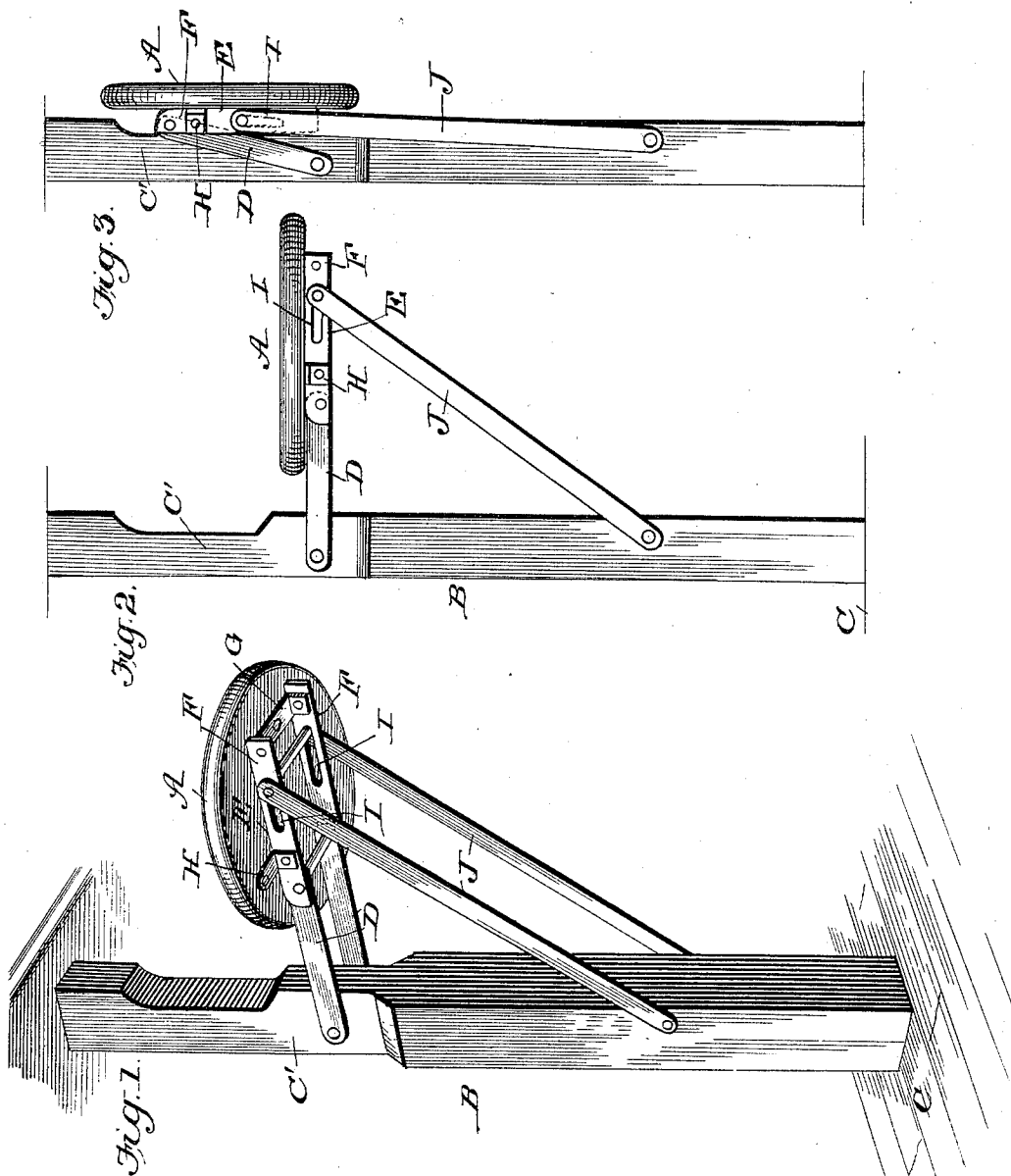


(No Model.)

F. E. UPHAM.
FOLDING STOOL.

No. 600,462.

Patented Mar. 8, 1898.



WITNESSES:
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FRED E. UPHAM, OF LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

FOLDING STOOL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 600,462, dated March 8, 1898.

Application filed March 11, 1897. Serial No. 627,041. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRED E. UPHAM, a citizen of the United States, residing at Leominster, in the county of Worcester, in the State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Folding Stool, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is an improved folding stool intended especially for use in stores behind the ordinary counters; and the invention has for its object, among others, to provide a stool which may be compactly folded in such manner as not to obstruct the passage-way in the aisles, which can be adjusted beneath any of the counters of different heights, can be quickly folded and unfolded for use without stooping, and will when in position for use furnish a strong and steady seat for the user.

The invention consists in certain novel constructions, combinations, and arrangements of parts, as will be hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improvement. Fig. 2 is a side view showing the seat in position for use, and Fig. 3 is a side view showing the seat folded.

My stool has a seat A and is preferably adjusted for use in connection with a post B, which is adapted to be braced firmly in position between the floor C and the counter or shelving above. It will be understood that my stool is applicable to the counter or to the shelving in rear thereof and may be used in either location without interfering with or obstructing the passage-way. In adapting it to the post B the latter is preferably cut away at C or reduced in thickness at such point to permit the convenient folding of the top-supports D of the seat, as presently described.

To the under side of the seat A, I fix a metallic frame E, having side plates F, arranged to extend nearly from front to rear of the seat and braced in position at the front by a short stay-frame G. Near their rear ends the plates F are stayed by brackets H, and in these plates F near their front ends I form slots I, elongated in the direction of length of said plates and receiving the bar which connects the upper front ends of the struts J. To the plates F near their rear ends I pivot the forward ends of the bars D, the opposite ends of which lap on opposite sides of and are pivoted to

the post B, near the lower end of the narrowed portion C thereof, as shown. At their forward ends the bars D lap against the inner sides of the plates F, while the upper forward ends of the struts J lap against the outer sides of plates F, so that in the folding of parts D and J in connection with the plates F the struts J embrace the plates F and the latter the bars D, such bars D lapping alongside the narrowed portion C of the post B and the struts J lying close to and against the wider portion of the post B below the part C, as shown.

When in position for use, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the seat A is supported at its outer edge upon the struts J and at its inner edge upon the bars or plates D and will be firmly supported in such position against being accidentally uptilted. In this position the slots I are important, as they permit the struts J to play out to a point nearer the outer edge of the seat A and increase the space between their connection with the seat and the pivotal connection between the seat and the bars D; also, by arranging the inner edge of the seat to rest upon and be supported by the bars D, I distribute the strain of the weight upon said seat between the bars D and the struts J, and am so able to secure sufficient strength with less material than might otherwise be practicable. On arising from the seat the occupant can tilt it up readily to lie flush against the post and under the shelf or counter, as shown in Fig. 3, and this adjustment of the seat can, after slight use and practice, be accomplished by the user by a movement of the dress in arising, and so avoid the necessity of touching the seat with the hand. When folded up, the plates F, bars D, and struts J lie in alinement or slightly beyond the center, so the seat will not drop unless its lower edge be pressed slightly forward, when it will drop easily to position for use. As the seat folds up it is, when so folded, at such height that but little or no stooping will be necessary to reach its lower edge in order to open it to position for use.

As before suggested, the seat will lie flush with the counter or shelf in position for use, will be strong, can be lightly constructed, thus avoiding weight and excess of noise in operating, will take up no space beneath the

counter or shelving, and when adjusted to the shelving is in position to permit the clerk to face the customer.

It is important in counter-stools that when
 5 folded they should not project too high to fit below the counters of ordinary height, and this is effected by the sliding connection at I, which permits the struts to adjust out near the front edge of the seat when the latter is
 10 adjusted to position for use and at the same time permits the struts to slide up along the seat when the latter is folded, so reducing the height to which such seat is thrown when adjusted to folded position. By making the
 15 slot a certain exact length it enables me to accomplish three things impossible to accomplish in any other way with the same or similar arrangement. First, it gives the best of support for the seat at the outer edge. Second,
 20 in folding it makes it possible to fold it in a shorter space than would otherwise be possible, which is an important feature. The height of the slot is such that when folded it makes a perfect lock for the seat, and this
 25 could not be accomplished in any other or so simple a way without extra material or other combination.

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

1. In a folding stool, the combination with the seat, of the plates secured to the under side thereof and provided with slots, the struts having a sliding connection at their
 35 upper ends with said plates by means of a cross-rod operating in said slots, the top-supporting bars pivoted at their front ends to said plates in rear of the slots therein, and the support to which the bars and struts are
 40 pivoted, substantially as shown and described.

2. The combination in a folding stool, of the plates, the seat secured to said plates, the struts having a pivotal and sliding connection at their upper ends with said plates, the
 45 top-supporting bars pivoted to said plates, and the post arranged between the ends of

the struts and top-supporting bars, and pivots securing said struts and bars to the post, substantially as described.

3. The combination of the post, the seat, the plates secured to the under side of said seat, the struts lapping at one end against the opposite faces of the post and pivoted thereto, and at their other ends against the
 55 outer side of the plates and pivoted thereto, and the top-supporting bars lapping at their forward ends against the inner faces of the plates and pivoted thereto, and at their other ends against the post and pivoted thereto, substantially as described.

4. The herein-described improvement in folding stools, consisting of the post having an upper portion reduced in thickness, the seat provided with the depending plates provided with slots elongated in the direction of
 65 their length, the struts pivoted at their lower ends to opposite sides of the post below the narrowed portion thereof and having a connection at their upper ends with the plates through the slots thereof, such struts being
 70 lapped against the outer sides of such plates, and the top-supporting bars pivoted at one end on opposite sides of the narrowed portion of the post and at their other ends between the rear ends of the depending seat-plates, all substantially as described, whereby when folded, the top-supporting bars will
 75 fold within the plates, and the latter within the struts, substantially as set forth.

5. The combination in a folding stool, of the post, the seat, the top-supporting bars pivoted at one end to the post, and at their other ends to the seat and arranged between their ends to support the inner edge of such
 85 seat, and the struts pivoted at their lower ends to the post and having at their upper ends a pivotal and sliding connection with the seat, the latter folding upward into closed position, substantially as shown and described.

FRED E. UPHAM.

Witnesses:

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