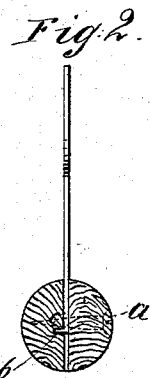
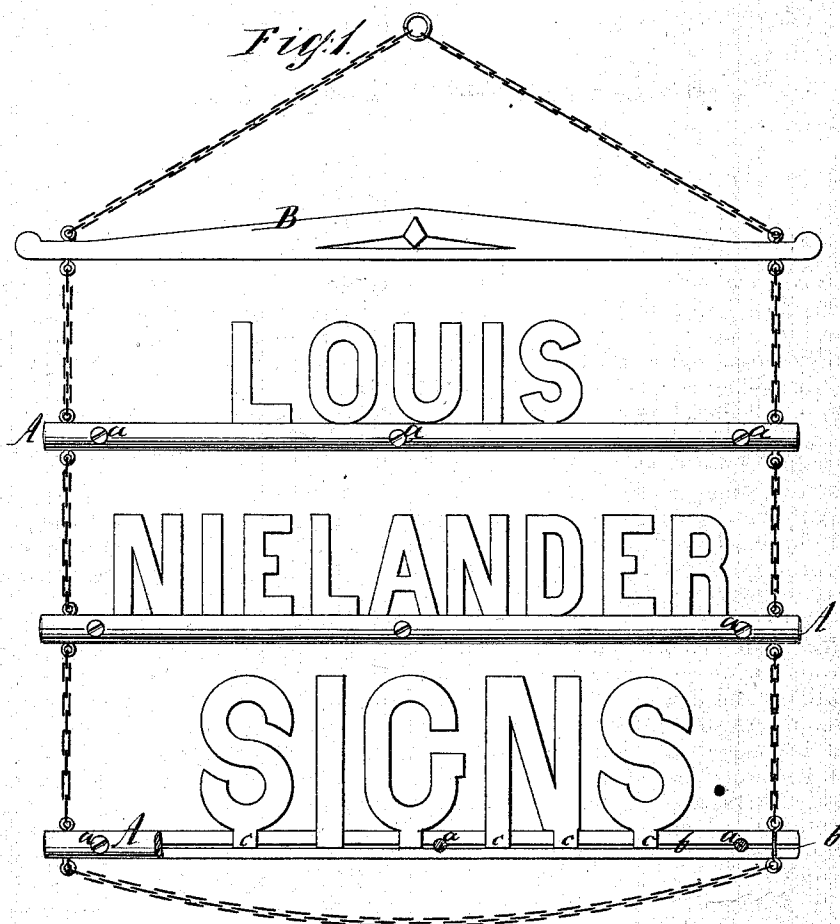


L. NIELANDER.
Alterable Signs.

No. 146,268.

Patented Jan. 6, 1874.



Witnesses:
Eust Bilhuber
Henry Pentner.

Inventor:
L. Nielander
by Van Sauterson Haupt
his atty

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LOUIS NIELANDER, OF PITTSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN ALTERABLE SIGNS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **146,268**, dated January 6, 1874; application filed December 3, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LOUIS NIELANDER, of Pittsburg, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Alterable Signs; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable those skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification, in which drawing—

Figure 1 represents a front view of this invention, partly in section. Fig. 2 is a transverse section of the same.

Similar letters indicate corresponding parts.

This invention relates to certain improvements in alterable signs, especially in the mode of forming the letters and supporting them in position; and it consists in the arrangement of letters with L-shaped feet to fit into clamping-bars provided with grooves for the reception of the feet, two or more such clamping-bars being connected together by chains or otherwise in such a manner that by the combined action of the grooves in the clamping-bars and of the L-shaped feet, each letter is firmly retained in position, and at the same time, by opening the clamping-bars, the letters can be readily changed and any desired word or number of words can be produced.

In the drawings, the letters A A A designate a series of clamping-bars, which are connected together by chains or otherwise, and suspended from a cornice, B, as shown. Each of said clamping-bars consists of two halves, which are pressed together by screws *a*, or by any other suitable means, and one of said halves is provided with a groove, *b*, extending throughout its whole length, or nearly so. Between the two halves of each clamping-bar are inserted one or more letters or other characters. These letters are, by preference, cut out of sheet metal, or, if desired, they may be cast, and they are provided each with one or two L-shaped feet, *c*, the projecting ends of which are made to catch in the groove *b* of the clamps A.

By this arrangement each letter or character is held securely in its place, and by removing the tightening-screws of the clamps the letters or characters can be changed with great facility.

My signs are durable, not liable to get out of order, and they can be made of any desired size.

The cornice which forms the top of the sign may be struck up or otherwise produced of sheet metal, or it can be made of any suitable material in a plain or ornamental shape to suit customers.

I am aware that the letters of a sign have been supported within a horizontal groove formed in a supporting-bar or frame, or supported and confined between two clamping-bars; such I disclaim, for in all such instances the letters are clamped at both their ends by the clamping-bars, and much care and precision are required in making up a sign to adjust the letters in proper vertical position in respect to each other, and further by connecting the letters at the top and bottom the beauty of the sign is materially lessened.

By forming the letters with laterally-projecting feet *c*, and providing a longitudinal groove, *b*, in one of the sections of the clamping-bar according to my invention, as herein described, the letters can be adjusted in position with perfect ease, and are supported and prevented from leaving their position in which they are placed, by reason of the groove and the lateral flange or feet.

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

An alterable sign consisting of the clamping-bars A, one of which is grooved, and the removable letters having the L-shaped projections *c*, substantially as described.

LOUIS NIELANDER.

Witnesses:

JAMES ECKER,
JO. G. KLAUSS, Jr.