(No Model.)

J. J. DUNN.

FOLDING CONFESSIONAL.

No. 399,388. Patented Mar. 12, 1889.

Fig. 1.

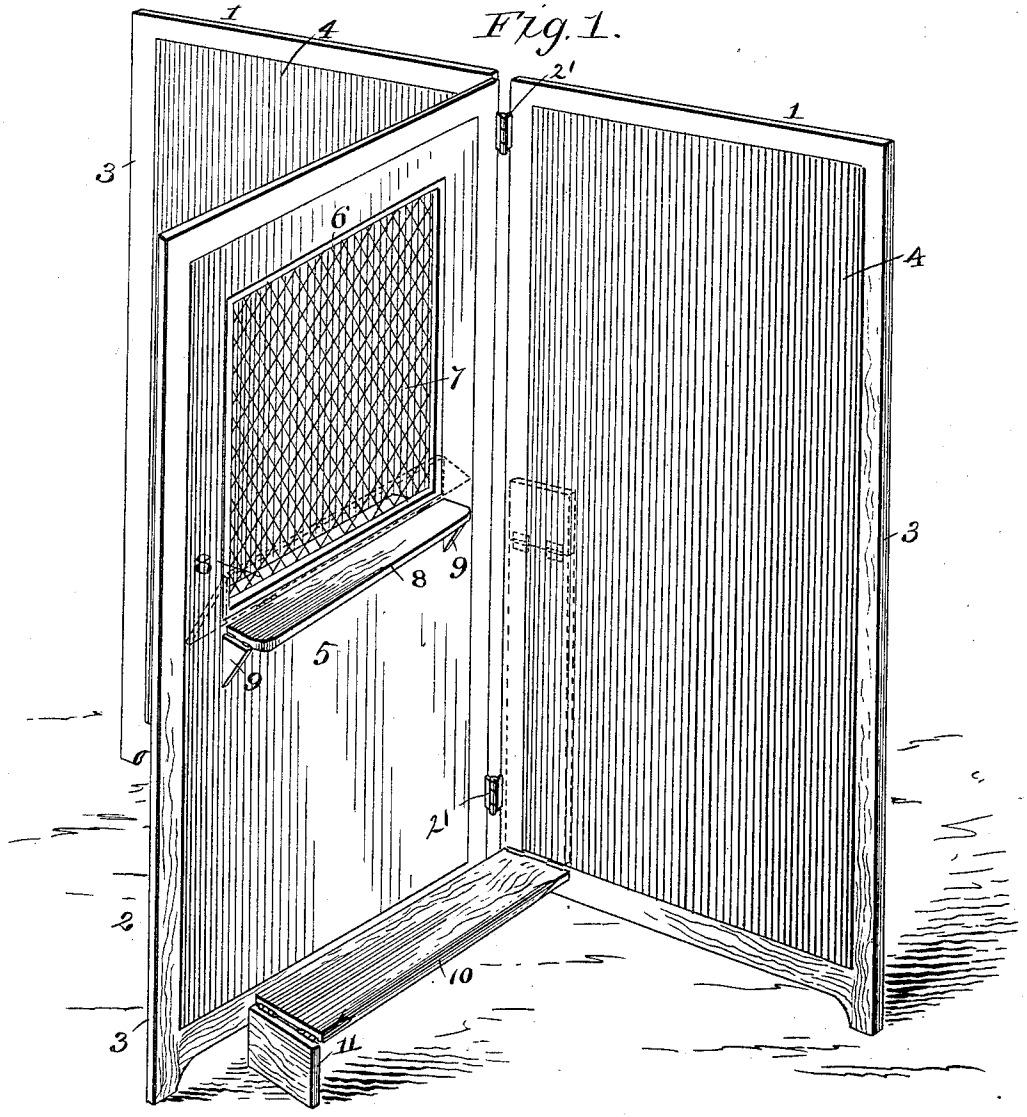


Fig. 2.

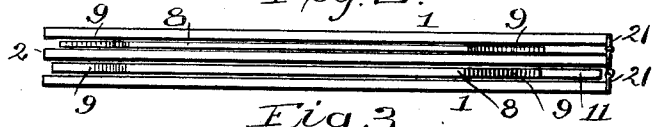
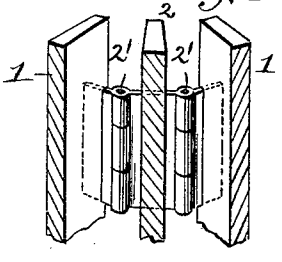


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES J. DUNN, OF MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA.

FOLDING CONFESSIONAL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 399,388, dated March 12, 1889.

Application filed October 15, 1888. Serial No. 288,067. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES J. DUNN, of Meadville, in the county of Crawford and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and Improved Folding Confessional, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to confessionals for use in Roman Catholic churches, and has for its object to provide a confessional which is portable and can be folded up, whereby it can be instantly set up for use in any part of a church, may be folded up and removed out of the way, and will afford proper ventilation.

The invention consists in a folding confessional constructed and arranged as hereinafter described and claimed.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar figures of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a view of the confessional in position for use. Fig. 2 is an end view thereof, showing it folded; and Fig. 3 is a detail showing a portion of the screens of the confessional and their hinge-connection.

In carrying out the invention the confessional is constructed with a number of screens hinged together to fold up, and, as here shown, consists of three screens, 1 1 and 2, hinged together by means of hinges 2′ and made so as to fold up in any suitable manner, and are preferably formed of light wooden frames 3, the screens 1 1 having green baize, 4, or other material stretched thereon, and the screen 2 a panel, 5, of light wood or other rigid material. The screen 2, which is inclosed between the screens 1 1 when the confessional is folded up, is provided with a window or opening, 6, of suitable size and shape, and preferably covered with a wire net-work, 7, or a grating. A hand-rest, 8, is hinged to panel 5 on one side thereof beneath the opening 6, and is held in open position by brackets 9, hinged to its ends. When the confessional is folded, the hand-rest 8 folds up against the screen 2, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1. On the opposite side, beneath the opening or window, is a corresponding foldable hand-rest for the use of the confessor. At the bottom of one of the screens 1 is hinged a board, 10, having a leg or support, 11, hinged to its end, the board 10, with its leg 11, folding up against the screen 1, and when unfolded serving as a kneeling-stool, as shown in Fig. 1.

In use the confessional is set up in any part of a church desired, the screens 1 1 and 2 being unfolded at a right angle to each other, as shown in Fig. 1.

An arm-chair for the confessor is located on one side of the screen 2, and the penitent uses the kneeling-stool and hand-rest on the other. When desirable, pockets may be provided in the sides of the screen for holding books, spectacles, and writing materials. If greater privacy is desired, additional screens can be attached.

By being portable the confessional may be used in the warmest parts of the church in winter and the coolest in summer. When not in use, it may be folded up compactly and put aside without taking up much room. While it affords all the seclusion needed, it is at the same time so open as to afford plenty of fresh air—a want very much felt in the old form of confessional.

It will be observed that the screens are held at such a distance apart by means of their hinge as to permit the hand-rest and kneeling-stool, folded up, to lie between two screens when the confessional is folded.

By means of this invention a light, serviceable, and convenient confessional is provided which affords ventilation and comfort.

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

1. A folding confessional consisting in a middle screen having a window or opening in its upper part and the outer screens hinged to the same vertical edge of the middle screen, substantially as set forth.

2. A religious confessional consisting of a series of screens hinged together to be folded up and set up on end in unfolded position, one of the screens forming an intervening screen having a confessional window or opening, a foldable hand-rest attached to the screen beneath the window, and on the opposite side beneath the window a folding hand-rest for

the confessor, and a foldable kneeling-stool beneath the hand-rest attached to the confessional, substantially as shown and described.

3. A religious confessional consisting of screens 1 1 and 2, connected together by hinges 2′, the screens 1 1 being formed of frames 3, having a light material stretched over them, and the screen 2 being formed of a frame, 3, having a rigid panel, 5, an opening, 6, covered by a grating, 7, foldable hand-rests 8, hinged to screen 2 beneath opening 6, and having depending foldable bracket-supports 9 hinged to their ends, and a kneeling-stool consisting of board 10, hinged at one end to screen 1 to fold up against the latter, and having a foldable hinged leg or support, 11, the screens, hand-rest, and kneeling-stool being foldable together, substantially as shown and described.

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Witnesses:
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