(No Model.)

F. COUCH.

PLAYING CARDS.

No. 378,497. Patented Feb. 28, 1888.

Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

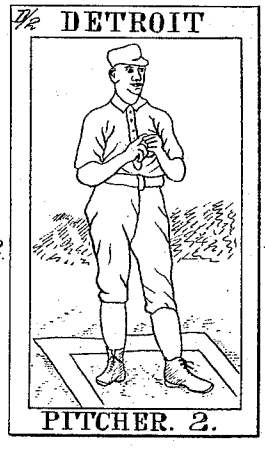


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.



Fig. 6



Fig. 7.



Fig. 8.



Fig. 9.



WITNESSES:

Henry E. Everding

Chas. V. Wakeley

INVENTOR

Franklin Couch

BY

Geo. F. Betts,

ATTORNEY

N. PETERS, Photo-Lithographer, Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANKLIN COUCH, OF WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK.

PLAYING-CARDS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 378,497, dated February 28, 1888.

Application filed November 22, 1887. Serial No. 255,917. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANKLIN COUCH, of White Plains, in the county of Westchester and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Playing-Cards, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figures 1 to 9 represent specimens of cards.

My invention relates to the cards employed in all games to which they are adapted, and which are especially adapted to certain new games of cards, of which I enumerate "Base-ball craze," "League game," "Association game," and "Base-ball euchre."

The object of my invention is to provide a pack containing several series of cards bearing certain figures and indorsements, whereby the various persons in their respective field or playing positions in a game of base-ball may be indicated, and also the clubs to which they respectively belong, a certain relative value being given to each card or series of cards, as hereinafter described.

My invention consists in the cards adapted to be used and combined as hereinafter described in playing the games above named, and any others to which they may be adapted. The cards are in series of nine—viz., a catcher-card, a pitcher-card, a short-stop card, a first-baseman card, a second-baseman card, a third-baseman card, a left-fielder card, a center-fielder card, and a right-fielder card in each series, and each card to a series being designated as attached to or connected with some league or association or designated base-ball club; and I recommend that there be eight series of such cards, making seventy-two cards in all; but this number of series is not an essential part of my invention. If there be seventy-two cards used, then the games of Base-ball craze, League game, and others can be played with them; but if less or more than eight of such series are employed other games can be played to which such other number of cards would be adapted. The cards may be made to rank according to the agreement of the players; but I prefer to have them rank in playing games, as in playing base-ball, and in the following order: catcher, pitcher, short-stop, first-baseman, second-baseman, third-baseman, left-fielder, center-fielder, and right-fielder.

In the League and in other games to which cards are adapted the series of cards from catcher to right-fielder belonging to a designated club are the highest cards in the pack—for example, Detroit catcher being the highest card, and so on to right-fielder of Detroit.

In Base-ball craze, and in other games to which cards are adapted, the series of eight catcher-cards in the pack are the highest cards—for example, the catcher of Detroit being the highest card, the catcher of Philadelphia being the next highest, and so on to the catcher of the club standing at the foot of the list in its respective league or association.

In the "National game," "Base-ball whist," and other games to which cards are adapted, the catcher of the club which shall be selected as trumps is the highest card, the pitcher next, and so on in order first above named. The rank or value of each of said cards, as above stated, in the League and other games is shown and indicated by certain words, numerals, and letters on said cards, as follows: "Detroit 1," or $\frac{D}{1}$ or $\frac{D}{C}$, meaning Detroit catcher, the highest card in said games; "Detroit 2," or $\frac{D}{2}$ or $\frac{D}{P}$, meaning Detroit pitcher, the second highest card; "Detroit 3," or $\frac{D}{3}$ or $\frac{D}{S.S.}$, meaning Detroit short-stop, the third highest card; "Detroit 4," or $\frac{D}{4}$ or $\frac{D}{1B.}$, the fourth in rank; "Detroit 5," or $\frac{D}{5}$ or $\frac{D}{2B.}$, the fifth in rank; "Detroit 6," or $\frac{D}{6}$ or $\frac{D}{3B.}$, the sixth in rank; "Detroit 7," or $\frac{D}{7}$ or $\frac{D}{L.F.}$, the seventh in rank; "Detroit 8," or $\frac{D}{8}$ or $\frac{D}{C.F.}$, the eighth in rank; "Detroit 9," or $\frac{D}{9}$ or $\frac{D}{R.F.}$, the ninth in rank. This manner or system of marking is continued through all of said cards in said pack. The rank or value of each of said cards, as above stated, in the game of Base-ball craze, and in some other games, is shown or indicated on said cards by certain inscriptions, letters, and numbers, as follows: "Catcher 1," or $\frac{C}{1}$, meaning, in the National League pack, catcher of Detroit, the

highest card in said games; "Catcher 2," or $\frac{C}{2}$, meaning catcher of Philadelphia, the second highest card; "Catcher 3," or $\frac{C}{3}$, meaning catcher of Chicago, the third highest card; "Catcher 4," or $\frac{C}{4}$, meaning catcher of New York, the fourth highest card; "Catcher 5," or $\frac{C}{5}$, meaning catcher of Boston, the fifth highest card; "Catcher 6," or $\frac{C}{6}$, meaning catcher of Pittsburg, the sixth highest card; "Catcher 7," or $\frac{C}{7}$, meaning catcher of Washington, the seventh highest card; "Catcher 8," or $\frac{C}{8}$, meaning catcher of Indianapolis, the eighth highest card. This mode or system of marking is continued through all of said cards in said pack. Games with these cards are played with the same number of persons, and according to the general rules pertaining to card-playing.

In the games played with seventy-two cards nine cards (indicating the number of persons engaged on a side in a game of base-ball) are dealt to each player. Each trick taken constitutes a run, and the player or side first scoring nine, eighteen, or twenty-seven runs, or as many as agreed upon between the players, wins the game.

Figure 1 represents the catcher-card, of which there is one in each series in each pack. This card bears the figure of a catcher in a game of base-ball. On each of said cards is printed the word "Catcher" and the name of the club to which he is connected or is stated to belong—*e. g.*, "Detroit," "Chicago," &c. On said cards are printed the letters and numerals indicating rank or value—for example, $\frac{D}{C}$ and $\frac{D}{1}$. Fig. 2 represents in a similar manner the pitcher-card, of which there is one in each series in each pack. Fig. 3 represents in a similar manner the short-stop card. Fig. 4 represents in a similar manner the first-baseman card. Fig. 5 represents in a similar manner the second-baseman card. Fig. 6 represents in a similar manner the third-baseman card. Fig. 7 represents in a similar manner the left-fielder card. Fig. 8 represents in a similar manner the center-fielder card. Fig. 9 represents in a similar manner the right-fielder card. These various cards may be printed in various colors to represent the uniforms of the several base-ball clubs embraced within each pack.

There may also be placed on each card the name of the man who has occupied or is occupying the position indicated by the card, (as, for example, Bennett, on the catcher-card of the Detroit series;) but this is not an essential part of my invention, and I do not make any claim therefor.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as an improvement in playing-cards—

A pack of playing-cards divided into several series, each series being marked to represent a different base-ball nine, each card in each series being also marked to indicate the field position of the player it represents, substantially as described.

FRANKLIN COUCH.

Witnesses:
GEO. H. BALDWIN,
JAMES D. WRIGHT.