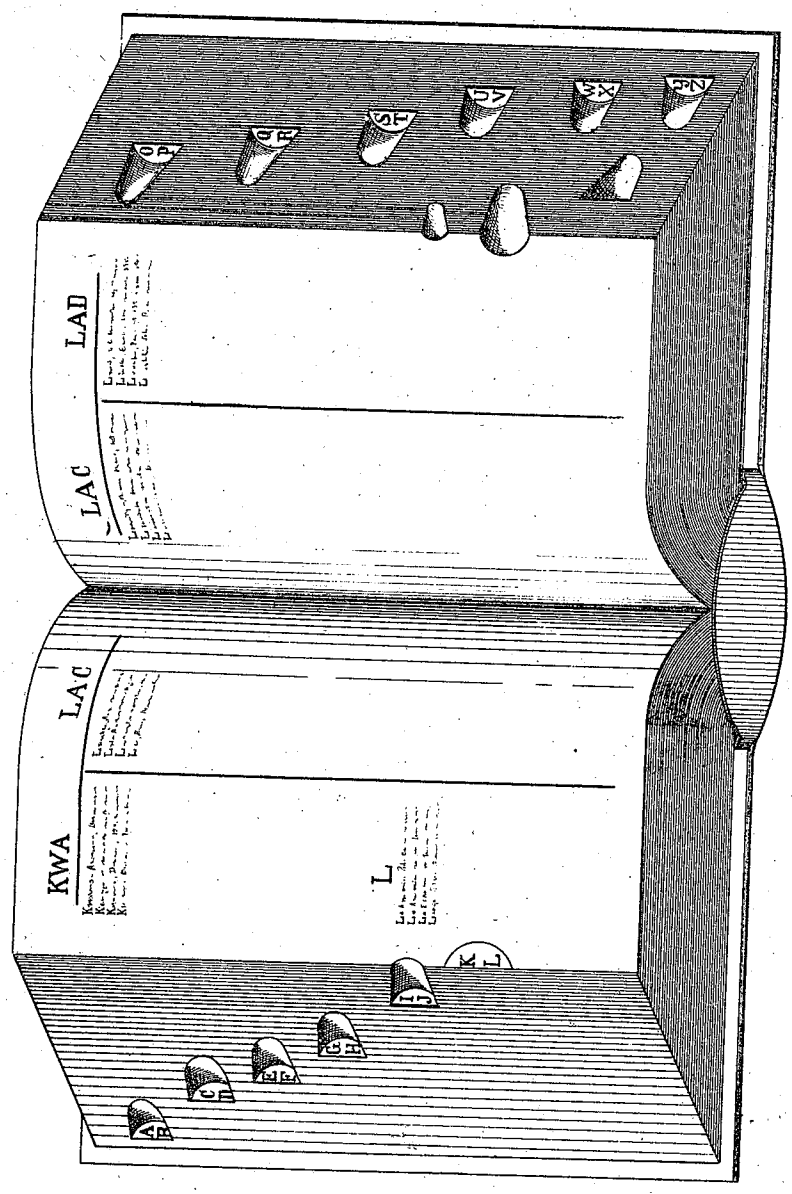
(No Model.)

H. A. SILVERA.

INDEXED BOOK.

No. 447,371. Patented Mar. 3, 1891.



WITNESSES

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HERBERT A. SILVERA, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

INDEXED BOOK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 447,371, dated March 3, 1891.

Application filed July 19, 1887. Serial No. 244,773. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HERBERT A. SILVERA, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Indexed Books, which is applicable to blank books and all books of an indexical character; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of my invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention consists in what I call a "semi-reflex system of indexing," by placing the indices at the meeting-point of two contiguous subject-matters to which they respectively refer reversely, whereby I simplify the matter by employing only half the number of indices, which cheapens the cost particularly when tabs are used or niches are cut in the edges of the leaves, which tabs or niches may be larger and more conspicuous, besides being more easily selected on account of the smaller number. I prefer to use what I shall hereinafter designate as "double" letters, names, or characters formed by the association or combination of two or more single letters, names, or characters; but I may in some instances employ single characters.

The accompanying drawing illustrates an opened book indexed according to my invention.

In the drawing I show my invention as applied to an ordinary dictionary or lexicon; but I use such book as an illustration simply.

The invention is applicable to a great variety of works, and also to blank books, as before stated.

To carry my invention into effect a double letter, name, or character intended to indicate two subject-matters is printed or otherwise delineated on or attached to a leaf, or interposed between leaves (by means of tabs) at a point where two subject-matters meet. Thus in the case of the dictionary, as illustrated, the double letter KL appears located at the end of K and the beginning of L, so that a reader on opening the book at the point indicated will be as near to one subject-matter as the other, but is obliged to turn the leaves backward—*i. e.*, from left to right, for the subject-matter of K, and from right to left for the subject-matter of L. The same is the case with the double letters AB CD, and so on.

Should it be necessary to index the same book more completely—*i. e.*, by vowels—the double letters may consist of two vowels, as $\frac{B}{ei}$, together with a principal letter, as $\frac{B}{ei}$, which is to be placed or applied according to the system explained in the case of the principal double letter AB—that is to say, at the point in subdivision B, where the vowel *e* ends and *i* commences.

By this improved system the smallest Bible or pocket-dictionary may be indexed with great facility at small cost, which was heretofore impracticable for want of space required to apply single letters or names at the beginning of each subject-matter therein contained.

Another important advantage of this improvement is the increased size of the double letters, names, or characters which may be employed, rendered possible by the reduction of their number and consequent reduction of the aggregate amount of space required therefor. Moreover, in certain instances and in certain kinds of books it is not necessary that there should be two letters, names, or characters to form my double letters, so called, as, for instance, in the case of the "Holy Bible" there are the First and Second Samuel, the First and Second Kings, and other instances of this kind. These may be indexed under my system by placing "Samuel I II" at the end of First Samuel and beginning of Second Samuel, and in the case of Kings, Chronicles, Thessalonians, &c., the single word "Kings," "Chronicles," "Thessalonians," &c., may be placed between the two books of the same, respectively turning from left to right for the first book and from right to left for the second book. Moreover, I sometimes, in order to avail myself of a part of my invention, index books by a single reference-letter or other character, placing it, however, at such a point in the book that it shall refer to two subject-matters. Thus in indexing a monthly register I can skip a month, commencing "Feb." for February, placing it at the commencement of February, and of course it refers to January according to the plan stated; and the next index would be "Apl." for April, and so on, and the same

is true of the letters of the alphabet, commencing "B," which implies A and B; next "D," then "F," and so on.

Books may be indexed by this improved system without cutting their leaves by the use of tabs projecting beyond the edges thereof, and having delineated thereon the proper double letter, name, or character. When, however, it is advisable to cut the edges of a book so as to expose the surfaces of the leaves to be indicated the manner of cutting may differ according to the nature or kind of book. For printed books or thick blank books concave recesses or niches cut into the body of the leaves similar to those used in connection with my improved index for which I obtained Letters Patent of the United States, dated August 21, 1883, and numbered 283,383, will be best suited to the purpose under certain conditions, while in other cases the "steps" may be better suited.

It is obvious that the double letters, or their equivalent, as described, may be produced on the inclined wall of the concave niches cut into the body of the leaves, if desired, as well as on the face of the leaf or on the tabs, if they be used.

I am aware of the patent to Perley, No. 370,280, in which the leaves are cut away so as to expose the reference-letter on the first page containing matter under each head as usual in a double row facing in opposite directions with a character in each index referring to the subject-matter of the opposite index, beside the character referring to the subject-matter of the one where the index is placed, the purpose of which is that the required index-letter may be seen from either side of the book as it may happen to lie; but this is not my invention. There is an index for each subject-matter, as usual, while in my invention there is only one for two subject-matters.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

A book indexed as described—viz., one index to two subject-matters, the indicia being placed between adjoining subject-matters and referring to them reversely, substantially as described.

HERBERT A. SILVERA.

Witnesses:
E. BACHMANN,
GEORGE A. VOSS.