



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LOUIS ALEXANDER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## IMPROVEMENT IN WATER-CLOSET SEATS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 54,480, dated May 8, 1866.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, LOUIS ALEXANDER, of the city and county and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Water-Closets; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a longitudinal vertical section of this invention. Fig. 2 is a sectional front elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section of a modification of the same. Fig. 4 is a plane or top view of the same, partly in section.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

This invention relates to a seat of a water-closet which is composed of three or more sections combined with each other and with suitable locks or fastenings in such a manner that each seat can be unlocked independent of the others, and that by unlocking the second seat, for instance, access is had to this seat alone and to neither of the others, and thereby a combination seat is obtained, which is of great value, particularly for houses which are occupied by several families, and which gives each family its own seat without requiring more than one closet.

A represents the combination seat for a water-closet, which is composed of several flaps *a b c d e*, &c. These flaps are united by suitable hinges, and the upper flap or cover is solid and not perforated with a hole; but each of the succeeding flaps *b c d e*, &c., is perforated with a hole of the usual size and shape of the holes in the seats of water-closets.

When the flaps are all folded down, as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings, the various holes cover each other, and each flap is provided with a flange or rim, *f*, which projects over the surrounding flaps, so that if the first flap or cover is down neither of the surrounding flaps is exposed; if the first flap is raised the second flap only is exposed, and so on; or, instead of providing the flaps with flanges or

rims, they may be provided with ribs *f*\*, (see Figs. 2 and 3,) which catch into corresponding grooves in the next succeeding flaps, so that if one flap is raised only the next flap below is exposed, but the succeeding flaps are protected from being soiled by water or other impurities.

Each of the flaps *a b c d e*, &c., is provided with its own lock or fastening *g*, and these fastenings are so arranged that if the fastening of the first flap is unlocked that flap only can be raised; if the fastening of the third flap is unlocked the third flap, together with all the previous flaps, can be raised, and so on, and that each fastening controls one flap and gives access to one seat only, and not more.

By this arrangement a combination seat is obtained which is so constructed that in a house occupied by several families each family can have their own seat without access to the seats of the other families, and a person having access to the second seat, for instance, is not able to soil or wet either of the other seats.

It is obvious that a combination seat of this construction not only saves room in a building, but it also promotes cleanliness, and in many instances it may be the means to prevent the spreading of a disease, which in many cases is effectually promoted by the present arrangement of the water-closets in crowded buildings or tenement-houses, where several families have access to one and the same water-closet and are compelled to use one and the same seat.

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

The combination seat as constructed of several flaps *a b c d e*, &c., with projecting flanges or ribs, in combination with suitable fastenings *g*, constructed and operated substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

The above specification of my invention signed by me this 12th day of March, 1866.

LOUIS ALEXANDER.

Witnesses:

M. M. LIVINGSTON,  
W. HAUFF.