Bigelow & Hardy,

Desk,

No. 24,534. Patented June 28, 1859.

Fig. 1.

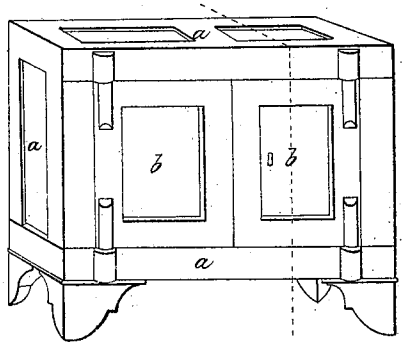


Fig. 2.

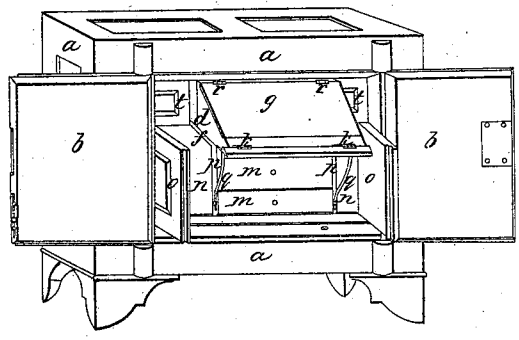


Fig. 3.

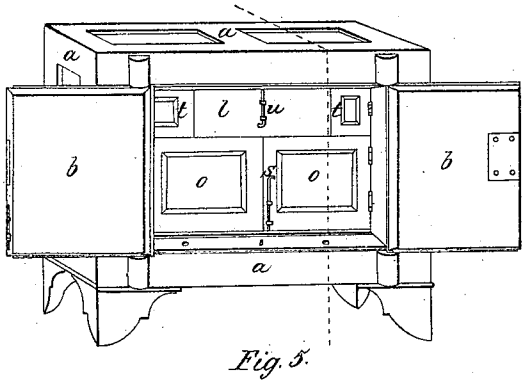


Fig. 4.

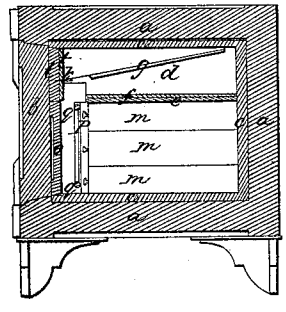
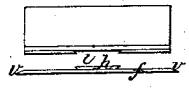


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MILTON B. BIGELOW AND A. HARDY, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

FIREPROOF DESK.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 24,534, dated June 28, 1859.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, MILTON B. BIGELOW and ANSON HARDY, both of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Fireproof Desk; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, with the letters of reference marked thereon, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1, is a perspective drawing of our fireproof desk, when shut or closed up. Fig. 2, a perspective drawing of the same, when open, and ready to be used for the purposes of writing or reading. Fig. 3, a perspective drawing of the same, with only the outside doors open. Fig. 4, a drawing of a section of an end elevation, cut through at the point indicated by the dotted lines in Figs. 1 and 3,—and Fig. 5, is a drawing of a front elevation of the movable table, *d*, and the slide, *f*, disconnected from each other.

The drawings are in outline, and the same letters refer to similar parts in all the drawings.

The purpose and advantage of our invention is to give greater, or more certain and convenient, security to valuable papers, and other articles, than is afforded by the fireproof safes and vaults now in use. It not unfrequently happens that, in closing business for the day, valuable papers, books, money, or other articles, are unintentionally left in, or upon, the ordinary wooden desks of the counting room, or office, instead of being removed to a fireproof vault, or safe, to remain over night,—at which time their greatest danger, from the action of fire, exists. By making a desk, itself, fireproof, all necessity for removing valuables from it, for greater safety from fire, is entirely avoided.

In constructing our desk, we make the outside case, *a*, *a*, *a*, Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, and the outside doors, *b*, *b*, and the inside case, *c*, *c*, *c*, Fig. 4, according to any of the well-known and approved methods employed for making fireproof safes.

The movable table, *d*, Figs. 2 and 4, which sometimes occupies the position shown in Fig. 2, and sometimes the position shown in Fig. 4, is made of wood. One purpose of the movable table, *d*, is to contain writing materials, and under its lid, *g*, which is hinged at *r*, *r*, compartments for papers, and other articles. Its upper surface is inclined, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4, for the purpose of making it convenient for writing and reading. On its front part is hinged, at *k*, *k*, Figs. 2 and 4, an extension leaf *l*. On extension leaf *l* is a bolt, *u*, or lock, so fitted that, when the movable table *d*, and the slide *f*, occupy the position shown in Fig. 4, and Fig. 3, said extension leaf may be fastened, or locked, to the inside case *c*, *c*, *c*.

Secured to the inside case *c*, *c*, *c*, and vertical partitions *p*, *p*, is a shelf *e*, Fig. 4, on which the slide *f* moves and rests. On each side of movable table *d*, is a partition, supported by shelf *e*, and the case *c*, *c*, *c*. The beveled sides, *v*, *v*, Fig. 5, of the slide *f*, move in grooves made in said partitions. On the upper side of the slide *f*, we fasten a wedge-shaped tongue, *h*, Fig. 5, which extends from front to rear of said slide. Said tongue *h*, is made so as to enter a corresponding groove, *i*, Fig. 5, made on the underside of the movable table *d*. The slide *f*, is provided with a stop which, coming in contact with an obstruction on shelf *e*, prevents said slide from being drawn out beyond the distance desired. The movable table, *d*, is also provided with a stop which, meeting an obstruction on the slide *f*, prevents said movable table from being drawn out beyond the distance desired. The purpose of the slide *f* is to support, or assist in supporting, the movable table *d*, whenever said movable table is drawn out, from the case *a*, *a*, *a*, to the position shown in Fig. 2.

Letters *m*, *m*, *m*, are drawers for the reception of papers, or other articles.

n, *n*, are compartments, for reception of books and other articles.

o, *o*, are doors to close over compartments *n*, *n*, and drawers *m*, *m*, *m*.

p, *p*, are vertical partitions, secured to the inside case *c*, *c*, *c*, and to shelf *e*.

A strong bracket, *q*, *q*, of wood or metal, is hinged to each of the partitions *p*, *p*. Said brackets are for the purpose of supporting or assisting to support, the slide *f*, and the movable table *d*, whenever said slide and said movable table are moved forward to the position shown in Fig. 2. When the slide *f*, and movable table *d*, occupy the position shown in Fig. 4, the brackets *q*, *q*, are swung or folded against, and parallel with, the front of the drawers, *m*, *m*, *m*.

S is a bolt to secure doors *o*, *o*, in the position seen in Fig. 3.

t, *t*, are doors which cover compartments for papers, and other articles.

Supposing our fire-proof desk to be properly built, and closed, or shut up, so as to present the appearance shown in Fig. 1, now, by unlocking and opening the outside doors *b*, *b*, the desk will present the appearance shown in Fig. 3. Then, the doors *o*, *o*, may be opened,—the extension-leaf *l* may be unfastened, and the movable table *d*, and the slide *f* may be drawn out to the position shown in Fig. 2. The brackets *q*, *q*, may then be swung or moved out into a position, as shown in Fig. 2, to support, partially or wholly, the weight of the movable table *d* and the slide *f*. The desk is now ready for use, for the purposes of reading and writing.

When it is desired to close, or shut up, the desk, the brackets *q*, *q*, are to be swung, or folded, against, and parallel with, the front of the drawers, *m*, *m*, *m*,—the doors *o*, *o*, may then be closed, and the movable table, *d*, and slide *f*, may be pushed back until they occupy the position shown in Fig. 4. The extension-leaf *l*, may then be turned up, vertically, and fastened to the inside case *c*, *c*, *c*, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. The outside doors *b*, *b*, may then be shut and locked, and the desk will then again present the appearance shown in Fig. 1.

What we claim as our invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The movable table *d*, or any device essentially the same, in combination with the fire-proof case *a*, *a*, *a*,—said table being constructed and made so as to operate in the manner, substantially, as, and for the purposes, herein specified.

2. We also claim the slide *f*, or any device essentially the same, in combination with the movable table d and the fire-proof case *a*, *a*, *a*, for supporting, or assisting to support, said movable table whenever said table is drawn out to the position shown in Fig. 2, said slide and said table being connected, and made so as to operate in the manner and for the purpose, substantially as herein specified, and shown.

3. We also claim the brackets *q*, *q*, or any device substantially the same, in combination with the fire-proof case *a*, *a*, *a*, for supporting or assisting to support, the movable table *d*, and the slide *f*, in the manner and for the purpose, substantially, as herein shown and explained.

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