, still rages in and on the bosoms of recent generations. Apples are all very well, and may be

very alluring, as our first mother unfortunately taught us, while flowers will not cease to fascinate all eyes until the Millenium; but the friend of Faust—Mephistopheles, we think they call him—tempted poor Marguerite with a *parure* of price, and that forlorn and lovely rustic preferred the lustre of the mine to the familiar enchantment of the first garden. Our readers will pardon this somewhat fanciful preface to one or two observations on a piece of vulgar burglary in Victoria-street.

Last Monday night, Mr. M'Ferran, the jeweller, slept happily, in the belief that, stored in his stronghold in Victoria-street, reposed a precious property, of the value of twelve or thirteen thousand pounds sterling. If that slumbering gentleman had been gifted with second sight, he would have beheld an apparition quite as terrible to the soul of the man of trade as the less felonious spectres, who, in the old stories, used to prefer the villainous baron to the villainous baron's personal property. Mr. M'Ferran would have beheld, probably, several gentlemen moving warily about the interior of his premises, and, with silent precision and celerity, removing from glittering shelves and cases, with a wonderful and accustomed dexterity, all that mass of valuables which, a few hours before, he had supposed the sacred seal of Chubb had rendered inviolate and impregnable. What was not seen by Mr. M'Ferran in a supernatural manner, was discovered by him when he was very wide awake the following morning. When that gentleman repaired to Victoria-street on Tuesday, he found that between six and seven hundred gold and silver watches, more than a thousand hoops and rings, more than a hundred pins, and nearly a hundred bracelets, with innumerable lockets, guards, and other varieties of the jeweller's art, had vanished in the night, leaving no more vestige of their existence than if they had been swept into the sky by a tornado or a waterspout. There are two or three peculiarities about this formidable piece of burglary worthy of special notice. It is said that, judging from the circumstance that the trap-door and gate of a passage adjoining the shop through which the burglarious entry was effected, remained locked in the morning after the robbery, there is reason to believe that the thieves got into the premises BEFORE they were locked on Monday night. Is it possible that where a treasure so considerable lay as a standing temptation to predatory enterprise, the simple precaution was not taken to examine every night the adjacent passages and staircases? Again, it appears that a considerable amount of sheet-iron had been used by Mr. M'Ferran to oppose the ingress of possible marauders. This iron plating had evidently baffled burglarious entry; yet, strange to say, sheet-iron had not been used at the very point where the thieves had gained admission to an important avenue to the premises. By a marvellous coincidence, the only obstruction that remained was a heavy sliding-door, armed with iron, which either Mr. M'Ferran or his workmen had, on that very night, neglected to lock. That very door would have opposed to the thieves a difficulty of a particularly staggering character. Through that very door, other difficulties being surmounted, the thieves passed easily, and the premises were sacked with the utmost facility. As if on that particular night there had been a conspiracy of circumstances to make burglary easy, *no safe* had been used. All that twelve thousand pounds' worth of treasure lay temptingly spread over the place heedless of the science of PRICE or MILNER, and unsheltered by the fire or thief-proof armour of these sworn enemies of the professional cracksman. More than this, no vigilant eye scanned in the morning, when the gate was opened, the outworks where the heavily-laden and palpitating miners were lying *perdu* feverishly awaiting for escape. Taken altogether, we do not know of another instance where so many facilities existed for the easy appropriation of a considerable and splendid booty. Really the great jewellers exhibit a confidence in the

forbearance of the burglarious temperament perfectly astonishing. They appear to forget that the "organisation of labour," for which this generation is remarkable, is not confined exclusively to the domain of legitimate industry. Like every other calling, burglary is benefiting by the application of art and scientific appliances. Why, the construction of "safes," the use of which in this instance has been so unaccountably neglected, is a science of intricate metallurgical study, and embraces many subtle mechanical combinations. A PRICE and a MILNER contend for the distinction of most successfully baffling the skill and the daring of the British burglar, and, lo! the jeweller in whose interest he labours refuses the protection invented for him. We cannot wonder that burglarious flesh and blood find these temptations absolutely irresistible.—*Manchester City News*, July 22nd, 1865.

---

[37]—GREAT ROBBERY OF WATCHES AND JEWELLERY.

Yesterday morning another robbery of a jeweller's shop was committed at the house of Mr. Walker, of High Holborn, just within the metropolitan police district. The following is a list of the articles stolen:—80 gold and silver watches, 60 gold guard and Albert chains, two stout curb guards, a quantity of gold seals and keys; 600 rings, namely 60 wedding rings, 20 keepers, 200 signet rings, 50 mourning rings, 30 diamond and gem rings, and 200 fancy rings; 200 gilt pins, 150 gold lockets, 50 pairs of bright gold earings, 10 large coloured brooches set with topaz, coral, and acquamarine garnets; 600 gold pins, bright and coloured, a large quantity of gold crosses and charms, about 600 sets of gold studs set with stones, 100 gold pen and pencil cases, and a quantity of other jewellery. The police are very anxious to keep the particulars of this robbery from the public, and for obvious reasons. It may, however, be mentioned that, unlike the robbery at the Walker's, at Cornhill, it was effected without any "breaking in." The robbers got admission quietly between seven and eight o'clock in the morning, after the servant was up and before the shop was opened, and escaped safely with the booty. It is believed that the particulars when published will be found as remarkable as those connected with the robbery on Cornhill. It may be mentioned that Mr. Walker, of Holborn, and his family, live on the premises.—*London paper*.

This is a most remarkable robbery. We should be very glad to obtain the "particulars" referred to, without which, we fear, our readers, like the writer, will fail to understand it.

---

[38]—BURGLARY AT A BANK AT SOUTHAMPTON.

The South Western Bank was broken into last night. The burglars got first into the adjoining premises of Mr. Cooksey, and broke open his Milner's safe, taking all the money they found in it. They then broke open two doors and entered the bank. They broke open the cash-boxes, and were about to break into the strong-room, when it is supposed they were disturbed, as they left two large crowbars, some powerful wedges, and a lantern behind them. They took about £20 in money. The burglary was discovered this morning by Mr. Cooksey's servant going to his master's premises to feed the horses. No one sleeps on the premises, or near where the burglars were at work. A gang of burglars was captured here a few weeks ago.—*Local paper*.

This adds another to the already extended list of burglaries effected by getting into the adjoining premises. In this double burglary, the thieves, after opening the Milner's safe in Mr. Cooksey's premises, entered the bank, and prepared to attack the iron door of the strong-room, but being, it is supposed, disturbed, they escaped, leaving behind them "some powerful wedges and two crowbars."

---

[39]—DARING AND MYSTERIOUS ROBBERY.

Information has just reached us to the effect that an extensive firm in Edinburgh, having a large branch establishment in London, has been made the victims of one of the most daring and at the same time mysterious robberies that has probably occurred in modern history in London. It appears

that a few nights ago, before the assistants of the establishment, who reside in the upper portion of the premises, had retired to rest, a cart or van drove up to the door of the warehouse. Immediately a number of men proceeded to cut out that portion of the pannelling of the main door which embraced the whole fastenings connected with the lock, &c. This having been accomplished, they proceeded with the utmost *sang froid* to dislodge a large safe, containing several hundred pounds sterling in notes, gold, cheques, &c., the books of the firm, and various private papers, including the title deeds of the property. They at once placed the plunder upon the cart or van, and again proceeded into the building, returning in a short time with a number of chests of tea, which they also coolly deposited beside the safe! The van then drove off, and down till this time, so far as we are aware, no trace has been discovered of the perpetrators. The circumstances are all the more remarkable that the outrage was committed at a comparatively early hour in the evening, and in one of the densest and most respectable business thoroughfares in London. The head of the establishment in this city has been telegraphed for, and is, we believe, at present in London endeavouring to find a clue to the parties guilty of so daring an act.—*Caledonian Mercury.*

This is, undoubtedly, one of the most audacious and impudent burglaries ever recorded in modern times. If such a robbery *could* often be repeated, the outer doors of our shops, offices, and warehouses, would have to be cased in iron, and so constructed as to render the first operation of cutting out a panel and the entire lock of the door impossible. It goes to prove the advisability of never employing a small, and, consequently, a light-weighing safe, in any building liable to the attack of burglars. This makes the third instance, in this series of burglaries, where the iron safe was carried bodily off the premises.

---

[40]—EXTENSIVE ROBBERY FROM A BANK AT WALSALL.

On Thursday property to the value of about £300 was stolen from a room attached to the branch of the Joint Stock Bank, in this town. The thief, for it is believed that only one person was concerned in the robbery, is supposed to have entered the premises between one and two o clock, when the majority of the clerks were away; and to effect his purpose he had to pass the bank offices and several rooms on the ground floor, used by the firm of Messrs. Duigman, Lewis, and Lewis, solicitors, ascend a flight of stairs, traverse a corridor, on each side of which are situated several other offices, and finally descend two or three steps into a clerk's room. In this room was a safe, which was left unlocked when the clerks went to dinner, and in the safe were three cash boxes, one of which contained upwards of £100 in gold, and bills of exchange worth about as much more; another £80 in notes and cash, and the third notes and gold to the amount of upwards of £200. The two first named boxes were taken away, but fortunately the latter was left. The robbery was not discovered until the evening.—*Wolverhampton Chronicle*, 1865.

This robbery shows the uselessness of iron safes as the protectors of cash and valuable property, if their custodians are to leave the doors unlocked when leaving the premises. A safe that has to be left during the day, should always be fitted with an *inner* door with a *spring* lock, so that by simply pushing the door to it locks itself, and thus makes the contents perfectly secure for the daytime.

---

[41]—BURGLARS IN CANADA.

The Canadian papers of the 9th publish the following despatch from "London," Feb. 8th.—"A daring and successful attempt at burglary was made in the office of Mr. Boyer, Talbot-street, last night. A safe—one of Stearn's and Marvin's—belonging to the London Building Society, was blown open, and one hundred and fourteen dollars taken therefrom. The burglars attempted to force the safe before they succeeded in blowing it open. The charge seems to have been put in through the handle, which is entirely gone. The inside part of the door was blown quite away. The explosion must have been violent, as portions of the safe door were blown all over the room, and the stove-pipes knocked down. The burglars also attempted to blow open another safe, but ineffectually. The perpetrators of this outrage are evidently expert hands. No clue has yet been obtained of the robbers."

In this burglary the thieves, who appear to have been quite on a par with those in this country, first tried to open the safe by violence, but this proving unsuccessful they resorted to the use of gunpowder. They did not pour the gunpowder into the lock, or through the keyhole into the lock-chamber, but through the hole in which the handle works. This is the only instance we know of where burglars have adopted this latter method. In PRICE'S safes this operation is prevented by recessing the front of the door-plate and forming a collar on the spindle to fit it. At the Burnley Test our opponents attempted to do the same thing with our "Champion" safe, but as the spindle is made to break short off on the outer side of the collar when considerable violence is applied to it, the operators were frustrated in their efforts to open the safe by that means. See the engraving of our patent spindle in the latter portion of this pamphlet.

---

[42]—BOLD ROBBERY OF A NEW YORK BANK.

At an early hour on the morning of the 25th March, the porter of the New York Exchange Bank, an institution doing business in the basement of the Ocean Bank building at the north-east corner of Greenwich and Dey-streets, upon entering the bank distinctly heard the noise as of some person at work underneath the floor, but the noise immediately ceasing he paid no further attention to it. On the arrival of the bank officers, about half-past nine o'clock, it was ascertained that the door of the bank vault was obstructed in some manner, and this circumstance, in connection with the noise heard by the porter earlier in the morning, led to the suspicion that an attempt had been made upon the vault of the bank by burglars. Captain Jamieson, of the police, was sent for, and the work of opening the vault door was prosecuted. This, however, could only be effected by cutting away the mason work at the side of the door, and this labour required several hours for its completion. About twelve o'clock the door was forced open, and they then discovered the entrance to a subterranean passage, which, being explored, was found to lead, by a circuitous route, to a place formerly occupied as a rag carpet cellar, in the basement of 189, Greenwich-street. The iron safe in the vault had been operated upon by drills and chisels, the attempt to force the lock having proved unsuccessful, but several holes drilled in the top of the safe were not sufficient in number to gain an entrance. The plan of breaking open the safe had evidently been abandoned, and the burglars had contented themselves with carrying off a tin box left in the bank on Saturday night for safe keeping, and contained one thousand dollars: two hundred being in gold, and the remainder in notes of Western and Southern banks. The safe, which resisted the efforts of the burglars, contained fifty thousand dollars in money, bills, and gold, which could have been made immediately available, and about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars in negotiable paper, &c. From inquiries made by the officers in investigating the burglary, it appears that the cellar of 189, Greenwich-street, was formerly occupied by John Alcock, a carpet and rag dealer. About a month since he was offered eleven hundred dollars for his stock and the lease of the cellar, by a man who gave his name as T. Burke, who stated that he was about to engage in the manufacture of a peculiar quality of carpet, and was therefore willing to pay liberally for the accommodation of the place and immediate possession. Alcock was not slow to close with so advantageous an offer, and therefore surrendered possession of his place to Burke; the latter retaining in his employ a lad, formerly engaged by Alcock, ostensibly as an errand boy. Harmony Roberts, who is under arrest on suspicion of being concerned in the burglary, was, as is alleged, associated with Burke in some manner, and purchased of him an interest in the new business. From the time the place was occupied by Burke and Roberts but little was known by the neighbours of their movements, for the cellar was kept closed most of the time. The extent of the subterranean passage and the nature of the work they had to accomplish in making it, leads to the opinion that the burglars must have been some two or three weeks in effecting their purpose. In commencing the excavation the men descended through the floor of the rag cellar, as is shown by the subterranean passage, to a depth sufficient to entirely clear the sleepers of the building next the bank, and thence proceeded in a southerly direction through masses of stone and cement, forming the foundation of this building. At a point about the centre of the adjoining building, the course of the passage was changed westerly, and when they reached the front of the bank building, the course was again changed easterly, until they arrived directly beneath the vault. The whole of this route was of sufficient size to admit the body of a good-sized man. The tools were discovered in and around the passage, and were of the most complete character. Two jack-screws, one capable of forcing a weight of

forty tons, were found; also a number of cold chisels, crowbars, drills, &c. The floor of the bank vault was composed of a blue stone flag, nearly four inches thick; this was broken upwards, and admitted the burglars to the vault.—*New York Paper*.

Unlike the usual mode of committing burglaries in England, the above robbery was consummated by the thieves effecting an entrance into the strong-room, or vault of the bank, by a *subterraneous passage* communicating with the cellar or basement warehouse of some other premises. Arrived here, the thieves tried to open the iron safe by forcing the lock, but failing in this, they next tried to gain an entrance into the interior by drilling some holes in the top of the safe, which alike proved unavailing.

We have been asked hundreds of times why the thieves never attempt to open iron safes by attacking any other part than the door. The reason is obvious. As we have before stated, *time* is *the* essential required for the successful commission of a robbery; and to open a safe by operating on any of the other five sides than the one formed by the door requires such an amount of labour, the application of so many tools and appliances, and consumes such an amount of time, that the burglars well knew it would be sheer folly even to make the attempt. This example in America is the only one of its kind we ever heard of.

[43]—GREAT BANK ROBBERY.

A daring robbery has taken place at the Central Bank of Western India, Hong Kong. Letters received yesterday in the City give the following details:—"The affair was managed during Saturday and Sunday by means of a tunnel which had been dug between a drain and the floor of the bank treasury vault, a distance of sixty feet. A flag was raised, and entrance to the vault obtained. Here were many bags of dollars, four boxes of gold-bars, several boxes of small silver coin, and 63,000 dollars in bank notes. The bank not having a note-issue of its own, the notes were those of various other banks, and their numbers had not been taken, it not being customary in Hong Kong to keep the numbers of bank-notes on hand. Two boxes of gold-bars were removed, as well as all the paper money, also two bags of dollars and a box of ten cent pieces. The authorities at Canton and Macao were at once communicated with, so that they might be on the alert, and we hear that some arrests have been made at Macao. The police of Hong Kong made vigilant search throughout the city and the island, and succeeded in apprehending between twenty and thirty men on suspicion. On the person of one of them was found 5,755 dollars, and two bars of gold having the bank's mark upon them. Further search being made, seven gold ingots were found. The man referred to has admitted his guilt, and has given up the names of eight Chinamen who were engaged with him in the robbery. He has also made statements which, with other evidence of a direct nature, have led to the taking into custody of the bank's comprador, two shroffs, and two coolies. The charges against them have been made at the police magistrates' court, and a remand granted for the production of further evidence. An inspection of the premises shows that it must have taken some weeks to plan and carry out the affair."

This burglary, like the last, was effected by making a subterraneous passage or tunnel till it reached under the floor of the strong-room, or treasury of the bank, a distance of sixty feet. Then, by removing a flagstone of the floor, the thieves entered and obtained possession of the cash. In most strong-rooms the floor is usually left totally unprotected. This burglary proves the necessity, especially in the construction of foreign strong-rooms, of laying underneath the material composing the floor a lining of half-inch boiler-plates. In a bullion-room or treasury, and also a fireproof room for books and securities, we built for the Central Bank of India at Bombay, all the four sides, roof, and floor, were constructed of half-inch boiler-plates, and the floors are covered with inch-and-a-half polished English oak, to make them pleasant to walk upon. The experiment has proved very satisfactory.

[44]—BURGLARY AT NOTTINGHAM.

On Friday night the premises of Messrs. Danks and Nixon, ironmongers, Market-place, Nottingham, were safely locked up, £150 in notes, and 50 or 60 sovereigns being left in the cash-box. On the following morning the premises were found perfectly secure, as they had been left, but the cash-box had been broken open, and all the gold taken away. The notes were left behind.

The use of a good £20 safe would in this case have undoubtedly saved the loss of the £200.

---

[45]—BURGLARY AND ROBBERY OF £400 AT SCARBOROUGH.

An extensive burglary has just been committed at Scarborough, on the premises of Mrs. Wear. It appears that Mrs. Wear left her house on Monday evening, to reside at her daughter's for a few days. She has just found, on returning home, that her house has been entered during the interval. A square of glass in a back window had been broken, and the fastenings unloosed. The drawers in the best bed-room were found wrenched open, apparently with a chisel. In one of them Mrs. Wear had placed her cash-box, which contained, when she left it, about £360 in notes and gold. This has been carried off, together with two gold watches, worth nearly £20 each. The thieves did not disturb any of the silver plate that was in the house, and a silver watch was also allowed to remain.

In this burglary, as in the last, the use of a good £20 safe would have prevented the thieves marching off with such a rich booty.

---

[46]—SERIOUS ROBBERY AT ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

A very serious robbery was committed on Friday evening, at the Rose and Crown Inn, Margaret-street, Ashton-under-Lyne. It seems that Mr. Higginbottom, the landlord, expecting his spirit-merchant to call for the payment of his account, had a sum of £109 10*s*. in a box in his bed-room, and the same box there was a silver verge watch, No. 3,787. On going to bed at about half-past eleven o'clock, he found that the box had been unlocked, and the whole of its contents abstracted.

In this robbery an ordinary £10 safe would have saved the £100.

---

[47]—CURIOUS ROBBERY IN LONDON.

On Wednesday, Miss Steddulph, a confectioner in the Bermondsey New Road, London, placed £90 in gold under the fender in the parlour, where a fire was seldom lighted. On the following morning the servant cleaned out the place, and threw the money with the ashes into the dust-bin. The dust contractor was applied to on the subject, but he at first denied having seen any money. Ultimately, however, he admitted that he always divided with his men any valuables that were found in the dust collected by them. On Thursday the men found £85 in gold, which was equally divided between them, he receiving £25 as his share. He has been remanded, in order that his men may be apprehended.

As in the last case, the use of an ordinary £10 safe would have prevented such a considerable loss of money.

SUMMARY.

In analysing the various modes adopted by the thieves in operating on the iron safes referred to in the preceding FORTY BURGLARIES, and the circumstances connected therewith, we find that :—

Fifty-three iron safes were upon the premises entered by the thieves, or from which the robberies took place. Of these, seven were apparently untouched by the burglars, whilst forty-six were attacked by them, and thirty-six of these were opened. Of the latter number two (4, 24) appear to have been opened by picking the lock; two (29, 40) were left unlocked; the keys of three (8, 30, 32) with which the thieves opened the safes were left on the premises; one (33) was opened by exploding gunpowder in the lock-chamber poured through the keyhole; one (41) was opened by gunpowder put through the spindle-hole; two (1, 2) were opened by drilling, and the application of the screw; three (10, 19, 20) by drilling over the lock-pins seven (3, 6, 7, 16, 21, 22, 23) by drilling one or more holes near the keyhole; ten (11, 14, 15, 18, 24, 26, 27, 28, 31, 38) by the aid of wedges, jemmies, crowbars, and sledge-hammers; three (3, 28, 39) were carried bodily off the premises; and two strong-rooms (42, 43) were entered through subterraneous passages.

Not one of the opened safes was what *we* call a "best" safe, nor was one of them constructed to resist the application of the drill or the wedge and crowbar.

Of the ten attacked safes which resisted the efforts of the thieves to open them, one (2) was at the Manchester Bank; one (5) was a MILNERS', at the Manchester Town Hall; one (19) was a GEORGE PRICE'S, in London; one (13) was a JOHN TANN'S, at Mr. Johnson's, Threadneedle Street, London; one (15) was a GEORGE PRICE'S, at Messrs. Allcock & Holme's, Manchester; one (30), fitted with a Chubb's lock, was at Messrs. Twiss & Browning's, Mark Lane, London; one (35) was a GEORGE PRICE'S, at Mr. J. P. Wardle's, South Shields; one (38) was at the South Western Bank, Southampton, where the thieves were disturbed; one (41) was at London, in Canada; and one (42) was at the New York Exchange Bank United States.

Not one safe was opened by exploding the small lock with gunpowder, nor was one attempted by that means.

Not one was opened by taking an impression of the key.

Not one was opened by operating upon any other part of the safe than the door, and in only one instance (42) was such an attempt made.

Not one was attempted by applying pressure either to the large bolts or the small lock.

Not one was attempted by pouring acid into the lock, by gun-cotton, or by the "jack-in-the-box," the blow-pipe, or by any other such—what the burglars would call—ridiculous means.

Of the thirty-six safes opened, twenty-two succumbed to the operation of the

drill and violence. Of the forty-six safes attacked, two only had doors thicker than half an inch, and these two, one of GEORGE PRICE'S (9), is a five-eighths thick solid door, and one of JOHN TANN'S (13) is an inch thick panelled. Both safes resisted the efforts made to open them.

From these statistics we arrive at the conclusion that as such a large number of safes has been opened by the ordinary breast-brace and drill (see Fig. 10), and the application of the wedge, jemmy, crowbar, and sledge-hammer (see Fig. 16), the principal desiderata required in the construction of iron safes, to enable them to resist the attack of the modern burglar, are to make the exterior surface of the doors drill-proof, and the whole outer body of the safe wedge-proof. By being drill-proof the drill becomes inoperative, and this of itself prevents various other appliances being used. The simple fact of a safe being wedge-proof makes it also proof against every kind of violence that burglars, under the most favourable circumstances, could bring to bear upon it. Now comes the question asked by the writer of the article in the *Globe* of February 9th, 1865—"WHO'S SAFE IS SAFE?" This we shall endeavour to show in another section of this book, but from a consideration of the preceding facts we have no hesitation in affirming that had a GEORGE PRICE'S treble-patent "Champion Burnley," or his quadruple-patent "Royal Climax" safe been used in each case where a robbery was effected, the whole of the property, amounting in value to the large sum of £100,000 sterling, would have been saved, the same as the property of Messrs. Green & Kershaw, at the Flour Mills, Halifax, which was preserved intact by a safe of the "Burnley" quality and construction, that was attacked by burglars with similar tools, and where the same kind of violence was used that proved so successful in opening such a large number of the safes referred to.

To give greater security to the outer doors of banks, warehouses, offices, shops, mills, and wine-cellars, we brought out in 1863 a lock which, to distinguish it from the *ordinary* door-locks, was named

GEORGE PRICE'S

BANK LOCK FOR OUTER DOORS.

In our price-lists we state:—From the numerous robberies that have been effected in consequence of the key of the outer door-lock being so ponderous as to be left lying about or hanging up, instead of being kept in the pocket, it has always been a desideratum to construct a lock of the greatest possible strength, with a key of the smallest possible size. George Price, after various contrivances, has at length succeeded in perfecting a lock of the desired description. It may be described as the works of the compound lock of the modern safe door confined in the ordinary rim-lock, measuring only—small size, 8 by 6; medium, 10 by 7; and large, 12 by 8½ inches.

The cut on the next page shows at a glance its peculiar construction.

Each lock is complete with box-staple and escutcheon for keyhole, with two hardened keys. The locks can be made in suit up to 50, each lock different, with master-key to pass the whole. There are seven levers or tumblers, giving 5,040 different combinations. It is made to lock on one or both sides.

By adopting this lock for an outer door, with a drill-proof plate over it, would render the operation of cutting it out such a work of risk and labour, that no burglar would attempt it. As the large bolts cannot be moved without putting the key in the lock, the door could scarcely be left unfastened.

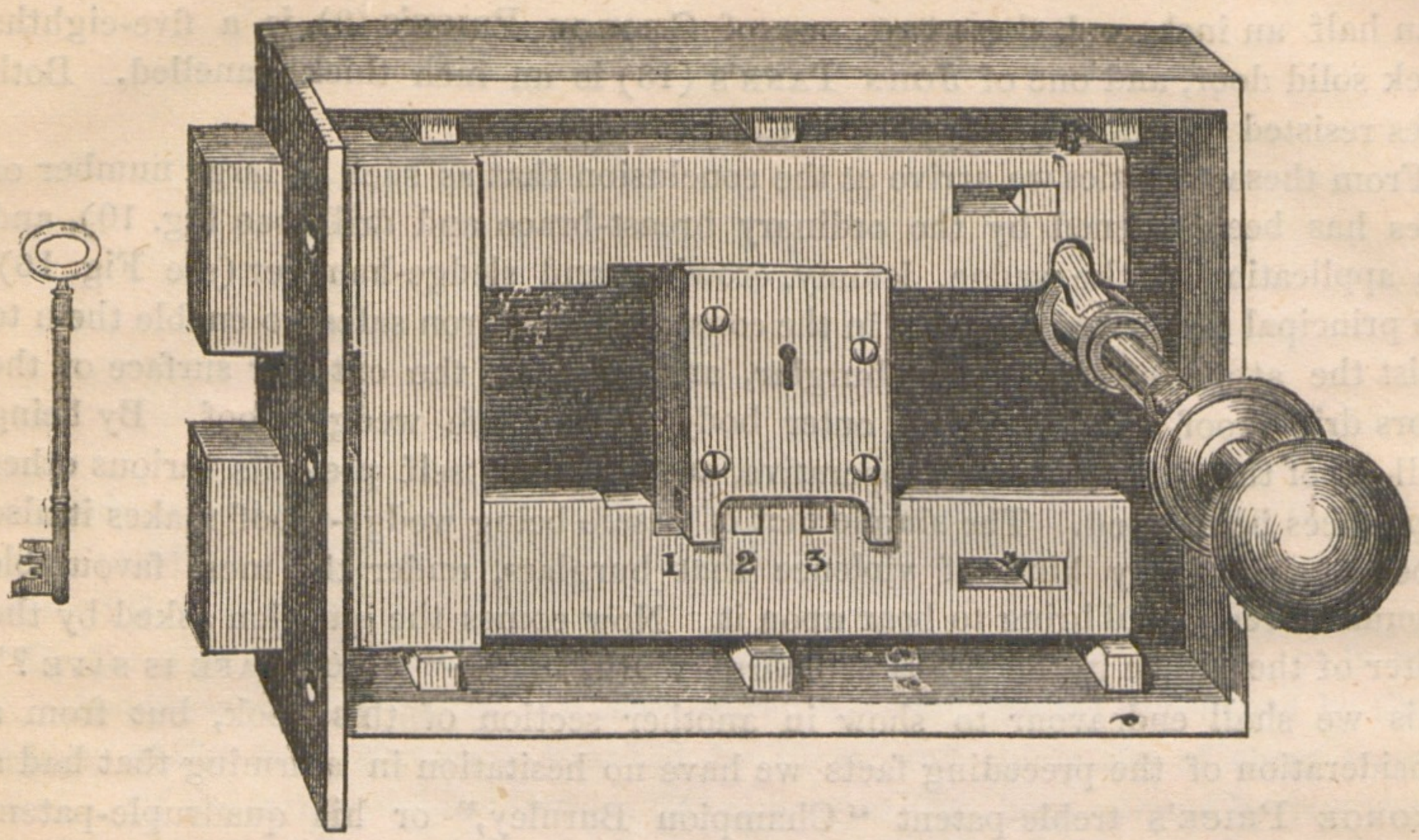


Fig. 17.—The "Ne plus ultra" Bank Lock and Key. Drawn exactly one-fourth the size of the 10 by 7-inch.

The two strong bolts are thrown by the knob or handle as in the modern safe-door locks, which are secured in their position by George Price's Double-Patent Prize-Medal "Ne plus ultra" unpickable and gunpowder-proof Lock. It will be noticed that the small brass bolt has a double head, which, now that the two large bolts are locked *out*, takes into the slots of the bottom large bolt tail, numbered 2, 3. When the two large bolts are withdrawn into the lock-case, the double head takes into the slots 1, 2. It is particularly adapted for the outer doors of Mills, Warehouses, Offices, and Public Buildings, its peculiar construction rendering the works weather-proof.

We have also for the iron-bars of doors and shop-windows a padlock, which is not only unpickable and gunpowder-proof, but from the key working *inside* the levers, as in our safe-door and bank locks, the springs are protected from the effects of the weather.

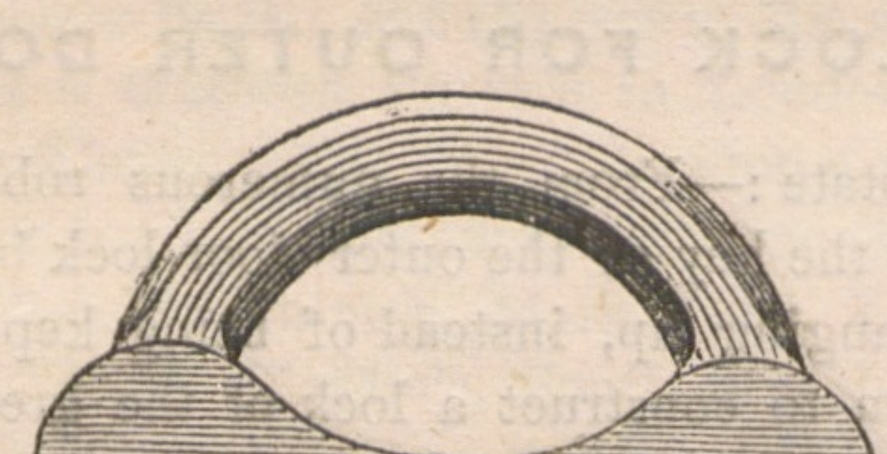


Fig. 18.—George Price's Double Patent Unpickable, Gunpowder-proof and Weather-proof Padlock.

THE TRIAL, WALKER *v.* MILNER,

IN THE COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH, GUILDHALL, Feb. 14 and 15, 1866.

Before the LORD CHIEF JUSTICE *and a Special Jury.*

FROM THE TIMES.

This was an action by Mr. Walker, the well-known jeweller in Cornhill, against the firm of Milner and Son, of Moorgate-street, for breach of a warranty on the sale by them to him of an iron safe. The declaration stated that they agreed to sell to him a certain iron safe, and promised that it was sufficiently strong to resist any attempt or violence that might be made upon it by thieves; and that he, relying upon that promise, bought and paid for it, but that it was not strong enough to resist the efforts of thieves to break it open, and was, in fact, broken open, and property stolen therefrom to the amount of £6000. The defendants pleaded denying the alleged warranty, and also alleging that the safe was sufficiently strong to resist any attempt or violence that thieves might make upon it for the purpose of breaking it open; and further, that the sale being in 1858, the alleged cause of action was barred by the statute of limitations.

Mr. Digby Seymour, Mr. Joseph Brown, Mr. Pearce, and Mr. R. Rigby were for the plaintiff; Mr. Bovill, Mr. E. James, Mr. Webster, and Mr. T. Jones were for the defendants.

The robbery, it will be remembered, was committed about this time last year—on the 6th of February. The shop of Mr. Walker is in Cornhill, at the corner of Sun-court, one window being in Cornhill and another in Sun-court. There were holes cut in the shutters of both windows, and the gas was left burning all night, in order that the police or passers-by might see into the shop, no one sleeping on the premises. Mr. Walker had a front shop and a back room opening on to each other, and at the back there was a large mirror; but between the two rooms there was a partition which extended half way across the shop, and of course to that extent would intercept the view into the back shop, where the safe was placed. The plaintiff did not occupy the whole of the ground floor or basement, but a tailor had a third room as a shop, and of course was not there at night, and the whole of the upper part of the house was occupied by offices, in which no one slept. Thus, then, the whole house, including the plaintiff's premises, were left at night unguarded by any resident or any special watchman, and confided entirely to the protection of the police and the iron safe, aided by the holes in the shutters and the reflection of the safe in the mirror, which, it was hoped, would enable any one to see all that took place. All these precautions, however, proved in the result perfectly useless, and on a Saturday or Sunday night the shop was broken into (being entered from the basement), the safe wrenched open and rifled of its contents, and watches and jewellery to the value of £6000 stolen. Some of the burglars, it will be remembered, were convicted, and one of them, as already mentioned, was present in court to testify how easily he effected his crime, and how useless was the protection afforded by the safe. He listened with much interest to the proceedings, and now and then his features relaxed into a smile.

Mr. D. SEYMOUR, in opening the case for the plaintiff, stated that the warranty that the safe was "thief-proof" would be proved; and that it would also be shown that (as the result itself proved) it was not so. The case, however, would not rest there, for it would be shown that some parts of the safe were of soft iron, and were

not capable of resisting for a single hour attempts to break it open, and Mr. Bramwell, the eminent engineer, would give evidence as to its construction. One of the burglars would be called to prove that he had prized it open in about half an hour.

The safe itself was in court in the front of the bar. (See Fig. 15, page 41.)

The plaintiff and his son, both of whom were present at the purchase of the safe in 1858, were examined to prove the alleged warranty. They stated that the defendant's foreman (one Hopper) was told the safe was for the business of a watchmaker and jeweller, and required to be safe, and he said, "I will show you one of those we call our strong holdfasts, and which will be 'thief-proof.'" Mr. Walker (according to his testimony and his son's) said "Will you warrant that it is 'thief-proof?'" and the foreman said, "I can; nothing can break into that safe." The witnesses said that he was asked again and again if it would be perfectly safe to leave valuable property in it; and he replied that it was. The price of the safe was £40.

They were cross-examined a good deal as to the partition, whether it would not intercept the view; but they said it was not so high as the mirror, and only went half-way across. It appeared, however, that it would to a great extent obstruct the view, and that it had since been removed. The witnesses, however, stated that the safe could be seen in the mirror.

Evidence was given of the circumstances of the burglary, which need not be repeated, having been so often before the public. The Messrs. Walker were pressed a good deal as to whether the police had not said there was negligence on the part of Mr. Walker, in regard to the partition, the position of the mirror, and the safe, &c.; but they stated that there were no such complaints until after the burglary. The gist of the cross-examination was to show that the safe was so concealed by the partition that a thief could be working behind it for twenty-four hours without being observed. It was sworn, however, that the reflection of the safe could be seen in the mirror; and that a part of the safe itself could be seen, but not the whole of it. It rested upon something 9 in. or 12 in. above the floor; and it was between 3 ft. and 3½ ft. high. The partition was 5 ft. high, and the mirror could only be seen through the glasswork of the partition. The foreman, in answer to the jury, said he always looked through the shutter-holes when he left at night to see that all was right, and he did so on the night in question.

The convict Caseley was then called and examined. He is an intelligent young man, who gave his evidence with remarkable clearness and the most amusing coolness. He stated that he had been sentenced to fourteen years' penal servitude, and now came from Millbank to give evidence. On the night of Saturday, the 4th February, 1865, he and four others went to the shop of plaintiff, and two of them besides himself went into the house, by the side door under the archway in Sun-court. It was ten minutes past six o'clock in the evening. The three first went into the second floor—the one above the floor over the shop—and they remained there until twenty minutes to eight o'clock, when they received a signal that the foreman had gone. (A laugh.) They then went down into the next floor—Sir Charles Crosley's—the one just over thes hop. They there opened the safe. (A laugh.) For some hours afterwards they remained quiet and did nothing. They remained there until about twelve o'clock at night. At twenty minutes past twelve they began to work, and first got into the tailor's shop, and were in it the whole of Sunday morning. At five minutes to three, on the afternoon of Sunday, they got into Mr. Walker's shop. They first got into the back shop from the tailor's room, by cutting away the ceiling and the flooring. One of the men went with witness into Mr. Walker's shop—taking sundry tools, crowbars, and other things. They

had to go out again, however, directly, for they received a signal that the police were coming round. Afterwards they had another signal to go back into the shop. They then tested the safe to see whether they could break it open "under the disadvantages under which we were labouring." (Much laughter.) "Testing" it meant trying it with a little wedge to see if it would be likely to give way. They found that it held the wedge—whereas, if it was able to resist pressure the wedge would fly off, and so they found it would answer. They found that they must kneel down in order not to be seen by the police, who were round every nine minutes. "They did their duty," said the witness, "no blame attaches to them. Every time they came round I had a signal, and had to kneel down to avoid being seen by the police, and had to stop our work. At last we found the safe 'give,' which we were rather surprised at, as a good safe ought not to have yielded so soon. We then knew that we could get the safe open, and not long after we had it open. It did not take above thirty-five minutes, and out of that time several minutes should be deducted for the time we lost when the police came round. At a quarter to four we were up in Sir Charles Crossley's office washing our hands. (Much laughter.) We had only to use two instruments, though we had others with us. We thought it one of Tann's safes; they are easier than Milner's, and Griffiths' are easier than Milner's. (Roars of laughter.) We were miles away at twenty minutes to five." *

Cross-examined by Mr. WEBSTER.—Where were you then?—I can't say exactly. Somewhere on the Guildford-road.

You have had some experience in opening safes?—Yes, unhappily, I have. We have experimented on Milner's safes before. It took seven hours before it gave at all, and we then tried what we call "unlawful" means—that is, tools which we could not use in a burglary. (Great laughter.) Another took six hours to open. Two of us purchased two of Milner's safes to experimentalise upon, and we succeeded upon one after seven hours, and then by unlawful means—that is, with tools which could not be used without detection, as they made a noise. They were bars which had to be knocked in. That was returning back to old means; quite the "old style." (Laughter.) The other safe was opened in six hours, with the best sort of "lawful burglars' tools," including an iron bar 5 feet long, jointed in several pieces so as to be carried in a small case. That was the only thing which could open one of Milner's best safes. The safe could not be opened with a wedge, which was only used for testing. A good safe would send a wedge out; a bad one let it remain in, and that showed it could be opened. The wedge remained in this safe (the one in question), and they then saw it could be opened when the wedge held; then a bar was put in to release the wedge, and then another

---

* The *Daily Telegraph* report of the trial has this somewhat different. It reads, "We thought it would be one of the others, which are much easier than Mr. Milner's. Tann's is easier than Milner's, and Griffiths' is easier than Tann's." The following letter confirms the version of the *Telegraph*:—

"WALKER *v.* MILNER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—In justice to Mr. Tann, I think it right to say that my impression is that your first report o what the convict Caseley stated is correct—viz., "They expected it was Tann's safe, which is easier to open than Milner's, and Griffiths's is easier than Tann's"—a belief which is supported by a memorandum I made at the time on the back of my summons, and which I now enclose.

I beg to remain your obedient servant,

City, Feb. 19. ONE OF THE JURY.

As there are two safe makers of the name of *Tann*, we think it a pity the convict was not asked which of the Tann's safes his assertions had reference to. We can sympathise with Mr. John Tann under the annoyance the above statement must have caused him, the writer having similarly suffered through a firm of file makers of the same name in Wolverhampton several years ago starting in business as safe and lock makers.

wedge, a little larger, to release the bar, and then another and a larger bar to release the wedge. These bars, however, would not open the safe, they were only used to get what we call the "alderman" in. (Roars of laughter.) That is a "head bar," which would open any safe. The smaller bars were called "citizens." (Laughter.) These names were used to avoid the real words; it would not do to be heard in the streets talking of crowbars. (Laughter.) In this case the wedges only went in two or three times, the bars eight or nine times. In the other instances the "alderman" was used, which was able to open any safe made, unless there was a slight alteration. But to this safe the "alderman" was not used; it was not required. While he worked one of his "mates" was sitting upstairs in Sir Charles Crosley's armchair to give signals by a string, corresponding with the two men outside. One was to see if either Mr. Walker or any of his people came back. The other gave notice when the police were coming by walking past the shop. The other of the two men with him was half way through the hole in the floor handing him tools. I did the work. (A laugh.) I knew the whole family of the Walkers; I had been looking after them seven weeks, night and morning. (Laughter.) I had been in Sir Charles Crosley's office several times before, and opened his safe and found £28 in it, which we would not take, as we did not want to rob Sir Charles. We did so on the night of this burglary, lest he should laugh at us (laughter), and so we took the tailor's clothes for the same reason, not for the value of them. (Roars of laughter.) Some of the men with me were mere "interlopers"—men called in on an emergency. (Much laughter.)

Re-examined.—The witness said if this safe had been as good as the other safes of Milner's, they could never have opened it without being discovered. They were agreeably surprised to find the safe so easy to open; they did not expect it. They concocted the burglary because they knew that all through the month of January the police did not look through the shutter holes; but on this night the policeman did do his duty, and the result was that he had to work kneeling. The posture of kneeling and the constant interruptions from the police made it, of course, more difficult, yet it was all over in about half an hour. He could undertake, without interruption and standing up, to open this safe in a quarter of an hour. The "alderman" would do it at once.

In answer to the LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, the witness said he had been brought up as a sign-painter, not as a mechanic; but he could make a better safe, he said, than any safe now made, and he could open any safe that was made.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE.—It is a pity you did not turn your talents to better account.*

The convict (with great quickness).—It is a pity the police did not let me.

It is impossible to convey an idea of the readiness, quickness, clearness, and coolness of the man's replies. His examination was listened to by a crowded audience and a large number of the Bar, with the deepest interest, and the sentiment universally expressed was, "What a pity such a man should have been a thief! He could have attained success in any walk in life." He was evidently a man of superior abilities, and, originally, one would say, with good qualities of character.

---

* Few things are commoner with judges who have rather an exceptional criminal before them than to compliment his ability at the expense of his character. "You have shown talents in this transaction which, if honestly applied, might have," &c. This language is both false and injudicious. It gives rise to a notion that criminals are clever fellows, whereas, as a rule, they are the most miserable fools that can be imagined, and their cleverness, such as it is, is like the cleverness of a baby. You think it is a great thing if a little child can speak plainly. A criminal who exercises the humblest kind of ingenuity is an exception.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

Mr. Bramwell, the well-known civil engineer, was next called and examined for the plaintiff. He had, he said, had a large experience in the manufacture of iron, &c. He had carefully examined the safe in question, and he described its nature and condition. His attention, he said, was attracted by two things: the one was as to the strength of the upright side; the other was the construction of the locking-bolts, and their mode of attachment to the door of the safe. As to the upright bar it was so thin, in relation to the height of the safe, as to be capable of being readily bent. As regarded the construction of the bolts, the large parts of the bolts, of which there were four, were found to extend only a few inches into the safe, and to be there attached only to a thin bar. The result was that, assuming the bolts to be shot out into the mortice, any pressure brought to bear in opening the door would readily bend the bolts within the interior of the safe, and cause them to retreat clear of the mortices, as would be seen had been the case here, the bolts having the appearance of being drawn back. The next matter was as to the attachment of the bolts to the door. There was bolted, at the back of the main plate of the door, a sheet-iron box or casing, which was kept at the back by four screws: and the bolts of the lock, instead of being attached to the main plate of the door, were attached to this thin casing, so that the power of the bolts to hold the door closed was measured by the strength of the thin casing. There were certainly screws passing through the casing to the main plate; but the power of the bolts was measured by the strength of these screws and of the thin casing. The screws were only half-inch screws, and not of much strength—here was the evidence of it (pointing to one of them with the head wrenched off). In one instance, he said, the screw had broken the plate; in another, the plate had broken the screw. The strength of the main plate was thus almost thrown away, and it struck him that the safe could very readily be opened. He had heard the examination of the convict, and, looking at the condition of the safe as he now saw it, there was nothing inconsistent with his statement; and, on the contrary, he quite believed his statement that the wedge when once got in would hold. He had directed and witnessed some experiments upon another of Mr. Milner's safes of the same class. It seemed very easy to be opened, and he suggested that it should be opened.

Mr. JAMES objected to this head of evidence as irrelevant.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said it was to show the breach of warranty, but i was no doubt indirect. It would not show that the safe in question was not proof to show that another was not, unless it was shown that all the safes of that class were of the same construction.

The evidence was not pressed, but the witness was asked within what time he could undertake to open the safe now in question.

Mr. JAMES objected to the question; the warranty relied on was that the saf would resist all attempts to open it, and in point of fact it had not resisted suc attempts, for it had been opened.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE.—True; and if you admit that such was the warranty, then of course that fact shows that it has been broken. Bnt, suppose you set up hereafter that the warranty must have a reasonable construction, and was only against ordinary perils, so to speak, but not absolutely as against all possible skill?

Mr. JAMES said he would meet that case when set up, but the warranty set up was absolute, and if that was sustained the proposed evidence was irrelevant.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that, perhaps, the evidence objected to had better be waived for the present.

Mr. Bramwell then went on to point out another defect of construction. It was

joined, he said, by dovetailing instead of welding, but that might be put out of consideration in this case, as it was not the cause of failure.

In cross-examination by Mr. WEBSTER the witness said the wedges were used to get a hold, and the bars to get a leverage. It was impossible to open the safe by wedges alone without bars. The door-plates were only $\frac{1}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch thick.

Re-examined—Mr. Bramwell said the chief source of weakness was the weakness of the upright bar, which gave to a wedge, without disturbing the joints or edges of the safe.

Mr. M'Connell, who was engineer of the London and North-Western Railway, and a civil engineer by profession, and had been educated as a mechanical engineer, was next examined. He had, he said, examined the safe, and should say it was not well constructed to resist the attacks of thieves. His reasons were—first, that as the safe was of half-inch construction, it would be proper that the door should be of that strength, whereas it was not. It might be supposed until it was opened that every part of the safe would be as strong as the rest. The inner plate should have been as thick as the outer one; but it was not. The bolts ought to have been three quarters of an inch in diameter, instead of half an inch. The door was only as strong as the inner plate and the bolts. The strength of the safe was only in its weakest part, and that was the weakest part of it. The outer vertical bar was too thin for its length or height, and would admit of being bent. Being asked whether in his opinion the safe could be opened as described by Caseley—

Mr. JAMES objected that this was only an indirect way of confirming Caseley, and it was not admissible for the plaintiff thus to confirm by one witness.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said it was competent to the plaintiff to prove the same fact by more than one witness, and this was scientific evidence.

Mr. BROWN observed that if he were to call all the burglars, their evidence would be open to the same objection.

Mr. JAMES.—That is not my fault, and if you choose to go into such society to get your witnesses (much laughter), why, I cannot help it.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said the evidence was admissible, as confirmatory of the burglar's story.

The witness then stated that he did say, looking at the safe, that it had been opened by wedges and bars, and he should think that any mechanic could open it in an hour.

In cross-examination the witness was asked if there had not been a struggle between safe makers and thieves, between the assailants and the defenders; he said there had been, and no doubt every successful assault on a safe led to fresh improvements. He said bars used as levers and wedges had been long known as used for such burglarious purposes, though not by the names of "aldermen" and "citizens." The names were new, but the things were old. There was nothing novel in the use of a wedge, whether smooth or serrated, to open an iron door or safe.

Mr. Wilson, a civil engineer, was also called, and gave similar evidence. He said he had examined the safe, and thought it not properly constructed to resist thieves, and that the first distribution of materials was very defective. The first and main point was the weakness of the upright frame, and the ease with which it could be deflected. It was 4 ft. long and only $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick, and that would yield to comparatively small pressure. The bolts which formed the fastenings, and on which the whole strength of the safe depended, relied for their strength on being kept in their proper position, because as soon as they were bent they left their mortices, and in this case their being kept in their proper position entirely depended

upon the back plate, which was ⅛ in. thick, quite disproportionate to the outer plate, which was ½ in. thick. The back was fixed to the plate by four screws, which had been nicely calculated to the strength of the back plate; but the bolts, which were 4 in., were not proportioned to the strength of the back plate. From his own judgment, he should say that by using wedge and lever the safe could be opened easily in half an hour.

Mr. JAMES, in cross-examination.—Any safe will yield to pressure, in time, I suppose ?

Witness.—Yes; it is a question of degree. It is a question of time. A safe may be made to last five hours, or to last only for one, or for half an hour. The weak point was the weakness of the upright bar. In one safe he made the upright bar was ⅝ in. thick, and the back plate ½ in. There were ways in which these points of construction could be strengthened. The inner plate should have been ½ in. thickness, as the outer plate. There was no novelty in the matter; it was merely the application, with judgment, of ordinary mechanical principles.

Mr. Wilkinson, a mechanical engineer, said he had broken open one of Milner's safes in half an hour, and he could open this particular one in a quarter of an hour "comfortably." (A laugh.)

In cross-examination he said he opened the safe very much as described by the burglar; that is, by the use of a wedge and a lever-bar, and he had used such implements often before in taking old engines to pieces, &c.

This was the plaintiff's case.

Mr. JAMES submitted that the declaration was not supported. There was, he first contended, no evidence of any warranty in fact; and, next, that there was no implied authority to the shopman to give such a warranty, and no evidence of express authority; thirdly, that the cause of action being the breach of warranty at the time of the sale, the Statute of Limitations was a bar. The warranty declared upon was that the safe then was strong enough to resist any attempts that might be thereafter made to break it open, and the breach was that it was not then sufficiently strong to resist such attempts. Was the defendant to be liable for 20 or 40 years after the sale ?

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE.—Do you mean, Mr. James, to leave the case where it is ?

Mr. JAMES.—I do not think that I shall.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE.—Because I am not bound to rule anything until the whole case is before me.

Mr. JAMES said he thought it would be clear that there would be no case.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said the Messrs. Walker positively swore to the warranty.

Mr. JAMES proved the difference between a warranty and a representation. The word "warranty" had not been used by the foreman.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE.—That would not matter, if it were so; but the elder Mr. Walker swears he said, "Can you warrant that it will be thief-proof ?" and the foreman said he could.

Mr. JAMES then pressed the point as to the authority to give a warranty.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said this was a warranty by the foreman of a regular seller of safes, in the ordinary way of his business.

Mr. JAMES then pressed the point as to the Statute of Limitations—that it ran from the time of the sale.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that might raise a nice question, and he would reserve it for the Court. But he could not withdraw the case from the jury.

Mr. JAMES then addressed the jury for the defence. The case, he said, was one of great importance; for, if the defendants were responsible in this case, they might be in hundreds of others, and might be made liable for sums which even a millionaire would be unable to endure. The warranty set up was absolute for all future time and against all possible contingencies, and all for the price of a safe. Was it likely that the defendants would intend or authorise such a liability? Very likely the foreman represented that the safe was of the best kind that could be then supplied. But that would not be the warranty alleged, and the jury must be satisfied before they could find for the plaintiff that a warranty was given absolutely for all time to come, as long as the safe should endure. The foreman would be called, and would deny any such warranty, and declare that he had no authority to give it, or to do more than represent that it was as good a safe as could be supplied. And even if there was a warranty and a breach of it, there was negligence on the part of the plaintiff himself, which precluded him from recovering. Moreover, the warranty "thief-proof," even if given, only came to this, that the safe was proof against ordinary burglary; not that it was safe against mechanical skill and dexterity applied for half an hour or an hour at a time. He should call some of the police to show the negligence on the part of the plaintiff. He should call scientific witnesses to rebut the evidence of the plaintiff's witnesses, and to show that the safe was reasonably secure.

The case was then adjourned.

The alleged warranty was that the safe was sufficiently strong to resist any attempt at violence that might be thereafter made upon it, or used by thieves, for the purpose of breaking it open; whereas it was not so, and, in fact, was broken open, and rifled of its contents to the value of £6,000. The defendants denied the alleged warranty, and also pleaded that the safe was sufficiently strong to resist any attempt by thieves to open it.

The safe was purchased by Mr. Walker in 1858, and he and his son, who were present on the occasion, were called to prove the alleged warranty. They purchased it of defendants' manager; and he, it will be seen, was called to-day, and denied the warranty. Prospectuses of the defendants were put in evidence, however, which described the safes in classes 1, 2, 3, and 4, and described List 3 as more secure than List 2, and List 4 as stronger still. One of the prospectuses ran thus:—

"To Jewellers, Watchmakers, &c.—The daily occurrence of extensive robberies of Jewellery, &c., proving that the attention of burglars is especially directed to such property, induces Milner and Son to call particular attention to their strong holdfast fire-resisting safe (the description List 3), by the use of which perfect safety from fire and thieves is insured."

The safe in question was of class List 3, and bore upon its door a plate with these words, "Milner and Son's holdfast, picklock proof."

Some of the prospectuses contained the word "warranted," as applied to a particular class of safes as fireproof, "warranted to resist 24 hours' fire." But there was no such word as applied to thief-proof, and although Mr. Walker swore that he asked if the safe was warranted secure against thieves, this the foreman denied, and declared, moreover, that in 1856 he was expressly forbidden by his employers, in a letter which he produced, from giving any warranty. The plaintiff and his son having given their evidence of the alleged warranty, evidence was then given of its breach. The principal burglar, who had actually "prized" it open, was called to prove that he did so with perfect ease in half an hour, by means of ordinary implements, notwithstanding constant interruptions by the police, who it appeared on this particular night did their duty carefully, and looked through the shutter-holes every ten minutes. Mr. Bramwell and several other engineers were likewise called to

confirm the burglar's evidence, by showing that in consequence of certain defects in the construction, which they pointed out, the safe could be easily opened in half an hour. To-day the evidence for the defence was gone into, and in the first place was pointed to the denial of the alleged warranty.

Mr. Hopley, the defendants' foreman or manager, who, it appeared, had been many years in their employ, and received a commission of $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the sale of their safes besides his salary, was called and examined on their behalf. He produced a letter which, he stated, they sent to him in 1856, and which in express terms prohibited him from giving any warranty; and he declared that he had never given a warranty; and as to the particular occasion in question, declared that he had merely recommended to the Messrs. Walker the safe they purchased as strong and secure. He admitted that he was told that it was wanted to contain jewellery; but he denied that he was asked if it would be strong enough to be secure from Saturday to Monday to resist any attempt at burglary. And he stated that he was told there would be gas burning all night, and that the safe would, through holes in the shutters, be constantly under the eyes of the police and passers by. He was pressed as to whether he had not held out to the world that the safes of the class in question would "ensure perfect safety from thieves," and he denied that he had ever done so, upon which he was challenged with the passage in the prospectus above referred to.

The Lord Chief Justice thereupon observed that the words cited could hardly be understood in the sense of a warranty or assurance of perfect safety, but only as importing a representation of a high degree of strength.

Mr. Seymour then referred to a later prospectus, issued, as he suggested, since the burglary, in which the safes of the class in question were mentioned as of "the strongest security," and he relied on this as implying a withdrawal of the previous warranty, but

The Lord Chief Justice observed that, assuming this later prospectus to have been issued after the burglary, it was only dictated by common honesty. For after it had been found by actual experience that the safe was not absolutely secure against all possible attempts, it would have been fraudulent to continue the previous description or representation, and it was only fair to withdraw it, and substitute a representation of the strongest security.*

---

* It would be better if the safe-makers generally would pay a little more attention to the correct wording of their advertisements and descriptive price-lists, so that the possibility of misunderstanding their true meaning might be avoided. T. Milner and Son in their price-list state—

"Milners' Double Bankers' Safe consists of two safes, placed one within the other, leaving steam space between, secured at the corners with hard wood bearings between the outer and inner safes. Warranted to bear twenty-four hours' exposure to red heat, regulated to 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit, without injury to books or papers inside."

Now the fact is, that their "Double Bankers' Safe," having six inches in thickness of fire-proof composition, will not preserve books and papers inside without injury when exposed to red heat for more than *six* hours, which is confirmed by T. Milner and Son, at their public tests, never having dared to try one of them for more than five hours and a half. Their safes with three-inch chambers they have never dared to test for more than three hours.

Chubb and Son advertise—"Chubb's Locks and Fireproof Safes, with all the newest improvements. Street-door Latches, Cash and Deed Boxes. Full illustrated price-lists sent free. Chubb and Son, 57, St. Paul's Churchyard, London, and Horsley-fields, Wolverhampton."

Now if there is any meaning in words, this advertisement means nothing less than that Chubb and Son's safes contain in their construction all *the* newest improvements, no matter by whom introduced or by whom patented; whereas what they will tell you they mean is, that their safes have merely all *their own* newest improvements. Had they have put *their* instead of *the*, no reader could possibly have misunderstood it.

Another firm advertises—"The only Prize Medal for improvements was awarded for Cyrus Price and Co.'s Patent Champion Detector Powder-proof Locks, and Champion Fire and Burglar-proof Safes, with solid hardened steel drill-proof doors." On reference to the "Reports of the

The witness positively denied that Mr. Walker had (as he had stated) asked him to warrant the safe, and declared that, if he had been asked to do so, he should have declined; and he utterly denied the warranty.

One of the jury asked the witness what he said when asked by customers what was meant by the use of the words "holdfast" and "picklock-proof."

The Witness.—That it is a strong safe—nothing more.

Mr. JAMES, at the close of the evidence of this witness, said he did not desire to take up time needlessly, and in his own view of the case, the sole question was whether the alleged warranty had been given, for if it had, beyond all doubt it had been broken. That warranty was one of absolute security against all possible attempts to break it open, and in that sense certainly, beyond all doubt as a matter of fact, it had failed, for the safe, it was seen, was broken into. In that view, therefore, evidence—either of scientific witnesses to prove that there were no defects or faults in construction, or, on the other hand, of negligence on the part of the plaintiff—would be irrelevant. The scientific evidence would be relevant indeed to disprove a qualified warranty of reasonable security, but that was not the warranty set up. The warranty alleged was one of absolute perfect security for all time to come, against all possible attempts at burglary. If such a warranty had been given, then beyond all doubt it had failed, and therefore, as it seemed to him, the sole question was whether it had been given or not.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said it struck him so. The warranty set up was one of absolute perfect security, that the safe would resist any future attempts to break it open. If that warranty had been given, then, of course, it had been broken. Therefore, the question came to this: had such a warranty been given?

Mr. BROWN, on the part of the plaintiff, said that with reference to the Statute of Limitations, he certainly must contend that the warranty was continuing; in the ordinary case of a horse warranty, no doubt it applied only to the time of delivery. But in a case such as this it could hardly be so construed, and considering the endurable nature of the materials, and the very object in view, the warranty must surely be construed as continuing.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE observed, that on the other hand there was great difficulty in making the warranty extend to all future time as long as the safe should exist, which might be a hundred years.

Juries," we find they were awarded a Prize Medal "For an improvement in the construction of locks."

The following is from the *Leeds Mercury*, of April 14th, 1866:—"Important to Bankers, Merchants, Solicitors, Manufacturers, Jewellers, Pawnbrokers, and others requiring Fire and Burglar-proof Safes. Messrs. Hepper and Sons respectfully announce their instructions to Sell by Auction, in their Rooms, East-parade, Leeds, on *Tuesday, April seventeenth*, commencing at two o'clock, a Consignment of C. Price and Co.'s Wrought-iron Champion Fire and Burglar-proof Safes, manufactured on their improved principle of non-conduction, and fitted with their patent prize medal locks, protected by solid hardened steel plates. Messrs. Price and Co. received the only prize medal awarded at the Exhibition of 1862, for 'excellence, utility, and ingenuity of construction.' Illustrated circulars are now ready. The safes may be seen on Monday, the 16th instant, and on the morning of sale."

Their next may be expected to be something after the style of the following:—"A YANKEE'S POWERS OF ROMANCE.—The agents of two rival iron safe manufacturers were recently presenting the claims of their respective articles. The one was a Yankee—the other wasn't. He that wasn't told his story. A game cock had been shut up in one of his safes, and then it was exposed three days to the most intense heat. When the door was opened the cock stalked out, flapped his wings, and crowed loudly, as if nothing had happened. It was now the Yankee's turn. A cock had also been shut up in one of his safes with a pound of fresh butter, and the safe was submitted to the trial of a tremendous heat for more than a week. The legs of the safe were melted off, and the door itself so far fused as to require the use of a cold chisel to get it open. When it was opened, the cock was found frozen dead, and the butter so solid, that a man who knocked off a piece of it with a hammer had his eye put out by a frozen butter splinter."—*New York Paper*.

Mr. Brown said that certainly the safe would last a hundred years. (A laugh.)

The Lord Chief Justice.—There is no doubt a difficulty in holding, on the other hand, that the warranty (assuming it to have been given) was to last only for the moment of delivery. But then considering that when the purchaser had the safe in his possession he could examine it and test its construction and strength, it would be reasonable that he should object to it within six years. And, therefore, there did not appear to be much moral justice holding the warranty—even assuming it to have been given—to endure for all future time. However, that question, if it arose, would be reserved.

Mr. James then briefly addressed the jury on the evidence for the defendant, contending that it disproved the alleged warranty, which he urged was in itself unlikely, and was far from satisfactorily made out, even by the evidence of the plaintiff, seeing that his son's testimony did not quite support his own, especially as to the question about a warranty ; and he strongly urged that, taking the whole of the evidence together, it rather tended to show a mere representation than a warranty.

Mr. Seymour addressed the jury in reply on the part of the plaintiff, urging that it was evident that Mr. Walker had, in fact, purchased the safe upon the faith of the alleged warranty, and would not have bought without it, nor have left his property otherwise unprotected had he not had it.

The Lord Chief Justice then summed up the case to the jury. "Gentlemen," he said, "the case is happily now narrowed to a single and simple point—whether the warranty alleged was or was not given to the plaintiff. He says, distinctly, that it was ; the defendants' manager says as distinctly that it was not. Even if it was, there will be the question of law whether it would bind the defendants ; there being not only no express authority to give it, but an express prohibition to give any warranty. But was it given in fact? Now, as to this, the first thing that strikes me as rather startling, is that Mr. Walker avowedly proposed to leave all his valuable property upon the premises from Saturday night to Monday morning without any person sleeping or residing there ; so that he would be relying entirely on the safe. And no doubt it might be said that he would naturally desire a safe 'secure' against all attempts at burglary, and would naturally desire to obtain an absolute guarantee of such security, so as in case of failure to have the responsibility of the seller to fall back upon. But the force of this argument is materially weakened, when we consider that he did not, in the first instance, ask for one of the safes which were perfectly secure, but would have been content with one of an inferior quality and strength (No. 2), which was not put forward as thief-proof, until persuaded by the defendants' foreman to purchase a stronger one. The question, however, will be upon the whole of the evidence whether the warranty set up was given ? You must bear in mind, that the warranty set up is one which is to last as long as the safe itself shall endure, which may endure from generation to generation for a hundred years. It is a warranty which is to be co-existent and continuing during the whole of that period, and during all that time is to impose an unlimited liability upon the seller from which he can never divest himself. Is it likely that any one in his senses would take upon himself such a responsibility ? We must remember, too, that the means of attack are from time to time improved, as the artistic skill employed in burglary becomes advanced ; and yet, on the other hand, while the means of attack are thus increased, the means of defence remain the same ; for the safe, when once delivered, cannot be altered. And this consideration, of course, enhances the improbability of such a warranty having been given. Still, the question is upon the evidence, whether it was given. The elder

Mr. Walker positively swears that he asked the very question; the foreman as positively denies it. Now, it is undoubtedly true that there may be a warranty without the use of the word 'warrant,' but then there must be words used tantamount to it, and such as men of business would recognise as importing a warranty. And supposing you think that all that was said by the foreman—whatever it was—was rather a representation than a warranty, then it would not amount to a warranty. A mere representation is not a ground of action, unless it is wilfully false and fraudulent. A warranty imports an absolute liability on an undertaking, and it is not because traders used laudatory terms when speaking of the articles they sell, that, therefore, they are to be rendered liable, apart from fraud. You must distinguish between what is represented and what is warranted, and unless you are satisfied that there was a warranty you cannot find for the plaintiff. It is not because the seller represented that this safe was secure against burglars, or used other eulogistic language about it, whether in the prospectuses or otherwise, that, however, he is to be held liable as for a warranty. Here, therefore, there is positive evidence—that of Mr. Walker—that he asked the question whether the seller would warrant, and the seller said he would. You must consider whether Mr. Walker may not be deceiving himself in that statement. He, no doubt, is a man of veracity, but he may be mistaken, and we must be on our guard, not, indeed, against any intentional falsehood, but against the natural effects of self-interest. If his son entirely supported him on his recollection, it would be much stronger for the plaintiff, but his son's testimony does not quite support his own. He says that the foreman told them he could not recommend safe No. 2 as able to resist expert thieves, and said, 'Take one of our strong, holdfast, thief-proof safes.' But he does not say that his father asked for and obtained a warranty. The mere description of the safe as thief-proof could not be more than a representation, which would not support an action, without fraud. The son says, no doubt, that the foreman was asked if it would be safe, and that he answered that it would; but that would be only a representation; and he says that they agreed to take his recommendation, and that he said they would not regret taking his advice. You will consider whether all this is not more like a representation than a warranty. If you are satisfied that this was the warranty alleged, find for the plaintiff: if not, then find for the defendants."

The jury retired to consider their verdict, and in half an hour returned with a verdict for the defendants.

On reference to pages 8—10, and Figs. 3, 4, and 15, our readers will be enabled to understand exactly the construction of the Milners' "List 3" safe, opened by the burglars, at Mr. Walker's. It measures on the outside 48 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 26 inches deep. List price, £40; sold to Mr. Walker for £36. The plates forming the body of the safe are quarter-inch thick, the door-plate being half-inch thick, whilst the lock-case plate is about one-eighth of an inch thick. The body-plates are dovetailed together only, there being no angle bars inside. On examining the safe last year we found the edge of the door-plate bevilled to an unusual degree (a common fault with many safe-makers), and as the outside band or bar had nothing to prevent its giving way on the driving in of the first wedge, the bevilled edge facilitated the getting of the point of the crowbar to bite *under* the door-plate, with the same outside band or bar forming the fulcrum. The great power thus obtained by the fulcrum of the lever being at such a short distance from its point, enabled the operator at once to force open the door through the lock-pins (see Fig. 12)—some breaking, others drawing—and the tilting of the

bolts. We remarked to Mr. John T. Walker that the entire operation did not take an hour to accomplish, and we thought not half one. At the period of the robbery it was thought the wedges had been prepared with extraordinary care, with "serrated" edges, and graduating in thickness from the edge of a knife to quarter inch, and made of steel of a most wonderful quality; but we believe they were made out of flat files, with the chequered marks not altogether hammered out, so that their roughness was more from accident than design. As there is nothing wonderful in the construction or quality of the simple tools employed, so the *modus operandi* was of the most "vulgar" kind. From the first time that a heavy weight had to be raised upwards from the floor, or moved about, has it been customary to drive a thin pointed wedge or chisel under it, then follow it with a thicker one, and so on till the end of the lever could be got under, to act on the fulcrum to be used. This safe was never constructed nor intended to resist the application of the wedge, and succumbed accordingly to the attack. That all safes constructed upon the same principle can be as easily and as quickly opened as this one was can be proved by any one trying the experiment, with similar tools. The statement of Caseley, that it took him and another six hours to open one of Milner's safes, and seven hours another, in an experiment they made, the first by "unlawful means," the latter "with the best sort of 'lawful burglars' tools,' including an iron bar five feet long," we totally disbelieve. If the two burglars ever did try to open the two Milners' safes, with the tools referred to, they would have opened both in the time it took to open the one at Mr. Walker's; and this as certainly as it is true that the same safes can be opened by *anybody* in the same period of time, with the same tools.

Sadly too much importance has been attached to the mere assertions and uncorroborated statements of the convict Caseley. His abilities have been over-estimated, and his low cunning unnoticed. From his experience as chairman of the singing saloon he in other days attended, he saw by "taking stock" of the court and the audience that he was *the* master of the situation, and *the* hero of the day. He tried his cunning, and exercised his wit in producing a sensation, and exciting a feeling of sympathy in his condition. The experiment proved eminently successful—his "sell" was accomplished. His examination was listened to by a crowded audience and a large number of the Bar with the deepest interest, and the sentiment universally expressed was, "What a pity such a man should have been a thief!—he could have obtained success in any walk in life." We should be sorry to place the slightest reliance upon any portion of his evidence, except what is capable of being corroborated by other testimony, or that is in accordance with analogy or the probabilities of the case, and therefore we recommend our readers to estimate his evidence only at its true value. That he has frightened all the nervous and weak-minded people in England by his mere unqualified assertion that he "could open any safe made," is an undoubted fact; and such was his importance at the trial, and his influence as an authority on the subject of burglar-proof safes, that not one of the "Bar" present could think of suggesting to such a "gentleman" the question, "Do you mean to say that you 'could open any safe made' in the same time as you did Walker's, or that by giving you an *unlimited amount of time* you could perform that wonderful feat?" Surely no one can be surprised after this that many persons believe that "he *could* make a better safe than any safe now made." We expect to see some day, in the neighbourhood of Guildhall, a sign, "CASELEY, ALDERMAN-PROOF SAFE-MAKER TO THE BAR, &c."

It is sad to see this man, a type of a class too idle to work, and who live in the greatest and most wasteful extravagance, and in the indulgence of every sensual

appetite, made a "martyr of circumstances," and a petted convict; surely some one of his admirers ought to have made an offer to the Home Secretary that, on condition of Caseley being granted a free pardon, his patron would take him into his house as his private secretary.

Caseley said further that the "alderman"—a five feet crowbar—"was able to open any safe made, unless there was a slight alteration." This is, doubtless, perfectly true, IF you can get it to work; but there will always be the "if," as, unless a sufficient opening can be first made with the wedges or "citizen's friend," both the "citizen" and the "alderman" are powerless, and are as harmless safe-opening tools as a broom-stick. Only find Professor Caseley a fulcrum for his "alderman," and he (like Archimedes) would undertake to move the world. The "slight alteration," of course, he did not then disclose, but we have no doubt it will turn out to be one of those contrivances, which, with all his presumed wisdom and knowledge, although, perhaps, then in existence, he was ignorant of. *We* really cannot see what there is in Caseley's evidence that should lead the public to the conclusion that he must be a perfect master of the art of both safe-opening and safe-making. The only extraordinary features in the Cornhill robbery, in our opinion, are the audacity, coolness, and daring of the whole gang of burglars engaged in it. We have every reason to believe that Caseley never touched the safe, but that the real operator was Jeffreys, by trade a joiner. Also, that the names of "alderman," "citizen," and "citizen's friend," as applied to crowbars and wedges, were never heard before the day of trial either by any thief or by any of the police authorities, and we can appeal for a confirmation of this opinion to the chief officers of the police force both in London, Manchester, and Birmingham. These new names were designedly used for the occasion.

When the next pickpocket is put upon his trial for picking the pocket of some nobleman of a thousand pound prize (seen before by many to indicate its whereabouts), upon the thief's declaring he could pick the pocket of any gentleman in England, we expect to find that from thenceforth it will be recommended by some to discontinue the use of all pockets, whilst others will ask the question "What kind of pocket is safe?"

Mr. Bramwell's evidence went to show that in his opinion the lock-chamber and the parts comprising the large lock were not strong enough, but it must be understood that the office of the large bolts is only subordinate to that of the general construction and strength of the safe to resist violence. If the lock-plate, which carries the works of the large lock, is to do duty *instead* of the door and sides of the safe, then, undoubtedly will it be necessary to considerably increase its strength. But this would be beginning at the wrong end. The idea with all safe-makers and amateur safe-improvers, should be to keep the wedge, and, indeed, every other tool that a burglar could have the opportunity of bringing to bear on a safe, from making a beginning; then no alteration whatever is necessary in the construction of the lock-chamber and large lock, as improved by George Price, and shown in Fig. 8. This construction is exceedingly simple, is easy and pleasant to use, not liable to get out of order, and is sufficiently strong in all its parts for the post it has to occupy in the general build of the safe. Mr. Bramwell well knows the difficulty of making a bad machine into a good one by merely altering some part of *secondary* importance.

Mr. Bramwell concluded his examination by saying—"The wedges were used to get a hold, and the bars to get a leverage. It was impossible to open the safe by wedges alone without bars. The chief source of weakness was the weakness of the upright bar [outside band] which gave to a wedge, without disturbing the joints or

edges of the safe." On this point we differ with Mr. Bramwell, inasmuch as in our opinion the chief cause of weakness in all Milners' "List 3" safes is the placing of this upright bar or band (see Fig. 15), *outside* instead of inside the plates forming the body of the safe.

That Milners' plan of constructing the large lock with bolts on one side and "dogs" on the other (see Fig. 7), is very inferior, and assisted in the easy opening of Mr. Walker's safe, must be admitted by all practical mechanics and engineers. Since the Cornhill burglary, most of the safe-makers have multiplied the number of the lock-pins or screws to an extraordinary degree, upon the same principle, we presume, of nailing the horse-shoe to the house door to keep out the witches.

Mr. M'Connell is reported to have said—"He examined the safe, and should say it was not well constructed to resist the attack of thieves. His reasons were—first, that as the safe was of half-inch construction it would be proper that the door should be of that strength, whereas it was not." We think this must be incorrectly reported, as the body-plates are only quarter-inch, whereas the door-plate *is* half-inch. "The inner plate [the lock-plate] should have been as thick as the outer one," the door-plate. "The bolts ought to have been three-quarters of an inch in diameter instead of half an inch. The door was only as strong as the inner plates and the bolts. The strength of the safe was only in its weakest part, and that [the door] was the weakest part of it. The outer vertical bar [outside band] was too thin for its length or height, and would admit of being bent." Mr. M'Connell, like Mr. Bramwell, does not appear to see that the greater weakness consists in putting the "vertical bar" or band *outside* instead of inside the frame of the safe.

Mr. Wilson said, "He had examined the safe, and thought it not properly constructed to resist thieves, and that the distribution of materials was very defective. The first and main point was the *weakness of the upright frame* [the outside bands] and the ease with which it could be deflected. It was four feet long and only half-inch thick, and that would yield to comparatively small pressure. The bolts which formed the fastenings, and on which the whole strength of the safe depended, relied for their strength on being kept in their proper position, because as soon as they were bent they left their mortices [the bolt-holes], and in this case their being kept in their proper position entirely depended upon the back-plate, which was one-eighth thick, *quite disproportionate* to the outer [door] plate, which was half-inch thick. The back [plate] was fixed to the [door] plate by four screws, which had been nicely calculated to the strength of the back-plate; but the bolts, which were four inches, were not proportioned to the strength of the back-plate. From his own judgment, he should say that by using wedge and lever, the safe could be opened easily in half an hour." "The weak point was the weakness of the upright bar" [the outside bands]. "The inner-plate [the back-plate or lock-plate] should have been half-inch in thickness, as the outer-plate" [the door-plate].

It will be noticed that Mr. Wilson, the same as Mr. Bramwell and Mr. M'Connell, attributes the opening of the safe to the *weakness* of the *outside bands* and the *lock plate being only one-eighth instead of half an inch thick.* We, as before stated, totally disagree with this theory. Had the outside bands been stronger, the extra strength obtained thereby would have been mainly given to the corners of the safe. The extra strength would not have prevented the introduction of the wedge, through its being placed outside instead of inside the body-plates. Had the back or lock-plate been half an inch in thickness, this would not have prevented the bolts leaving the bolt-holes, or rather the bolt-holes leaving the bolts.

Mr. Wilkinson said "he had broken open one of Milners' safes in half an hour, and he could open this particular one in a quarter of an hour 'comfortably.'" "He opened the safe very much as described by the burglar, that is, by the use of a wedge and a lever bar."

Although the pecuniary loss to Mr. Walker through the adverse decision of the jury in this trial, added to the losses caused by the previous trials and robbery, must have proved a very great misfortune; still he can congratulate himself in having been the means of setting at rest a very important question, for which the public, and more especially the members of the safe-trade, must thank him. The question of warranty, which had often arisen, had never been tried in a court of law before; and the thorough, able, and lucid manner in which it was treated by the eminent counsel engaged on both sides has fully satisfied the public of the unreasonableness of asking for such a guarantee. In our humble judgment the thing is impracticable. To put the seller of the safe on equal terms with the purchaser (supposing the question of warranty could be entertained) would require the latter to produce *every night* to the former a certificate signed by some well-known third person as to the value or the amount of the property deposited in the safe, and that the door was closed and properly fastened in his presence. The key also would have to be kept by other than the seller or purchaser of the safe. Iron safes cannot be *warranted* to preserve their contents safe either from fire or thieves for an unlimited period, as in both cases it is simply a question of time. Many of the losses sustained have been solely attributable to the niggardliness of the owners of the safes themselves in expecting a £10 article to do duty as well as one at £20. No subject of equal importance has had less attention given to it on the part of the users of iron safes than what is necessary to make a safe reasonably secure against the ravages of fire on the one hand, and the attack of thieves on the other. Any person had only to set up as safe-maker, or dealer in safes, to find customers for the worthless things they called safes, if they took care to offer them at half the price of those made by the well-known makers, who have a reputation to sustain or to lose by the quality of the articles vended. Even with the first-class makers the commonest quality of safe made by them is, in five cases out of ten, selected on account of its comparative cheapness to do duty, where nothing inferior to the best safe made should be employed, whether against thieves or fire. This principle is wrong. If a person wants a safe to preserve his valuable property and securities from *any* danger, and will bring his will to consent to the expenditure necessary in any trade to produce a *good* article, he can have it. We do not mean that he should give an *extravagant* price, as was suggested by several "safe and lock engineers" in their letters to the *Times* a few days after the Cornhill robbery, but a fair price for a genuine article. The general cry for cheap goods is causing the quality of almost every article of manufacture in this country to be lowered, and yet it is a fact which all manufacturers can confirm, that they get more profit in proportion out of the low-priced articles than those of better quality. To produce the best articles in any trade requires the best skilled labour, which has to be paid a price accordingly; but the common article—the low-priced goods—the cheap things, can be made by any sort of men, or even boys.

A GOOD JOKE.

On St. Valentine's day Mr. Thomas Caseley (some time participator in the burglary at Mr. Walker's) donned his full uniform and appeared in the witness box of the Court of Queen's Bench. The whole case was, from a theatrical point

of view, most successful, and all the actors concerned exerted themselves to the utmost in order to please their audience. Their efforts met with the success they deserved; but despite the wit and humour of the Chief Justice and the counsel for the defence, the burglarious witness distanced them by several good laughs, and undoubtedly carried away the palm. Mr. Caseley, in getting his first laugh, made an exquisite point, by saying—

"I know Sun Court well *(laughter)*."

What humour! Mr. Walker's shop was in Sun Court, and given most likely with a sly wink towards Mr. Walker, which convulsed the jury. After a few answers spoken quietly, in order to lead up to the next trump, he said—

"We opened Sir Charles's safe first (*laughter*)."

There's a good joke for you! How every one in Court must have wished to have been able to utter such a witticism as that. But the second low comedian, Mr. Webster, was getting jealous, so we read—

"*Mr. Webster.* You let yourselves down, then? *(laughter)*"

Neat this, not brilliant; but Mr. Caseley was ready for him—

"*Caseley.* Just so (*laughter*)."

He had him there. The repartee polished Mr. Webster off, and he didn't try again for some time. Caseley now had it all his own way:—

"*Caseley.* I and another man took some tools with us, such as crowbars (*laughter*)."

Again—

"We tested the safe to see whether it was possible to open it under the disadvantages under which we were labouring (*loud laughter*)."

This description of practical fun is as good as a pantomime: Clown, Mr. Caseley.

In fact the people roared with laughter at Mr. Caseley's entertainment. When Mr. Caseley lamented his "unfortunate experience" in burglary, and evinced any tendency towards pathos, the audience would no more hear of it than they would accept Liston as *Macbeth*. So he turned to his first line, and elicited screams of laughter by telling his story about the "Alderman," the "Citizen," the "Citizen's friend," and so forth.

But for all this fun, which makes such a capital story, and is so humorous in the telling, Mr. Caseley is still undergoing penal servitude. What a different view of the matter might have been taken, if Mr. Caseley himself had, at his own trial, been permitted to tell his story his own way, and had had, as defendant, such support from Judge, Counsel, and Jury, as was given him the other day in the character of witness. Let us suppose a case, say of manslaughter. Let us imagine Mr. William de Sykes on his trial for that humorous offence against society; and let us further suppose that the prisoner's mouth is allowed to be open in his own defence, and the last hypothesis shall be that the administration of justice is being made as pleasant as possible to all parties. This would be something like the report, dramatically rendered:—

The prisoner, who appeared in evening dress, was then placed at the bar. After the jury had been asked what they would take, the trial commenced. The evidence having been given, in a genial way, as to the fact, the prisoner entered upon his defence, and became a witness in his own favour.

Mr. Jawkins, Q.C., for the prosecution. You had a pickaxe in your hand when you entered the fields, eh?

Prisoner (*winks knowingly, and taps his nose*). Would yer?

[*Roars of laughter.*

Mr. Wigg (*jocosely*). You had, you know you had, you dog. [*A laugh.*

Prisoner (*addressing his Lordship*). I will now appear as Mr. Buckstone.

[*Disappears for a second or so behind the dock, and re-appears as* Mr. Buckstone *in "Box and Cox;" applause; Usher suppresses it.*]

Prisoner (*imitating*). I will tell you my brief but melancholy tale.

Mr. Jawkins (*seeing a professional joke in the word brief*). In the case of a *brief*—

Chief Justice (*petulantly to Mr. Wigg*). Do be quiet.

Jury. Order, order.

Prisoner (*resuming his imitation*). I walked out one morning in the salubrious neighbourhood of Ramsgate or Margate (*laugh by a Juryman who knows both places*). I forget which; it's so confoosin' (*laughs*). Sometimes I've got an idea it was Mamsgate; no, I mean Rargate. No, no, no, I don't mean that. Upon my word, I'm so confoosed I hardly know what I *do* mean (*roars*). So I'll just lie down and take my nap (*yawns*). Now, shall I swallow my nap before I take my breakfast, or take my breakfast before I, . . . no—no—shall I nap my swallow?

[*Yawns; shouts of laughter; great applause. Usher attempts to suppress it, but is immediately ordered out of Court by the Judge. Prisoner disappears behind dock, and re-appears in a different wig, and a new dress. Laughter and applause.*]

Mr. Jawkins. You quarrelled with Mr. Jenkins, I believe, and then struck him with the pickaxe?

Prisoner (*imitating an Irishman*). Sure, sorr, 'tis meself that did that same (*laughter*). I tuk holt of ould Jenkins by the nape of his neck, this way (*illustrates on* Mr. Jonas, *the Governor of Newgate; roars*), and tuk up the bit of a pickaxe. (*Apologetically, in his own natural voice, to the Judge.*) I beg your pardon, my Lord, but I am not a very good hand at Irish imitations.

Chief Justice (*encouragingly*). On the contrary, I think it very good indeed. Pray go on. [*Jury applaud.*

Prisoner. If your lordship will excuse me, I will now appear as Old Jenkins.

Chief Justice. I think if you showed us how you used the pickaxe it would be better fun. However, as you like.

Prisoner (*after examining small boxes*). I regret that I have not an old man's wig here; so that I must postpone Jenkins until a future occasion.

[*Indulgent applause.*

Mr. Jawkins. We can't get on without Jenkins.

Chief Justice (*persuasively*). Oh, come, you *must* give us Jenkins. Never mind the wig. [*Usher laughs, and suppresses himself immediately.*

Prisoner. Well, my Lord, I'll do the best I can. Old Jenkins, I must explain now, to talk something like Mr. Compton (*several laughs*). He came into the field and said (*imitates*) "The air's finer here than it is in the metrolopus. When I got to the metrolopus, I went to my banker's, and says I to the banker, 'It's a curious fact, but I want the pre-cise sum of two thousand pounds seven and sixpence ha'p'ny."

[*Audience convulsed with laughter; the Chief Justice wipes tears from his eyes, and says "he never did."*

Prisoner (*continues his imitation*). "'Oho!' says the banker. Oho! says I. 'Hum!' says the banker. Aha! says I—and that's all."

[*Great applause, during which prisoner disappears, and re-appears dressed as* Mr. Toole *in Joe the Fireman.*

Mr. Jawkins. And the pickaxe?

Jury. Order, order.

Prisoner (*as Mr. Toole*). Well, you know, I *did* take up the pickaxe, you know ; only when I heard he'd got this here two thousand pounds all in real gold, including seven and sixpence ha'p'ny in his pocket, I says, "Don't you see," says I, "Hand over, old Cocky," says I, and finding him so unpursuadable, you see, I just taps him on the head with the pickaxe, and it just went crack like old china ; it did, indeed.

[*Roars ; convulsions ; a Juryman in fits of laughter is withdrawn, and the case is adjourned pending his recovery.*

Chief Justice (*to Prisoner*). It is almost a pity that a man like you should waste your powers in cracking heads instead of jokes. However, no matter. I think a vote of thanks should be presented to the Prisoner for his admirable entertainment.

Foreman of Jury. Carried *nem. con.*, my Lord.

[*The Prisoner bows and retires ; end of trial for that day, due notice to be given of his next appearance in public.*—*Punch*, February 24, 1866.

(FROM THE "TIMES," FEBRUARY 16TH, 1866.)

"Time, which brings all things to light, has now completely revealed the secrets of a very strange story. It is just twelve months since a most extraordinary robbery in Cornhill alarmed our metropolitan tradesmen for their property. A jeweller's shop, though protected in what was thought a secure fashion, was found on a Monday morning rifled of its precious contents. The premises themselves, after being locked up on the Saturday night, were left untenanted for the next six-and-thirty hours, but the gas was kept alight, the shutters were pierced with holes so that the police could see into the shop at all times, and the most valuable part of the stock was lodged in an iron safe, believed to be thief-proof. When the proprietors, however, returned to the shop on the Monday morning, this safe was found open, and the jewellery gone. The speculations and controversies which followed, and the arrests, trials, and convictions which ultimately ensued, will not have been forgotten ; but the whole story has now been revived and explained to its minutest particulars in the course of certain legal proceedings just reported. Mr. Walker, the jeweller who was plundered, brought an action against the manufacturers who supplied him with his safe, and one of the witnesses produced in court was the chief operator in the robbery. His frank and circumstantial narrative of the affair gives us an insight into matters more interesting than the niceties of ironwork.

"The robbery had been elaborately schemed, and was only accomplished by a regular expedition of well-equipped thieves. The cleverest of the gang had taken Mr. Walker, his family, his habits, and his doings, under the closest surveillance for seven weeks before, night and day ; until at last everything connected with his going and coming, his business and his practice, was thoroughly known. This information being complete, a party of five of the robbers repaired to the premises at ten minutes past six on the evening of Saturday, the 4th of February, 1865. The house was let and occupied in floors, Mr. Walker's shop being on the ground floor, Sir Charles Crosley's offices immediately above, and other offices above those, while below Mr. Walker's shop was a room tenanted by a tailor. The occupants, when the thieves arrived on the spot, had not yet all left for the night, but the offices on the second floor were empty, and to these three of the robbers at once ascended by means of the common staircase, and there took up their first position,

the other two remaining in the street to watch and give signals. At twenty minutes to eight the signal was given by the confederates outside that Mr. Walker's foreman, who appears to have been the last on the premises, was gone, and their operations were at once commenced.

"The three robbers concealed in the house first went down to Sir Charles Crosley's floor, where—more for pastime, as it seems, than anything else—they opened the safe. The chief object of the expedition was still postponed, nor was it until past midnight that they began the work. Mr. Walker's shop appears to have been secured by iron doors or partitions, but the thieves directed their attack against a part which had not unnaturally been left with less protection. They got into the tailor's room on the lowest floor, mounted upon his cutting-board, and then forced their way through the ceiling and flooring into Mr. Walker's shop above. Having thus effected a lodgment against the real point of attack, they distributed the duties of the night. Of the two thieves stationed in the street, one was to be on the watch lest Mr. Walker or any of his people should return to the house, while the other was to keep guard over the police, and give warning whenever any constable approached the shop. Inside, one of the gang sat upstairs, in Sir Charles Crosley's armchair, at the window of the second floor, to correspond with the sentries in the street, and the signals of these men he communicated by means of a string to his comrades below. One of these, placed in the hole half-way between the shop and the tailor's room, handed up such instruments as were wanted for use; the other 'did the work,' and it is he—now a convict undergoing his sentence of penal servitude—who tells the story.

"The first proceeding of the operators was to 'test' the safe in which the booty was secured, and this experiment was conducted by the insertion of a thin wedge of steel into the almost imperceptible chink left between the door of the safe and its side. Supposing a wedge holds when so driven it is taken as evidence that the operation is practicable, inasmuch as something or other is clearly yielding to pressure, and that pressure may be gradually and dexterously increased up to the point desired. If the wedge, instead of holding, rebounds from the plates and flies off, it is proof that the affair cannot be managed, or, at least, not in this manner. In this instance the wedge held, and so the operation was continued. First, a little bar was inserted to release the wedge, then another wedge a little larger to release the bar, then another bar a little bigger still to release the second wedge, until, after ten or a dozen such steps, the chink was opened sufficiently for the introduction of 'the alderman.' The instrument thus dignified in name is a long iron bar, sometimes as much as five feet in length, jointed together in pieces, so as to be carried in a small case. With the end of 'the alderman' fairly introduced, and the arm of a strong man acting at the other extremity of the lever, the safe has no longer any chance, and so it was on this occasion. The door was prized open by the force of this powerful lever, and the booty was won. At a quarter before four on Sunday afternoon the thieves were 'up in Sir Charles Crosley's office, washing their hands,' and by twenty minutes to five they were 'miles away' on the Guildford road.

"According to this candid lecture on burglary, the strength of a safe must consist in its power to defy the introduction of the long lever. Once the lever in, according to Mr. Caseley's explanation, no safe can resist. Indeed, one of the independent witnesses stated that with any safe, however strong, it was only a question of time; but this view of the case should be compared with the convict's description of the matter. He said that in his profession certain means of opening safes are considered 'lawful,' and certain others 'unlawful.' 'Lawful' operations

were those which could be conducted without noise or alarm, as by wedges and 'aldermen;' the 'unlawful' were those attended with noise, and likely to bring about detection. No doubt any safe ever constructed might be forced open if time were no object, and secrecy of no importance, but, happily for honest people, these are not often the conditions of a burglary. We remarked at the time of the robbery that the one thing which rendered it practicable was the desertion of the premises for six-and-thirty hours together, and that proves to have been the fact. The thieves did not get into Mr. Walker's shop, with the safe before them, till five minutes before three on the Sunday afternoon—that is, not till one-and-twenty hours after the commencement of their operations, and even then they had got the chief part of their work to do in forcing the safe. The convict admitted that the safe yielded sooner than he had anticipated; indeed, it was opened in about thirty-five minutes; but the long interval between Saturday evening and Monday morning left them with ample time to spare. In the twelve hours of a single night the work could not have been done.

"The real security given by these safes to the public consists in this, that they render robbery impossible, except under conditions not commonly realised. A door which can only be opened by skilled thieves, working with special tools and with more or less advantage of time, is no bad protection for property. The professional operator said that on this occasion Mr. Milner's safe was not so strong a specimen as he had usually found his productions to be—indeed, he gave them generally a very high character; but even if the door had held out for six or seven hours, the robbery might still have been accomplished in time for escape. Excepting, however, for this favourable condition, it is clear that Mr. Walker's shop was not ill protected. The thieves could not so much as effect an entrance into it till after nearly twenty-four hours' work, and we now have it on the evidence even of the burglars themselves that the police did their duty thoroughly. They were round every nine minutes, and the warning signals from without greatly interrupted the operations in the shop. Aided, however, by time, the science of the housebreakers was successful, and a very natural impression was produced in court by the aspect in which this science was exhibited. The skill, intelligence, and patience which the convict witness had evidently carried into his criminal profession would have raised him to eminence as well as competence in any lawful calling; but the example of depraved gifts is unfortunately not without precedent. Thieving, it is clear, is no easy life; it is only a pity that those who feel the truth cannot apply the moral."

(FROM THE "DAILY TELEGRAPH," FEBRUARY 16TH, 1866.)

"'Counsellor Kelly' has again achieved one of his peculiar triumphs in a court of justice, and has confirmed his reputation as the brightest and cleverest burglar of the day. He has done more; he has proved that he had not merely the talent to plot an ingenious robbery—not merely the eloquence that enabled him to make an ingenious defence; but he has convinced the public that he is more than a theorist—that he is a man of action. What his quick brain conceived, his well-trained fingers could execute. Few who saw him on his trial would have fancied that he had been, physically, the best of the burglars. Instinctively, one gave him credit for originality, inventiveness, fertility of resource; but it is a surprise to learn that he was his own executive. Eloquence is a great gift, no doubt, and Caseley in his way was eloquent; but the brilliant speaker is not always able to realise his ideas. An inimitable coolness, a self-possession which only broke down when he was des-

perately at bay, when he felt how unequal was the struggle between the half-taught Thomas Caseley and the men with trained intellects who were on the watch for his stumbling; a keen wit, coarse in quality, inexhaustible in quantity, that bubbled up like bad petroleum; a fine dramatic instinct, infinite readiness, surprising fluency; the instinct of an actor for effect; the craving of an orator for applause; the complacent delight of an artist in flattery—these were a few of the characteristics that struck every one who saw 'Counsellor Kelly' on his trial. The man hardly looked like a burglar. As he held his own in the crowded court, and turned the laugh against those who tried to make sport of him, it was impossible for a thoughtful observer not to speculate as to the appearance which he would have made in a different costume. His face was mobile, sensitive; the brow was broad and bright; the eyes alert and keen; if the lower part of the countenance was somewhat coarse, the jaw heavy, or the mouth clumsily cut, it was certain that one's perception of these defects was considerably heightened by the fact that he wore shabby clothes, and had a woollen comforter round his neck. As the orator and humourist of felony, the man was a type of a low intellect depraved; but the intellect was, at any rate, no lower than that of some who gloated over his predicament. The cleverest men at the bar were those who were most struck with the cleverness of the criminal.

"A good deal of mawkish nonsense is often talked about the talents of the dangerous classes; they are credited with an amount of ability they do not possess; but the reaction against this morbid view has led to an equally absurd depreciation of the qualities which undoubtedly characterise them. It is idle to say that Caseley did no more than could have been done by an ordinary workman. In the first place, he hit the weakest point of his enemy's armour by selecting the time between Saturday afternoon and Monday morning for his operation; in the next place, he combined a plan of attack which required the maximum of ingenuity and the minimum of violence; in the third, he took excellent precautions against surprise; in the fourth, he followed Professor Longfellow's amiable advice—he 'learnt to labour and to wait;' and, finally, we should remember that it is one thing for a skilled mechanic, or even a civil engineer, to break open a safe which he is employed to force, but quite another for a poor wretch of a sign-painter turned burglar to kneel down and get at its contents in the spare moments between the policeman's visits of inspection. It is the combination of ingenuity, nerve, and mechanical skill which makes a good burglar; add to those qualities a cynical sense of humour, considerable power of expression, remarkable alertness and vivacity in repartee, and you get Caseley—who is *not* an ordinary working man. It is true that his wit is extremely insolent; but it is not a jot coarser than the sort of facetiousness which is popular with attorneys, and which often makes the reputation of a flippant barrister. And, indeed, in his evidence on Wednesday, 'Counsellor Kelly' plainly felt that, as one 'of the dangerous classes,' it was his turn to laugh at society. Society had found him out, and society had locked him up; but Mr. Caseley listened, with the benign smile of a superior intelligence, to the watchmaker who relied on an alleged 'warranty of thief-proof' as a security against quicker brains and stronger fingers. The thief was magnanimous in his way. He did not complain of the policeman; nay, he volunteered, with splendid audacity, a certificate that the constable had really done his duty; but he would *not* be badgered any longer by the gentlemen in wigs. They had had their innings last April; they had got him sentenced to fourteen years of penal servitude; and now, a calm, a contrite, a chastened, a disinterested convict, 'with a good-conduct badge on his prison dress,' Mr. Caseley was not in the humour to allow them to

take any further liberties. Questioned as to his use of lawful or unlawful tools, he retorted, 'When you say "lawful" do you speak as a barrister or a burglar?' He was asked whether 'the wedges were serrated,' and his answer was sublime: 'Don't speak to me scientifically, if you please. Speak plain English to me, and I'll answer you!' Stimulated by this grand rebuke, the examining counsel at once soared into honest Saxon, and asked, 'Were they rough, like a file.' It is a pity Mr. Caseley cannot be examined a little oftener. He might do good to his betters.

"A point which those who can see nothing in the man beyond impudence would do well to bear in mind is, that he was not beaten, after all, by the much over-praised intellect of the detective police. It was a woman's jealousy alone that led to the discovery. So far as Caseley's own individual fight against society went, he won. He *did* get into that snug building in Cornhill; he *did* take Sir Charles Crosley's snuff; he *did* rob tailor, watchmaker, and merchant with cheerful impartiality; he *did*, kneeling down and dodging the policeman, break open the 'safe;' he *did* get quietly off with the booty, and all the 'active intelligent officers' in the metropolis might not have clapped hands upon him to this day had he and his fellow-rascals been true to one another. Well, we have got him; what are we to do with him? It seems a pity that he cannot be turned to some account. He is wasted at Millbank; he might be of some use at Scotland-yard. His 'last incarnation'—to borrow Balzac's phrase—might be that of a clever thief catching clever thieves. We commend the idea to the notice of the Home Secretary. Of the action itself in which Caseley was examined we have little to say, beyond expressing our hearty and entire concurrence with the verdict of the jury. It is monstrous to suppose that the vendor of a 'safe' should be expected, without receiving the faintest premium for his risk, to ensure the value of whatever may be placed in it. Such a system would not only be manifestly unjust to the manufacturer; it would be a direct incentive to fraud on the part of the purchaser. Truth to tell, we have heard quite enough about Mr. Walker, his premises, his family, and his losses. Whether he goes to law with policemen who claim the advertised reward, or whether he seeks to make a respectable manufacturer pay six thousand pounds because a 'safe' purchased for thirty-six pounds is forced open in an empty and unguarded house by the cleverest burglars in London—he will not receive much public sympathy. And as regards Messrs. Milner & Co., they will probably be well repaid for their trouble in successfully defending the action, by the remarkable testimonial which they have received from Mr. Thomas Caseley, 'Tann's is easier than Milner's, and Griffiths's is easier than Tann's.'"

"WHAT DO OUR LEADING LOCKSMITHS SAY TO ALL THIS?"

Vide the "TIMES," *March* 1*st*, 1865.

"WHO'S SAFE IS SAFE?"

Vide the "GLOBE," *Feb. 9th*, 1865.

In replying to the above questions of the *Times* and the *Globe*, we will first state what the "leading locksmiths" and safe-makers had done previous to the Cornhill burglary towards making safes burglar-proof, and then give a list of patents taken out since then (Feb. 5, 1865), in connection with the construction of burglar-proof safes, to the present time, and describe and illustrate those that, from the excellence, novelty, or curiosity of the so-called "improvements" of the respective patentees, may enable our readers to form their own opinion as to "WHO'S SAFE IS SAFE."

The first—and to this day—one of the most important improvements introduced into the construction of a burglar-proof safe is that patented by GEORGE PRICE, (No. 236, Jan. 31, 1855), for "case-hardening the exterior of safes, chests, and boxes, and such other parts of the same as it might be thought advisable to case-harden."

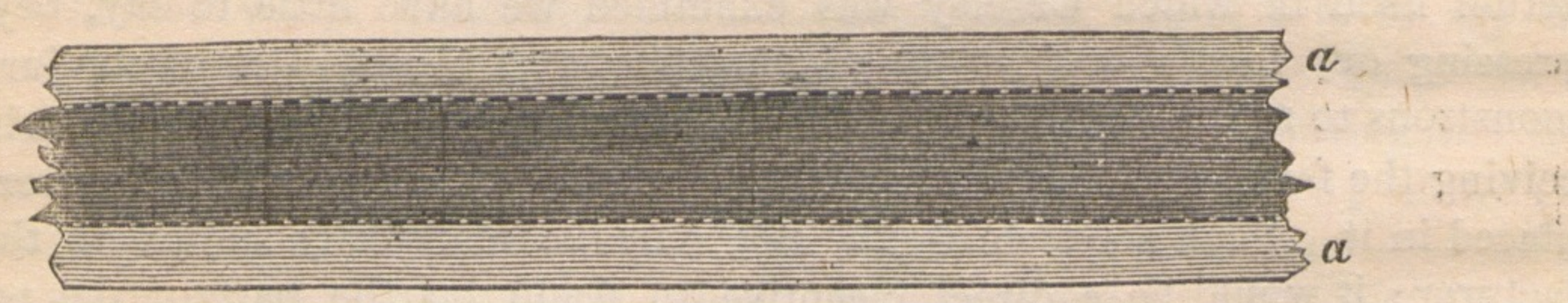


Fig. 19. Section of a half-inch plate, *a a*, the portion of each surface converted into steel.

Safes with drill-proof doors are of only recent introduction, and GEORGE PRICE claims the merit of being the original inventor, as well as the first to apply the terms "drill-proof" and "drill-preventive" to these particular safes. After various but futile attempts on the part of other makers to realise this great desideratum, it is at last admitted by practical judges that the only method of making safes really drill-proof is by case-hardening the iron of which the safes are made.

WHAT IS CASE-HARDENING?—Case-hardening, as applied by GEORGE PRICE to the making iron safes drill-proof, consists in the conversion of all the surfaces of the wrought-iron boiler plate into steel, a hundred times harder than the hardest steel drilling and cutting tools that can be worked. Does not this conversion make the plate brittle? No. Because the interior of the thickness of the plate remains malleable or soft; and as the plates after being hardened are "buckled," they are made flat by three or four men striking them with sledge-hammers on an iron setting-block. A small plate frequently requires many hundred blows to straighten it. Were the plate brittle, the first blow would break it to pieces. Is it true, as one safe-maker says in his price-list, that "case-hardening is a superficial glaze or coating on the doors, about the thickness of writing paper?" No. It is astonishing what absurd statements the ignorant make on subjects with which they are unacquainted, and still more astonishing that any educated persons should believe such absurdities. This same maker continues,—"If it went into the iron any depth it might succeed." Wonderful admission! Why, there is no limit to the depth of the iron it can go into. In more scientific language, the

plate—say of half inch in thickness—can be *entirely* converted by the process of case-hardening into the hardest steel, but it would then become, not case-hardened iron, but a plate of solid steel. Cannot the plate be softened with the blowpipe? This is the stock argument of T. Milner & Son, and most of the other safe-makers, against our case-hardening; but the best answer to it is the fact that the class who appreciate the great value of the case-hardening the best, and who have patronised GEORGE PRICE'S patent case-hardened safes most, is the very class that know by practical experience what the blowpipe can do, and what it cannot—what the human bellows can do, and what they cannot—namely, the *working* jewellers and watchmakers. Milner & Son have descended so low in pushing their opposition to GEORGE PRICE, that they actually exhibit at their Manchester depôt, to the ignorant or uninformed, a door-plate which they say was drilled at their works at Liverpool, and on the surface of which they point out a speck which they say was produced by a chisel. What next—and next! When will T. Milner & Son act openly, and try whatever experiments they wish on GEORGE PRICE'S safes *publicly*, the same as he did with the Milners' safe at the "Burnley test?" As long as any purchaser of a GEORGE PRICE'S case-hardened safe has it in his power to test it, and prove whether or not it is proof against all burglars' drills and cutting tools, as scores of purchasers have done, it seems almost incredible that the great firm of T. Milner & Son should make use of such a childish expedient to try to disparage the superiority of their opponents' safes in the opinion of the public; and no less astonishing that, in these days of inquiry and tests, they can meet with persons simple enough to believe such absurd statements. Why don't they get a *complete and perfect* "Champion Burnley" safe, and exhibit this at their depôt with a lot of burglars' drills and tools, and say to their friends, "Now, gentlemen, here is a genuine GEORGE PRICE'S safe with case-hardened door, and here are the best drills and apparatus a burglar has ever been known to use; try your best to drill or cut open this fair specimen of our opponent's manufacture." We leave T. Milner & Son to state "the reason why."

What makes most of the safe-makers speak disparagingly of GEORGE PRICE'S case-hardening is—what one of the principal watchmakers and jewellers in the City of London, for whom we are making a case-hardened safe, lately told us—namely, that they cannot make use of it because it is the patent of GEORGE PRICE. In the gentleman's own words—"I am now convinced that the only reason why the other safe-makers speak lightly of the case-hardening is simply because they cannot do it."

That GEORGE PRICE'S patent case-hardened safes are really drill-proof against all burglars' tools, however ingeniously constructed, is abundantly proved by the following tests which they have withstood:—

"Prior Field Iron Works, near Bilston, Oct. 18th, 1859.

"Sir,—I received your safe on Tuesday. I must do you the justice to say that your case-hardening is excellent; for on its arrival I had a wish to prove whether it *was* drill-proof, and accordingly I had it taken into the fitting-yard, where the hand drill was first tried, but very soon given up; it was then put under a very powerful steam drill (the drill had been previously hardened on purpose), but it fairly turned the point until it was worn round.

"Yours faithfully,

(Signed) "B. WHITEHOUSE."

"Nottingham, March 10th, 1860.

"Sir,—Being anxious to put the safe I had from you to every test possible

especially as it has your 'Patent case-hardened (drill-proof) door,' I have to-day had drills, files, punches, and hammers brought to bear upon it by competent workmen used to such tools, but all their efforts were unavailing, so much so that one of the men declared 'it would take seven years to get into it.' I am now in a position to say that with this safe I can bid defiance to all the present known ways of getting into safes, and I feel glad that I have not been prevailed upon to have any other make of safe than yours.

"I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

(Signed) "J. SMITH (Goldsmith, &c.)."

BURNLEY TEST, 1860.

"Some persons were induced to try the effect of drilling. Trials were made (with a rachet lever drill), but the drills, we understand, were broken without any impression having been made on the safes."—*Burnley Advertiser* of April 21st, 1860.

FROM MESSRS. B. HIRST AND SONS, MACHINE MAKERS, HALIFAX.

"We hereby certify that we thought the case-hardened safe Mr. Price supplied us with was soft, and intimated as much to his agent (Mr. Lumby), when Mr. Price at once proposed for us to have it tested in any way we liked. We immediately tried to drill it where it stood in our office, but failing to do so, we had it removed outside and placed on its back, against a wall. We then applied a lever with a drill tempered on purpose, with a slow motion, but all to no purpose, for not the slightest mark could we make beyond polishing the spot. As practical men, we believe Mr. Price's case-hardening is perfectly invulnerable to any boring or cutting tool whatever.

(Signed) "*p. p.* B. HIRST & SONS,

"Halifax, Nov. 23, 1860." "James Hirst."

FROM MESSRS. W. MARSHALL & SON, ENGINEERS, MILLWRIGHTS, &C., GAINSBOROUGH.

"Gentlemen,—Previous to fixing the 'Price's Patent Safe' ordered through you, with case-hardened door and sides, we placed it under our powerful steam drilling machine to test its efficiency; and we are happy to state that we could not make the slightest impression on it, although the drill was made as hard as possible, and an enormous pressure applied. "Yours most respectfully,

(Signed) "W. MARSHALL & SON.

"Gainsborough, Oct. 2nd, 1860.

"To Messrs. T. A. Farmer and Son" (agents for Gainsborough).

THE "ENGINEER."

"Mr. Price's mode of case-hardening the doors of safes is most important. The case-hardening of the door seems to impose an impassable barrier to the efforts of the thief, and with the keyhole so constructed that not a sufficient quantity of gunpowder can be poured into it to injure the lock, a safe guarded on that principle must be impregnable.—*The Engineer*, on "Safes and Safety," Nov. 10, 1857."

That the case-hardened plates will stand hammering with sledge hammers, is proved by the following testimonial from a well-known Manchester pawnbroker:—

"86, Miller-street, Manchester, October 6th, 1863.

"Having given Mr. George Price's representative an order for a double-door 'Burnley Safe,' on condition that I should be allowed to see the doors tested with drills applied by a steam drilling machine, and also put upon an iron block and hammered with sledge hammers, I hereby certify that I have this day been to Wolverhampton and witnessed the testing of the doors of my own safe, and also another for Mr. Samuel Boardman, pawnbroker, of this city, the result being that the drill which bored soft iron and steel could not be made to drill the *case-hardened* iron, and one of my door plates was hammered with two sledges out of shape [and into shape again], to prove that they will stand this operation without cracking or breaking. I have, therefore, great pleasure in bearing testimony to the truth of what Mr. Price has published in his price-list, namely, that his case-hardened safes are proof against every kind of drill, boring tool, or cutting instrument which a burglar can bring to bear upon them, and I can therefore conscientiously recommend them to the notice of my brother pawnbrokers and the public at large.

(Signed) "PETER MURRAY."

A few days after the burglary at Messrs. Brearley's, at Batley (1), when the

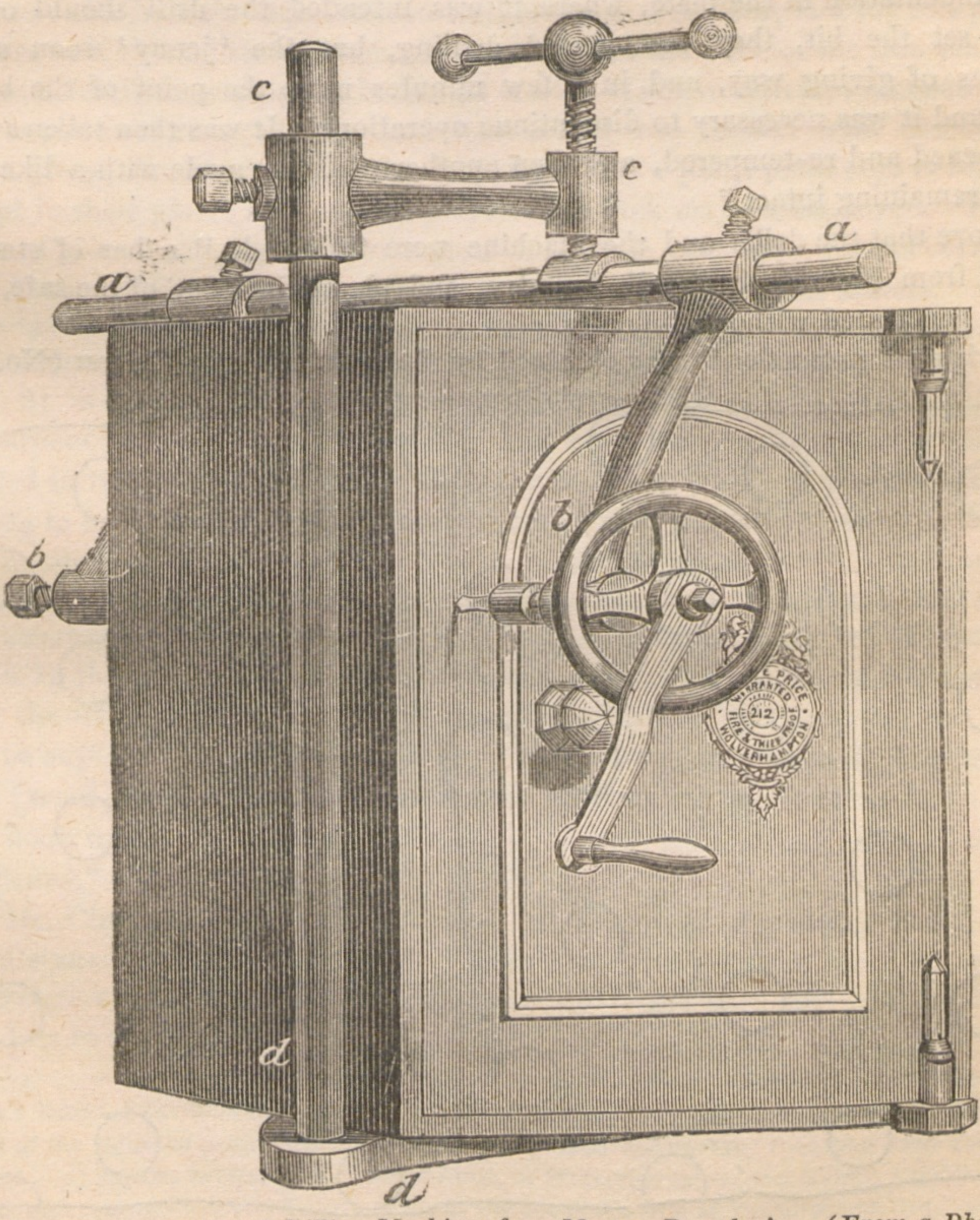


Fig. 20. The Burglar's Wheel-drilling Machine, from Messrs. Brearley's. *(From a Photograph.* *a*, *a*, and *b*, *b*, burglars' tools; *c*, *c*, and *d*, *d*, "drill-claws," from Mr. Shepherd's, used as a cramp to stay the burglars' machine.

Milners' safe was opened by drilling a hole and then applying a screw which forced the door right off, a public test was arranged by Messrs. Cullingworth and Son, of Dewsbury, to take place in their warehouse (with the same burglars' drilling machine that opened the Milners' safe at Messrs. Brearley's), on a PRICE'S *case-hardened* safe, which they had had in use for several years previous, and which test took place accordingly on the 23rd of January, 1863.

After fixing the machine to the PRICE'S safe, it was made additionally fast with the "drill-claws" shown in the engraving and marked *c*, *c*, and *d*, *d*. The *Dewsbury and Batley Herald*, in giving an account of the test, says:—

"The foreman (James Hay) at Mr. L. A. Shepherd's foundry, and a person named Crosland, then operated near the edge of the front plate above the lock with the wheel-drill used by the burglars at Batley, which they held firm with a powerful cramp, but although practical mechanics, the safe defied their utmost efforts. They first hammered a centre with a punch, and then applied drill after drill of the hardest metal, but not one of them would bite, and to all appearance the on-lookers seemed perfectly satisfied as to the impregnability of the safe."

The *Dewsbury Reporter* says:—

"The men now used a punch, and with a few heavy blows with a hammer made a small indentation in the plate, where it was intended the drill should operate. Having set the bit, they commenced drilling, but the 'jenny' soon showed symptoms of giving way, and in a few minutes more the point of the bit was turned, and it was necessary to discontinue operations. It was then taken away to be sharpened and re-tempered, and then another trial was made with a like effect, the safe remaining intact."

To prove that the drills and the machine were "all right," a bar of steel was obtained from Messrs. Shepherd's foundry, and placed in front of the safe, which the drill penetrated without difficulty.

"Provisional protection" was obtained by SAMUEL THOMAS CROOK (No. 1075,

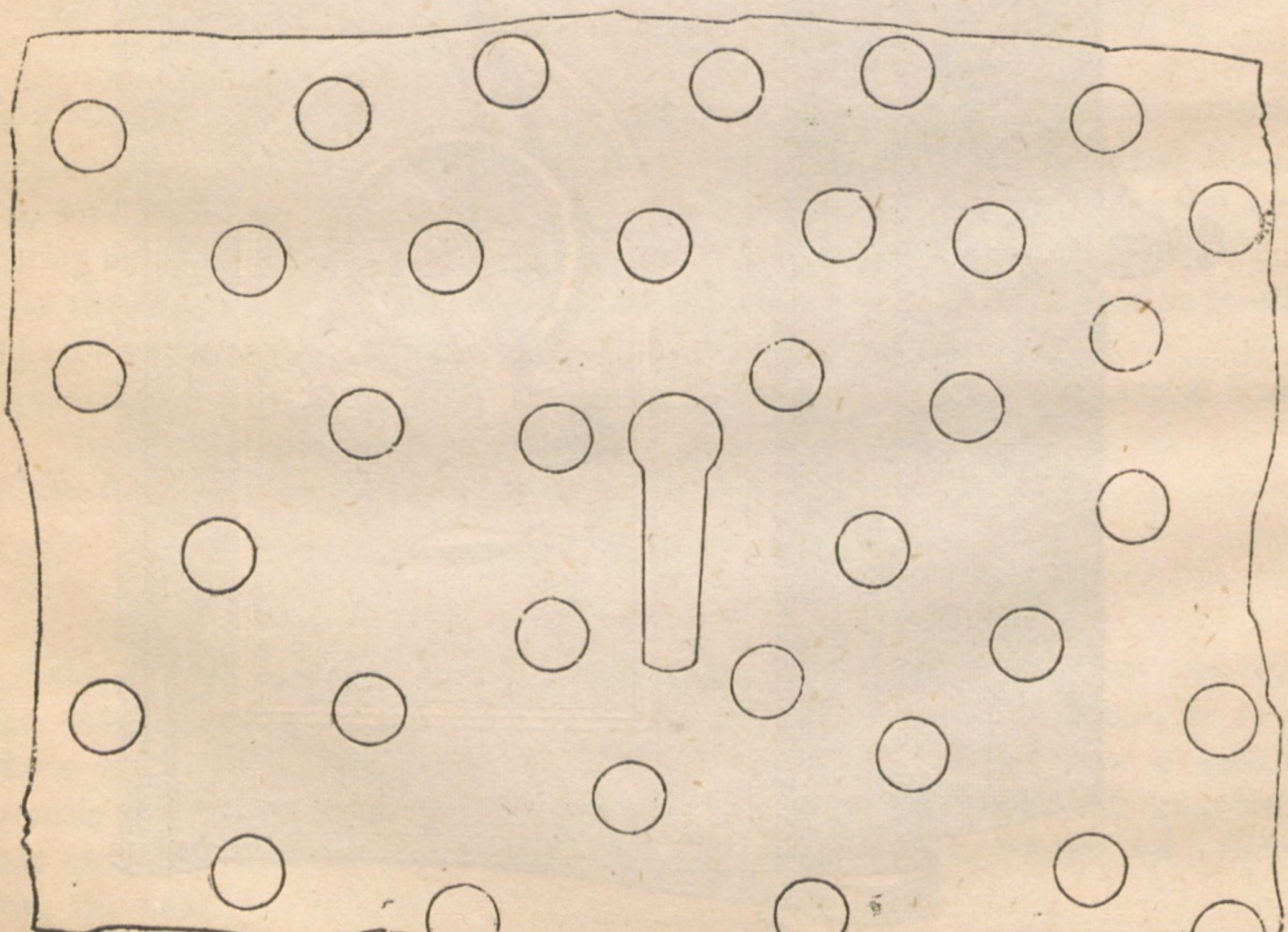


Fig. 21. Front view of a portion of iron plate into which hardened steel plugs are screwed. From the drawing attached to Mr. Chubb's specification.

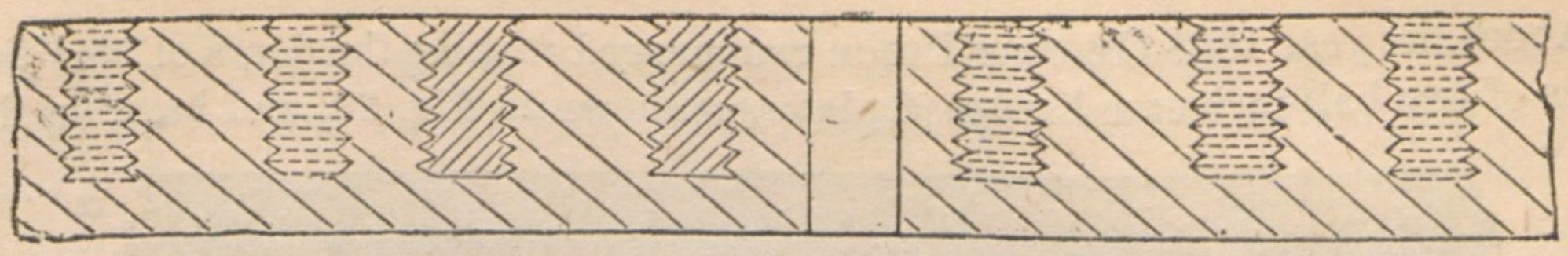


Fig. 22. Section of the same.

April 16, 1857) for a patent "to *weld* sheets or plates of wrought or malleable iron together, to the required shape, size, or configuration suitable for safes," &c.

Next follows JOHN CHUBB'S patent (No. 2481, Sep. 25, 1857), for what he calls "improvements in the construction of iron safes and doors for strong-rooms." In his specification he states that "This invention has for its object improvements in the construction of iron safes and doors for strong-rooms, in order to render safes and strong-rooms more secure than those heretofore constructed. Iron safes and strong-room doors have sometimes been opened by drilling holes, by means of a strong drill, through the iron plate which covers the lock, and in this way access has been obtained to the tumblers of the lock, and by raising these by an instrument inserted through the hole, the bolt has been set free and the lock opened. Now the object of my present invention is to render it very difficult, if not impossible, so to cut a hole through the iron wall of the safe or door, and for this purpose I tap holes at a short distance from one another into the back of the iron plate, and into these holes I screw plugs of hardened steel. When an attempt is made to drill through a plate so arranged, the drill soon comes into contact with one of these hardened plugs, and is broken by it. In place of screw plugs plain pegs of hardened steel kept in their places by a second plate at the back may be employed. In some cases also I place behind the exterior plate of the safe, or door, a plate of corrugated and hardened steel, which also will break the drill and render it useless. With a similar object, I sometimes fasten at the back of the exterior plate a series of steel strips at a short distance apart."

"Fig. 21 is a front view, and fig. 22 is a section of a portion of iron plate into which hardened steel plugs are screwed. The holes for the insertion of the plugs are drilled in the iron plate and tapped in the ordinary way. A piece of steel wire of the size to form the plugs has a screw thread cut in it from end to end, this wire is then notched at intervals to the length of the required screw plugs, and the whole is then hardened; finally, the plugs are screwed in by hand, and as each plug is inserted to the required depth it is broken off from the rest. These plugs may, if it be thought desirable, be distributed over the whole surface of the plates forming the walls of the safe, or over the whole surface of the door: but it will usually be *sufficient* to protect in this way *the portion of the external plate which is over the* [*small*] *lock*, as property can rarely be removed by drilling holes into a safe or door unless the holes by exposing or destroying the lock allow of the door being opened."

How Mr. Chubb could have stated that his invention of placing steel plugs at certain distances apart would render "safes and strong-rooms more secure than those *heretofore constructed*" with an *exterior surface* of hardened steel *all over*, we are at a loss to conceive.*

---

*PRICE'S DRILL-PREVENTIVE SAFES.—Our attention has been recently called, we presume as guardians of the rights of patentees, to a not very dignified controversy that has been going on in some of the local papers, between Mr. George Price, of Wolverhampton, and Messrs. Chubb and Son, of London, on the subject of Mr. Price's claim to the use of the title of "drill-preventive," as applied to safes. It appears that Messrs. Chubb and Son have lately obtained a patent for a mode of fitting their safes *in the neighbourhood of the* [*small*] *lock* with a number of steel studs screwed into the

About the year 1858 GEORGE PRICE commenced making the doors of his "best" safes of two half-inch case-hardened plates, as shown in Fig. 23, and hanging them

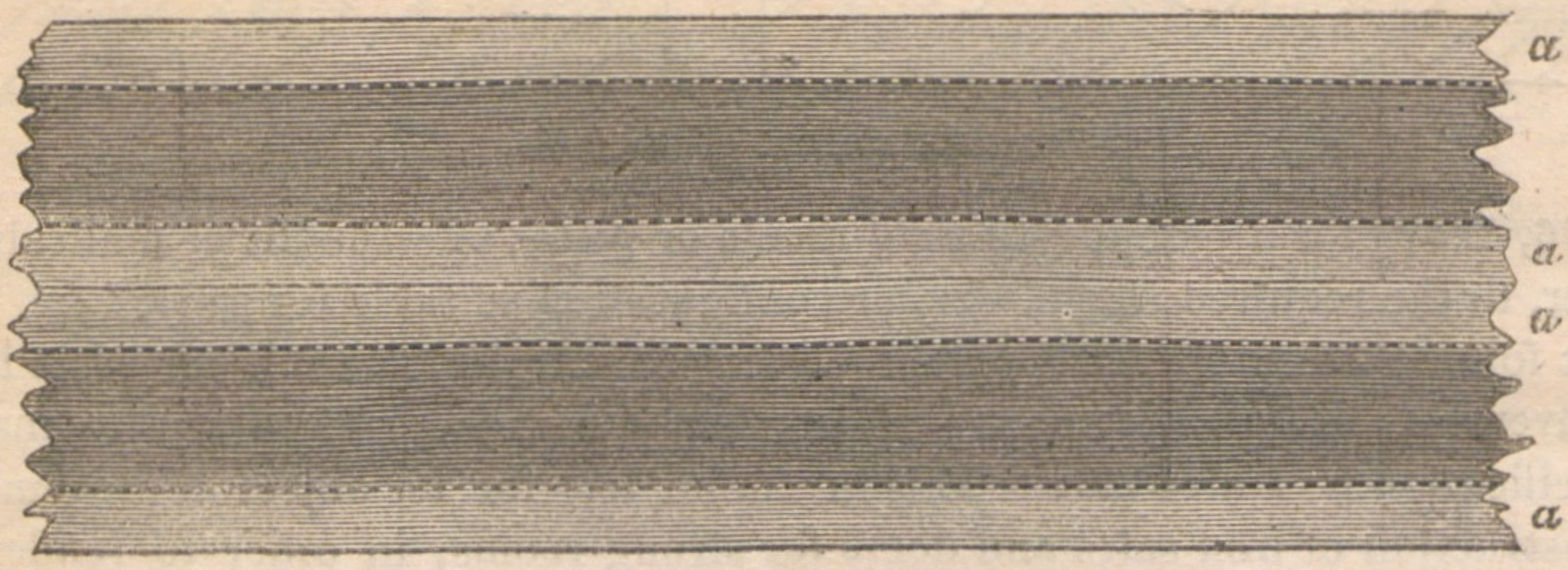


Fig. 23.—Section of Door-plates used for the "Burnley" safe. *a*, *a*, *a*, *a*, the parts converted into steel.

with inside or invisible centres. Till then one-inch thick doors had always been made of two thin plates, panelled between with bar iron, as shown in Fig. 24.

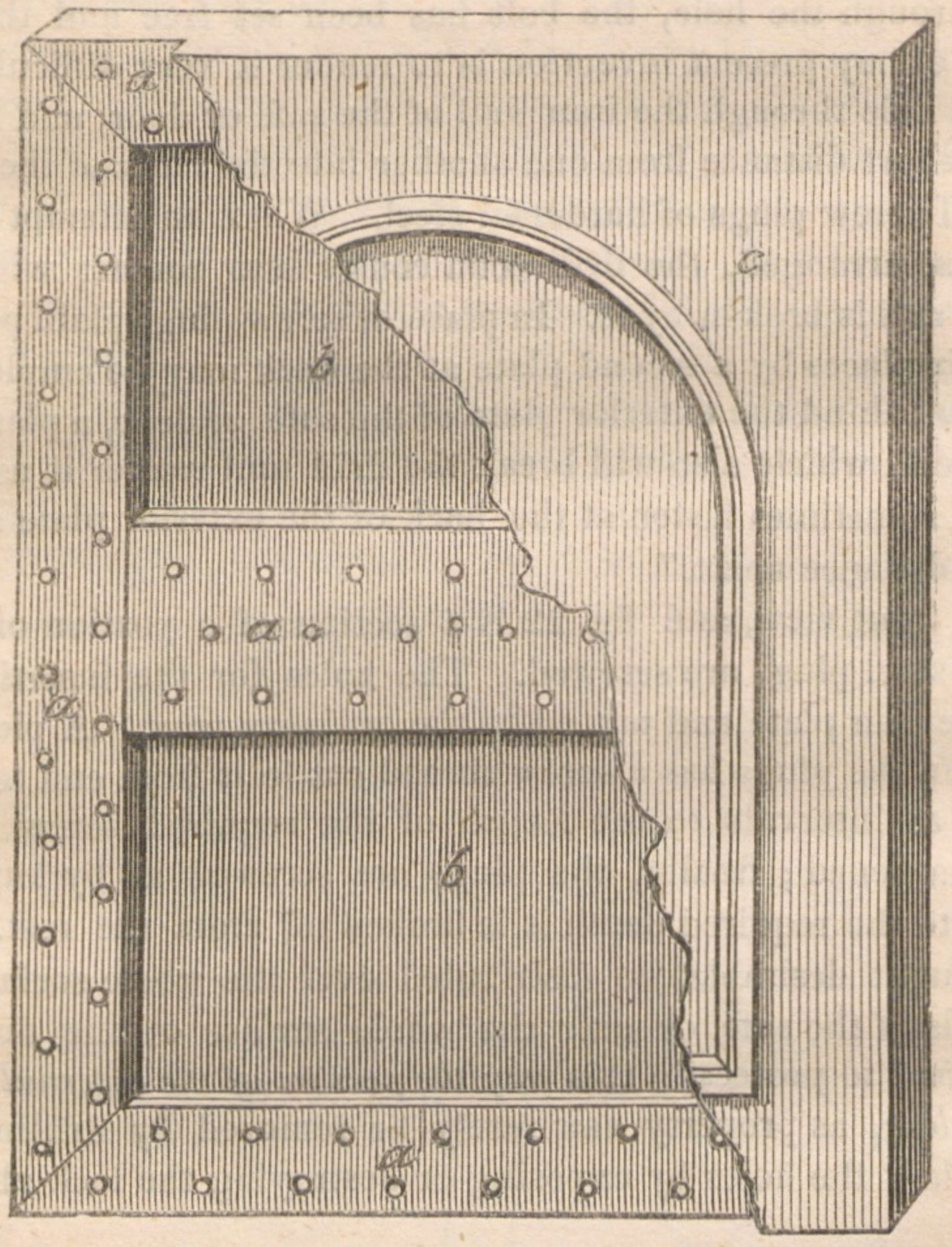


Fig. 24.—Door made of two plates, panelled between with bar iron.

---

plate of which the door is made, and that they have advertised these safes as having "drill-preventive" doors. There is no doubt that Mr. Price was the first to case-harden the metal, of which the doors of safes are constructed, and the term "drill-preventive" was first used by him, as applied to safes so made. He has also, it appears, since August last, fitted the doors of his safes with a steel plate at the back of the lock, but there being no patent for this arrangement, it is open to all safe-makers to adopt it, and we know that the plan has been adopted by more than one maker. As this plate covers considerably more than the [small] lock itself, it is fair to presume that it gives more security than the plan adopted by Messrs. Chubb, which, as we have said, consists of steel studs screwed into the door, which of course *leaves the space between the several studs wholly unprotected.* Whether the doors be fitted with studs or a plate, however, it does not prevent them from being drilled from the outside, in those parts away from the neighbourhood of the [small] lock, and

This plan was originated in London, and also that of using *inside* instead of outside centres. The Tann's safe, which resisted the attack of the burglars at Mr. Johnson's, Threadneedle-street, has the doors constructed in this way (see Fig. 24).

As many iron safes have been opened by applying a powerful lever to the knob or handle of the door, which causes the tail of the bolts of the large lock to press against the shot-out bolt of the small lock with such a thrust as to displace it, whereby the door is at once set free, GEORGE PRICE, in his patent for "Improvements in Locks" (No. 2,343, October 14, 1859), secured the plan of constructing the lock-plate with a groove or channel for the bolt to work in (see Fig. 25),

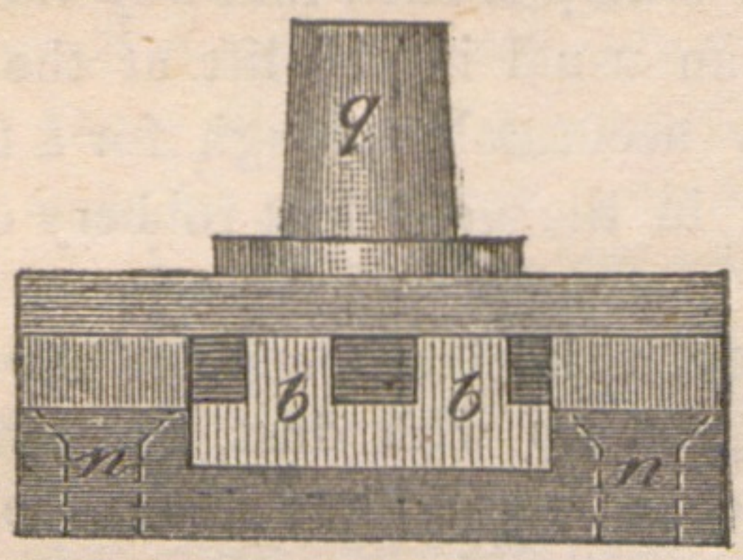


Fig. 25.—End view of Price's Double Patent "Ne-plus-ultra" Lock, showing the edge view of steel nosle *q*, and the end, *b*, *b*, of the double-headed bolt. *n*, *n*, the parts thickened up to form the channel for the bolt to work in.

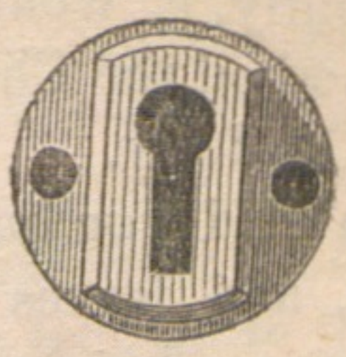


Fig. 26.—Plan of Hardened Steel Nosle Keyhole.

which effectually prevents any displacement of the bolt, by whatever means the force may be applied.

Another improvement secured by the same patent consists in the use of a hardened steel nosle keyhole. It is well known that safes have been opened by "tapping" the keyhole of the door-plate, so as to insert the fulcrum of a powerful cutting and boring machine, which is capable of cutting out a piece of a *soft* door, over the small lock, as large as a man's hand; whilst others have been opened by enlarging the keyhole sufficiently for the operation of a tool that cuts out, bit by bit, the works of the lock. By the adoption of the hardened steel nosle keyhole (Fig 26), such a liability is effectually prevented. In the doors made of two half-inch case-hardened plates the nosle comes through the inner plate only.

Since this patent was granted all GEORGE PRICE'S safes, chests, and strong-room doors have been fitted with his patent "Ne plus ultra" lock, which is proof against every known mode of picking. On this point E. B. Denison, Esq. Q.C., author of the article on "Locks," in the eighth edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica," and of the "Rudimentary Treatise on Clocks, Watches, and Bells," &c., says:—

"It seems to me equally secure with Hobbs's 'Protector,' or movable stump lock, against that mode of picking by which it is well known that other locks of the highest reputation can be opened in a few minutes by any man of ordinary

---

it would doubtless be easy to drill between the studs for the purpose of getting gunpowder into the locks [lock-chambers], which being ignited, would certainly blast the door off. It was to prevent this contingency, as well as drilling into the lock, that Mr. Price adopted the principle of case-hardening *the entire surface of the door*, and it is for this application of case-hardening that he obtained a patent in January, 1855. To safes thus fitted he gave the name of "drill-preventive," and this title they doubtless fully deserve. Our attention having been called to this matter, we cannot, although feeling no desire to mix ourselves up with an "untradesmanlike" (?) proceeding, withhold our opinion that the title of "drill-preventive" as applied to safes should be left to be enjoyed by Mr. Price, and would suggest to Messrs. Chubb that they should register their safes as the "drill-*semi*-preventive," or "drill-*all-but*-preventive" safes, in which case the distinction would be more apparent than it is at present.—*The Engineer*, May, 1858.

mechanical skill. In fact, this is very nearly on the same principle as the most improved form of Hobbs's lock, but the arrangement of the parts is different, and no lock of that construction has yet been picked, nor do I see how it can be.

"It is an incidental advantage of this lock that if any of the tumblers get stuck together, and so one or more of them rise too high, they can be brought down again by the key, or any proper instrument. I have seen Chubb's, and other locks, stuck fast in this way, through the effect of smoky and damp air on the tumblers and their springs, and sometimes from oil having been put in, which ends by sticking the tumblers together.

"The position of the keyhole and the stump is such that any variation in the steps of the key makes more difference than usual in the lift at the stump; and, consequently, it would be harder to copy accurately enough for a false key, by which method the Chubb lock was opened in the gold-dust robbery on the South-Eastern Railway.

"I am glad you have adopted a solid key, as it gives a smaller key for the same strength, and leaves no pipe to get plugged up with dust, which is sometimes troublesome. I see no advantage whatever in a pipe key where the construction of the lock admits of a solid one."

The next patent is that of GEORGE WITHERS (No. 1,070, April 27, 1860), for "making the outside plates of safes of iron and steel welded together, and reduced by rolling to the desired thickness, and for imparting to them, in the last process, a series of ridges or chequers on one or both sides." It was found not to answer, and was, in consequence, abandoned.

Then comes that of GEORGE PRICE (No. 1,158, May 11, 1860), for "Improvements in Locks," which also includes the fixing on the plate which carries the works of the large lock (see Fig. 8, page 12), a hardened iron or steel plate, which forms the foundation, packing. or seating for the small lock, and through which and the plate or plates of the large lock and fire-proof composition chambers a number of strong screws, or "lock-pins," are wormed into the door-plate. These extra lock-pins hold the small lock with its nosle firmly to the back of the door-plate.

Also, for constructing the staple or bracket of the large lock "follower" with a

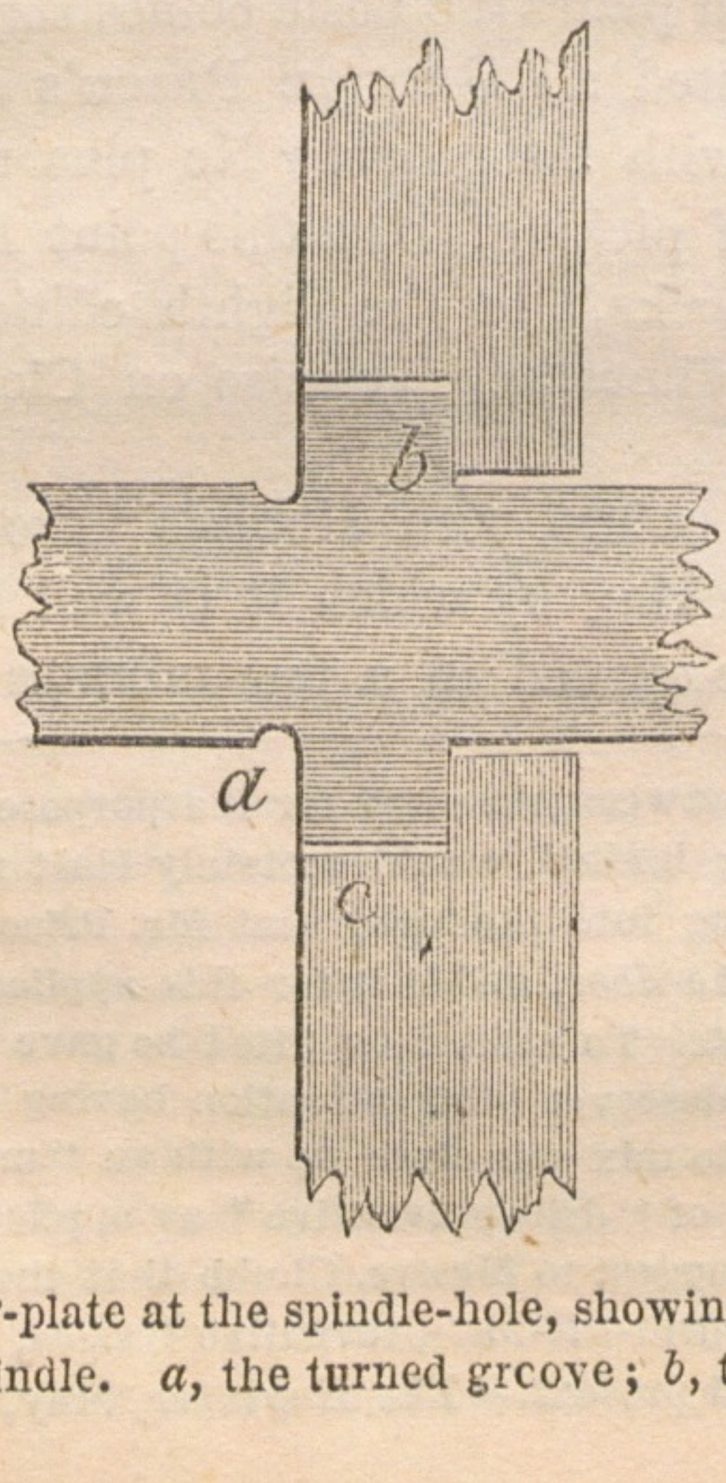


Fig. 27.— Cross-section of door-plate at the spindle-hole, showing the rebate in the door-plate and the groove and collar of the spindle. *a*, the turned grcove; *b*, the collar; *c*, the recessed rebate.

collar or surface made true and level with the edges of the large lock-rims, so as to lie against the back face of the door-plate when the lock is fixed in its place, and for making the spindle which passes through the "follower" for the knob or handle placed on its end outside the door for actuating the bolts of the large lock, with a collar or shoulder (see Fig. 27), which lies and works in a rebate formed in the hole in the door-plate. Also, for making the spindle of case-hardened iron or steel, with a groove cut in its surface, so that if undue violence be applied to the knob, the spindle breaks short off at the groove *a*, leaving the other portion behind, which completely fills the hole in the door, and thus protects the interior of the lock-chamber from both violence and gunpowder.

The value of all these improvements was fully proved at the celebrated Burnley Test, in May, 1860, when our opponents, after giving up the attempt to open our "Champion" Safe, by exploding gunpowder in the small lock (see Fig. 28), next used an elaborate piece of mechanism, which encircled and embraced the safe over the keyhole, as shown in Fig. 29. Through the centre of the upper bar worked a powerful screw, moved by a lever to work on to a separate tool that fitted the keyhole, so as, with a pressure of from two to three tons, to force the lock away from the door. After every effort had been used, it was found that the tool had bent, and that the lock retained its place. They next used a 7-feet crowbar to wrench away the knob with the spindle, for the purpose of putting gunpowder through the spindle-hole into the lock-chamber, but the knob came off with the first wrench, leaving the spindle behind. They next tried to draw out the spindle with a coach-wrench, but here again they met with another disappointment, as the spindle broke short off at its shoulder, below the surface of the door, and was found to fill the hole so completely as to render it utterly impossible to get any gunpowder around it. The spindle itself was case-hardened, which, on their proving with a centre-punch, all further attempts were absolutely abandoned.

There are only two modes whereby the cavity of the small lock in which the key works can be reduced to a minimum: one as in Milners' patent, dated December 20th, 1854, No. 2,684, where the key is put into the lock at one keyhole, turned about one-third round, and withdrawn at the other keyhole; the other, GEORGE PRICE'S, as before described, where the key works inside the open space *a*, Fig. 28, of the levers, and is turned one-third round to the left upwards, but in order to be able to withdraw the key from the safe-door when the bolts of the large lock are *withdrawn into the lock-chamber*, the head of the bolt is double or slotted, as shown in Figs. 25 and 28, and takes into two (2—3) out of the three slots or openings made in the bolt-tail of the large lock, as shown in Figs. 8 and 17. As this part of our patent of 1860 has been copied by Mr. Cook both in the specification and drawings of his patent, dated March 31st, 1865, No. 904, and as safes have already been made with this infringement of our patent, as a caution to the trade generally, we deem it well to print at length the claims as set forth in our specification of the patent referred to, and which are as follow:—

"First, the application of a case-hardened iron or steel plate for the packing or seating of the small lock, through which plate are placed from the back of the lock-chamber a number of strong screws (*h*, *h*, *h*, *h*, Fig. 8), which are wormed into the door-plate.

"Secondly, the *double head* of the bolt of the small lock taking into *two of the three slots formed in the bolt-tail of the large lock*, as shown in Figs. 8, 17, and 25.

"Thirdly, the forming a rebate in the spindle-hole of the door-plate, and constructing the spindle of case-hardened iron, or hardened steel, with a collar to work in the rebate of the hole in the door-plate, as shown in Fig. 27.

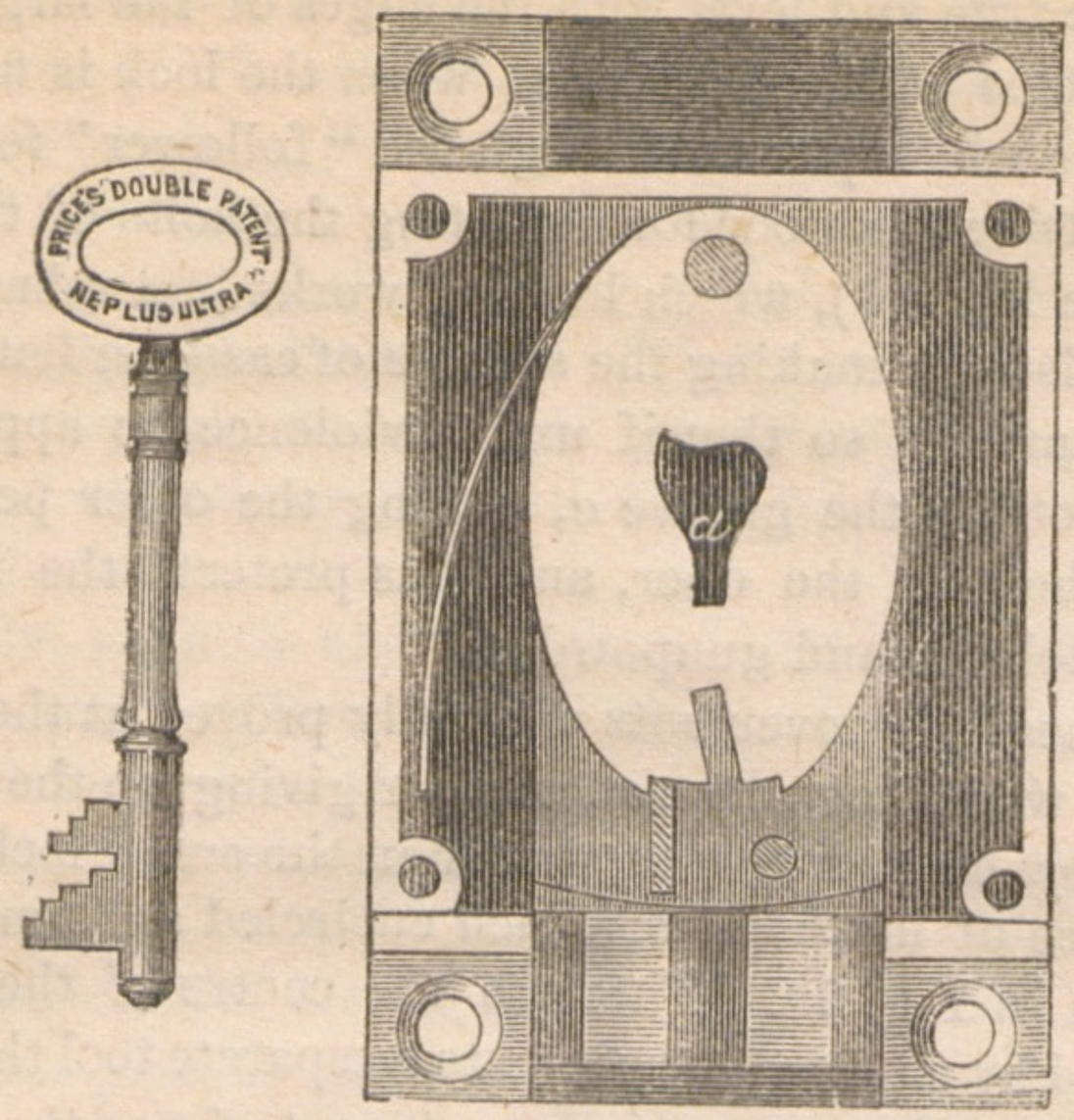


Fig. 28.—Price's Double Patent "Ne-plus-ultra" Unpickable and Gunpowder-proof Safe-door Lock. The engraving is drawn a little more than half-size, and shows the lock with the cap-plate and hardened steel nosle keyhole removed. The *black* part, *a*, is the open space. The oval *white* part represents the levers. The "safety-plate" with the "main-stump" is seen lying on the bolt, which latter, with its *double head*, works in a grooved channel formed in the back-plate.

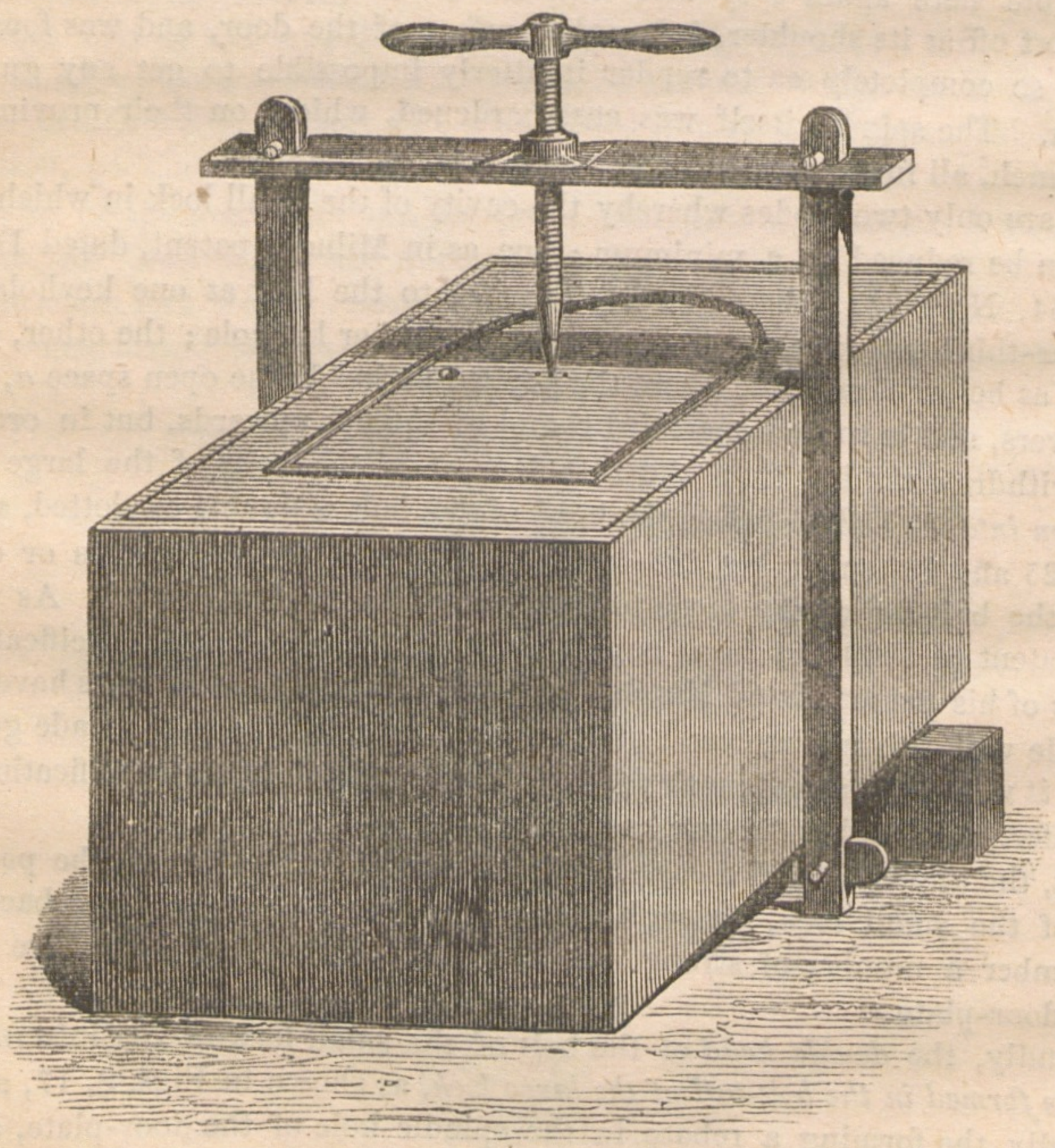


Fig. 29.—George Price's "Champion Burnley Safe," with the Milners' Screwing Apparatus affixed thereto.

"Fourthly, the constructing the spindle with the groove *a*, Fig. 27, cut in its surface.

"And fifthly, the constructing of the bracket or staple (*d*, Fig. 8) with its face to fit close against the back face of the door-plate."

The next patent is that of SAMUEL CHATWOOD (May 28th, 1860, No. 1,308). The patentee in his specification states that, "in forming the body of safes, I procure iron plates of a suitable strength for the outside, or parts of the outside, having its inner surface rolled or cut into grooves, either in one direction only or crossways, or with cavities or indentations of a conical shape or other configuration. These plates are fastened at proper distances from plates of suitable strength forming the inner part of the case by studs, rivets, screws, or other means. The case being thus formed with a cavity between the outer and inner skin, I then fill the cavity between the plates with fluid metal, which, on its contact with the cold plates, acquires such a degree of hardness as to resist the action of any cutting instrument. The indented or uneven surface which the hard metal will have acquired will break or destroy any kind of cutting instrument which may be applied to it after the outer plate is cut through; in certain cases I use plain surface-plates for both outside and inside, with hard plates between, cast either plain on both sides, or the outer side with ribs, cones, or any other uneven surface which will destroy the edge of a cutting instrument. Either of these methods may be adopted to the whole or any part of the safe.

"The second branch of my invention consists in attaching or fixing the lock chamber to the door by a suitably strong spring or springs, so as to permit the front edge of the door being separated from the lock chamber to a slight extent, or as far as is permitted, by catches. On gunpowder being put into the lock and exploded, the force of the expansion within the lock chamber will separate it from the door, so as to allow a portion of the compressed gases to escape, immediately after which the lock chamber and door will resume their proper and secure position."

The patentee, in his complete specification, claims "the use of hematyte iron (commonly known as malleable iron in its unannealed state), however it may be applied, for the purpose of rendering iron safes secure against the action of drilling or cutting instruments."

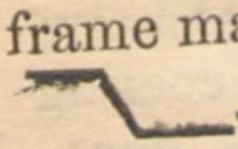
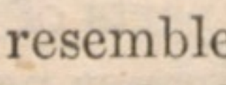
Hematite iron is the *cast* pig-iron made from the red or brown ore obtained from the neighbourhood of Ulverstone. It is extensively used in South Staffordshire for mixing with Shropshire and other pigs, from which mixture boiler-plates are made of a very superior quality. What peculiar property the hematite pigs possess over any other cast-iron for chilling we have been unable to discover. If a wrought-iron case could be perfectly filled (which it cannot, as all cast-iron contracts on cooling) with fluid metal, and then chilled, we are at a loss to know how it is to be proved to be drill-proof, or that it is not as brittle as glass.

The making plates with "indented or uneven surfaces" by "imparting to them a series of ridges or chequers on one or both sides" was patented by George Withers, April 27th, 1860, No. 1,070.

Then comes GEORGE PRICE'S patent (September 13th, 1860, No. 2,211), for rendering the doors and other parts of wrought-iron safes drill-proof by coating them with steel, similar to his former patent (dated January 31st, 1855, No. 236); but instead of producing this result by the "case-hardening" process, he proposed to manufacture the wrought-iron plates with a surface or coating of steel on one or both sides, and of any required thickness, by "piling" the iron and steel together to form the "pile" or "billet," of which the plate is produced, by passing through

the rolls. This was not intended to supersede his 1855 patent. This process for making "steel-iron" or "iron-steel" plates for the manufacture of iron safes has proved impracticable.

The next patent is that of A. S. STOCKER and A. R. STOCKER (August 10, 1861, No. 1,993), which is simply an attempted infringement of George Price's patent of 1855. In their specification they state,—"We take puddled bars or plates of ordinary wrought iron, and place them in the ordinary converting furnace, and operate upon them in the same manner as is generally practised in converting iron into steel. In some instances instead of converting them entirely or all the way through, we only procure them to have an outer casing of conversion, leaving a fibrous substance within enveloped by the hard outer casing of the prepared bar or plate; we then place a pile of these bars or plates of any given number, thickness, breadth, and length, one upon the other, and then heat them to a fusive or welding heat, and pass them through a pair of rolls, and weld them together in one solid mass, or bar, or sheet of the suitable length, width, and thickness required to produce the articles intended to be made." It was found, on trial, like Withers' patent, to be impracticable, and was, consequently, abandoned.

Next follows the Patent of SAMUEL CHATWOOD (October 13, 1862, No. 2,750). In his specification he states:—"I make a plate of steel iron, 'iron steel,' so as to have the two surfaces iron, and the middle steel, puddled steel, partially converted steel, or either of those descriptions of metal iron or other ductile metal, and by suitable apparatus I bend it to the shape required to form the four sides of the safe or chest, and either weld the two ends together, or secure them to each other by rivets or other suitable means; or I secure them to a bar, or plate of iron, or other suitable metal of sufficient width and thickness. Having thus formed the sides of the safe or chest, I take another plate for the back or bottom part, and either weld or dovetail it to the four sides, or otherwise secure it to a frame of angle or bar iron, which I secure to the sides; or I cast the body of the safe or chest the size, shape, and strength required of homogeneous or other ductile metal, or of metal that can be hammered, or rolled into nature, annealed, or otherwise made ductile after being cast. Instead of making the outer bands of the safe or chest of several bars, and dovetailing them together, I take for each band one bar of sufficient length to encircle it, and, with suitable apparatus, bend it into the shape required, and weld the two ends together, and instead of making the bolt holes in the sides of the lining, or slotting them in the frame of the safe, chest, or door, I cast the frame the size, strength, and shape required of suitable metal, with the bolt holes of any shape desired; I prefer, however, to have them round; or I make the frame of wrought iron or steel, a section of which closely resembles a T, which answers the triple purpose of strengthening the safe, holding down the lining, and forming a recess for the bolts. Instead of making the lock chamber of thin sheet iron, I cast it the shape and strength required in iron or steel, malleable, or any other ductile metal, with the bolt holes of any shape desired, but round in preference; or I cast the frame and fit a plate into and rivet or otherwise fasten it to the frame; in either case I cast the dogs at the back of the frame or lock chamber. The frame may also be of ordinary wrought iron or steel, a section of which resembles  , and a section of the lock chamber resembles  . These sections apply equally to the frame or lock chamber, whether cast or not; or instead of making the lock chamber with a large amount of open space, I cast or otherwise make it of iron or other suitable metal, with the whole of the back plate to abut against the plate of the door, except just sufficient to allow for the works of the lock, and the small space required for the throw of the bolts. I fill with an elastic

material, as hereinafter described, which can be compressed to allow the bolts to work. I cast the bolts and frame of the large lock in iron, steel, or other suitable metal. I cover the bolts with brass or other metal by the electrotype process or by fusion, and I make the follower of the large lock with a collar fitting in a recess in the back part of the door plate. I make the spindle of the knob of glass, china, or brittle cast iron or steel, or other brittle substance which will break if violence be used to it. Instead of hanging the door with the ordinary hinges or centres, I take a piece of iron of the shape of one-half of an ordinary hinge, and, without first cutting out any part, I drill or bore a hole nearly to the bottom, and into another similar piece of iron I fasten a metal pin; or I cast one or both parts of the size and shape required, and the said piece, with the hole in, I rivet or otherwise fasten to the side of the safe or chest, or the frame of the iron door, and the other piece, with the pin in, I rivet or fasten to the door. The pin of the one fastened to the door is inserted into the hole of the one fastened to the side of the safe, the end of the pin rotating on the bottom of the hole, and, when properly fitted, will appear much like an ordinary hinge, and yet will work with the ease of a centre. This hinge may be made of any suitable metal, and is applicable to other purposes than safes.

"I make the whole or parts of the safes, chests, doors, or strong rooms of 'iron-steel,' as already described, which I harden by any of the well-known methods; or I heat that portion intended to be hardened to a suitable heat, and apply to the surface thereof a vessel of suitable size and shape containing cold water, either still or in circulation, or any suitable agent, which coming in contact with the hot plate will harden it, and make it impervious to a drilling or cutting tool of any kind. I sometimes cover that portion of the lining next to the plate of the safe with hard iron, or plates of steel.

"I make safes, chests, doors, and strong rooms secure against being opened by the explosive action of gunpowder by springs or valves, as described in my said former patent, or by allowing apertures in the door or other part for permitting the gases to escape into the atmosphere. I have also a valve communicating with the interior of the safes, chests, or strong rooms, and opening into the lock chamber, so that should gunpowder be inserted beyond the lock chamber the gases will pass through it into the atmosphere. I also fill the cavities of the large lock chamber, or other part thereof, with india-rubber or other elastic absorbent material, the elasticity of which will allow the bolts to work the required distance, which material I saturate or charge with a preparation of glycerine and paraffin, or other substance which retains its lubricating properties, which, when compressed for the purpose of inserting gunpowder, will give out its glycerine or other substance, and will, to a considerable extent, saturate and render the gunpowder inexplosive."

This is another attempted infringement of George Price's patent of 1855, but, like Withers' and Stockers', the process cannot be made to answer. All these methods of trying to make safes drill-proof, by an "intersected" thickness of hard and soft iron, are imperfect or worthless *imitations* of George Price's patent for the application of CASE-HARDENING to the doors or other parts of iron safes, as explained at page 116, and illustrated in figs. 19 and 23. The welding of the plates forming the body of the safe was invented by Thomas Crook in 1857.—See patent, No. 1,075.

The next is that of GEORGE PRICE and WILLIAM DAWES (No. 594, March 3, 1863). In their specification they state:—"In constructing iron safes or iron doors and frames, we dispense with the large lock and lock-case hitherto employed, and in lieu thereof we construct the door with a series of notches or openings and claws

round the inner edge, which notches or openings communicate with a space round the middle portion of the edge of the door ; then round the front face of the safe or door-frame we construct a groove or channel parallel and continuous, and into this groove or channel we fit longitudinally sliding bars, so as to project inwards equal or nearly so to the depth of the notches or openings round the door, and also notched out similarly to the edge of the door-plate, and so arranged that whilst the door is opening or closing, the claws or projections of the one are opposite to the notches or openings of the other, and thus they will pass through each other, and allow of the claws on the sliding bars entering into the space round the middle portion of the edge of the door, and in locking the same the sliding bars are caused to move longitudinally in the grooves a distance equal or thereabouts to the length of the notches or openings, and thus bring the claws or projections opposite each other to prevent the opening of the door, in which position they are secured by a small unpickable and gunpowder-proof lock or locks, similarly to the works or bolts of the ordinary large lock now in use on the doors of iron safes and strong rooms. The small lock or locks may be inserted in the door as mortise locks, the bolts shooting out between the claws, so as to prevent their being moved backwards, and at the same time the small bolt of the small lock being supported or "backed" by the claws upon the door. The bolts or claws constituting the large lock may be actuated by a knob or handle upon the door in the usual manner. In some cases we prefer stopping or securing the bolts by one or more cross bolts thrown by a knob or handle, and which are also secured by a small lock or locks in any convenient part of the door.

"The second part of our invention has for its object the rendering of the door or other portions of the safe or the strong room door drill-proof, and we in some cases obtain the desired degree of hardness by casting upon a wrought-iron plate a "facing" of any required thickness of white or hard iron, the wrought-plate being furnished with projections, such as screws, rivets, dogs, claws, or Z-iron, round and amongst which the white iron is poured, and will unite the plates together. We also in some cases drill the wrought plate, and countersink on the back or inner face to allow the white iron to pass through the same, and form rivets for assisting in uniting the plates. The wrought plate may or may not be heated whilst the white iron is being cast upon it, and the white iron may or may not be "chilled" on the outer face, as may be found desirable. In some cases we prefer casting the white iron separate from the wrought plate, with perforations on the inner face, in which we insert pieces of hard "pot," or other hard mineral substance, before securing the wrought and cast plates together, the object of these being to break drills or other tools which may be used in any attempt to drill the door or other portion of the safe, or the strong room door.

"The third portion or section of our invention consists of protecting the works of the small lock from the action of acids or other chemicals applied through the keyhole, and to effect this we "electro-gild" them, or coat them with a considerable thickness of gold or other suitable metal for resisting the action of the acids or other chemicals"

Fig. 30 shows the novel construction of the "Royal Climax" Safe. The body is made of half-inch boiler-plates, which are dovetailed together, with the outer angle-bars 4 by $1\frac{5}{8}$ by $\frac{5}{8}$-inch, dovetailed and riveted all round the front and back in the strongest possible manner. The rigidity and lateral strength thus obtained on all the four sides of the door-frame is so great that, with the door case-hardened, no wedge or chisel can be forced around it by any means whatever. The construction of this safe would astonish even Caseley, especially as it contains a

contrivance—which we were told a few days ago by a gentleman in London who had it a few days previously from Caseley—similar, or, at all events, answering the

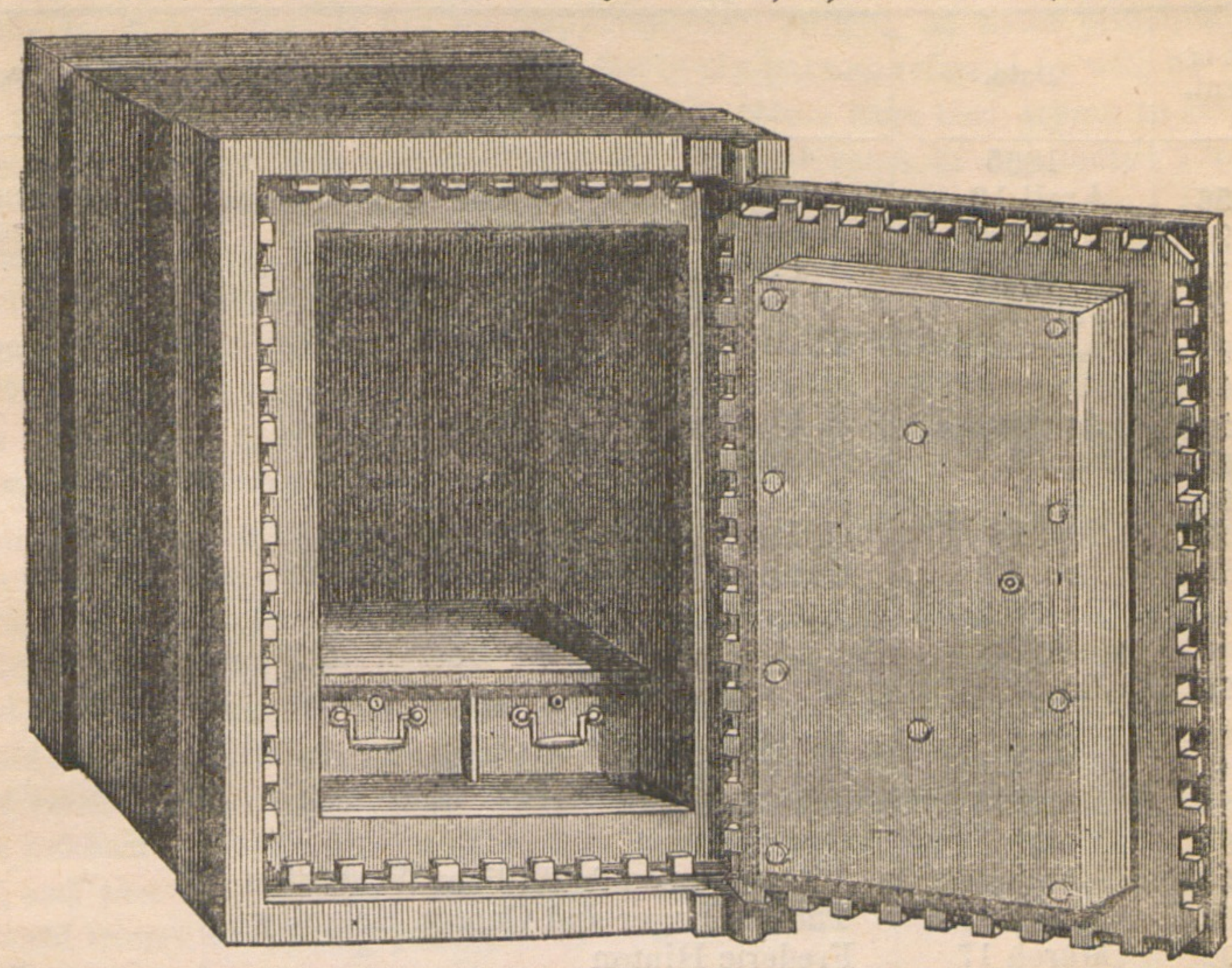


Fig. 30.—Price's Patent "Royal Climax" Safe.

purpose, to the "slight alteration" he mentioned at the late trial as required in all safes to make them wedge-proof.

Now we have a London depôt—86, QUEEN STREET, CHEAPSIDE—we shall be happy to show to any one the whole of the details of the construction of our safes and locks; and we have little doubt of being able to convince any unprejudiced person that we have introduced more real and practical improvements into the construction of burglar-proof safes than all the other makers put together.

LIST OF PATENTS GRANTED SINCE THE CORNHILL BURGLARY TO MARCH 31, 1866, FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN IRON SAFES.

No. of Patent.	Date.	Name.	Remarks.
	1865		
364	Feb. 9	John Chubb	
543	Feb. 27	Walter Henry Tucker	Abandoned
559	Feb. 28	John Matthias Hart	
570	March 1	Samuel Whitfield	
585	March 2	Samuel Chatwood	
695	March 11	John Tann	
702	March 13	Henry Hill	
714	March 14	Edmund Dorman Hodgson	
778	March 20	Samuel Chatwood	
903	March 31	William Milner and D. R. Ratcliff	Abandoned
904	March 31	Thomas Cook	
1000	April 7	Thomas Skidmore	
1045	April 12	John Matthias Hart	

LIST OF PATENTS—*continued.**

No. of Patent.	Date.	Name.	Remarks.
	1865		
1056	April 13	John Chubb and Robert Goater	Abandoned
1194	April 29	Walter Henry Tucker	Abandoned
1657	June 20	J. Parish, C. Thatcher, & T. Glasscoe	
1911	July 22	W. Diaper	
1995	August 2	T. Andrews and J. W. Taylor	Abandoned
2006	August 2	H. Allman	
2121	August 17	S. Phillips and J. Grove	
2265	Sep. 2	Samuel Chatwood	
2294	Sep. 7	John Matthias Hart	
2457	Sep. 26	C. Parigot and A. Givels, jun.	Abandoned
3321	Dec. 23	Samuel Chatwood	
3324	Dec. 23	J. Groves and G. Robinson, jun.	
	1866.		
96	Jan. 11	W. A. Rudling	
541	Feb. 21	William Deakin	
641	March 2	James Tansley	
685	March 6	John Chubb	
694	March 7	George Price	
754	March 13	Joseph Jessop & William Warburton	
792	March 17	Thomas Sagar and George Keighley	
799	March 17	Frederic Hinton	
895	March 27	John Bracher	
911	March 29	Reuben Noake	
930	March 31	George Hindshaw	

It will be noticed that most, if not all, of the real improvements introduced into the construction of wrought-iron safes, to make them resist every kind of attack of the modern burglar up to the time of the Cornhill robbery, were patented by George Price. No sooner had this burglary taken place, than the inventive powers of not only the safe and lock-makers were put in motion, but the mind of the nation seems to have been excited to action, in scheming some contrivance to resist the application of the wedge and crowbar only. Thirty-six patents have been the result to the end of March, and doubtless many more will be added to the list during the year. That many of these so-called "improvements" are ridiculous, whilst others are worthless, is already shown, by a lot of the patents being abandoned at this early period of their existence, and we venture to predict that not a tenth of the remainder will live to pay the third year's stamp duty of £50. The idea prevalent to the minds of nearly all the inventors, has been either to add something to the *back* of the door, or to complicate the mechanism of the large lock. Very few, indeed, of the contrivances are "improvements" in the true sense of the term, for we contend that no invention can be an improvement, if it at all complicates or adds limb after limb to the machine that preceded it. If additional mechanism is to be added to the present, to be actuated by any other instrument besides the present handle of the door and the key of the lock, that would be a complication and not an improvement. If, in fact, any operation has to be performed beyond what is already in use, such an invention is no improvement.

* The specifications of the last thirteen patents have not yet been filed, and therefore could not be described.

If the construction is such, that through any forgetfulness on the part of the owner or user of the safe, by closing the door at the wrong moment, the mechanism is liable to injury, that is not an improvement. Judged on these principles, the improvements specified in most of the thirty-six patents referred to will be found to be few in number; and whilst so many inventors have been trying to improve the same machine, it is not surprising to find that some have patented precisely the same contrivance, whilst others have infringed existing patents. It must, however, be always borne in mind, that the nearer any machine arrives at a state of perfection, the smaller will be the difference between the last steps taken, that make it as perfect as it is required to be, or that it is possible to be.

The ideal of a good safe is this: you shall close the door, move the bolts with the knob, secure them with the key, and leave the premises with the full confidence that if all the thieves in Christendom were to break in and attack the safe, between Saturday night and Monday morning, with all the burglars' tools and appliances known, your cash and valuables would be safe.

The very fact of twenty-five out of the thirty-six safes attacked in the "Forty Burglaries" having been opened by the aid of the drill, wedge, jemmy, crowbar, and sledge hammer, shows that it is against the application or operation of these tools that iron safes must be made to stand; and those makers, and those only, who can produce an article with all the necessary requirements to resist the attack of the modern burglar, armed with such tools of violence as are shown in Fig. 16, page 68, and this at a *moderate* price, may reasonably expect to meet with an ample reward from a discerning public.

That GEORGE PRICE'S method of case-hardening the doors (and bodies and other parts when necessary), is an effectual barrier against the operation of the drill, is admitted by all who have given the subject due consideration, or have tested his case-hardened plates with drills. The *outside surface* being drill-proof, keeps the tool from making a *beginning*, as the moment it comes in contact with the case-hardened plate, its cutting edge is destroyed and rendered powerless. Not so with the secondary contrivances of the other makers. Their imitations consist in putting a plate of *soft* iron *outside*, then a plate of hardened steel or chilled cast-iron, and next another plate of soft iron; but it must never be forgotten, that if steel is hardened sufficiently to be drill-proof it is as brittle as glass, and that chilled cast-iron for the same reason cannot be depended upon, and in both cases the outside of the door is *soft*, and therefore *not drill-proof*.

Immediately after Mr. Walker's (London) and Mr. Howard's (Manchester) great jewellery robberies, GEORGE PRICE simply increased the strength of his "Burnley," "Jewellers'," "Lancashire and Yorkshire," and "Royal Climax" safes, without the addition of any contrivance whatever to make them more burglar-proof. These safes he called "IMPROVED" on account of their greater strength, and they have been largely patronized by the commercial classes generally throughout the kingdom, but more especially in the manufacturing towns of Lancashire and Yorkshire. In many instances he has replaced the safes of other makers with these "improved" ones; in some cases he has fitted his patent safes inside the safes of other makers; and he is constantly receiving most gratifying letters of approval of his work from those who have patronized his various establishments. His works are open daily for the inspection of visitors, where the details of the manufacture of iron safes, and locks and keys, may be examined, and the case-hardened doors seen tested with steam drills and sledge-hammers.

The first patent taken out for "improvements in iron safes and strong-rooms," after the Cornhill burglary, is that of JOHN CHUBB, dated February 9, 1865

(No. 364). In his specification he states :—" This invention has for its object improvements in iron safes and strong-rooms. For these purposes, in order to render the door of an iron safe less liable to be forced open by the introduction of thin hard steel wedges between the frame of the door and the bevelled edge of the door, so as to take advantage of the incline on the interior edge of the door, the frame, in place of being made flush, as heretofore, is made to project beyond the door, so that the door will be recessed; and further, to protect the door and the keyhole or hole through the door of a strong-room or iron safe, a hardened steel bar is applied external of the door and from side to side thereof, and such bar is fitted within a groove across the door. It is preferred that this bar should be of a curved convex form externally and flat on the side where it comes next the door. At each side of the framing of the door is fixed or formed a projecting socket, into which the bar is slid after the door has been shut and fastened, or locked. It is preferred that the sides of the groove across the door in which the bar is fitted should be undercut in order better to insure that no thin steel wedges shall be in-

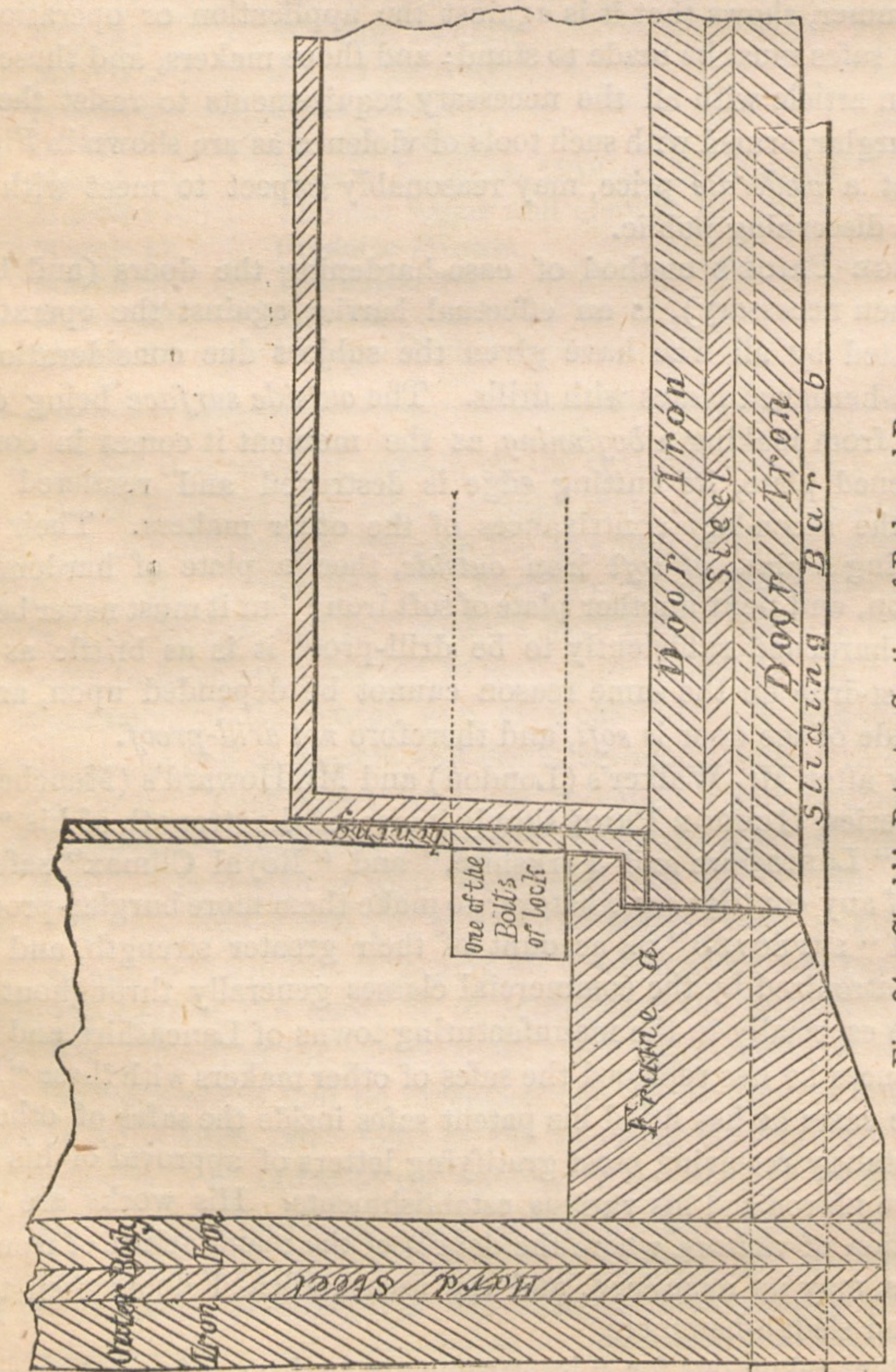


Fig. 34.—Chubb's Patent.—Section of Body and Door.

troduced between the door and the bar. The bar is fixed in position by the bolt or catch of a lock.

"Figure 34 shows a plan in section of parts of a door and side framing of a strong-room, and figure 35 shows a transverse section of parts of the door and of the bar used to give additional security. The iron frame around the door is formed of a strong transverse section of the form shown, or other section, so as to resist being bent outwards by driving thin wedges of steel between the edge of the door and the side frame into which it shuts. This side frame *a* extends beyond the door, so that the door is recessed back in place of coming flush with the front edges of the door frame or sides of the safe. By thus causing the door to shut into a recess, and the front of the door frame to be forward of the part of the door, not only will the effect of steel wedges, when driven in between the edge of the door and its frame, be rendered of little consequence, but such projection of the door frame will admit a hollow passage or socket being formed in the projecting parts of the frame to receive a steel bar *b* into or through it. This bar is arranged to pass across the door in a recess or groove so as to cover the keyhole of the lock of the chest or strong-room. This bar, when passed or slided from side to side may be retained from being moved back by the bolt of a small lock contained in the door or in the door frame. In figure 34 the steel bar *b* is plain on one side and convex outwards, and it slides in a dovetail or undercut groove in the door; but the section of the hard steel bar *b* may be varied, and the groove in the door may be made of a form to allow the outer surface of the bar to be flush with the outer surface of the door; or the steel bars may be arranged to pass through the door, so that its surface is not seen where it passes across the door. If desired, more than one such bar *b* may be applied.

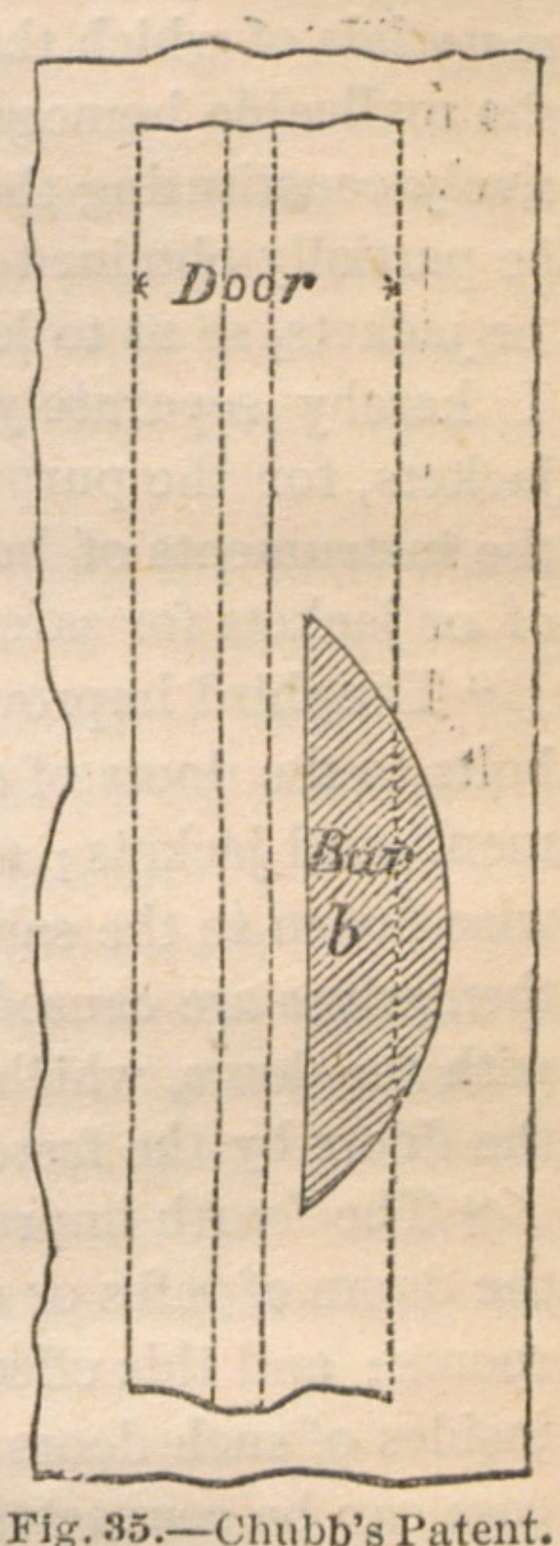


Fig. 35.—Chubb's Patent. Section of Door and Bar.

"Having thus described the nature of my invention, and the manner of performing the same, I would have it understood that what I claim is the forming of the door frame of a safe or strong-room forward of the door, and so that the door is recessed back, as herein described, in combination with the application of a bar or bars across the door, as above described."

Walter Henry Tucker's Patent (dated February 27, 1865, No. 543). "*This invention received Provisional Protection only.*"

The inventor in his specification states—"The first improvement has for its purpose the construction of what is technically termed the 'body' of a safe or chest in such a manner, that it shall present no external joints for the insertion of wedges or chisels into it, the bodies of safes, as now constructed of several pieces dovetailed or riveted together, being readily broken open by the use of such instruments; and the manner in which I effect this purpose is, either by casting the body of the safe or chest entire of malleable iron or steel, or any other suitable malleable or non-brittle material; or by making it in parts, and welding the several parts of which it may be formed into one homogeneous whole, so that in neither case would there be any joints left for the insertion of wedges or chisels into the bodies of such safes or chests, while from the malleable nature of the material used in their construction, there would be no liability of their becoming fractured, either by blows or by sudden changes in their temperature, such as would exist were they made

of common or non-malleable cast iron, or other non-malleable or brittle material.

"The second improvement is also for the purpose of protecting the body of a safe or chest from the operations of wedges, chisels, or other burglar's instruments; and in this case I produce the desired effect by the construction and use of a homogeneous jacket or case, either cast or welded together in parts (as described for the first improvement) in some malleable metal or material, for the purpose of enclosing the safe proper within it, by which means a safe or chest put together in the ordinary way may be rendered more secure, through the protection afforded to it by the homogeneous jacket in which it is encased. But I do not limit my use of such a malleable homogeneous jacket to the casing of safes or chests of the ordinary construction alone, but claim its use or application to safes or chests of all kinds, whether made with doors of their own, or otherwise, or whatever may be their mode of construction or combination with the said jacket, or whatever may be the materials of which they are made. As the advantages resulting from the use of the malleable homogeneous body, and the malleable homogeneous jacket, respectively constituting the first and second improvements hereinbefore described, may be partially obtained by casting or welding certain portions only of the said bodies or jackets, so as to leave some part or parts of them to be fastened by other means, I hereby separately claim the use of such partially cast or welded bodies or jackets, for the purpose of obtaining the important but still limited security against the instruments of burglars, which such partial casting or welding the said bodies of or jackets for safes or chests is calculated to produce.

"The third improvement is for the purpose of firmly connecting the large lock bolts to the doors of safes, chests, and strong-rooms, and to the doors of the before-mentioned jackets; and to produce this effect I either cast with, or weld, or otherwise fasten to the said doors strong pieces, into, under, or through which the bolts themselves are caused to pass, thereby giving the said bolts a tenacity of connection with the doors, which is unattainable where the bolts are only indirectly secured to the doors by the fastenings of the lock case, as is now the practice in safes.

"The fourth improvement is for the purpose of firmly fixing the lock cases to the doors of safes or chests, and jackets for the same, and to the doors of strong-rooms; and this effect I produce by casting with or welding, or brazing on to the insides of such doors strong projecting pieces, so formed and situated, that the lock case can be connected to the said projecting pieces by screws, nuts, or other fastenings, and be, in consequence of the rigidity of the said projecting pieces, more firmly fixed to the doors than by any of the means at present in use.

"The fifth improvement is for the purpose of giving increased firmness to those parts of the before-mentioned jackets, and to those parts of such safes, chests, or strong-room doors (as are made of a malleable material), into or behind which parts the lock bolts shoot, in order to keep the doors of the said safes, chests, or strong-rooms fast; and I effect this purpose by casting with, or welding, or brazing on to the bodies of the said safes or chests, or jackets for the same, or the door frames of the said strong-rooms, parts suitably formed for the reception of the said lock bolts, in place of or in addition to screwing or riveting on the said parts, as is now done.

"The sixth improvement is for the purpose of increasing the rigidity of the bodies of safes and chests, or jackets for the same, and of the frames of strong-room doors; which effect I produce by casting with, or welding, or otherwise fixing to the said bodies or frames certain parts so formed and situated, that recesses or projections in or upon the doors of the said safes, chests, jackets, or strong-rooms,

shall, as the said doors are closed, fasten upon or into the parts attached to or forming part of the said bodies or frames, and thereby bind and hold them firmly together, the doors themselves by this means being caused to give increased strength and rigidity to the bodies or frames which surround them.

"The seventh improvement has for its purposes, first, that of casting the doors of safes, chests, and jackets for the same, and the doors of strong-rooms of malleable cast iron or steel, or any other malleable or non-brittle material; and, secondly, such a formation of the inner and outer plates of the doors of strong-rooms, and of the inner and outer plates of the doors or of the bodies of safes, chests, or jackets for the same, when they are rendered drill-proof, by the insertion of hardened steel, chilled iron, or other drill-proof material between the said plates, that they may be fastened together without making either screw or rivet holes in the outer plates of such doors or bodies; and this I effect by casting with or welding to the inner surface of the said outer plates strong studs or other projections, which pass through the drill-proof material and the inner plate of the door or body, to which inner plate they may then be screwed, nutted, or riveted as required. In some cases I also make the said outer plate with a raised rim or border on its inner surface, which rim serves not only to encase the edges of the inner and the drill-proof plates, but may also be riveted or pressed over the edges of the inner plate, so as to bind the two plates firmly together, and give stability to the drill-proof material between them.

"The eighth improvement consists in so forming and arranging the body plates of a safe, chest, or jacket for the same, that the fastenings which connect the said plates shall not come through to the exteriors of such safes, chests or jackets; and I effect this by casting with, or welding, or brazing to the insides of some of the said plates strong projections, so formed, and with the necessary perforations through them, that projections cast with, or welded, or brazed to others of the said plates may be fitted to and riveted, or otherwise fastened, to the strong projections named, so that the said fastenings shall be inaccessible from the exteriors of the said safes, chests, or jackets; or I effect it by casting with, welding, or brazing to the insides of the said body plates strong projecting pieces, which can be passed through suitable holes in an internal frame, and be thereto secured, so that the fastenings shall be inaccessible from the outsides of the said plates."

John Matthias Hart's Patent (dated February 28th, 1865, No. 559). The patentee in his specification states:—"The object of the improvements is to obtain increased security against the forcible opening of the doors or other covers of safes or depositories. In ordinary arrangements of the doors or other covers of safes or depositories the bolts as shot simply pass from the case near the edge of the door into recesses formed for them in the rim or frame, or jamb, by which facility is afforded for the introduction of means for forcible opening; and according to one part of my improvements the door or cover is provided with an additional plate or projection to that forming the edge of it, with a space between them to receive a corresponding projection from a plate forming a part of the jamb or frame of such door or cover, which for this purpose is continued to some distance behind, and somewhat parallel to the face of the door or cover, and the bolt when shot passes from the additional plate applied to the door through that projecting from the jamb or frame of the door or cover, and then through the plate forming the edge of the door into a recess formed for it in the rim or jamb or frame, the object being to obtain repeated holding by the bolts between parts of the door or cover and parts of the jamb or frame. If desired the bolts may pass through several plates or projections from the door, and through several corresponding projections or plates

from the door frame or jamb, and I apply chilled cast iron or steel between the outer plate of the door or cover and parts carrying the bolts. When the bolts are "thrown" or "shot," I cause a filling piece or stop to come between their inner end, and a suitable stop or abutment to retain the bolts in position. The holding parts of the bolts, and that acted upon by the lock, may be formed separately, and be simply connected together by comparatively slight connections to admit of the connecting part being removed by violence without interfering with the holding parts. The back plate or lining of the door or cover I form in several parts, to admit any one or more of them being forced off without thereby necessarily removing the whole of them, and I connect these back plates or lining to the door

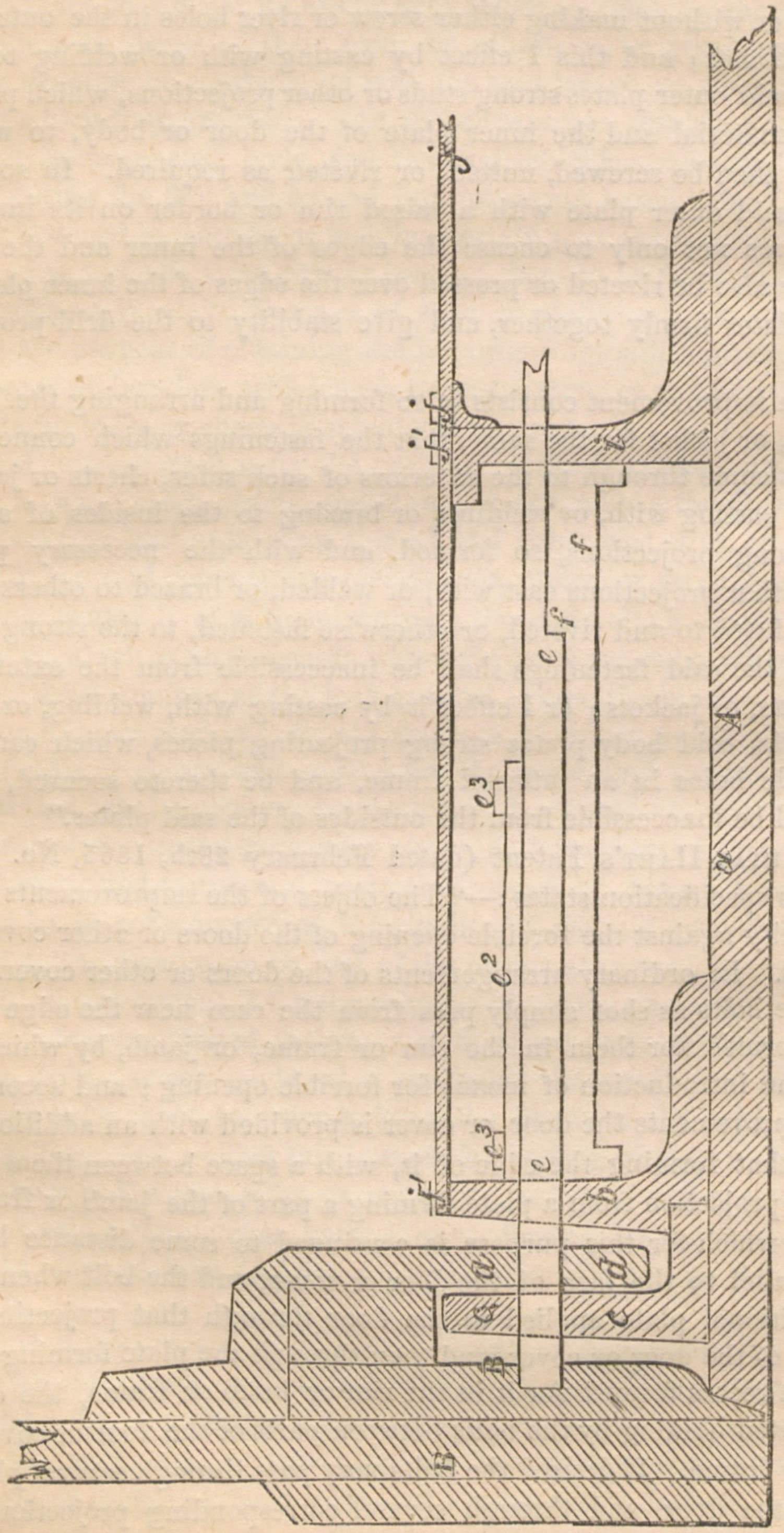


Fig. 36. Hart's Patent. Section of body and door.

or cover by short screws from the inside in place of by bolts through the door or cover. I form the edges of the doors or covers with return or overlapping retaining and holding plates or stays. I form the rebate of the door or cover (or that part of the jamb or frame against which the door or cover shuts) inclined or bevilled instead of parallel to the face of the door, to reduce the power of a screw lever passed through the door or cover and acting on such rebate."

Samuel Whitfield's Patent (dated March 1, 1865, No. 570). The patentee, in his specification, states:—"My invention consists in employing screw bolts for the bolts of locks, and bolts for fastening doors, and door bars, and drawers, instead of employing plain cylinders or bars, and in propelling the said screw bolts into and withdrawing them from screwed staples, or screw boxes, or plain staples, the propulsion and withdrawal of the bolts being effected by a screwing motion instead of a rectilinear sliding motion, as is usual. The screw bolts may be propelled into or withdrawn from screwed staples, or screwed boxes, or plain staples in the jambs of the door, or in the frames or parts of other article in a variety of ways. For example, in the case of locks having a rotatory motion the action of the key may cause a worm on the lock to gear with a worm wheel on the screw bolt, and thereby give to the said bolt the rotatory motion requisite to propel it into or withdraw it from its screw box or staple. Or a crown wheel may be made to rotate by the key, the said crown wheel engaging in pinions on the ends of the screw bolts. The same means may be employed for rotating screw door bolts which are independent of the lock, the said screw door bolts being acted upon by a key, or by hand.

"The object of these patent bolts is to prevent the opening of the safe by means of wedges or 'jemmies,' or by bringing pressure to bear on the ends of the bolts.

"The accompanying woodcut shows a safe so fitted. The door is open, and the lock-chamber removed to exhibit the construction and action of the bolts, which are represented as locked. *A* is the door to which the work is all securely fixed. *B B* are the screw-bolts, which are moved by the pinions which gear with the wheel *C*. The screwed ends of the bolts *B B* work through the plummer-blocks

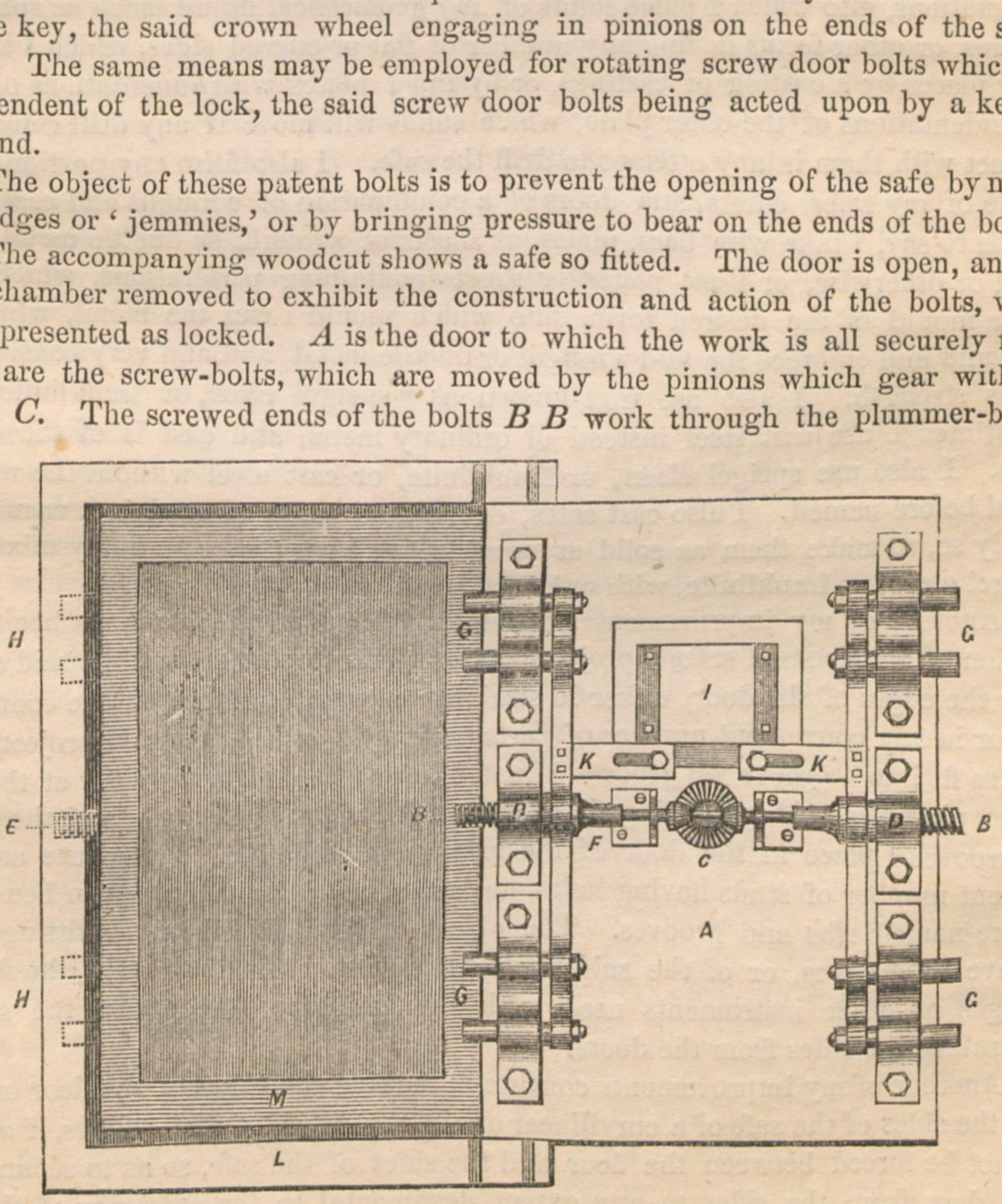


Fig. 37.—Whitfield's Patent Safe.

D D, these plummer-bloOks being tapped with the same thread as the screw-bolts. The ends *B B*, so far as they project beyond *D D*, screw into the screwed holes *E*, in the solid side of the safe *L*. On *B B* are two solid collars *F*, carrying the cross-heads, in which the bolts *B B* turn freely. To these cross-heads are secured the plain bolts *G G*, shooting into the holes *H H*. *K K* are the guide bars,.which give an easy motion to the crossheads, and serve for securing the whole by the bolt of the lock *I*, which shoots between them. The wheel *C*, is moved by a handle outside the door, either fixed or detached. *M* is the fire-proof chambering of the safe. When the whole is locked, as shown in the figure, the screws cannot be withdrawn, nor the plain bolts foreed back, as they mutually secure each other. When the lock *I* is unlocked, the wheel *G*, being turned by the handle, will withdraw the plain bolts and the screw bolts at the same time."

Samuel Chatwood's Patent (dated March 2, 1865, No. 585). The patentee, in his specification, states :—"I make the outer shells of safes of wrought iron or steel, into which I run a casing of suitable metal in a molten state, and so make the body of the safe of any desirable thickness. I also make an outer and inner shell, between which I run the molten metal, still making the body of the safe of any desirable thickness.

"I sometimes prepare the plates for the sides, ends, back, or door of safes with indentations, into which I place solids of any geometrical figure, such as spheroids, spheres, or other forms having any number of flat or curved sides, which I keep in their places by a casting or castings, or by inner plates with indentations opposite the indentations of the outer plate, which solids will move if any drill comes into contact with them in any attempt to drill the safe. I also form any portion or the whole of my safes, chests, and doors of a combination of wrought and cast metal, that is to say, I take wire bars, plates, or sheets of wrought or ductile metal, interlaced or otherwise, or I use plates or sheets containing perforations, which I put into a mould of the desired form, into which mould I run the metal, which will surround and embrace the said wrought or ductile metal, and add very considerably to its strength. I also use iron known as "speigel eizen, or franklinite," and sometimes I use cast steel instead of ordinary metal, and cast it of the desired form. I also use speigel eizen, or franklinite, or cast steel without the wrought metal before named. I also cast safes, or parts of safes, of steel in a vacuum, or nearly so, to make them as solid as possible; or I use for casting any mixture of speigel eizen, or franklinite, with ordinary cast iron.

"Another of my improvements consists in placing on the inner surface of any portion of the doors of safes a projecting rib or ribs to pass around the said surface near the edges of the door, either in straight or curved lines, or in one continuous rib, or in any convenient number of parts or lengths of rib, the said projecting rib or ribs fit into a groove or grooves situated in or attached to the sides of the safe; I also place the said projecting rib or ribs on the sides of the safe, and the groove or grooves I place in the door of the safe when desirable. I also use any convenient number of studs having holes made to receive the said studs in lieu of the before-named ribs and grooves. The object of the said rib or ribs fitting into a groove or grooves, or of the said studs fitting into holes, is to resist the force of wedges or other instruments used with the intent to force open the safe by separating the sides from the doors.

"Another of my improvements consists in making the edges of the door or doors and the sides of the safe of a curvilinear or zig-zag shape, so that wedges, if applied, cannot be forced between the door and the sides of the safe, so as to separate the said door from the sides to any extent detrimental to the efficiency of the safe.

The surface shape of the edges of the door or doors, or the sides of the safe on which they fit, I make of any form that may be defined by co-ordinates of two or three dimensions, that is to say, the curvilinear or zig-zag surface may have only one or any number of directions in which it is curvilinear or zig-zag.

"I sometimes dispense with the ordinary bolt or bar holes in the sides of safes, chests, and frames of doors, and use instead thereof the blade of T-iron or the flange of angle iron, part or parts of which I cut away to form openings. The bolts or bars of my large lock I cause to project, so that when the safe is unlocked the projecting bolts or bars of the lock case will be opposite the openings in the inner frame of the safe before named. I then, with suitable apparatus, give a vertical motion to the bolts or bars on the vertical sides of the lock case, and a horizontal motion to the bolts or bars on the horizontal sides of the lock case. I sometimes place projections on the inner frame with a rib at back, and I also place a rib on the front of the bolts or bars, or I reverse the said ribs, the object being to prevent lateral strain by wedging or other applied force.

"Another of my improvements for preventing safes being wedged open at the door is the use of bars or bolts with a thread cut on them, so as to screw into the sides of the safe, or into any apparatus fixed to the said sides of the safe when the door is closed, and so secure the sides to the said door; or I make the said bars or bolts with projections upon them, so that when the door is closed they may be shot into cavities, grooves, or slots, and then turned partially round, the projections hooking themselves into the sides of the safe behind the cavities, grooves, or slots prepared for that purpose; the said bolts or bars are acted upon by the handle of the door, or by a suitable key or keys through the intervention of levers, wheels, cams, or eccentrics, as may be found most convenient, and then secured by the bolt or bar of the small lock, so that they cannot be withdrawn. In any of the before-named cases I use a small lock or locks to secure the large bolts or bars or other fastenings of the safe.

"I sometimes dispense with screws in fastening the lock-chamber to the door, and use instead iron of a proper shape for the frame, and fit it into grooves of a dovetail form or T-form situate on the back of the door plate, or I cast it into the door. I place a helical or other spring or springs in the sides of the safe to allow the explosive force of gunpowder to escape.

"Another of my improvements consists in placing on any or all of the sides of a safe or safes a thin sheet of metal over an aperture of suitable dimensions, of such strength as to burst by the force of gunpowder, or other force acting from the interior of the safe; and I protect the interior of the safe by sheets of strong metal, prepared as before mentioned, so arranged that the gases from the interior may pass to the thin plates and burst them outward, and yet prevent any access to the interior. I also use valves in the place of thin plates where desirable; or I simply use apertures, so placed away from each other and protected by plates that the safe cannot be entered by them, yet the gases formed by exploding gunpowder may escape from the interior of the safe."

The casting of the outer bodies of safes of "malleable iron or steel," is specified in Tucker's Patent (Feb. 27, 1865, No. 543), which see. The using "bars or bolts with a thread cut on them, so as to screw into the sides of the safe when the door is closed," is identical with Whitfield's Patent, the last described.

In the patentee's price-lists this safe is described as "Chatwood's Sextiple-Patent Intersected Steel Burglar-proof Safe, two inches thick on all sides." This thickness of metal on all the sides of the safe, besides reducing its internal capacity, if the safe should be required to be fire-proof, should have at least six

inches in thickness of fire-proof composition, as it must never be forgotten, that as you increase the thickness of the metal forming the outer body, so you must in proportion the fire-resisting chambers, so that the increased quantity of fire-proof composition may neutralize the effect of such a mass of metal getting red-hot in a fire. We have only seen one safe made on this "Sextiple-Patent," but this objection, added to the fact that *whenever the key is out of the lock* the large bolts are thrown, and remain projecting from the lock-chamber, and are thus liable to

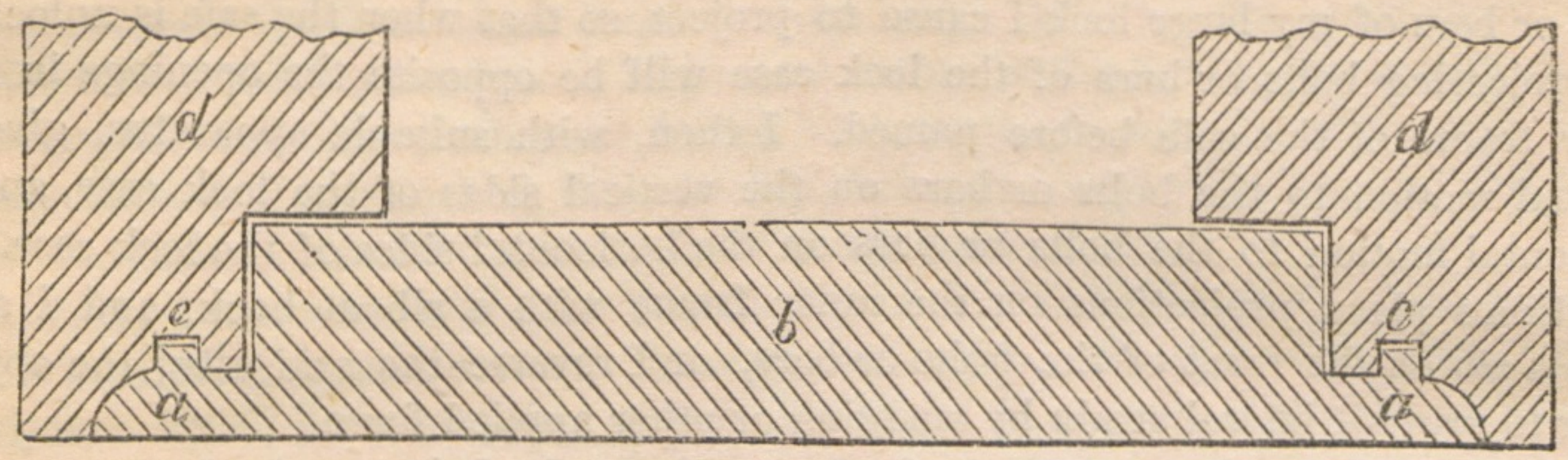


Fig. 38. Chatwood's Patent. Section of Body and Door.

receive injury from closing such a heavy door sharply, and also the enormous price for such a few inches of cubic contents (a "30 × 24 × 24-inch, outside measure, single door, fire-proof, without drawers, £97 15*s.*"), led us to believe from the first that the "Bolton Company" would not swamp all the other safe-makers of the kingdom, notwithstanding the "puff" of Mr. Mayhew, in the now defunct periodical, "The Shops and Companies of London; and the Trades and Manu factures of Great Britain."

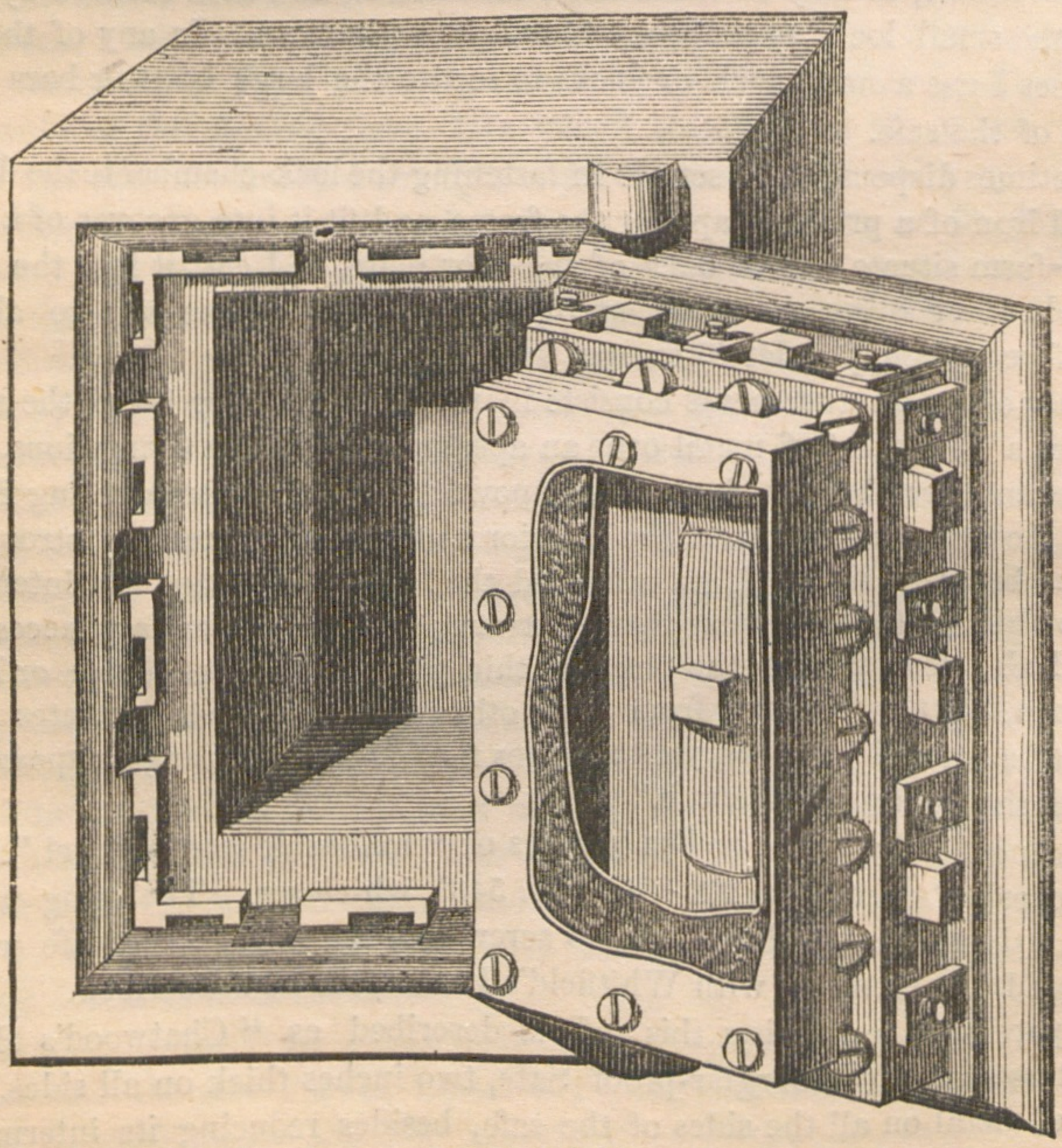


Fig. 39. Chatwood's Patent Safe.

JOHN TANN'S Patent (dated March 11, 1865, No. 695). The patentee, in his specification, states .—"I first propose to render safes drill-proof, by welding bars of iron and steel together, and hardening them, and afterwards riveting them on plates of iron, either in one direction or in layers across each other, either close together or leaving

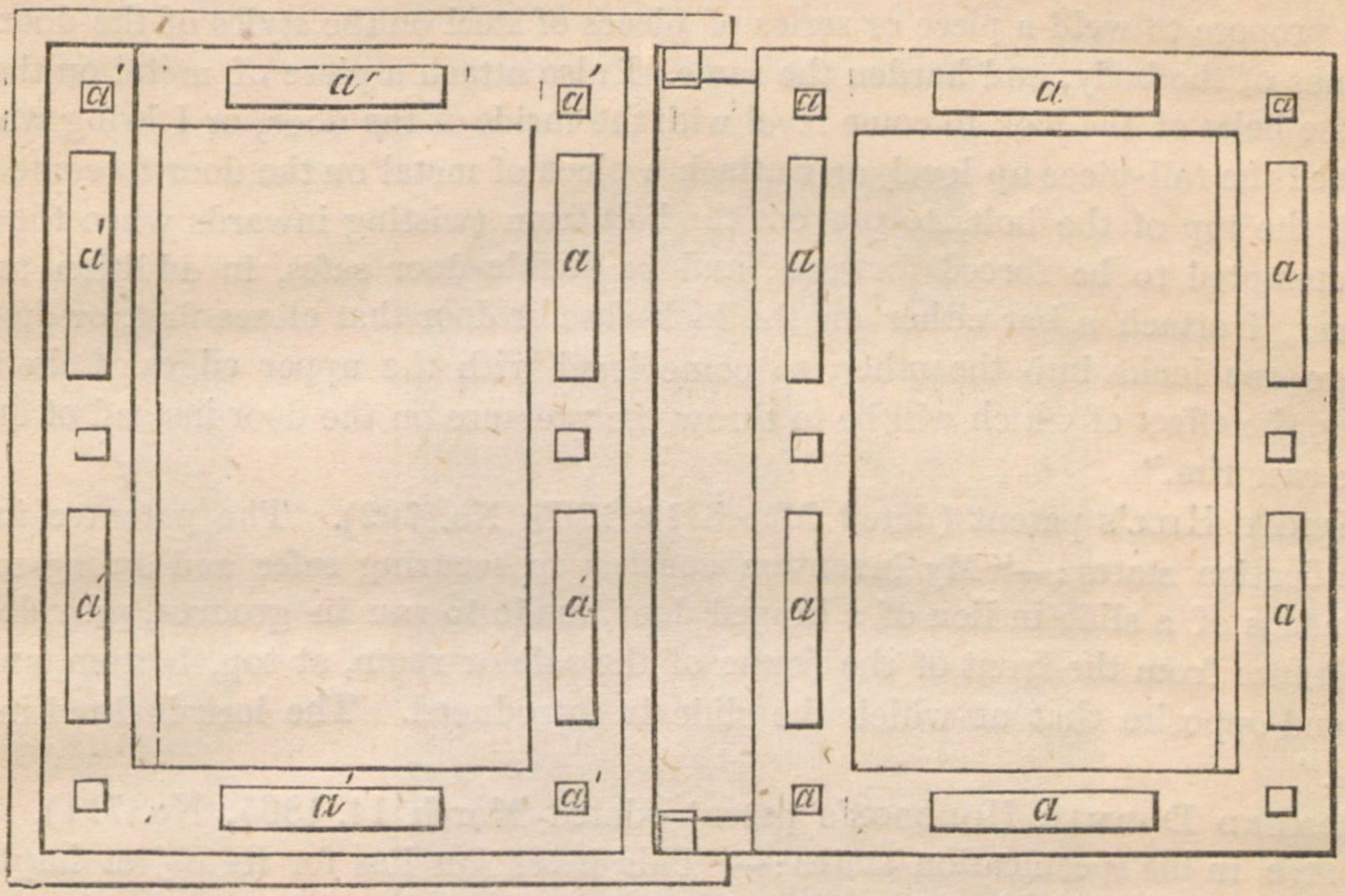


Fig. 40.—Tann's Patent. Front of Safe and back of Door.

small spaces between each bar : the plates with the bars on them are to be riveted inside the body and door of the safe, or any part thereof. Thus, when the drill has perforated the outer case of the safe, it will come in contact with or between the steel bars, and thereby be broken and destroyed. I also propose to form a groove or rebate on the inside surface of the door, and to form corresponding projections on the face of the lining, or the grooves may be in the face of the lining,

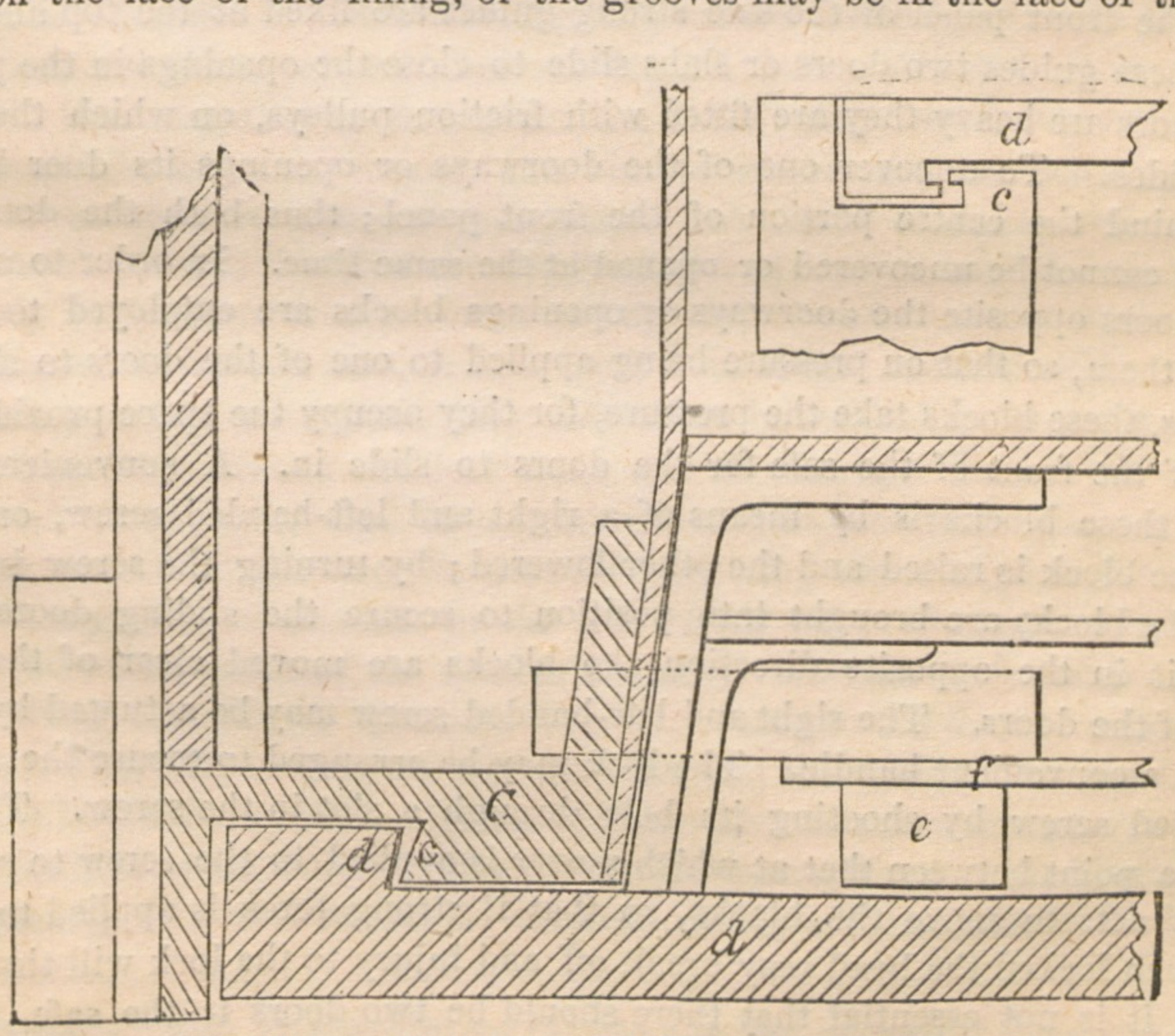


Fig. 41.—Tann's Patent. Section of Body and Door.

and the projections inside the door, or there may be a series of recesses and studs in lieu of a continuous groove and rebate, the object of which arrangements being to prevent the sides and ends of the safe from being forced outwards from the door when the safe is closed. The flange of the lining may be of Z or angle iron. I also propose to weld a piece or series of pieces of steel on the styles of the door and frames of the body, and harden the same. I also attach a piece of metal on the top of the bolts of the lock to come level with the inside of the door, or I bring what is termed the tail-piece up level, or I attach a piece of metal on the door to come level with the top of the bolt, to prevent the bolt from twisting inwards when the door is attempted to be forced forward; and in double-door safes, in addition to the former, I attach a bar either on the lock-case or door that closes first, or on both where one locks into the other, to come level with the upper edges of the bolt-holes, the effect of which will be to throw the pressure on the door instead of on the lock-case rim."

HENRY HILL'S patent (dated March 14, 1865, No. 702). The patentee in his specification states:—"My invention consists in securing safes and strong-rooms by means of a slide in lieu of a hinged door, made to run in grooves, provided at a distance from the front of the frame of the safe or room, at top, bottom, and in the end opposite that at which the slide is introduced. The lock is fitted in the slide."

EDMUND DORMAN HODGSON'S patent (dated March 14, 1865, No. 714). The patentee in his specification states:—"This invention has for its object improvements in the construction of safes for securing valuable articles from thieves and fire. In constructing safes, in place of making the door to turn on hinges as is usual, I employ sliding doors arranged in the following manner:—The front of the safe is not left entirely open as when a hinged door is used, but is enclosed with a front panel in which there are two openings or doorways, one on each side, and between the two openings for a distance somewhat greater than the width of one of the openings the front of the safe is enclosed by the front panel. On the inner side of the front panel of the safe strong guides are fixed at the top and bottom, and in these guides two doors or slabs slide to close the openings in the panel; or if the doors are heavy they are fitted with friction pulleys, on which they run in their guides. To uncover one of the doorways or openings its door is slidden back behind the centre portion of the front panel; thus both the doorways or openings cannot be uncovered or opened at the same time. In order to secure the sliding doors opposite the doorways or openings blocks are employed to come in between them, so that on pressure being applied to one of the doors to slide it in its guides, these blocks take the pressure, for they occupy the space provided at the centre of the front of the safe for the doors to slide in. A convenient way of working these blocks is by means of a right and left-handed screw, on turning which one block is raised and the other lowered; by turning the screw in one direction the blocks are brought into position to secure the sliding doors, and by turning it in the opposite direction the blocks are moved clear of the top and bottom of the doors. The right and left-handed screw may be actuated by bevilled gear and a convenient handle. The lock may be arranged to secure the right and left-handed screw by shooting its bolt through a slot in the screw. This slot I form at a point between that at which power is applied to the screw to rotate and where it acts to move the blocks, so that if strong force is applied to turn the screw when locked the head may break off and injury to the lock will thus be prevented. It is not essential that there should be two doors to the safe; one door occupying about half the front may be similarly arranged, but except for small

sizes it is not so convenient. Very large safes also may be made with more than two doors.

"A similar arrangement may be applied to secure the doors of ordinary safes. When the door is closed the rising and falling bars, actuated by a screw or in other similar manner, are caused to enter behind lugs on the back of the door."

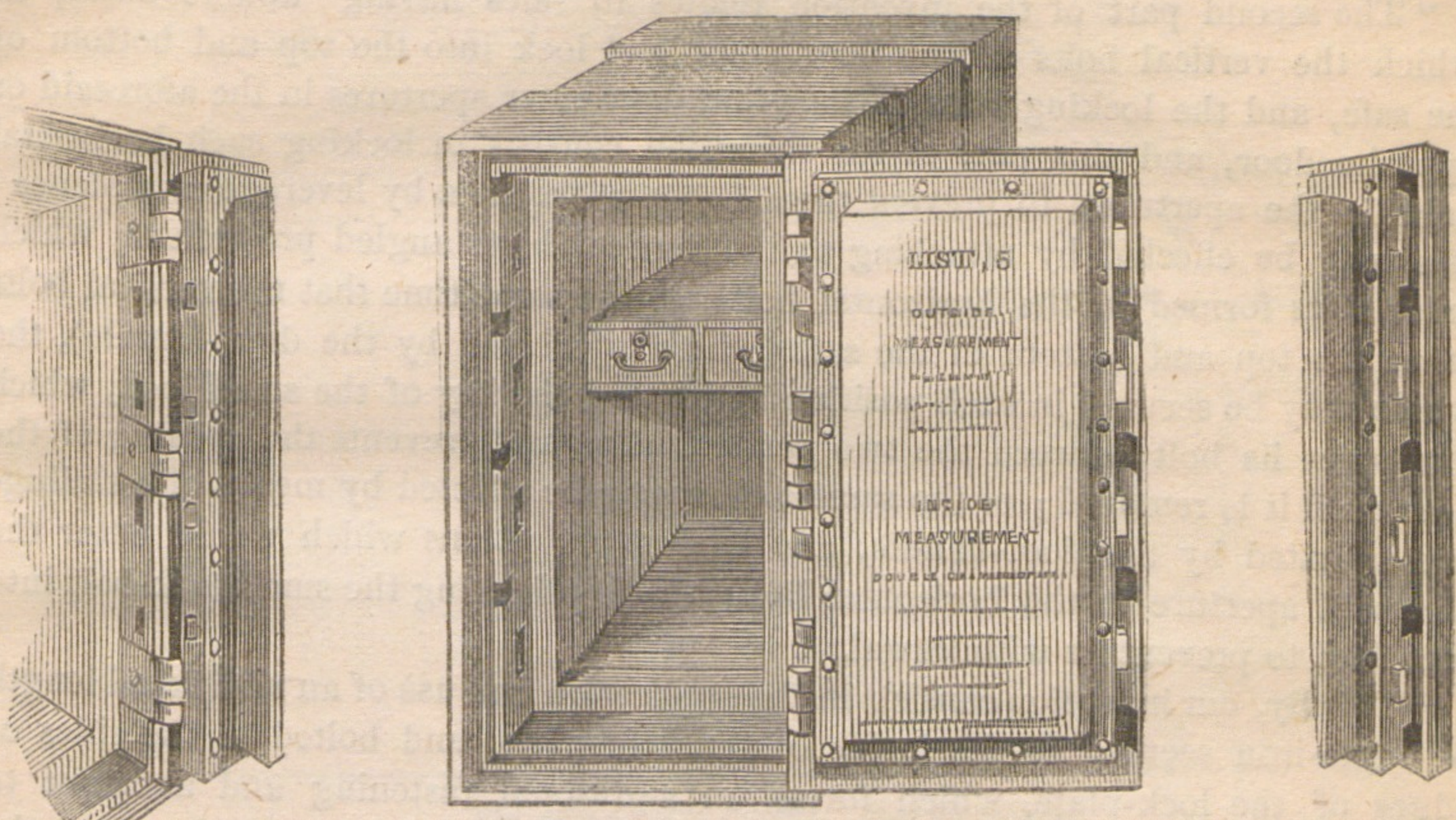


Fig. 42.—Milner and Ratcliff's Safe.

William Milner and Daniel Rowlinson Ratcliff's Patent (dated March 31, 1865, No. 903.*) In their specification the patentees state:—"Our invention is designed to effect a strong and secure fastening between the door of the safe and the sides, top, and bottom thereof, into which the door closes, and so to bind them together as to prevent the sides being forced outwards from the door by wedges or other means, and also to render certain fastenings already applied to safes more efficient and better calculated to resist violence. The improvements consist, first, in the application and use of angled bars or pieces, which may be made of iron or other strong metal, and either separate or in the form of angled or hooked bars, or in a continuous length encompassing the interior of the safe; and if the former, they may either be secured on to the inside of the door, and project between the lock-bolts and fit into apertures in the side of the safe, or vice versâ; or if used in continuous lengths, and formed of 'angle-iron,' it may be secured to the door so that the projecting rib or edge of the angle-iro may enter a groove or channel in the side of the safe, or lap over another angle-iron secured to the inside of the sides of the safe. Also for the same purpose, rods or bars having dovetail or T-heads may be secured to the door to enter openings of corresponding shape in the sides of the safe, and the 'dogs' now used near the hinges may be made curved to enter curved apertures as additional prevention; and the door itself may be made slightly taper, that is, narrower at the hinge side than at the opening side, and the inside surfaces of the top and bottom made parallel

* This Patent is "void, by reason of the patentee's having neglected to file a specification, in pursuance of the conditions of the Letters Patent;" so that any one who likes may adopt the "improvements" described.

with such taper form, so that in endeavouring to force the side opposite the hinges laterally from the door, the sides and door themselves form a resistance by their wedge-like form ; the feature of this first part of the invention being the application of ribs, bars, hooks, or similar bracketing or holding instruments to bind the sides and the door (when closed) together, so as to prevent the sides being parted from the door by lateral pressure.

"The second part of the invention relates to safes having 'double doors,' in which the vertical bolts of one door enter and lock into the top and bottom of the safe, and the locking bolts of the other door enter apertures in the aforesaid or opposite door, and this part of the invention consists in locking such horizontal bolts in the apertures, to prevent them being withdrawn by leverage or violence ; this may be effected by attaching to the vertical bolts angled projections, which enter slots formed in the horizontal bolts, at the same time that the vertical bolts enter the top and bottom of the safe (which is effected by the door-handle), the whole may be secured in such position by turning the key of the small lock, which interposes its bolt between the two vertical bolts, and prevents the opening of the door until it is removed ; or the same object may be effected by means of a sliding-bar actuated by the door-handle, and having projections which would enter the aforesaid aperture in the horizontal bolts, the key locking the small lock-bolt into such bar, to prevent its withdrawal.

"Thirdly, our invention consists in the application and use of an additional length of angle-iron secured to the inside of the door-plate, and bolted to the sides or edges of the lock-plate, which forms an additional fastening and assistant to the single rib or length of angle-iron now used to encompass and secure the lock-plate, the said additional portion being placed in reverse positions to that now used."

Some time in February, 1865, we were shown an invention by a very clever officer of the Manchester Detective Police (Mr. John Sutcliffe*), which had been suggested to his mind by the Cornhill burglary, for preventing the operation of the wedge in opening safes. It consists in fixing at the *back* of the door-plate a number of dovetail-shaped pieces of iron, which take into corresponding dove-tail-shaped holes in the inner frame of the "holdfast" safe. As we did not desire to adopt it, we recommended the inventor to show it to Messrs. T. Milner and Son, which some time afterwards he did, and this firm has since adopted it. In March last we saw at Messrs. T. Milner and Son's, at Liverpool, a safe containing the hooked projections specified in their abandoned patent of March, 1865, *combined* with Mr. Sutcliffe's invention. The model of the latter may be seen at our Manchester Depôt, 18, Blackfriars-street.

Thomas Cook's Patent (dated March 31st, 1865, No. 901). The patentee, in his specification, states that his "invention relates to an improved method of connecting the door of a safe to the body or case thereof, and consists in forming the door of a circular plate of metal with a circular fillet or projection at the back thereof, about one or two inches, more or less, in diameter than the diameter of the door. Around this fillet I propose to cut a strong quick-threaded screw or portion of a screw, to fit into a corresponding screwed hole formed in the front of the body or case of the safe ; or I form two screws or portions of screws, both on the door and case of the safe ; that is to say, I form a male and female screw on each, one

---

* This much-esteemed officer invented an improved policeman's lamp, which has been adopted by the police force in the city of Manchester, and by which the Corporation save about three-fourths of the oil usually consumed.

inside the hole into which the door fits, and the other outside of said hole. I also form a screwed hole through the centre of the door, and fit therein a screw, the outer screwed end whereof passes through a screwed hole formed in one end of an iron arm, the other end of said arm being hinged to the outside of the body of the

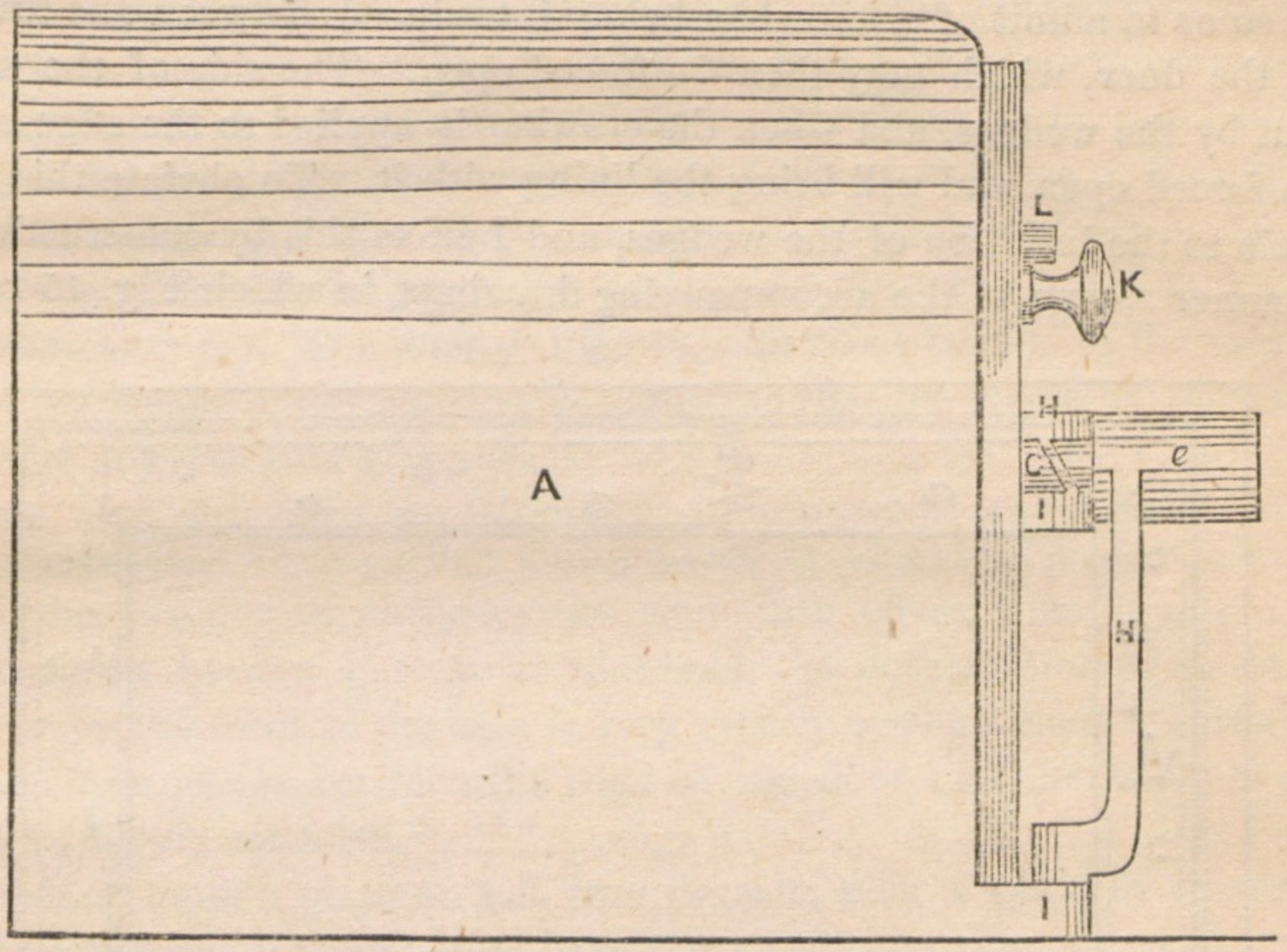


Fig. 43.—Cook's Patent. Side elevation.

safe, so that as said door is turned round, by means of a suitable handle, for the purpose of opening the door, for example, the screw aforesaid passes along the screwed hole in the aforesaid hinged arm, and thus allows the screw on the door to

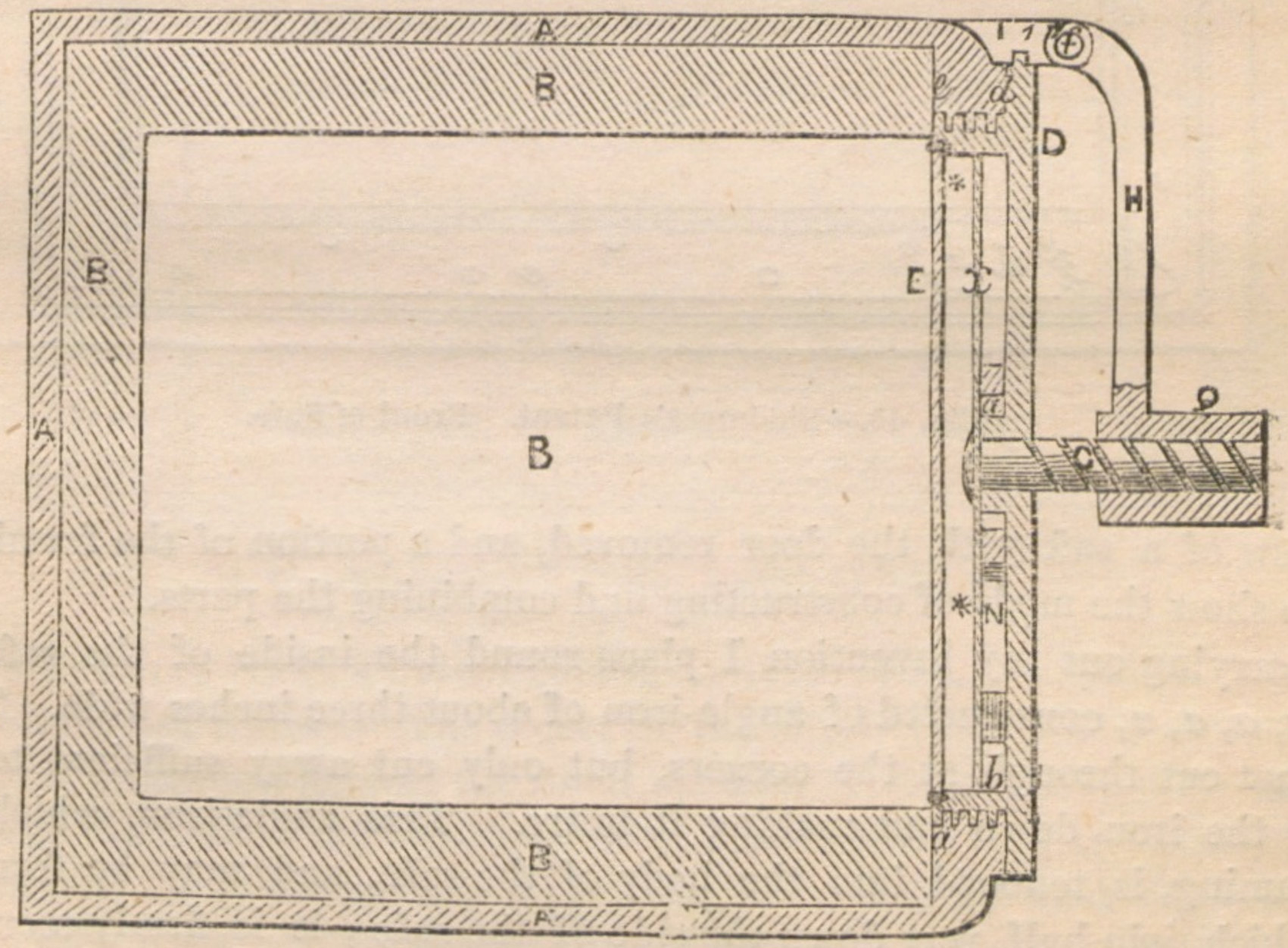


Fig. 44.—Cook's Patent. Horizontal section.

move parallel to the hinge until the door is open, when it may be turned on its hinged arm; a reverse movement will close the door. The door of the safe is intended to be fastened by any approved kind of lock."

Thomas Skidmore's Patent (dated April 7, 1865, No. 1,000). The patentee,

in his specification, states:—"In the manufacture of fire-proof safes for the protection of valuable property it has been the practice to throw the bolts into recesses formed in the fire-proof chamber, which is made of thin sheet iron, and it has been found that by driving in a metal wedge at the point where the door shuts into the safe, or using other force, the door will give way easily, and a space will be made so as to admit of a crowbar being introduced between the frame of the safe and the door, which may then be forced open. The side of the safe will be forced out by the wedges, and when the crowbar is applied to the edge of the door it can be forced open, and will bring the lining with it. To obviate this I interpose an obstacle to the insertion of the wedges, and I effect this by constructing the safe in the manner shown in the accompanying drawings, in which Fig. 45 represents a

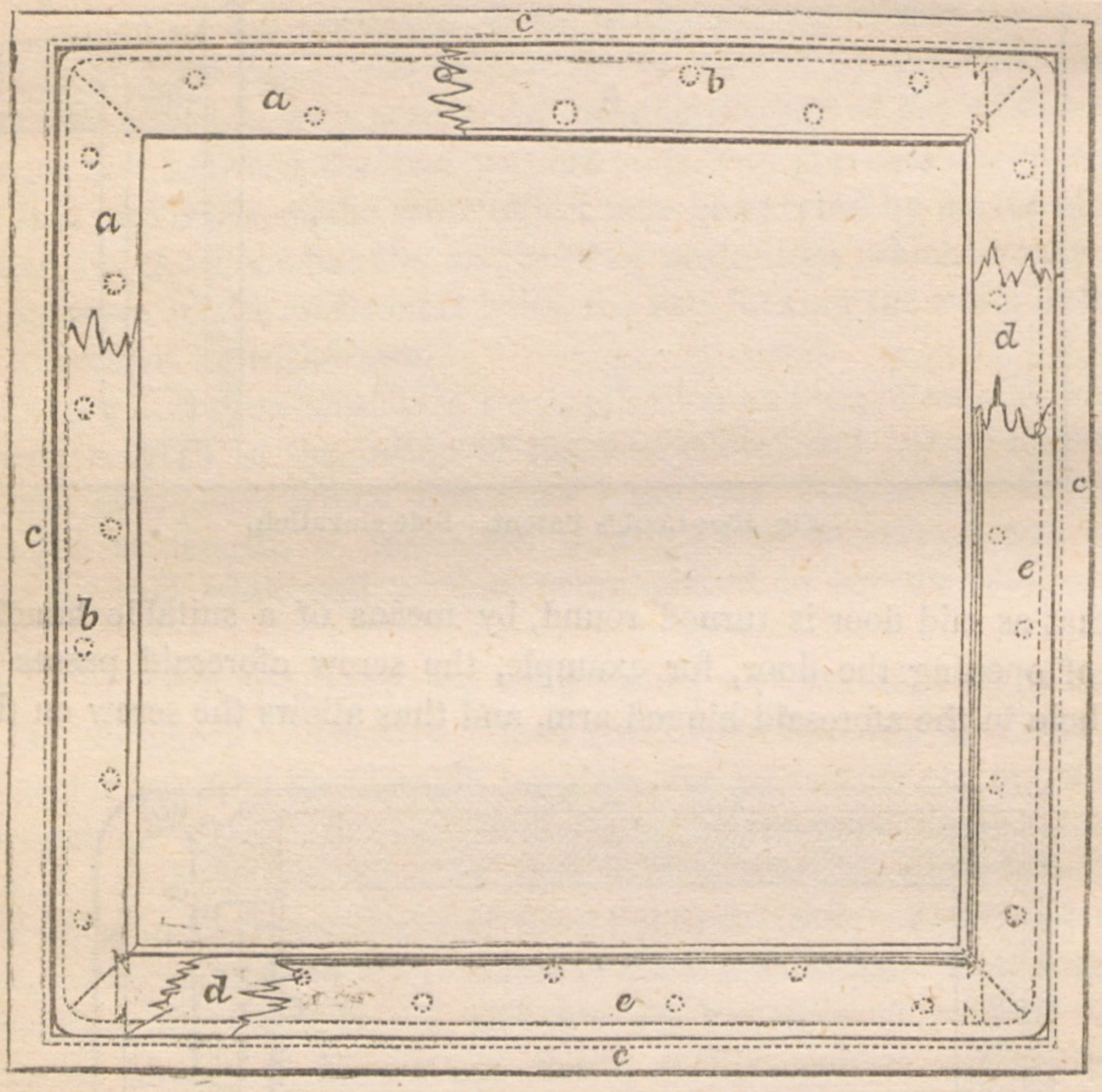


Fig. 45.—Skidmore's Patent. Front of Safe.

front view of a safe with the door removed, and a portion of the framing broken away, to show the mode of constructing and combining the parts.

"In carrying out my invention I place round the inside of the safe a strong frame, *a*, *a*, *a*, *a*, constructed of angle-iron of about three inches wide. The angle-iron is not cut through at the corners, but only cut away sufficient to admit of bending the iron down and making it mitre. This angle-iron, which forms an inner framing, is tenoned into the body of the safe, and may be formed in two parts, which join half way down the side of the safe; it is firmly secured to the safe all round by means of bolts or screws, as shown in the sectional plan view, Fig. 46. A frame *b*, *b*, of solid iron, about three inches wide by half an inch thick, is dovetailed together and placed on the angle-iron frame *a*, which is tenoned into the safe, as above mentioned. The angle-iron framing *a*, the iron frame *b*, and the sides *c*, *c*, of the safe are thus firmly secured together, and on this iron frame *b* is

placed a steel plate *d*, which fits into a groove in the body plates of the safe one quarter of the way through, and is made flush on the inside with the iron plate *b*. On the front of this steel plate *d* another plate *e* of quarter-inch iron is fixed, so as to form with the steel a rebate all round the safe; the whole of this is firmly screwed and riveted to the angle-iron and body plates, as shown in the sectional plan view. The door of the safe is also rebated, so as to fit the inner rebate of the frame before mentioned; it will, therefore, be evident that, by inserting wedges anywhere round the edge of the door the wedges will come in contact with the hardened steel plate *d*, and cannot be driven in. The front of the safe will also be so strengthened by the strong iron frame *b*, and angle-iron frame *a*, that it cannot be forced out by wedging. The interior capacity of the safe will not be decreased by this arrangement, as all the parts are arranged within the space required by the fireproof chambers *f*, *f*. The door *g*, Fig. 46, and side plates C of the safe are made drill-proof by means of hardened steel plates, so that the whole of the safe will be proof against any external violence.

"Having now described my invention of improvements in the construction of safes or receptacles for securing and protecting valuable property, and having explained the manner of carrying the same into effect, I claim as the invention secured to me by Letters Patent, as aforesaid, the combination of parts *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, and *e*, whereby the front of the safe is very greatly strengthened, and the possibility of introducing a wedge between the edge of the door and the frame is effectually prevented, as herein set forth."

The *combination* of a plate of soft iron outside, then a plate of hardened steel, and next another plate of soft iron, has been specified over and over again. See the drawings to Chubb's Patent, Feb. 9, 1865, No. 364; and Tann's Patent, March 11, 1865, No. 695. T. Milner and Son also adopt this construction, and we think, more or less, every member of the trade. As we have before stated, it is an attempt to do *imperfectly* what we do *effectually* by the case-hardening of our iron plates.

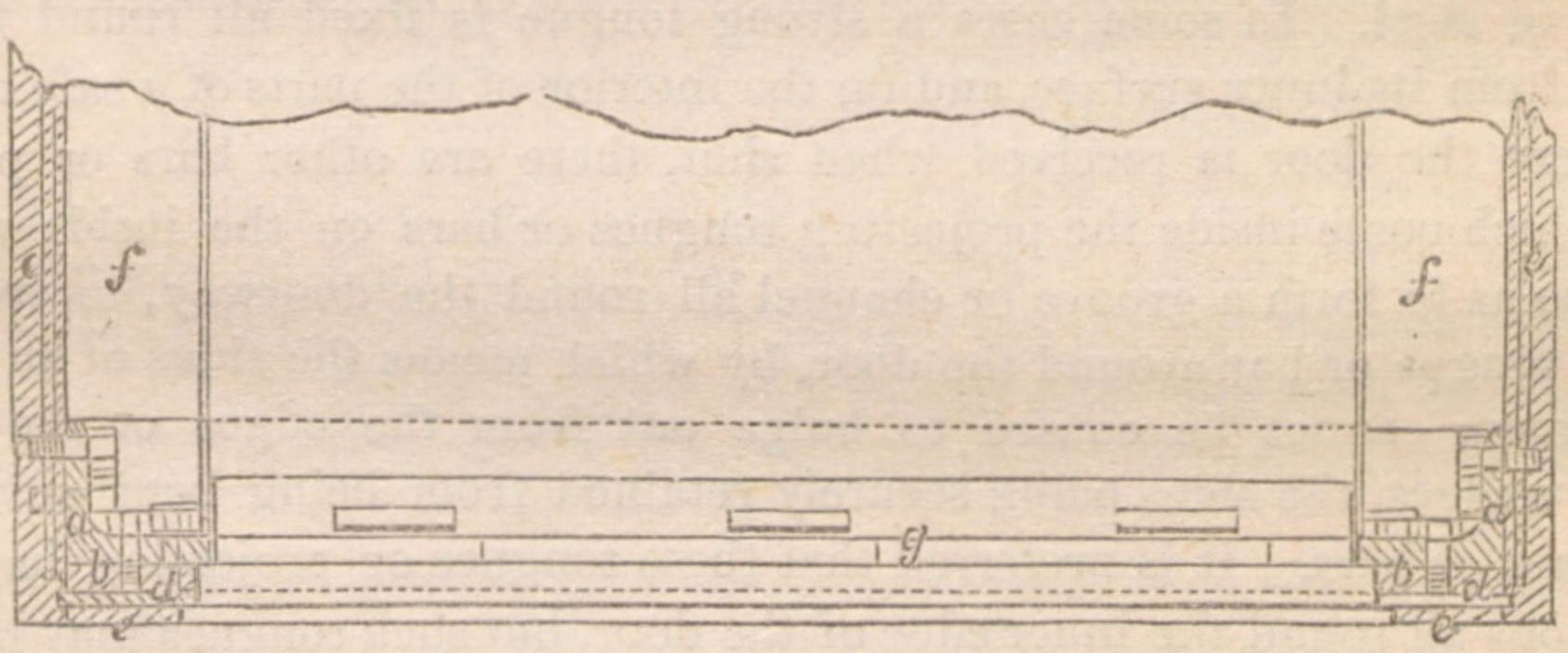


Fig. 46.—Skidmore's Patent. Section of Body and Door.

John Matthias Hart's Patent (dated April 12, 1865, No. 1,045). The patentee in his specification states—"The object of the improvements is to obtain increased security and protection against the illicit opening of such safe or other doors. For this purpose the axle of the handle or other mover of the bolt is provided not only with a follower for following and fixing the bolts, and an arm or surface to give motion to such bolts, or with a series of such arms or surfaces to operate a series of bolts, but also with another arm or surface or series of them to act upon and place in position a sliding abutment, or a series of them, for holding the bolts in position. I form each of the levers (sometimes called tumblers) of the locks with a series of gatings, and the bolts with corresponding series of stumps, at various regular or irregular distances apart; and each of these levers has also other slot openings or

notches to receive other stumps from the bed or other fixed or stationary plate of the lock, so that in the event of the axis or of any one or more of the stumps being cut or forced away the parts may still be held together by others of them so as to prevent the withdrawal of the bolt or bolts. These levers may be of various regular or irregular shapes. The belly, or that part of each of the levers acted upon by the key (when the bolt or a series of them is not operated by such key), is formed with a projection acting as a stop to enable the key to hold the levers in position during the locking or unlocking by the means employed to operate the bolts."

JOHN CHUBB and ROBERT GOATER'S Patent (dated April 13, 1865, No. 1,056). The patentees in their specification state :—" This invention has for its object improvements in iron safes and strong-rooms. For these purposes, in constructing the door and the parts of an iron safe or strong-room into which the door shuts there are formed or fixed around the door and on its interior surface a series of projections, through which are openings or passages coinciding with the bolts in the lock. On the interior of the safe or strong-room, where the door is received, there are other projections with openings through them, through which the projections on the inner surface of the door pass. Through each of the openings in the projections on the door, a bolt of the lock may be made to pass when the bolts are shot or locked, the bolts passing at the back of the projections on the interior of the safe or strong-room ; by this means the projections upon the door are prevented from being drawn out from the openings through the projections on the interior of the safe or strong-room. The projections on the door and the interior of the safe or strong-room are made strong, and by preference of steel, and will be most effectual in preventing the door being opened, or the sides or ends of a safe or strong-room being caused to bulge outward by the use of wedges or otherwise. In some cases, in place of having two sets of separate projections, one of the sets may be composed of strong bars, with openings through them corresponding in positions with the detached projections ; in all cases these parts are made strong, and by preference of steel. In some cases a strong tongue is fixed all round the door, projecting from its inner surface, and on the interior of the parts of a safe or strong-room, where the door is received when shut, there are other bars or projecting tongues, which come inside the projecting tongues or bars on the inside surface of the door, so as to form a groove or channel all round the doorway, to receive the projecting tongue or bar around the door, by which means the sides of an iron safe or strong-room cannot be caused to bulge out from the edges of the door by driving in wedges, the sides being securely retained from being bent outwards by such tongues or bars. It is preferred that these tongues or projecting bars should be continuous all round the inner edge of the door, but such tongues may be applied at intervals only."

This patent has been abandoned, having " received provisional protection only."

JAMES PARISH, CHARLES THATCHER, and THOMAS GLASSCOE'S Patent (dated June 20, 1865, No. 1,657). The patentees, in their specification, state :—" Our invention for preventing the forcing or wedging open iron safes, iron doors, and strong-rooms, consists in forming the door and door-frames of safes and strong-rooms, with dovetails round the edges of these parts. The dovetails are cut out of the solid metal, and by preference the dovetails on the door should project and fit into corresponding dovetail sockets cut in the frame. The door, and also the frame, is lined with sheet steel, in order to prevent the door from being drilled through for the purpose of introducing any forcing instruments."

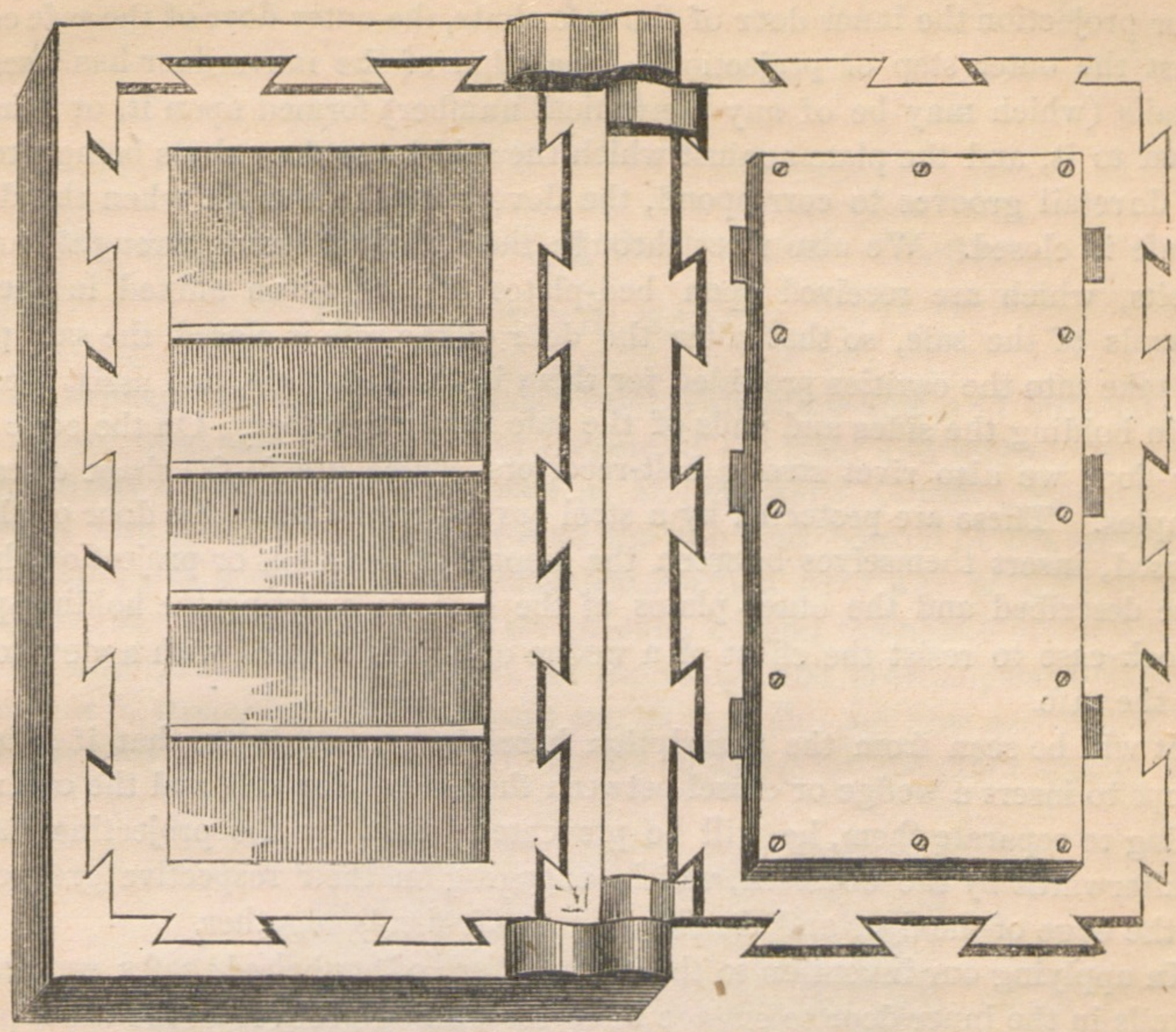


Fig. 47.—Parish, Thatcher, and Glasscoe's Patent.

HERBERT ALLMAN'S Patent (dated August 2, 1865, No. 2,006). The patentee, in his specification, states :—" I construct the safe of any suitable form, either cylindrical, square, or polygonal, or of any other convenient form.

" In constructing my improved safes, I cast the parts of the safe in such manner that all the surfaces to be presented on the outside become chilled iron—that is to say, the iron becomes chilled in the process of casting, which is, as is well known, the result of using metal moulds, and is commonly practised.

" The process of chilling applied to the construction of safes, renders the external metal of the safe so hard as to resist the action of cutting-tools, such as drills, centre-bits, or such-like instruments. I connect the parts of the safe in any suitable manner, as well understood in the trade; or the safe may even be cast all in one piece, excepting the door, which must be hinged, or otherwise applied thereto in a secure manner."

SAMUEL PHILLIPS and JOSEPH GROVES' Patent (dated August 17, 1865, No, 2,121). The patentees, in their specification, state :—" The object of this invention is by means of the improvements in their manufacture hereinafter set forth, so to construct safes, and other strong boxes of a similar character, that it may not be possible to force them open, and that so, perfect security may be given to their contents. We will first describe our invention as applied to the manufacture of belted safes. On the inside of the bar of which the belt consists, we form a projecting flat rib, which is parallel with the edges of the bar, the rib being rolled in one piece with the bar. The outer door will then shut down upon the outer edge of the rib, and upon the said rib an iron plate is riveted, for the purpose hereinafter explained. The edge of this plate is not flush with the edge of the rib, but stands a little farther back than the said rib, so that the rib and plate will form, as it were, steps or projections inside the safe, but parallel with its edge. Against the inner

step or projection the inner door of the safe shuts, the outer door of the safe coming against the outer step or projection. The edge of the inner door has a series of dovetails (which may be of any convenient number) formed upon it, or otherwise secured to it, and the plate against which the said inner door shuts being provided with dovetail grooves to correspond, the dovetails take therein when the door of the safe is closed. We also rivet through the iron door strong wrought-iron pins or bolts, which are received upon bed-plates of angle-iron affixed in the sides and ends of the safe, so that when the door of the safe is closed, the said pins or bolts take into the cavities provided for them in the bed-plate, and assist the dovetails in holding the sides and ends of the safe firmly together. On the edge of the inner door we also rivet strong bolt-receivers, which are in the shape of catches, or staples. These are protected by a steel covering, and when the door of the safe is closed, insert themselves between the second of the steps or projections hereinbefore described and the outer plates of the safe, so assisting the holding-pins of the lock-case to resist the effect of a wedge or chisel inserted with a view to force open the safe.

"It will be seen from the description hereinbefore set forth, that if a burglar attempt to insert a wedge or chisel between the side of the safe and the outer door, desiring to separate them, he will be prevented; first, by the projecting flat rib, and afterwards by the dovetails, which, engaging in their respective grooves, will lock the edge of the door and the side of the safe firmly together.

"In applying our invention to the manufacture of 'unbelted' safes, we cause the dovetails in the inner door to engage in corresponding grooves in the inner plate f the safe. The rib hereinbefore described as employed in the construction of belted safes, is dispensed with.

"In order to prevent the insertion of a wedge or chisel between the hinge of the door of the safe and the side to which the door is hinged, we make the edge of the hinged side of the door nearly semi-cylindrical in figure, and form a semi-cylindrical groove to correspond along that edge of the safe to which the door is hinged. When the door is shut, its semi-cylindrical edge fits in the corresponding semi-cylindrical groove, and the narrow space between them being curved, it is impossible to insert a wedge or chisel therein with any effect."

This belt and flat rib rolled together, appears to be the same as the ⊢ bar claimed by Chatwood, in the specification of his patent, dated March 2, 1865, No. 585. The above specification is so badly drawn, that it is difficult to make out what the inventors really mean by the "outer door" and the "inner door," but we believe that the dovetails on the edge of the "inner door," with corresponding grooves in the outer plate of the body or frame of the door, are identical with the invention of Mr. Sutcliffe, of the Manchester Detective Police Force, and since adapted by Messrs. Milner. (See page 146.) The making the edge of the hinged side of the door semi-cylindrical, with a corresponding semi-cylindrical groove in the door-frame, is what we have regularly done since 1858, in the construction of our "Burnley" safes.

GEORGE PRICE'S Patent (dated March 7, 1866; No. 694).

WEDGE-PROOF SAFES.

From experiments made on the ordinary safes with the wedge and crowbar, we found the chief weakness lay at the four corners of the front and midway between each. As before stated, the Milners' safe at Mr. Walker's, Cornhill, was opened by operating with wedges midway between the top and bottom of the left-hand side of the safe, whilst others of the same construction gave way at the top left hand front angle. In inventing a safe that should, beyond the possibility of doubt, resist every attempt to open it by the aid of the wedge and crowbar, our first consideration was to strengthen the four front angles, and this we now accomplish in two different ways. One plan is to form the opening for the door out of the

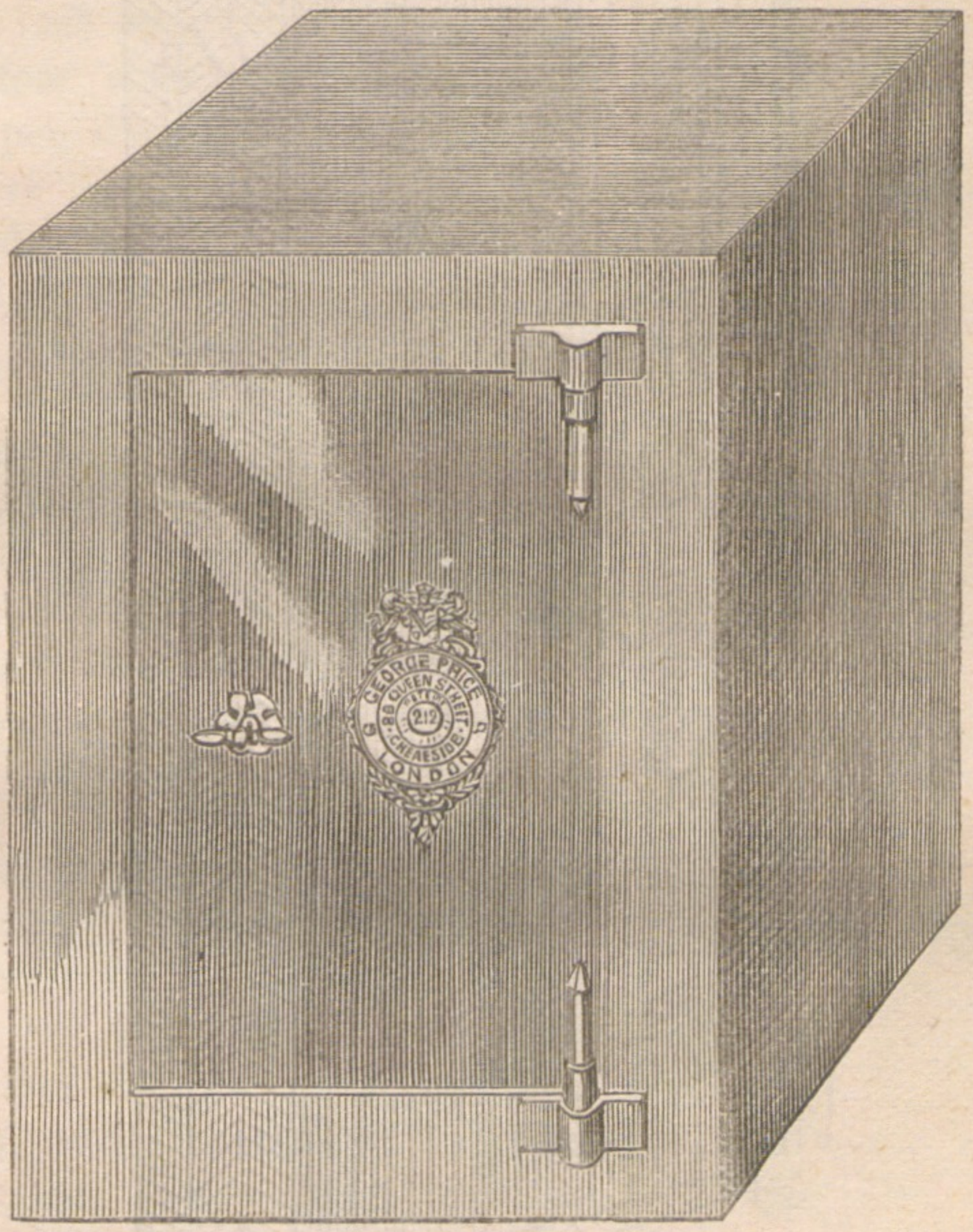


Fig. 48.—Perspective view of "The British Safe."

solid boiler-plate, leaving around such opening a width of at least three and a-half inches. This flat frame is dovetailed to the front edges of the four plates forming the four sides of the safe, and riveted to angle-bars inside all round the front in the same manner as is usual in fastening the body-plates together. This flat ring or perforated plate (see Figs. 48 and 49), gives such enormous *lateral* strength to the four front sides, as well as the four corners, of the safe, that it must be evident to the most sceptical, how utterly impossible it would be to hammer a wedge

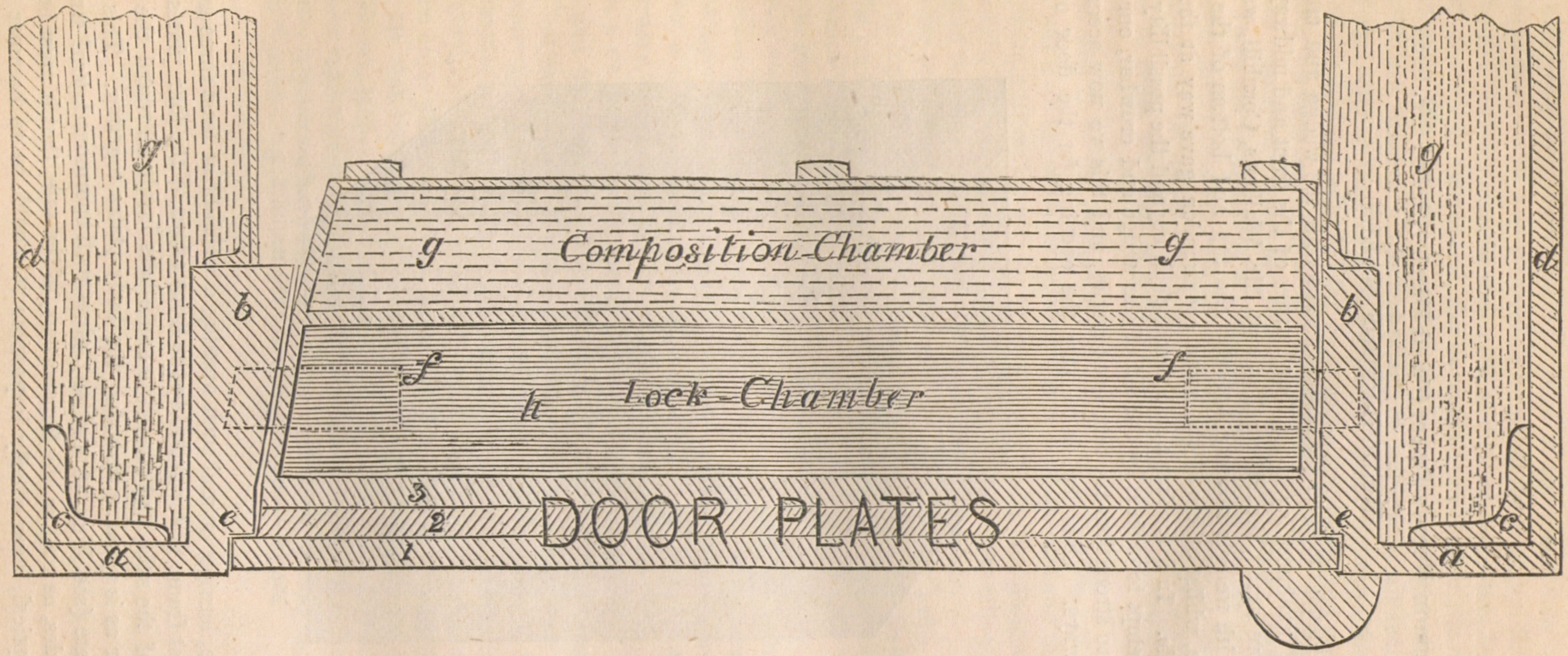


Fig. 49.—George Price's new Patent.—THE "BRITISH" SAFE. Section of Body and Door.—*a*, *a*, The flat frame; *b*, *b*, the bolt-hole and rebate bar; *d*, *d*, the body-plates; *e*, *e*, the rebate; *f*, *f*, the bolts; *g*, *g*, *g*, *g*, the fire-proof composition chambers; *h*, the lock chamber; 1, 2, 3, the plates forming the door.

between any part of the edge of the door and the inside edge of the flat ring or frame. As a further security, *if considered necessary*, we fix a dovetail-shaped projection on each of the four sides of the door-frame, with corresponding indents or openings in the edges of one or two of the plates forming the door. The door is formed of three half-inch plates (1, 2, 3, Figs. 49 and 50); the outer and the inner ones being case-hardened, and the middle one soft iron. The middle plate (2, Figs. 49 and 50) is first screwed to the outer one (1) from the inside, and the inner one (3) to the middle one (2), also from the inside, as shown in Fig. 50. The flat ring or perforated plate (Fig. 49) may be made of any thickness of boiler-plate, or it may be forged all in one piece, and, in either case, it may be case-hardened the same as the door-plates. We also make the two inner plates (2, 3) of the door half an inch less than the outer plate (1) on all the four sides, so that the outer plate (1) rests upon the rebate-bar all round. This stops the wedge from entering beyond the half-inch in depth, and is, we understand, the identical "slight alteration" referred to by Caseley as being required to keep the wedge from successfully operating. But the best preventive of all others, or of anything yet invented, when combined with our new improvements, is the case-hardening of the external surface of the door itself, and this can only be done by GEORGE PRICE, the sole patentee.

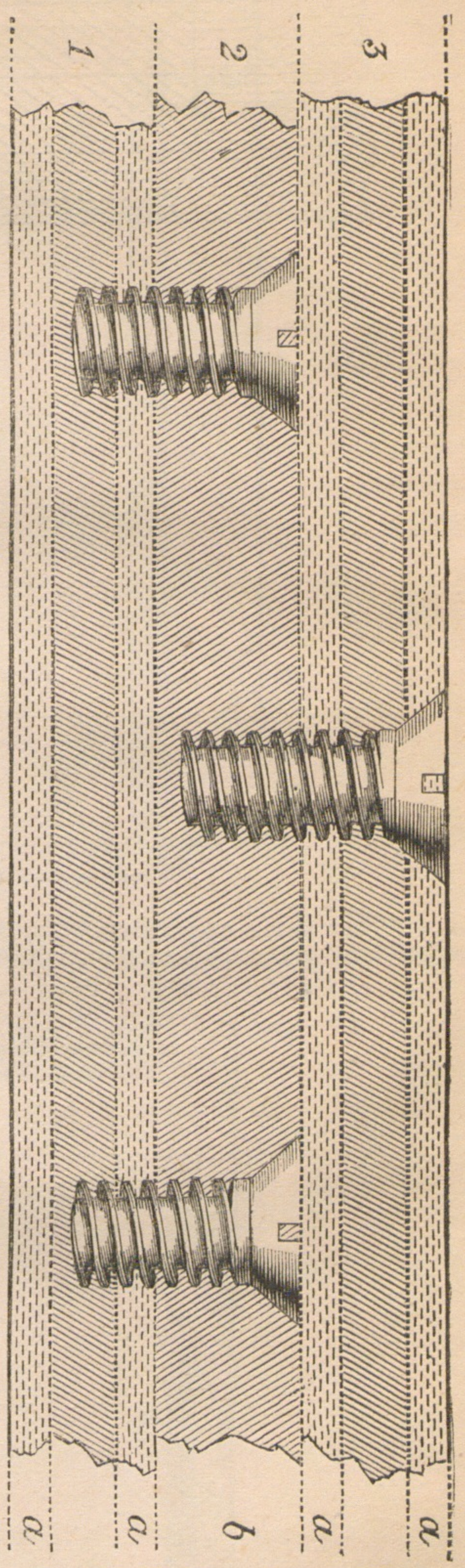


Fig. 50.—Full size section of George Price's Patent Safe Door. 1 and 3, the outer and inner case-hardened plates; 2, the middle soft plate; *a*, *a*, *a*, *a*, the portions of the plates converted into the hardest steel.

The other plan is to prepare the body of the safe of half-inch plates in the usual way, and then to form the inside strengthening band or ring of four or eight pieces of bar iron, 5 by 1 inch, two or four of which, instead of being dovetailed at the corners, as has been the custom hitherto, are *bent* and fitted to each angle, and the other straight pieces are dovetailed into them, as shown in Fig. 52, thus forming a continuous band or ring, which is strongly riveted to the outer body-plates all round the front. Within and against this is riveted another band of bar iron, $4\frac{3}{8}$ by 1 inch (see *b*, Figs. 51 and 53), into which the bolt-holes for the bolts of the large lock are cut, and which forms the rebate-bar for the door-plates to rest upon. On the front edge of this continuous bar, and against the other band or ring (Figs. 51 and 53), is screwed or riveted a bar of iron for about one-third of the length of each side of the safe, and equi-distant from each angle, which may be described as

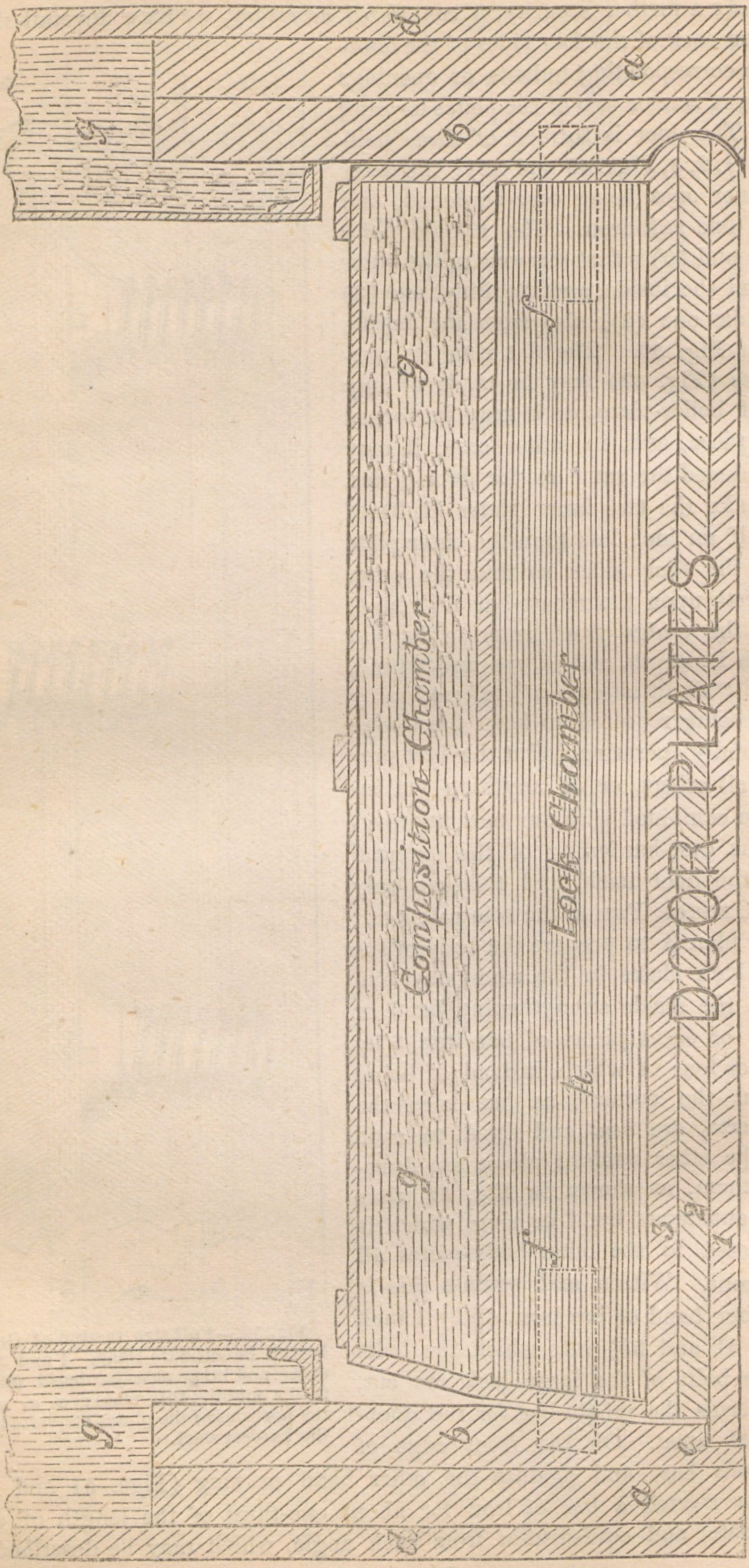


Fig. 51.—George Price's new Patent.—The "Improved London" Safe. Section of Body and Door.—*a, a,* The continuous band or ring; *b, b,* the body-plates; *e,* the rebate; *f, f,* the bolts; *g, g, g, g,* the fire-proof composition 'chambers; *h,* the lock chamber; 1, 2, 3, the plates forming bar; *d, d,* the body-plates forming the door.

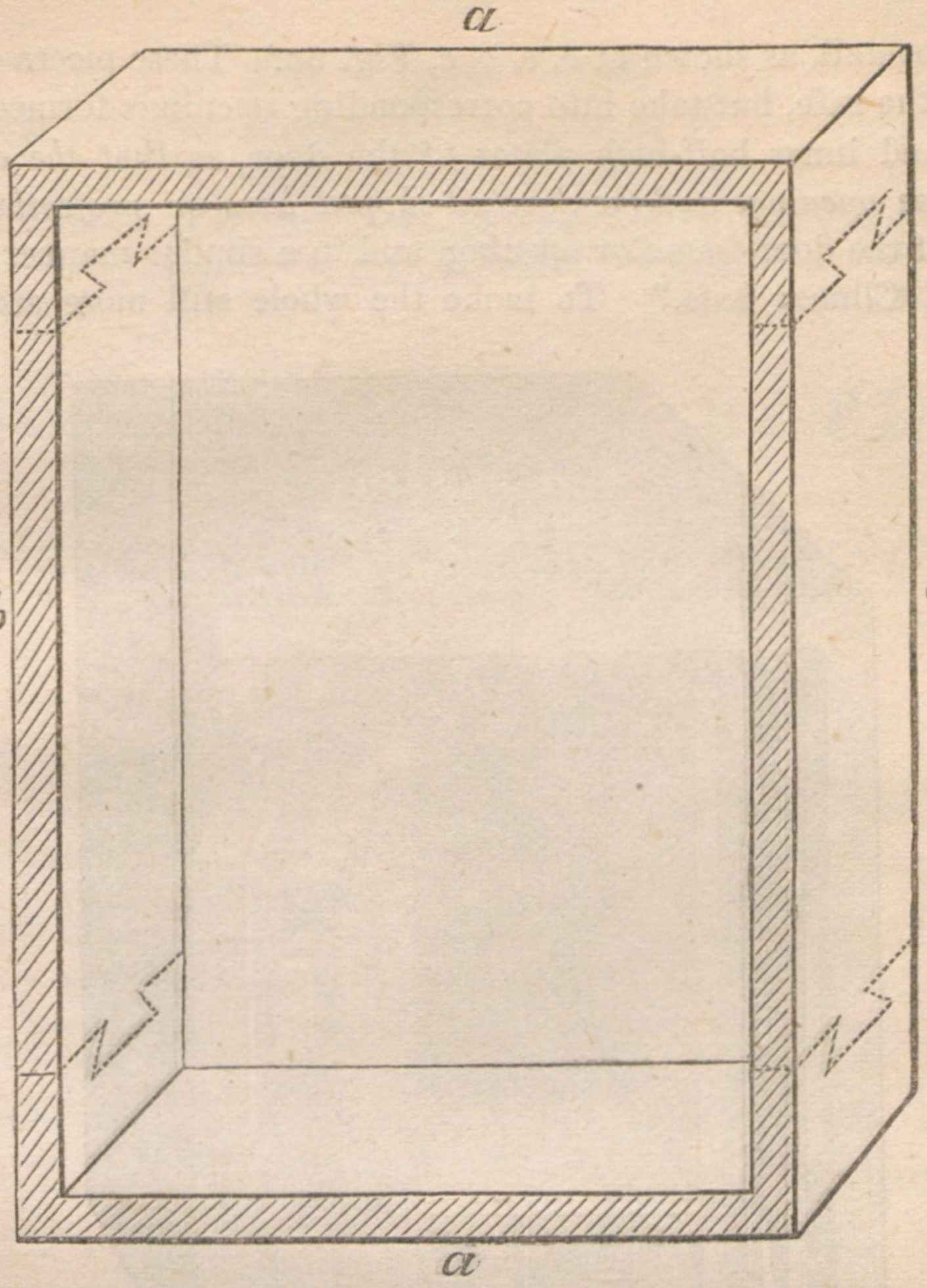


Fig. 52.—Strengthening band or ring, as used in George Price's "Improved London Safe." *a*, *a*, the top and bottom pieces bent at the corners; *b*, *b*, the upright pieces dovetailed into the top and bottom pieces, as indicated by the dotted lines.

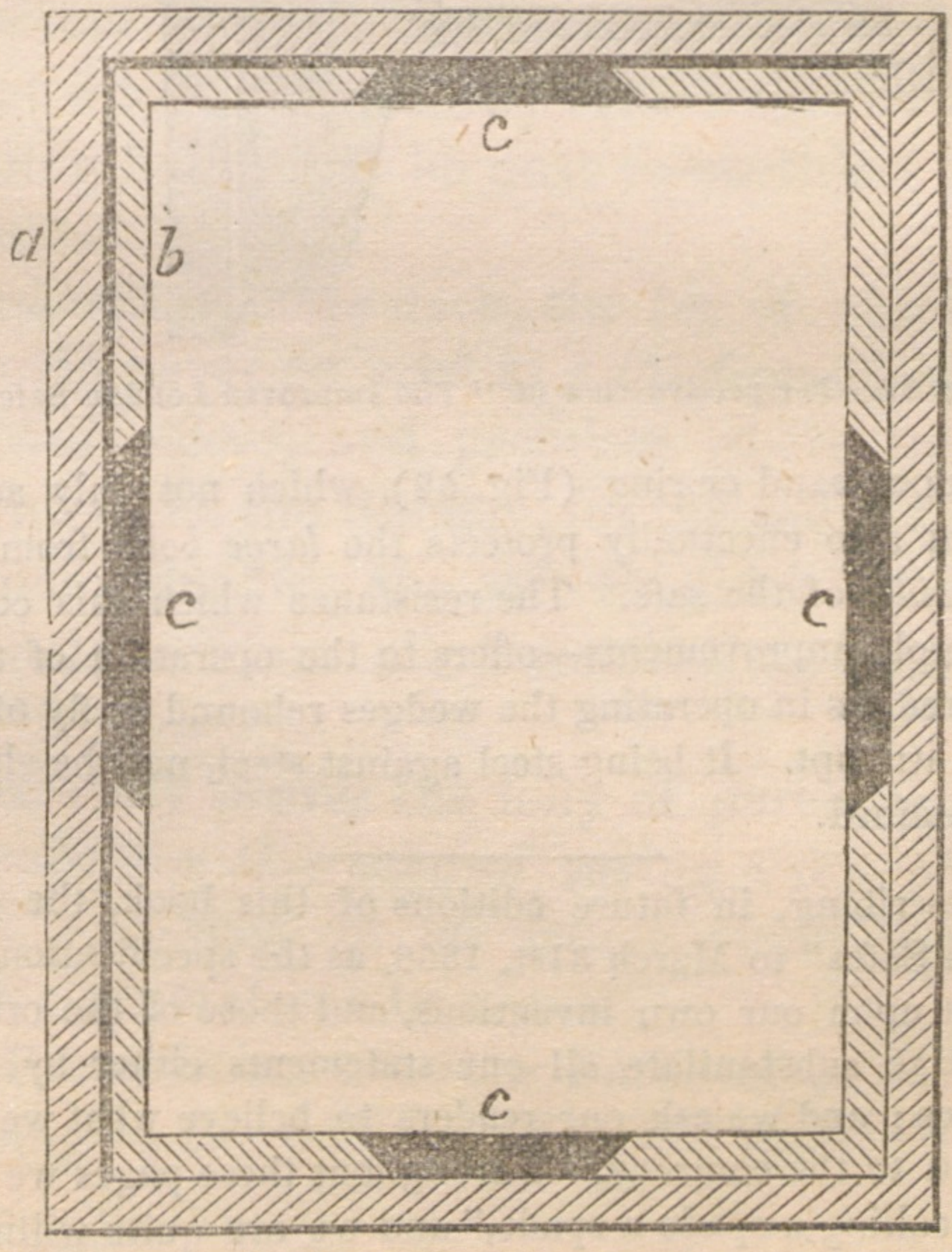


Fig. 53.—Front plan of the inside bands of the "Improved London Safe." *a*, the outer body, with the inner band *a* of Fig. 51; *b*, the bars in which the bolt-holes are cut, and upon which a dovetail-shaped piece of iron, *c*, *c*, *c*, *c*, is fixed for about one-third of the distance in the middle between each angle.

an elongated dovetail, as shown at *c*, *c*, *c*, *c*, Fig. 53. These pieces do not extend to the front of the safe, but take into corresponding openings formed in the edges of the middle and inner half-inch plates of the door, so that *the outer half-inch plate covers these openings and the dovetail-shaped bars or projections* on each of the four sides of the door-frame or opening, and in a similar manner to that of our Patent "Royal Climax Safe." To make the whole still more secure, we case-

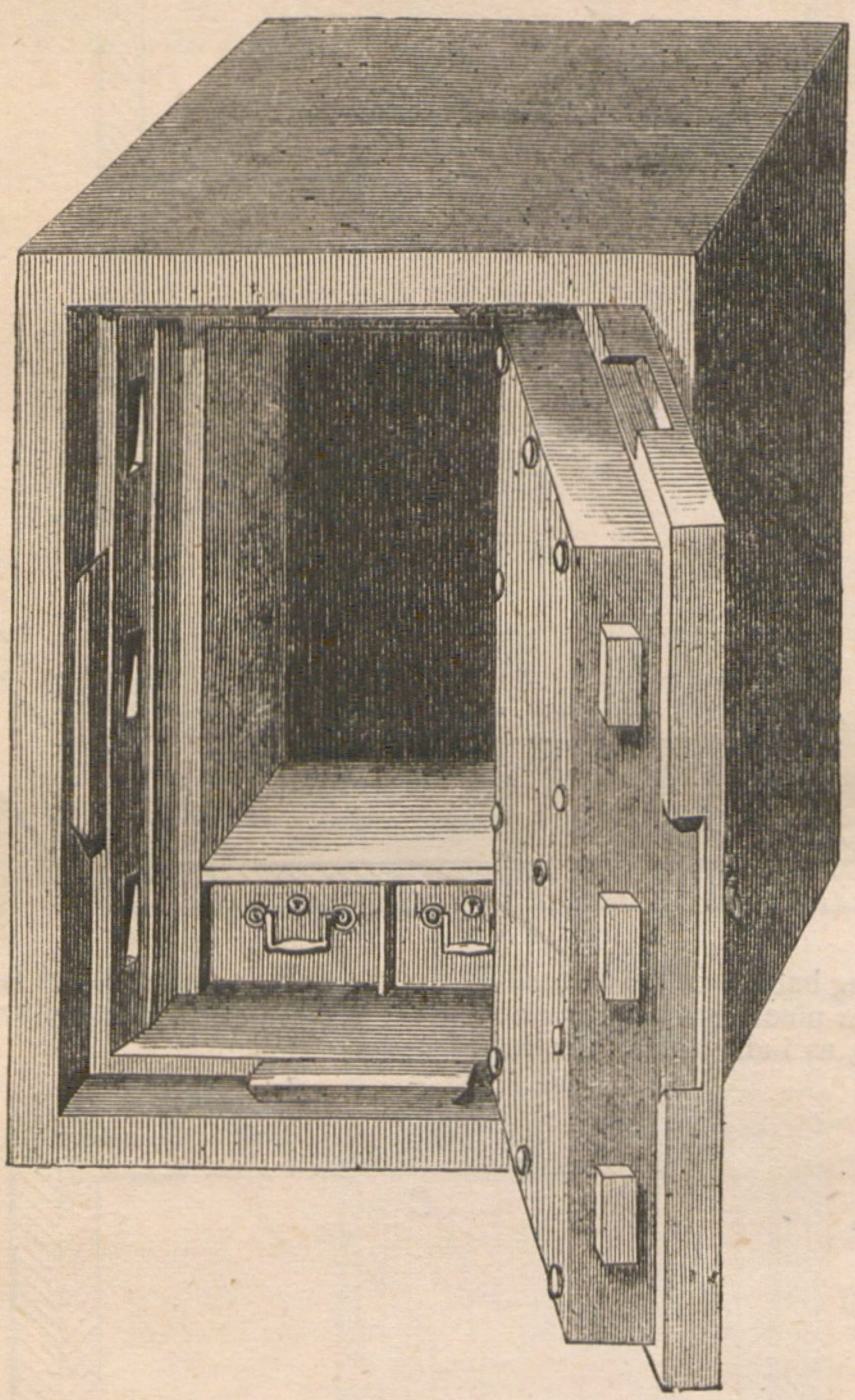


Fig. 54.—Perspective view of "The Improved London Safe."

harden the continuous band or ring (Fig. 52), which not only assists in keeping out the wedge, but also effectually protects the *large bolts* from being operated upon through the *sides* of the safe. The resistance which this construction—this combination of simple improvements—offers to the operation of the wedge, is all that could be desired, as in operating the wedges rebound or fly off, or their points break off at every attempt. It being steel against steel, not the slightest "bite" or "hold" can be obtained.

We purpose describing, in future editions of this book, the other patents for "Improvements in Safes" to March 31st, 1866, as the specifications are published.

In our remarks upon our own inventions, and those of the other patentees, we have endeavoured to substantiate all our statements either by facts or by corroborative evidence; and we ask our readers to believe what we have written to be truth till proved to the contrary. Throughout these pages we have acted upon the principle of "calling a spade a spade," and we are quite willing to be judged accordingly.

BY HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

GEORGE PRICE'S SAFES.

PATENTS DATED IN 1855, 1859, 1860, 1863, 1866.

NOTICE.

In the purchase of an Iron Safe it will be well always to observe the following particulars:—

In obtaining an iron safe, the amount of risk the position it is to occupy will subject it to, whether against thieves, burglars, or fire, should always have especial consideration.

As a general rule, all safes made of *cast*-iron are utterly worthless as thief-proof depositories; so also are those made of *sheet*-iron.

Wrought-iron safes, with doors of less thickness than half-an-inch, should never be used as depositories for valuable property against either fire or *burglars*.

A safe that would be perfectly secure against thieves in an *inhabited* dwelling-house may be next to worthless in a *detached* office or warehouse.

Safes fitted with a large lock, the *key* of which throws the large bolts, should never be used as a *thief*-proof depository.

For *detached* offices, and premises where no one resides during the night, or on the Sunday, for the safe-keeping of cash, plate, and similar valuables, the safe should be of the strongest make, and should contain all GEORGE PRICE'S patented improvements.

Experience daily proves the folly of purchasing an inferior and insecure safe, for the sake of saving a few pounds in the original outlay, and that for an article which, if really a good one, will last for generations to come.

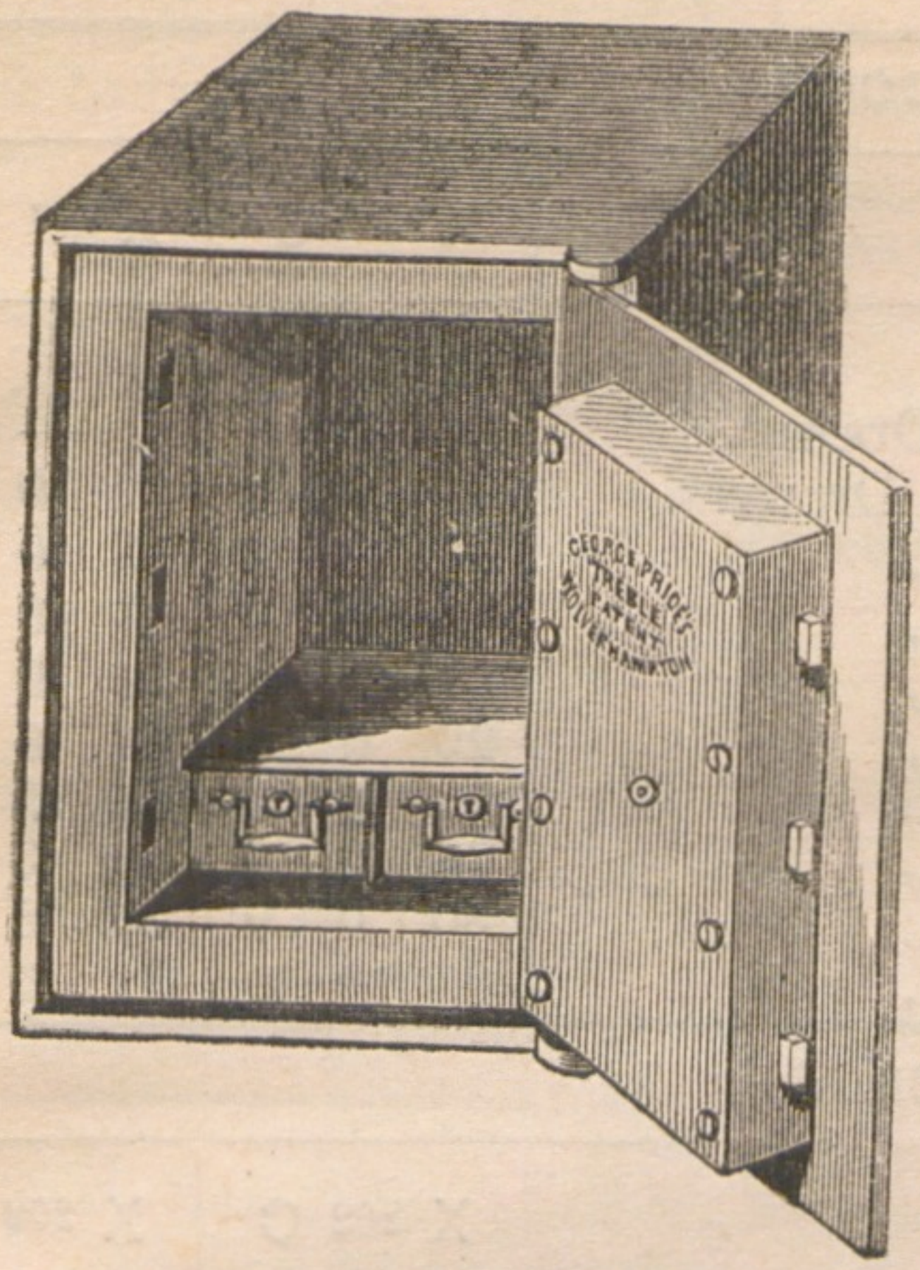
GEORGE PRICE being the sole Patentee of the application of case-hardening to the bodies or doors of safes, no other maker can supply these celebrated impregnable drill-proof "Holdfasts."

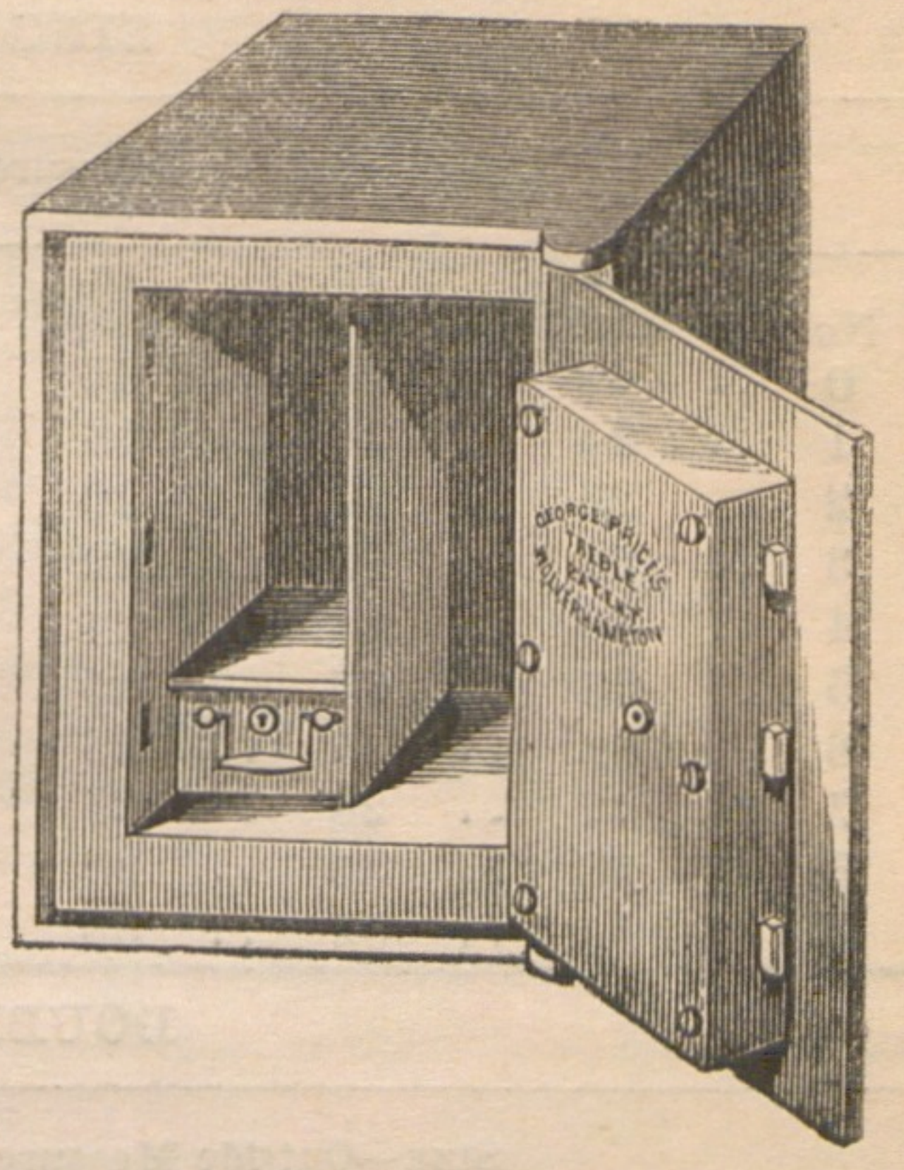
GEORGE PRICE'S FIRE-RESISTING SAFES.

THE whole of GEORGE PRICE'S Safes, Chests, and Boxes, are made fire-proof on the principle of steam generation and non-conduction, the patent for which (THOMAS MILNER'S, 1840) expired in 1854; but several instances having lately occurred in which property enclosed in a Milners' Fire-Proof Safe has been destroyed by fire, GEORGE PRICE deems it necessary again to caution the public against purchasing inferior or common safes for the preservation of books, papers, and cash from fire. Since the year 1856, G. PRICE has repeatedly given notice of the necessity of assisting the safe in every possible way, by either building it in a wall or surrounding it with masonry, *where the risk of intense heat continuing for many hours in close proximity to the safe is at all likely.* He has proved, by both public and private tests, that a steam-generating safe will preserve books, papers, bank notes, and coin from injury in the hottest fire, in the proportion of one hour to every inch in thickness of the fire-proof composition, but no longer. This principle is based on a natural law, and is, therefore, invariable. The "testimonials" and "statements" which T. Milner and Son have published have, doubtless, led the public astray on this most important point. T. Milner and Son, in their price-lists, warrant their "Double Bankers' Safe," *i.e.*, one safe placed inside another, thus giving an aggregate thickness of six inches of fire-proof composition, "to bear twenty-four hours' exposure to red heat . . without injury to books or papers inside;" and yet they have never dared to publicly test one for a longer period than *five and a half* hours. Their safes, with *three-inch* chambers, they have never dared to test for a longer period than *three* hours; which confirms GEORGE PRICE'S theory and the result of his experiments, namely, that, as before stated, no steam-generating safe will resist continuous red heat, without injury to the contents, longer than one hour to every inch in thickness of the composition, no matter whether the latter be in one, or divided into two, three, or more chambers. It is the *quantity* and *thickness* of the composition, and not the *number of chambers* it is divided into, that is the principal desideratum. For this reason, the larger the safe the better may it be expected to preserve the contents from injury.

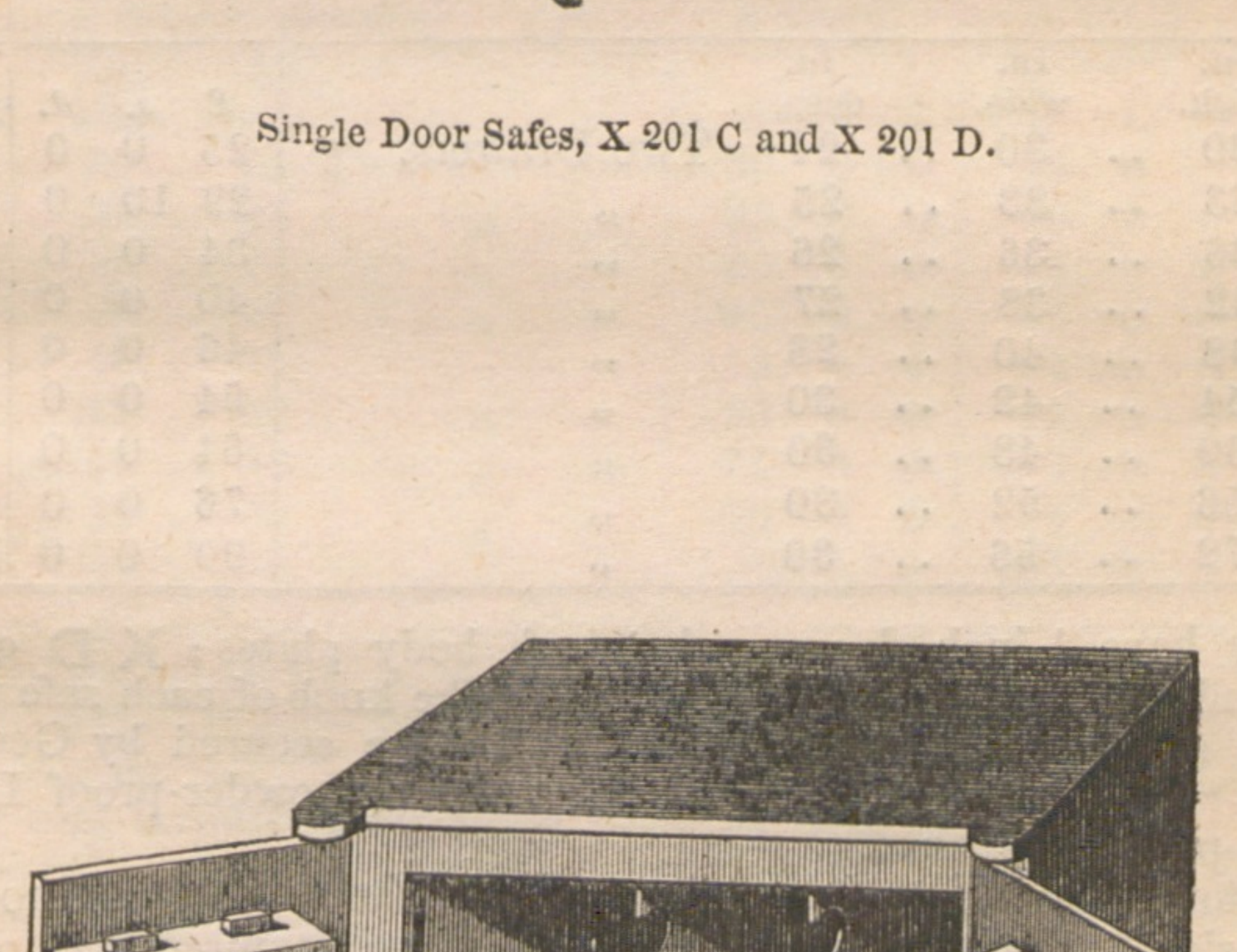
For all *ordinary* risks, such as exist in dwelling-houses and offices, a thickness of composition of from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches is, doubtless, sufficient, as the fire will only continue burning in a given spot so long as it finds food to feed upon, and no longer. It travels quickly from room to room, and storey to storey, till all the combustible matter has become consumed; consequently, it is only in exceptional cases where the fire remains in contact with the safe for more than—say—from sixty to ninety minutes. In all the fires of limited duration in which steam-generating safes have been, the contents have invariably been preserved; but where the heat has lasted around the safe for many consecutive hours (as in the recent fires in Demerara and at Glasgow), the contents, as invariably, have been destroyed, and so it must always be. The steam-generating principle of making safes fire-resisting is natural and simple, and is very far superior to any other, but it is absurd on the part of the public to expect such safes to stand red heat for an *unlimited* period of time; and equally absurd and deserving of censure on the part of safe-makers to induce the belief in such a ridiculous idea. It is no haphazard principle. A safe made to preserve the contents from injury for three hours' exposure to red heat will be certain always to have the contents destroyed if the heat should last for only one hour longer. At the same time, no amount of fire or intensity of heat will destroy the contents during and up to the end of the three hours. These truths should not detract from the great value of the principle, which cannot be extolled too highly. In the words of Lord Campbell, "It was a comfort for one to know that there was such an invention, by which valuable documents might be rendered secure, notwithstanding the terrible calamity of fire breaking out in a house;" and "it (the composition) seems a most marvellous preservative against fire, for the water remains permanently held in artificial or natural vessels, and the very calamity brings the cure; for the heat evolves the water or moisture, and then it is turned into steam, and the steam moistens the substance that is to be preserved, and so it is an effectual guard against fire."

GEORGE PRICE has, in his various publications, made known the art and mysteries of safe-making, and has distinctly stated what a safe will stand and what it won't, with the "reason why." He has neither used trickery nor deception as aids in the establishment of his business, as he believes that truthfulness and candour, by inducing confidence in the integrity of his assertions, must eventually lead to a successful result.





Single Door Safes, X 201 C and X 201 D.



Double Door Safe, X 202 C and X 202 D.

GEORGE PRICE'S

TREBLE-PATENT FIRE-RESISTING BOOK & PLATE SAFES,

THE "LONDON" PATTERN.

SINGLE DOOR.

Size—Outside Measure. No.	In. high.	In. wide.	In. deep.		X 201 C £	s.	d.	X 201 D £	s.	d.
0	22	16	16	No Drawer.	9	0	0		—	
1	24	18	18	Two Drawers.	11	0	0	12	10	0
2	26	20	20	,,	13	0	0	15	0	0
3	28	22	22	,,	15	0	0	17	10	0
4	30	24	24	,,	17	10	0	20	0	0
5	33	25	25	,,	20	0	0	23	0	0
6	36	26	26	,,	23	0	0	26	0	0
7	42	28	27	,,	26	0	0	30	0	0
8	48	30	28	,,	30	0	0	35	0	0
8½	54	32	30	,,	36	0	0	42	0	0

DOUBLE DOORS.

Size—Outside Measure. No.	In. high.	In. wide.	In. deep.		X 202 C £	s.	d.	X 202 D £	s.	d.
9	30	30	24	Two Drawers.	25	0	0	30	0	0
10	33	33	25	,,	29	10	0	34	10	0
11	36	36	26	,,	34	0	0	40	0	0
12	42	38	27	,,	40	0	0	46	0	0
13	48	40	28	,,	46	0	0	53	0	0
14	54	42	30	,,	54	0	0	62	0	0
15	60	48	30	,,	64	0	0	74	0	0
16	66	52	30	,,	76	0	0	88	0	0
17	72	56	30	,,	90	0	0	105	0	0

X C quality have ½-inch doors and ¼-inch body plates; X D quality have ⅝-inch doors and ¼-inch to ⅜-inch body plates. The knob of each safe throws three or more bolts at each side of the door, which are secured by George Price's Double-patent "Ne plus ultra" Unpickable and Gunpowder-proof Lock, with a hardened drill-proof plate over.

Each partition from 6*s.* to 35*s.* extra. Each shelf from 10*s.* to 35*s.* extra, according to size. Where partitions or shelves are required, the order should particularly express it. Nos. 1 to 4, with one drawer half across and one upright partition, or one large drawer, same price as with two drawers. Nos. 9 and 10, with two upright movable partitions, 20*s.* extra. Nos. 11 and 12, with two upright movable partitions, and shelf 21 inches clear above the drawers, 40*s.* extra. Nos. 8, 8½, and 13 to 17 have the drawers in the middle, 21 inches clear from the top, unless otherwise ordered.

Quality X C have 3-inch chambers, filled with patent fire-resisting composition, and are, inside measure, 7 inches less in height and width, and 8 inches less in depth. The front strengthening bars are dovetailed, and the outer plates are riveted to strong angle-iron inside. The X D quality have 3½-inch chambers, and are, inside measure, 8 inches less in height and width, and 9 inches less in depth. The outer plates are both dovetailed and riveted to strong angle-iron inside. The front strengthening bars are dovetailed also.

One key is supplied to the left-hand drawer and one to the right-hand drawer, each to differ, with a master key to pass both drawers. The door lock has two keys (duplicates). The drawer locks are George Price's hand-made five-lever.

WITH PATENT CASE-HARDENED DOORS,

BEING FIRE-RESISTING, PICKLOCK-PROOF, GUNPOWDER-PROOF, AND DRILL-PROOF.

X C quality have ¼-inch body plates and ½-inch doors. X D quality have ¼-inch to ⅜-inch body plates and ⅝-inch doors. The "Burnley" quality have ¼-inch to ⅜-inch body plates and 1 inch solid doors, made of two ½-inch case-hardened plates fastened together.

SINGLE DOOR.

SIZE.—Outside Measure.					X 201 C			X 201 D			201 "Burnley."		
No.	In. high.	In. wide.	In. deep.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1	24	18	18	Two Drawers.	13	0	0	15	0	0	—		
2	26	20	20	„	15	10	0	17	10	0	20	0	0
3	28	22	22	„	18	0	0	20	0	0	23	0	0
4	30	24	24	„	20	10	0	23	0	0	26	0	0
5	33	25	25	„	23	0	0	26	10	0	30	0	0
6	36	26	26	„	26	0	0	30	0	0	34	0	0
7	42	28	27	„	30	0	0	35	0	0	40	0	0
8	48	30	28	„	35	0	0	41	0	0	47	0	0
8½	54	32	30	„	42	0	0	50	0	0	57	0	0

DOUBLE DOORS.

SIZE.—Outside Measure.					X 202 C			X 202 D			202 "Burnley."		
No.	In. high.	In. wide.	In. deep.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
9	30	30	24	Two Drawers.	30	0	0	35	0	0	40	0	0
10	33	33	25	„	35	0	0	40	0	0	45	0	0
11	36	36	26	„	40	0	0	45	0	0	51	0	0
12	42	38	27	„	45	0	0	53	0	0	60	0	0
13	48	40	28	„	53	0	0	62	0	0	71	0	0
14	54	42	30	„	63	0	0	75	0	0	85	0	0
15	60	48	30	„	75	0	0	90	0	0	102	0	0
16	66	52	30	„	90	0	0	106	0	0	120	0	0
17	72	56	30	„	105	0	0	125	0	0	140	0	0

Each partition from 6*s.* to 35*s.* extra. Each shelf from 10*s.* to 35*s.* extra, according to size. Where partitions or shelves are required, the order should particularly express it. Nos. 1 to 4, with one drawer half across and one upright partition, or one large drawer, same price as with two drawers. Nos. 9 and 10, with two upright moveable partitions, 20*s.* extra. Nos. 11 and 12, with two upright moveable partitions and shelf, 21 inches clear above the drawers, 40*s.* extra. Nos. 8, 8½, and 13 to 17, have the drawers in the middle, 21 inches clear from the top, unless otherwise ordered.

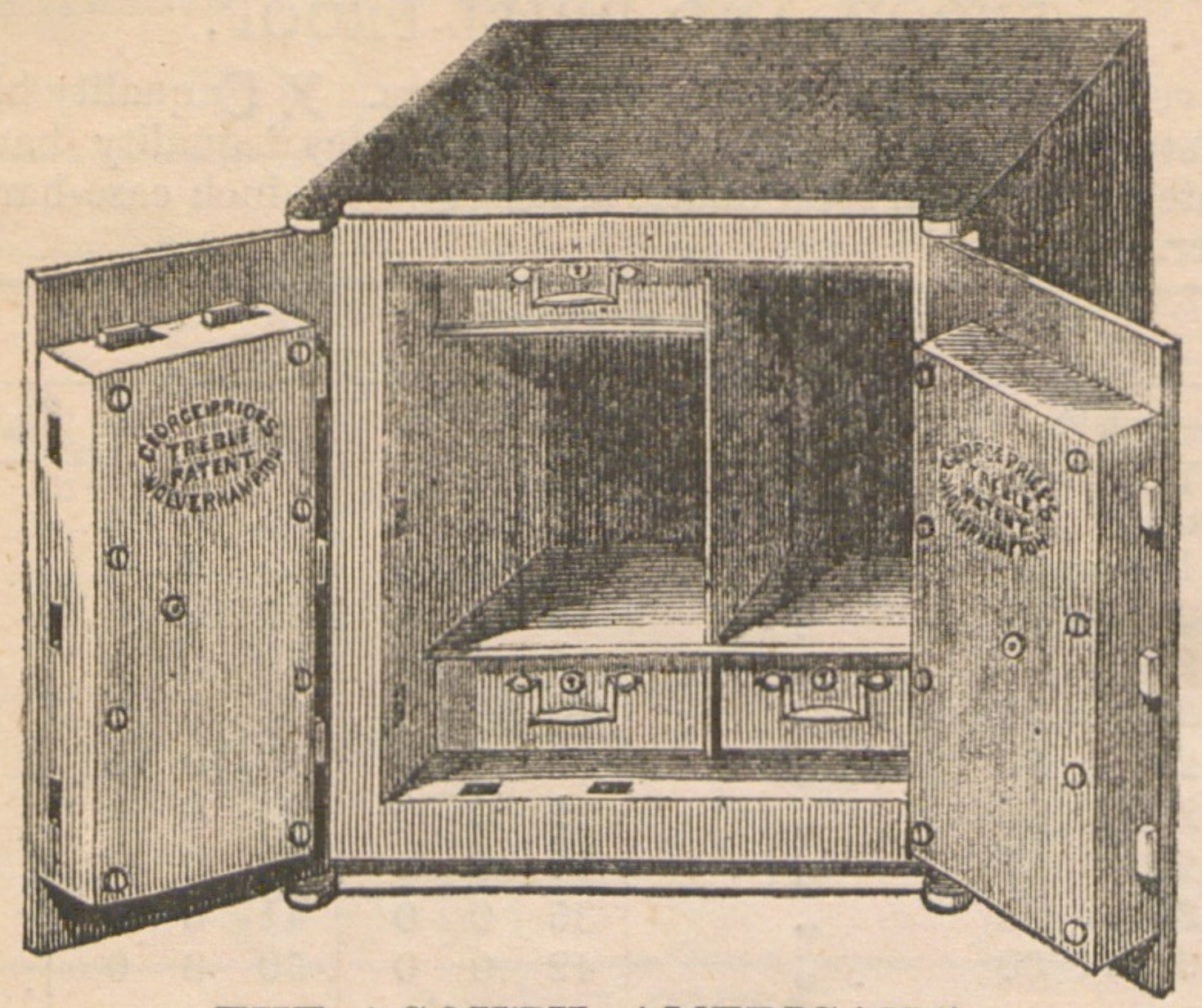
Quality X C have 3-inch chambers, filled with Patent Fire-resisting Composition, and are, inside measure, 7 inches less in height and width, and 8 inches less in depth. The front strengthening bars are dovetailed, and the outer plates are riveted to strong angle-iron inside. The X D quality have 3½-inch chambers, and are, inside measure, 8 inches less in height and width, and 9 inches less in depth. The outer plates are both dovetailed and riveted to strong angle-iron inside. The front strengthening bars are dovetailed also.

The "Burnley" quality have 3½ to 4-inch chambers, and are, inside measure 8 inches less in height, 8½ to 9½-inches less in width, and 10 inches less in depth than the outside measure. The doors are hung on inside or invisible centres.

The drawers of all the case-hardened safes are fitted with GEORGE PRICE'S Patent "Ne plus ultra" Lock, with two keys to each lock, to differ, and two master-keys (duplicates) to pass both locks. The drawer keys are marked on the bit R, L, and M, and where more than two keys are required for the door lock, 1, 2, 3, and so on.

GEORGE PRICE'S

TREBLE-PATENT FIRE-RESISTING CASH & BOOK SAFE.



THE "SOUTH AMERICAN."

This safe is constructed to answer the purpose of two safes, by having a fixed partition of plate-iron down the middle, to divide the interior into two distinct compartments. The large bolts of the left-hand door are secured by a small lock, the same as the right-hand door; but as each is made to differ, the key of the one door will not unlock the other door. They are made with two keys (duplicates) to each door to differ, with two (duplicates) master-keys to unlock both doors. The drawer locks ("Ne plus ultra") have two keys (duplicates) to each to differ, with two (duplicates) master-keys to pass the whole. If with extra lock on the left-hand door, so as to require always two persons to be present to open it, 20*s.* extra. In the larger sizes a cupboard is substituted for the drawer at top.

Size (Outside Measure).				X 202 C			X 202 D			Extra for case hardened doors.		
No.	In. high.	In. wide.	In. deep.	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
10 ..	.. 33 ..	.. 33 ..	.. 25 ..	35	0	0	40	0	0	5	0	0
11 ..	.. 36 ..	.. 36 ..	.. 26 ..	39	0	0	45	0	0	6	0	0
12 ..	.. 42 ..	.. 38 ..	.. 27 ..	45	0	0	51	0	0	7	10	0
13 ..	.. 48 ..	.. 40 ..	.. 28 ..	52	0	0	60	0	0	9	0	0
14 ..	.. 54 ..	.. 42 ..	.. 30 ..	60	0	0	70	0	0	12	0	0
15 ..	.. 60 ..	.. 48 ..	.. 30 ..	—		—	81	0	0	15	0	0
16 ..	.. 66 ..	.. 52 ..	.. 30 ..	—		—	93	0	0	18	0	0

Inside measure same as the respective qualities of X 202 C and X 202 D, on page 4.

BANKERS' SAFES.

In April, 1862, George Price, Cleveland Safe and Lock Works, Wolverhampton, constructed for the Central Bank of India, at Bombay, two monster safes, with his Patent Case-hardened Doors and "Ne plus ultra" Locks—one for bullion, the other for books and securities—the price being £600. The safes having safely arrived at Bombay, the maker has great pleasure in being allowed to publish the following extract from the manager to his brother, Henry Heycock, Esq., Manchester, through whom the order was received:—

"The Safes have arrived: THEY ARE REALLY EXCELLENT, AND WELL WORTH THEIR COST."

GEORGE PRICE'S

TREBLE PATENT

IMPROVED CHAMPION "BURNLEY" SAFE.

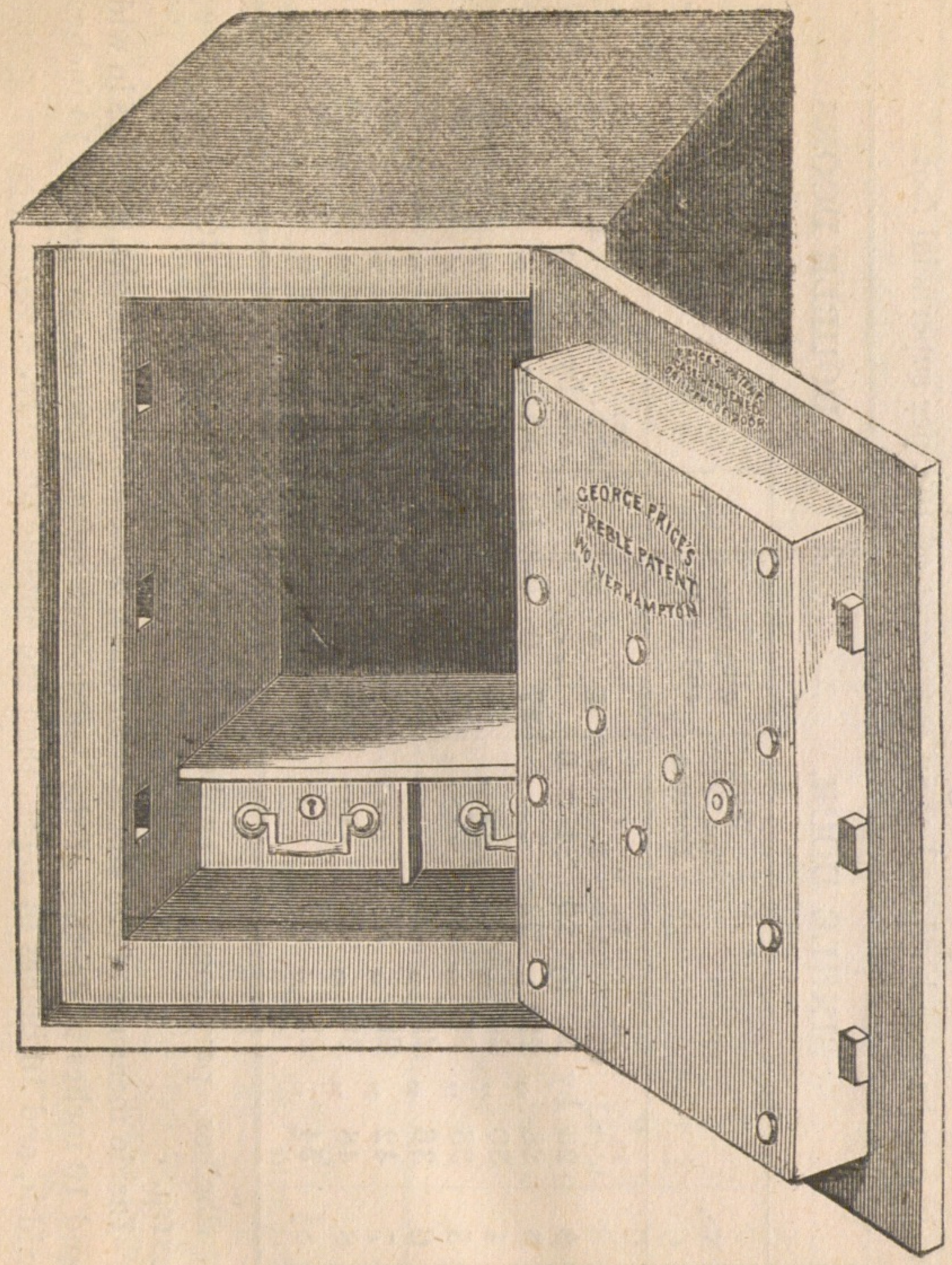
(*For Engraving see page* 8.)

With 3 to 4-inch chambers, filled with patent steam-generating fire-proof composition. Body-plates ½-inch thick throughout, both dovetailed and riveted to 1¾-inch angle-iron inside, strengthened at front with 3 by 1-inch bar-iron, thus making it 1½-inch thick, with strong corner-pieces and angle-iron riveted to the inside of the body. The lining is also strongly riveted to the angle-iron all round the front. Door 1-inch thick, solid, formed of two ½-inch plates, case-hardened on all their exterior surfaces, giving four thicknesses of steel, a hundred times harder than the hardest steel that can be worked. These doors are hung on inside or invisible centres. Both centres and centre-holes are hardened. The knob or handle throws bolts on each side of the door, and in those with *double* doors at the top and bottom as well, all of which are secured by GEORGE PRICE'S double patent "NE PLUS ULTRA" lock, which is proof against the *tentative* and every other mode of picking; and also proof against *repeated* charges of gunpowder, as two dwts. is the most that can be hammered into it. The hardened nosle of the small lock, with the 1-inch case-hardened plates covering it, prevents the keyhole being enlarged; and the spindle of the knob being also case-hardened and working in a rebate, with a shoulder inside, prevents gunpowder being got into the *lock-chamber* by breaking the spindle. The spindle is secured from being drawn out by the nut at the back of the lock-chamber. The lock-chamber is secured to the door-plate by an extra number of screw-pins, which go through the inner ½-inch plate, but no further, whilst the outer ½-inch plate covers the whole; so that this case-hardened ½-inch plate prevents any of them from being drilled and punched out, as was done by the burglars with so many safes in Manchester. The entire body can be case-hardened at an extra cost of 10*s.* per superficial foot.

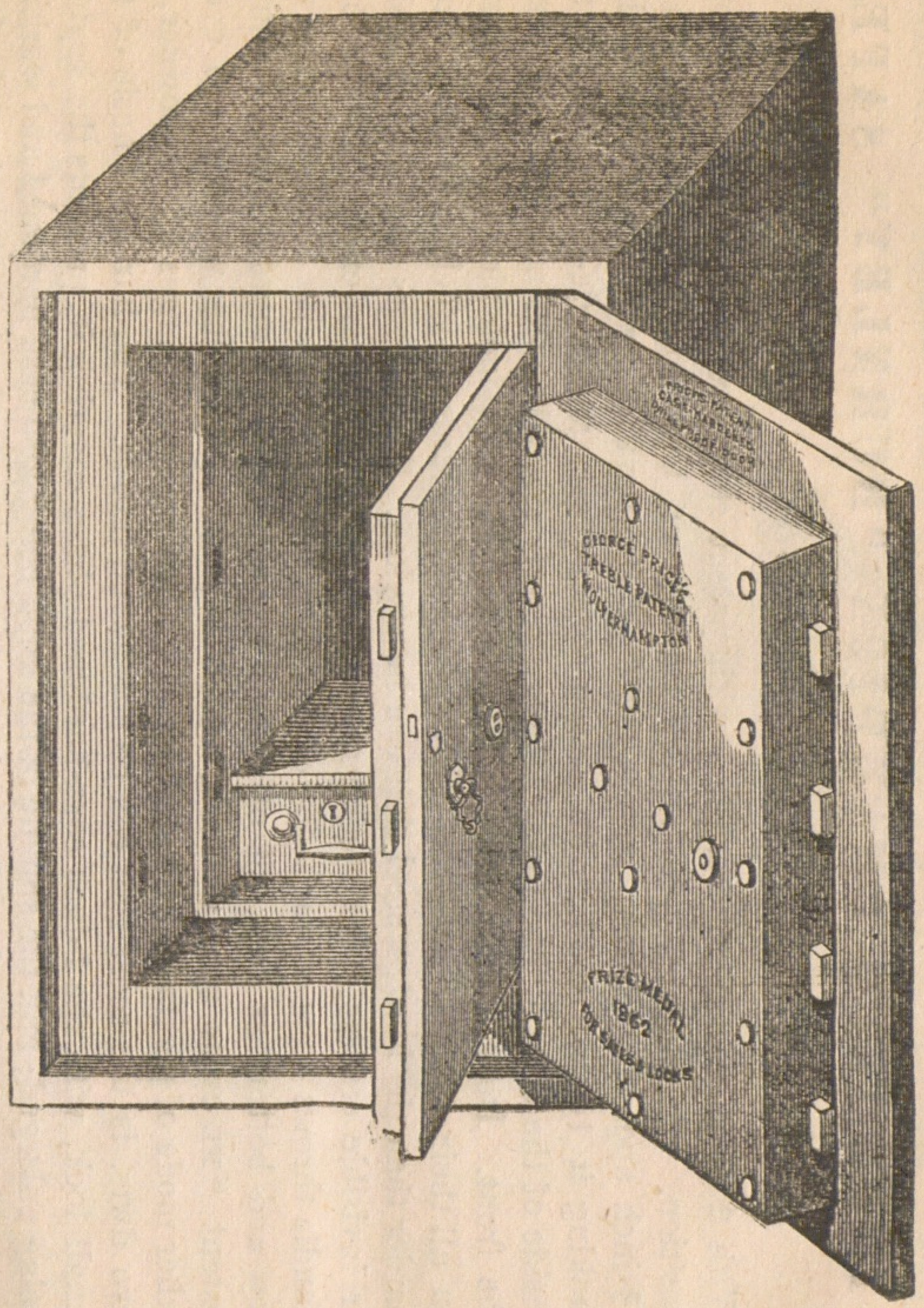
SINGLE DOOR.									DOUBLE DOORS.						
No.	Size.			With One large Drawer.			With two Drawers.			No.	Size.			With two Drawers.		
	In. high.		In. wide.		In. deep.	£	*s.*	*d.*	£ *s.* *d.*			In. high.		In. wide.		In. deep.	£	*s.*	*d.*
2	26	by	20	by	20	24	0	0	....	9		30	by	30	by	24	45	0	0
3	28	„	22	„	22	....			27 0 0	10		33	„	33	„	25	49	10	0
4	30	„	24	„	24	....			30 0 0	11		36	„	36	„	26	55	10	0
5	33	„	25	„	25	....			33 0 0	12		42	„	38	„	27	66	0	0
6	36	„	26	„	26	....			37 0 0	13		48	„	40	„	28	77	0	0
7	42	„	28	„	27	....			44 0 0	14		54	„	42	„	30	90	0	0
8	48	„	30	„	28	....			50 0 0	15		60	„	48	„	30	105	0	0
8½	54	„	32	„	30	....			60 0 0	16		66	„	52	„	30	125	0	0

Shelves, partitions, or cupboards extra. Additional locks to doors, £1 each extra.

Inside measure of the single-door safes, 8 inches less in height, 9 inches in width, and 10 inches in depth; of the double-door safes, 8 inches in height, 10 inches in width, and 10 inches in depth, than the outside measure.



Improved " Champion Burnley " Safe.



Improved " Lancashire and Yorkshire " Safe.

GEORGE PRICE'S

TREBLE-PATENT IMPROVED "LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE" SAFE.

(For engraving see page 8.)

FIRE-PROOF OR NOT FIRE-PROOF—SAME PRICE.

This unrivalled Safe is of the same strength, and is constructed in the same manner, as the Improved "Burnley" Safe, but has the addition of an *inner* safe body, made of $\frac{3}{8}$-inch boiler-plate, strongly dovetailed together, with an *inner* door, which is a duplicate of the outer one, except that it has no fire-proof composition chamber at the back of the lock-chamber. The inner door, in addition to the large bolts and lock, is fitted with a mortise spring latch, so that it locks itself on being closed, and thus obviates the necessity for throwing the large bolts every time the safe is left during the day. This safe possesses at least double the security of the safes with but one door, against every description of burglars' tools. If the *inner* body be constructed of $\frac{1}{2}$-inch case-hardened plates, such body is 12s. per superficial foot extra. If the *outer* body be case-hardened, 10s. per superficial foot extra. In all cases of case-hardening, any measurement less than a superficial foot is charged as a foot.

No.	Size.	With Two Drawers.			Without Drawers less.		
	In. high. In. wide. In. deep.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
4	30 by 25 by 25	45	0	0	2	1	0
5	33 — 26 — 26	50	0	0	2	3	0
6	36 — 27 — 27	55	0	0	2	5	0
7	42 — 28 — 28	65	0	0	2	7	0
8	48 — 30 — 29	76	0	0	2	9	0
$8\frac{1}{2}$	54 — 33 — 30	90	0	0	2	12	0

Shelves, partitions, and cupboards, extra.—Additional door locks, £1 each; extra drawer keys, 2*s.* 6*d.* each; extra door keys, 3*s.* 6*d.* each.

The *inside* measure of the Fire-proof Safes is 9 inches less in height, 10 inches in width, and 14 inches in depth than the outside measure. The inside measure of the *non*-Fire-proof Safes of this quality is 2 inches less in height, 2 inches in width, and $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in depth, than the outside measure.

GEORGE PRICE'S

TREBLE-PATENT IMPROVED "JEWELLERS'" SAFE.

NOT FIRE-PROOF.

This safe is constructed precisely in the same way as the Improved "Burnley" safe, with 1-inch door and inside centres, except that it has not the fire-proof chambers. It is, in fact, the Improved "Burnley," *not* fire-proof. When required to hold jewellers' trays of the full width of the opening for the door, in order to allow the door to open quite back, *outside* centres must be used.

SINGLE DOOR.						DOUBLE DOORS.					
No.	Size.			Without Drawers.		With two Drawers, extra.		No.	Size.			Without Drawers.		With Two Drawers, extra.	
	In. high.	In. wide.	In. deep.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.				In. high.	In. wide.	In. deep.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
1	24	by 18	by 18	18 10 0	1 15 0	9	30	by 30	by 24	40 0 0	2 12 0		
2	26	„ 20	„ 20	21 0 0	1 17 0	10	33	„ 33	„ 25	45 0 0	2 14 0		
3	28	„ 22	„ 22	24 0 0	1 19 0	11	36	„ 36	„ 26	51 0 0	2 16 0		
4	30	„ 24	„ 24	27 0 0	2 1 0	12	42	„ 38	„ 27	58 0 0	2 18 0		
5	33	„ 25	„ 25	30 10 0	2 3 0	13	48	„ 40	„ 28	66 0 0	3 0 0		
6	36	„ 26	„ 26	34 0 0	2 5 0	14	54	„ 42	„ 30	75 0 0	3 2 0		
7	42	„ 28	„ 27	39 0 0	2 7 0	15	60	„ 48	„ 30	85 0 0	3 4 0		
8	48	„ 30	„ 28	45 0 0	2 9 0	16	66	„ 52	„ 30	100 0 0	3 6 0		
8½	54	„ 32	„ 30	52 0 0	2 12 0	17	72	„ 54	„ 30	120 0 0	3 8 0		

Shelves, partitions, and cupboards, extra.—Additional locks to doors, £1 each extra.

Inside measure 1 inch less in height and width, and 4 inches in depth, than the outside measure. Door and drawer locks same as the "Improved Burnley."

PLATE SAFES.

Any of the safes in the list may have one or more compartments lined with green baize and fitted with wood moveable shelves, the latter also covered with green baize. Fire-proof safes on the steam-generating principle may be fitted with *wood* shelves or drawers with perfect safety, the wood, from its being a bad conductor of heat, as well as being an absorbent, really increases the fire-resisting capability of the safe.

JEWELLERS' TRAYS.

Jewellers' Trays can be slid in and out of any of the fire-proof safes on angle-iron runners riveted to each side of the lining, at an extra charge of 5*s.* for each pair of runners.

N.B.—In the *non*-fire-proof safes, the opening of the door being *less* than the *inside* width of the safe, trays cannot be run on angle-iron bearers, but moveable shelves may be placed on the angle-iron supports, on which the trays may be placed.

CUPBOARDS.

Cupboards with one door, the latter hung on inside centres, fitted with a small fall-down handle and an ordinary 5-lever lock, are 40*s.* each, or with the patent "Ne plus ultra" lock, 45*s.* If with folding doors, the left-hand door secured with a flush bolt each at the top and bottom, each door fitted with a small fall-down handle, and the right-hand door with an ordinary 5-lever lock, 60*s.*, or with the patent "Ne plus ultra" lock, 65*s.*

GEORGE PRICE'S

IMPROVED QUADRUPLE-PATENT "ROYAL CLIMAX CHAMPION" SAFE.

(*For engraving see page* 131.)

FIRE-PROOF OR NOT FIRE-PROOF—SAME PRICE.

These extraordinary safes are constructed upon a new (patented) principle, whereby the present system of opening adopted by burglars—and by which so many safes by other makers have been opened—is entirely and effectually prevented. Containing, as they do, the advantages of all GEORGE PRICE'S previous patents and improvements—which no other maker can adopt—they are admitted by engineers, architects, and other scientific and competent judges to be very much superior to, and very far in advance of, anything yet produced by any other maker. In these safes the usual "lock chamber" is dispensed with, and the door being 1 inch thick, formed of two $\frac{1}{2}$-inch plates, both case-hardened, as in the "Burnley" safes, is therefore thoroughly drill-proof against all burglars' tools. The body-plates are $\frac{1}{2}$-inch solid boiler-plate, and strongly dovetailed together; and the outside angle-bars, 4 by $1\frac{5}{8}$ by $\frac{5}{8}$ inch, are fastened to it in the strongest possible manner. The fire-proof safes have 3-inch chambers, filled with patent steam-generating composition.

No.	SIZE.						With Two Drawers.			Without Drawers, LESS				With Two Drawers.		
	In. high.		In. wide.		In. deep.		£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
2	26	by	20	by	20	..	30	0	0	1	17	0	If with 1-inch solid case-hardened "Burnley" inner door, with large bolts, lock, and mortise spring latch.	36	0	0
3	28	—	22	—	22	..	34	0	0	1	19	0		40	0	0
4	30	—	24	—	24	..	38	0	0	2	1	0		45	0	0
5	33	—	25	—	25	..	44	0	0	2	3	0		51	0	0
6	36	—	26	—	26	..	50	0	0	2	5	0		58	0	0
7	42	—	28	—	27	..	57	0	0	2	7	0		67	0	0
8	48	—	30	—	28	..	66	0	0	2	9	0		78	0	0
$8\frac{1}{2}$	54	—	32	—	30	..	76	0	0	2	12	0		90	5	0

The outside dimensions given above refer to the *bodies* of the safes *exclusive* of the angle-iron bands. Inside measure $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches less in height and width, and 10 inches in depth, than the outside measure of the *bodies*. The door is fitted with GEORGE PRICE'S Double-patent "Ne plus ultra" unpickable and gunpowder-proof lock, with two small pin-keys (duplicates). One large drawer the same price as the two small ones, One drawer, half across, and one upright partition, the same price as the two small drawers. Safes with double, or folding, doors are not made on the above construction.

GEORGE PRICE'S

NEW PATENT DRILL AND WEDGE-PROOF SAFE.

(*For engraving see page* 158.)

THE "IMPROVED LONDON" SAFE.

This safe is constructed of ½-inch body plates, which are both dovetailed and riveted to strong angle-iron bars all round the corners. The front strengthening bars, which are 5 by 1 inch, are bent to fit each corner, and have the upright pieces dovetailed into them about 4 inches from the angle, thus making the four pieces one continuous ring or band, which is strongly riveted all round the front to the ½-inch body-plates. This continuous ring or band, together with the projecting pieces, are all case-hardened. The door is formed of three ½-inch plates screwed together from the inside (see fig. 50), the inner and outer plates of which are also case-hardened. The bolt holes are cut out of the solid rebate bar, which is 4⅜ by 1-inch. The bolts of the large lock, and all the other parts of the safe, are of proportionate strength. It will thus be seen that the construction renders the safe proof against drills, wedges, sledge hammers, gunpowder, and picklocks. Its great strength is so apparent that no burglar would ever think of attacking it.

SINGLE DOOR.

SIZE.—Outside Measure.						From			To		
No.	In. high.		In. wide.		In. deep.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
3	28	..	22	..	22	Two Drawers.	32	0	0	35	0	0
4	30	..	24	..	24	„	35	0	0	37	0	0
5	33	..	25	..	25	„	39	0	0	40	0	0
6	36	..	26	..	26	„	44	0	0			
7	42	..	28	..	27	„	52	0	0			
8	48	..	30	..	28	„	61	0	0			
8½	54	..	32	..	30	„	72	0	0			

DOUBLE DOORS.

SIZE.—Outside Measure.								
No.	In. high.		In. wide.		In. deep.		£	s.	d.
10	33	..	33	..	25	Two Drawers.	59	0	0
11	36	..	36	..	26	„	66	0	0
12	42	..	38	..	27	„	78	0	0
13	48	..	40	..	28	„	92	0	0
14	54	..	42	..	30	„	108	0	0
15	60	..	48	..	30	„	126	0	0
16	66	..	52	..	30	„	147	0	0
17	72	..	56	..	30	„	170	0	0

Shelves, partitions, or cupboards, extra.

Inside measure of the single-door safes, 8 inches less in height, 9 inches in width, and 11 inches in depth; of the double-door safes, 8 inches in height, 10 inches in width, and 10 inches in depth, than the outside measure.

GEORGE PRICE'S

NEW PATENT DRILL AND WEDGE-PROOF SAFE.

(*For engraving see page* 153.)

THE "BRITISH SAFE."

This safe has the opening for the door cut out of the solid boiler-plate, which is both dovetailed and riveted to strong angle-bars all round the front of the body of the safe. In other respects it is mostly the same as the "Improved London" safe, so far as concerns the strength and construction of the body, door, and large lock. The very appearance of this safe, like the "Improved London," is sufficient to deter any burglar from making an attack upon it.

SINGLE DOOR.

SIZE.—Outside Measure.				From			To		
No.	In. high.	In. wide.	In. deep.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
3 ..	28 ..	22 ..	22 Two Drawers.	32	0	0	35	0	0
4 ..	30 ..	24 ..	24 „	35	0	0	37	0	0
5 ..	33 ..	25 ..	25 „	39	0	0	40	0	0
6 ..	36 ..	26 ..	26 „	44	0	0			
7 ..	42 ..	28 ..	27 „	52	0	0			
8 ..	48 ..	30 ..	28 „	61	0	0			
$8\frac{1}{2}$ ..	54 ..	32 ..	30 „	72	0	0			

DOUBLE DOORS.

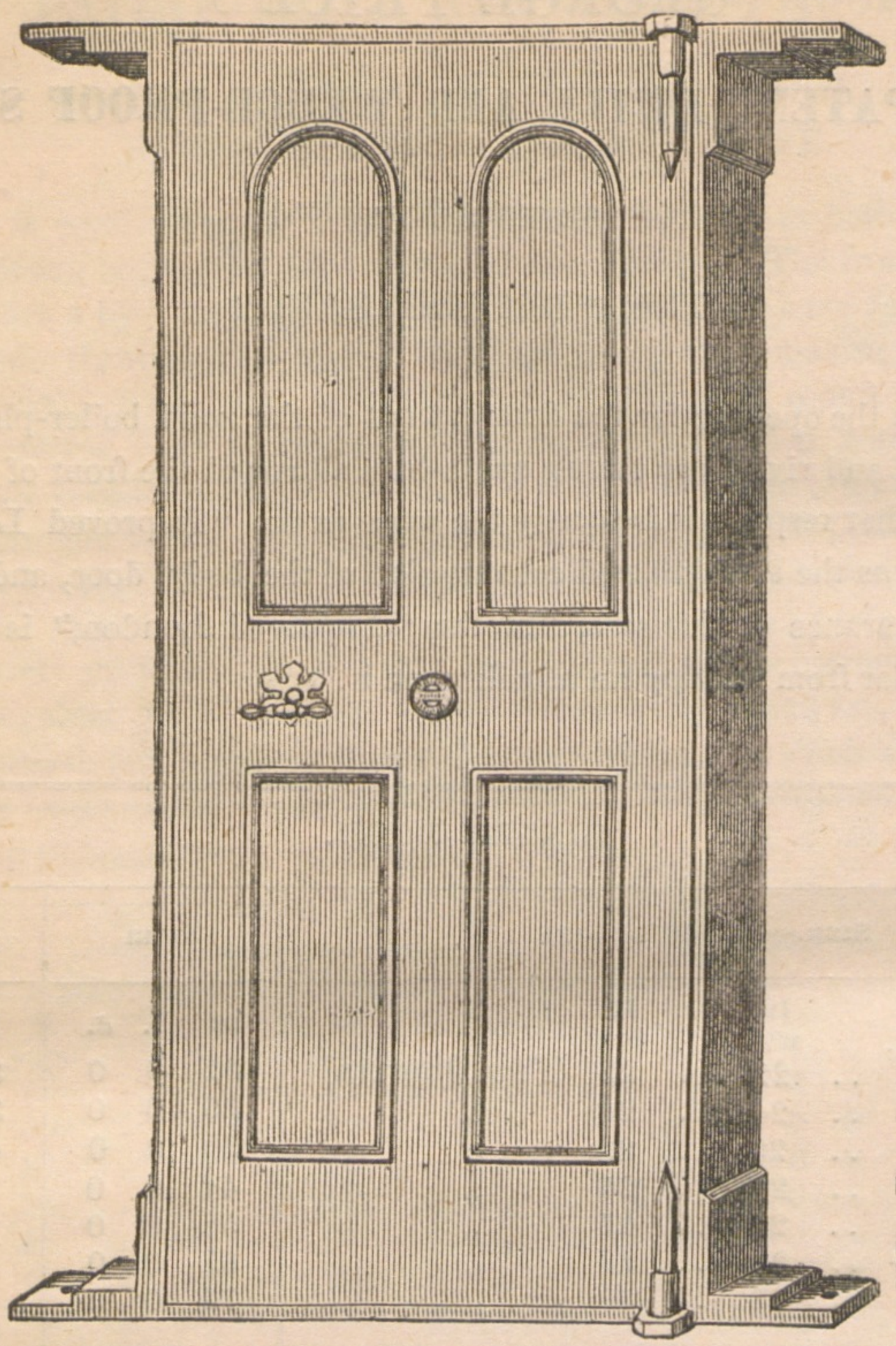
SIZE.—Outside Measure.						
No.	In. high.	In. wide.	In. deep.	£	s.	d.
10 ..	33 ..	33 ..	25 Two Drawers.	59	0	0
11 ..	36 ..	36 ..	26 „	66	0	
12 ..	42 ..	38 ..	27 „	78	0	0
13 ..	48 ..	40 ..	28 „	92	0	0
14 ..	54 ..	42 ..	30 „	108	0	0
15 ..	60 ..	48 ..	30 „	126	0	0
16 ..	66 ..	52 ..	30 „	147	0	0
17 ..	72 ..	56 ..	30 „	170	0	0

Shelves, partitions and cupboards extra.

Inside measure 8 inches less in height and width, and 10 inches in depth, than the outside measure.

GEORGE PRICE'S

PATENT PRIZE-MEDAL WROUGHT-IRON DOOR & FRAME.



As the majority of the Iron Doors and Frames made are sold as *fire-proof*, when, in fact, there is no fire-proof composition in their construction, it is suggested to architects and builders, when really fire-proof Doors are required, to specify that the back of the lock-chamber must be filled with patent steam-generating composition.

N.B.—The doors can be made to open inwards or outwards, to the right hand or left hand, as may be required; but will always be sent as shown in the engraving unless ordered to the contrary. Besides the hole at each corner of the frame, one or two other holes are made through each side of the frame to firmly secure it to the masonry with iron pins or screws. The "centres" and holes forming the hinges are all hardened, and the large bolts work upon anti-friction rollers. The mouldings on the outside to show either four or two panels. The sides to the walls, and four iron pins for the four corners, are sent with each door.

NOT FIRE-PROOF.							FIRE-PROOF.						
Outside measure of frame Height.	Width.	X 130 C			X 130 D		Outside measure of frame Height.	Width.	X 130 C			X 130 D	
		£	s.	d.	£	s.			£	s.	d.	£	s. d.
5ft. 9in.	2ft. 3in.*	19	0	0	24	0 0	6ft. 0in.	2ft. 6in.	25	0	0	30	0 0
6ft. 0in.	2ft. 6in.	20	0	0	25	0 0	6ft. 3in.	2ft. 9in.	30	0	0	35	0 0
6ft. 3in.	2ft. 9in.	23	0	0	28	0 0	6ft. 6in.	3ft. 0in.	35	0	0	40	0 0
6ft. 6in.	3ft. 0in.	26	0	0	32	0 0							

* And all sizes under.

X 130 C. Frames 4 to 5 inch by $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch, strongly made with corner plates. Door half-inch solid boiler-plate. T handle to throw four bolts each back and front, secured by GEORGE PRICE'S double patent unpickable and gunpowder-proof lock, with two small pin keys, and with hardened drill-proof plate over the lock.

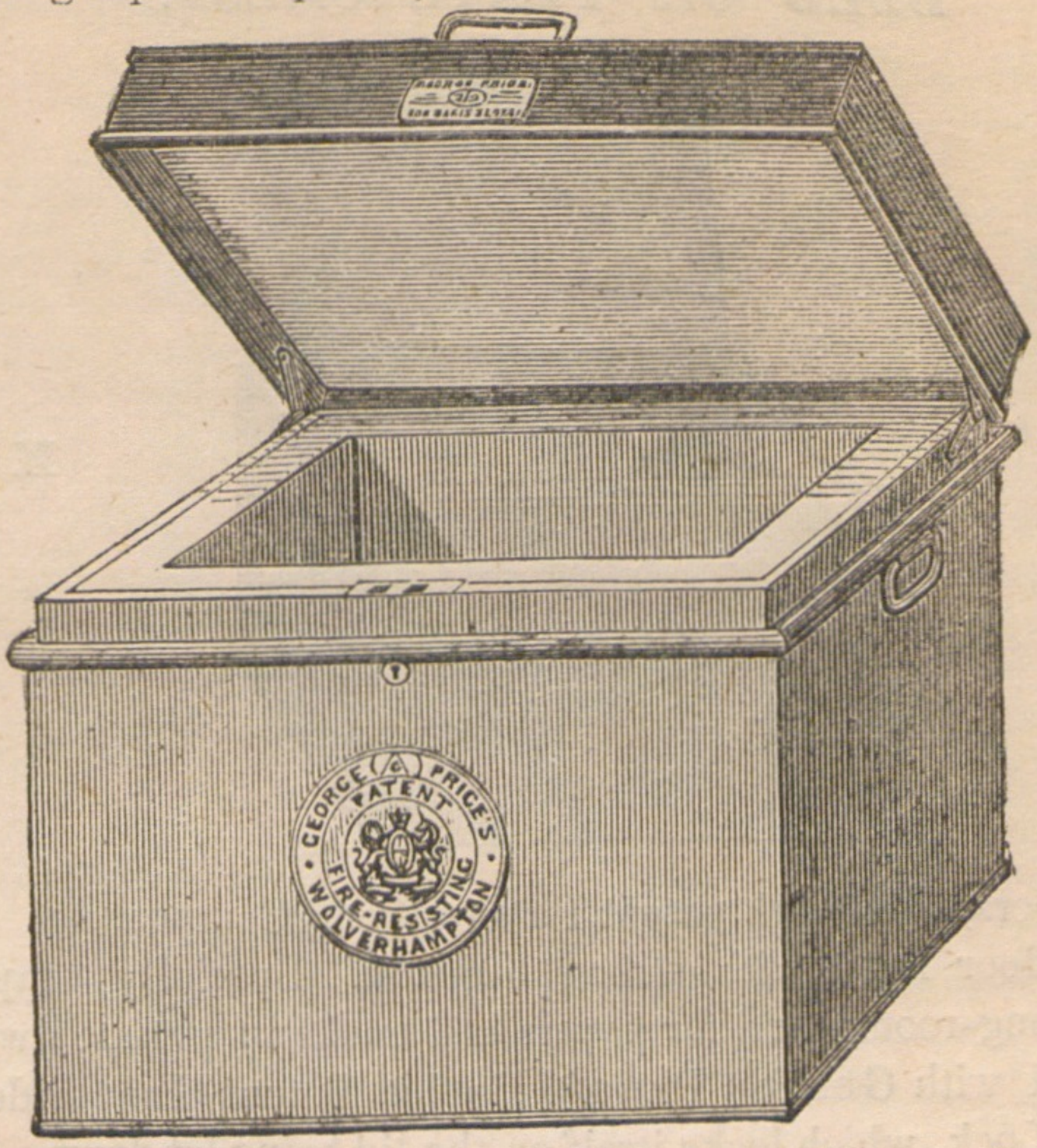
X 130 D. Frames 5 to 6 inch by $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch, very strongly made, with corner plates. Doors half-inch solid boiler-plate. Best T handle, to throw four bolts each back and front, secured by GEORGE PRICE'S double patent unpickable and gunpowder-proof lock, with two small pin keys, and with hardened drill-proof plate over the lock.

If made to open inwards, each size and quality, 50s. extra; if with sunk panels, extra; if case-hardened, 10s. per superficial foot extra.

GEORGE PRICE'S

SHEET-IRON FIRE-RESISTING BOXES,

With 3-inch chambers, fitted with GEORGE PRICE's Patent "Ne plus ultra" unpickable lock (not gunpowder-proof.)



Specially constructed for the preservation of books and papers from fire in closets or strong-rooms.

SIZE (outside measure).						PRICE.		
No.	In. long.		In. wide.		In deep.	£	s.	d.
5	 20	....	14	....	14	4	0	0
6	 22	....	16	....	16	5	0	0
7	 24	....	18	....	18	6	0	0
8	 26	....	20	....	20	7	0	0
9	 28	....	22	....	22	8	10	0
10	 30	....	24	....	24	10	0	0
Inside measure, 6 inches less each way.								

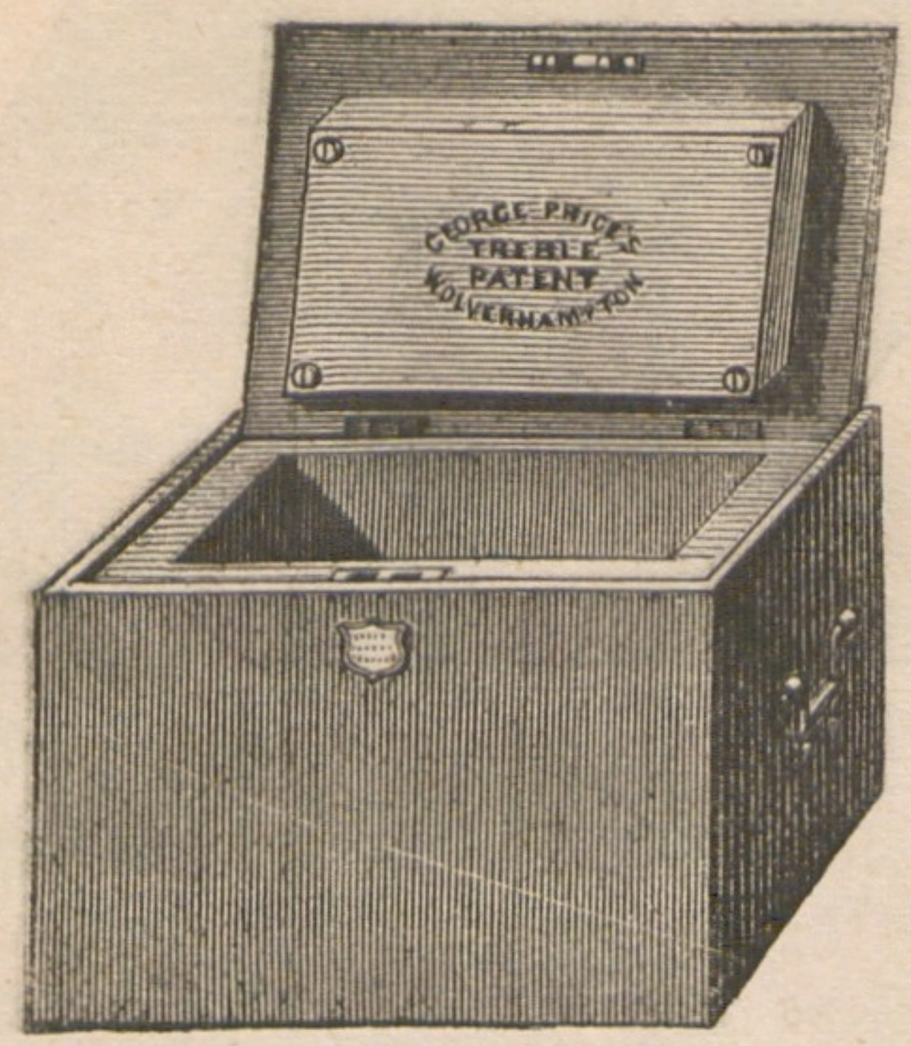
N.B. These boxes must never be trusted with the custody of valuable property against *burglars*. In *damp* situations they should not be placed on the floor, but should be put on two pieces of wood, brick, or stone, about 2 to 3 inches square—one at each end.

SAFES WITHOUT DRAWERS.

SINGLE DOORS. X 201 B, X 201 C, X 201 D.				DOUBLE DOORS. X 202 B, X 202 C, X 202 D.			
Less than with drawers.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
No. 1 .... 24-inch		14	0	No. 9 .... 30-inch	1	5	0
„ 2 .... 26 „		16	0	„ 10 .... 33 „	1	7	6
„ 3 .... 28 „		18	0	„ 11 .... 36 „	1	10	0
„ 4 .... 30 „	1	0	0	„ 12 .... 42 „	1	12	6
„ 5 .... 33 „	1	2	6	„ 13 .... 48 „	1	15	0
„ 6 .... 36 „	1	5	0	„ 14 .... 54 „	2	0	0
„ 7 .... 42 „	1	7	6	Extra Drawers will be added to the various sized Safes of the C and D qualities, at the above charges.			
„ 8 .... 48 „	1	10	0				
„ 8½ .... 54 „	1	12	6				

GEORGE PRICE'S

TREBLE-PATENT STRONG PLATE-IRON FIRE-PROOF DEED OR PLATE CHEST.

No.  X 120.

With 3-inch chambers, filled with patent Fire-resisting Composition. Outer plates $\frac{1}{8}$-inch thick, the door lined with strong bar-iron. Specially adapted for fire-proof closets or strong-rooms, and for papers and books in private dwelling-houses and offices. Fitted with GEORGE PRICE'S Double Patent Gunpowder-proof "Ne plus ultra" Spring Lock, which locks itself on the lid being let down. Extra locks, 20*s.* each. If with triple-key lock, for Benefit Societies, each size 20*s.* extra.

No.	In. long.	In. wide.	In. deep.	£ s. d.	
5	20	14	14	6 0 0	Inside measure, $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. less each way.
6	22	16	16	7 0 0	
7	24	18	18	8 0 0	
8	26	20	20	9 0 0	
9	28	22	22	10 10 0	
10	30	24	24	12 0 0	

SAFES WITH SHELVES AND PARTITIONS.

SINGLE-DOOR SAFES.

No.	Inches.	Extra for each Partition.	Extra for each Shelf. £	s.	d.
1	24	6*s.*		10	0
2	26	7*s.*		11	0
3	28	8*s.*		12	6
4	30	10*s.*		15	0
5	33	10*s.* to 15*s.*		17	6
6	36	10*s.* to 20*s.*	1	0	0
7	42	10*s.* to 25*s.*	1	2	6
8	48	10*s.* to 30*s.*	1	5	0
$8\frac{1}{2}$	54	10*s.* to 35*s.*	1	7	6

DOUBLE-DOOR SAFES.

No.	Inches.	Extra for each Partition.	Extra for each Shelf. £	s.	d.
9	30	10*s.*	1	0	0
10	33	10*s.* to 15*s.*	1	0	0
11	36	10*s.* to 20*s.*	1	0	0
12	42	10*s.* to 25*s.*	1	5	0
13	48	10*s.* to 30*s.*	1	10	0
14	54	10*s.* to 35*s.*	1	15	0

Nos. 4 to 14, partitions under 21 inches high, 10*s.* each; above 21 inches in height, 15*s.* to 35*s.* each, according to size.

GEORGE PRICE'S

PATENT PRIZE-MEDAL "NE PLUS ULTRA" LOCK.

With Six Levers, and Two hardened and polished Keys to each Lock.

	To 3-in.		3½-in.		4-in.	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Till or Drawer (No. 381)	9	0	9	6	10	0
Straight Cupboard (No. 382)	9	0	9	6	10	0
Cut Cupboard (No. 383)	9	0	9	6	10	0
Straight Cupboard, Double-handed (No. 384)	10	0	10	6	11	6
Box, Chest, or Sloping Desk (No. 385)	10	0	11	0	12	0
Mortise Camp Desk (No. 386)	10	6	11	0	12	0
Pedestal or Sideboard (No. 387)	10	6	11	0	12	0
Link-plate Cupboard (No. 388)	10	6	11	0	12	0
Travelling Desk (No. 389)	10	6	11	0	12	0
Mortise Box (No. 390)	10	6	11	0	12	0
Cash Box, with fixed nozzle (No. 391)	10	6	11	0	12	0
Ditto, with cheeks and screws	11	0	11	6	12	6
Trunk and Portmanteau (No. 395)	14	0	15	6	17	0

Brass Pad, with gun-metal shackles (No. 392):—1-in. 10*s.*, 1¼-in. 10*s.*, 1½-in. 10*s.* 6*d.*, 1¾-in. 11*s.*, 2-in. 11*s.* 6*d.*, 2¼-in. 12*s.*, 2½-in. 13*s.*, 2¾-in. 13*s.* 6*d.*, 3-in. 14*s.*

If in suit, 1*s.* per lock extra.—Extra keys, 1*s.* each.

	INCHES.						
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	s.	*s.*	*s.*	*s.*	*s.*	*s.*	*s.*
Rim dead, one side (No. 404)	16	16	17	19	23	28	36
Rim dead, both sides (No. 405)	19	19	20	22	36	32	40
Two-bolt Rim, or Hall Door (No. 406)	..	28	28	30	32	36	40
Ditto, three-bolt, (No. 407)	..	32	32	34	36	40	45
Mortise, one-bolt dead (No. 408)	..	21	22	24	27	30	..
Mortise, two bolt (No. 409)	..	..	..	35	38	41	..
Mortise, three-bolt (No. 410)	..	..	..	37	40	44	..
Mortise Hall-door lock (No. 411), to lock and spring.	..	..	..	32	35	38	..

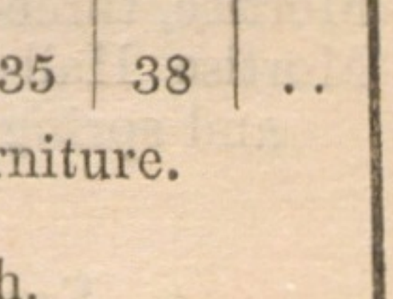
Nos. 406, 407, 409, 410, and 411 are all fitted with best furniture.
Wood, china, or glass furniture extra.
Locks in suit, 2*s.* each lock extra.—Extra keys, 2*s.* each.
Master-keys, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* each.

NIGHT LATCHES, with two small Pin-keys.

	4-inch.	4½-inch.	5-inch.
Flush (No. 401)	15*s.*	15*s.* 6*d.*	16*s.*
Rim (No. 402)	16*s.*	16*s.* 6*d.*	17*s.*
Mortise (No. 403)	23*s.*	24*s.* 0*d.*	25*s.*

To lock and spring, each kind, 2*s.* extra.—Extra keys, 2*s.* each.

All the Locks are marked with a register number, the words "Ne plus ultra," and with GEORGE PRICE'S Trade Mark, as here represented.



GEORGE PRICE'S

BEST HAND-MADE LEVER LOCKS.

Four Levers and Two hardened and polished Keys to each Lock.

	To 3-in.		3½-in.		4-in.	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Till or Drawer (No. 381)	4	3	4	9	5	3
Straight Cupboard (No. 382)	4	6	5	0	5	6
Cut Cupboard (No. 383)	4	3	4	9	5	3
Straight Cupboard, Double-handed (No. 384)	5	3	5	9	6	3
Box, Chest, or Sloping Desk (No. 385)	5	0	5	6	6	0
Mortise Camp Desks (No. 386)	5	0	5	6	6	0
Pedestal or Sideboard (No. 387)	5	0	5	6	6	0
Link-plate Cupboard (No. 388)	5	0	5	6	6	0
Travelling Desk (No. 389)	5	0	5	6	6	0
Mortise Box (No. 390)	5	0	5	6	6	0
Cash Box, with fixed nozzle (No. 391)	5	6	6	0	6	6
Ditto, with cheeks and screws	6	0	6	6	7	0
Trunk and Portmanteau (No. 395)	8	0	8	6	9	6

Brass Pad, with gun-metal shackles (No. 392) :—1-in. 7*s.*, 1¼-in. 7*s.*, 1½-in. 7*s.*, 1¾-in. 7*s.* 6*d.*, 2-in. 8*s.*, 2¼-in. 8*s.* 6*d.*, 2½-in. 9*s.*, 2¾-in. 9*s.* 6*d.*, 3-in. 10*s.*

If in suit, 1*s.* per lock extra.—Extra Keys, 1*s.* each.

	INCHES.						
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	s.	*s.*	*s.*	*s.*	*s.*	*s.*	*s.*
Rim dead, one side (No. 404)	13	13	14	16	20	25	30
Rim dead, both sides (No. 405)	15	15	16	18	22	27	32
Two-bolt Rim, or Hall Door (No. 406)	..	24	24	26	30	35	40
Ditto, three-bolt (No. 407)	..	28	28	30	34	39	44
Mortise, one bolt, dead (No. 408)	13	14	15	17	20	..	..
Mortise, two-bolt (No. 409)	..	..	23	25	28	..	..
Mortise, three-bolt (No. 410)	..	..	25	27	30	..	..
Mortise Hall-door Lock (No. 411) to lock and spring	..	..	23	25	28	..	..

Locks in suit, 2*s.* each Lock extra.

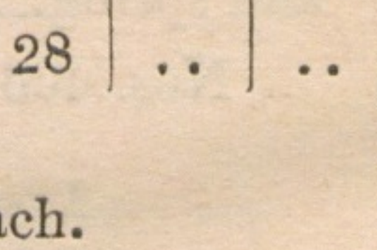
Extra Keys, 1*s.* 6*d.* each.—Master-keys, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* each.

NIGHT LATCHES.

	4-inch.	4½-inch.	5-inch.
Flush (No. 401)	13*s.*	13*s.* 6*d.*	14*s.*
Rim (No. 402)	14*s.*	14*s.* 6*d.*	15*s.*
Mortise (No. 403)	18*s.*	19*s.* 0*d.*	20*s.*

To lock and spring, each kind, 2*s.* extra.—Extra Keys, 1*s.* 6*d.* each.

All the Locks are marked with their respective numbers, and with GEORGE PRICE'S Trade Mark, thus :—



DAWES' PATENT AUTOMATOUS

(OR "SELF-ACTING")

MELODY ATTACHMENT,

FOR ORGANS, HARMONIUMS,

AND

PIANO-FORTES,

Gives a perfectly clear and distinct additional Melody, or in other words, additional Tones to the Melody, with a power and variety in proportion to the number of MELODY STOPS employed, thus producing the effect of one or more Single-Note or Solo Instruments (such as the Flute, Clarionette, Cornopean, &c.) being used by separate players, in accompaniment with, or in addition to, the full harmony, upon the Instrument to which this Patent is applied.

It also possesses the further advantage of enabling the performer, when playing a powerful Melody with the right hand, to use the *whole range* of keys *below the Melody*, for a left-hand accompaniment, upon different stops, and WITHOUT ANY "BREAK" IN THE RANGE, a desideratum fully appreciated by all Musical Professors who have used the "Melody Attachment."

These apparently impossible and indisputably beautiful effects are produced *entirely automatously*, or by self-acting mechanical means, and without effort on the part of the player,—except the "swelling" or "accenting" of this *additional Melody*, by means of a "pedal" or "knee-swell."

It is useless to attempt to describe *all* the advantages and capabilities of such a palpable and important improvement as the Patent "MELODY ATTACHMENT," but the published Testimonials will show the estimation in which it is held by those who have heard and used it,—and will account for the fact of its being universally pronounced—

"The greatest Musical Novelty and Improvement of the present time."

[In large Organs, this Automatous Melody, given—over a full Organ—upon the "TUBA" or *High Pressure Trumpet* (invented by Messrs. Hill & Son) placed in an additional "Swell," is perhaps the finest and grandest effect ever produced by *one Performer*, upon *one Instrument*.]

The "Melody Attachment" is applicable to existing Instruments as well as in the manufacture of new ones, and is warranted to be as durable and free from liability to derangement as the other parts of the Instrument.

Particulars, Terms, Prices, and Testimonials, may be had free, from the Patentee and Manufacturer, Wade Lane, Leeds.

A specimen Harmonium may shortly be seen at 86, Queen Street, Cheapside, London; 18, Blackfriars Street, Manchester; and 2, Cleveland Street, Wolverhampton.

A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF

GEORGE PRICE'S

FIRE AND BURGLAR-PROOF SAFES,

DEED CHESTS,

STRONG ROOM DOORS AND FRAMES,

CASH, PAPER, AND DESPATCH BOXES,

LOCKS FOR ALL PURPOSES AND OF EVERY SIZE

ALWAYS ON SALE,

Retail, Wholesale, and for Exportation,

AT

THE CITY SAFE AND LOCK DEPÔT:

86, QUEEN STREET, CHEAPSIDE,

LONDON;

18, BLACKFRIARS STREET, EXCHANGE,

MANCHESTER;

WADE LANE, UPPERHEAD ROW,

LEEDS;

"SHEFFIELD TIMES" BUILDINGS, BOW STREET

SHEFFIELD;

AND

CLEVELAND SAFE AND LOCK WORKS,

WOLVERHAMPTON.