

W. H. STEPHENSON.
COMBINED WRITING-DESK AND MEAL-CHEST.
No. 182,238. Patented Sept. 12, 1876.

Fig. 1.

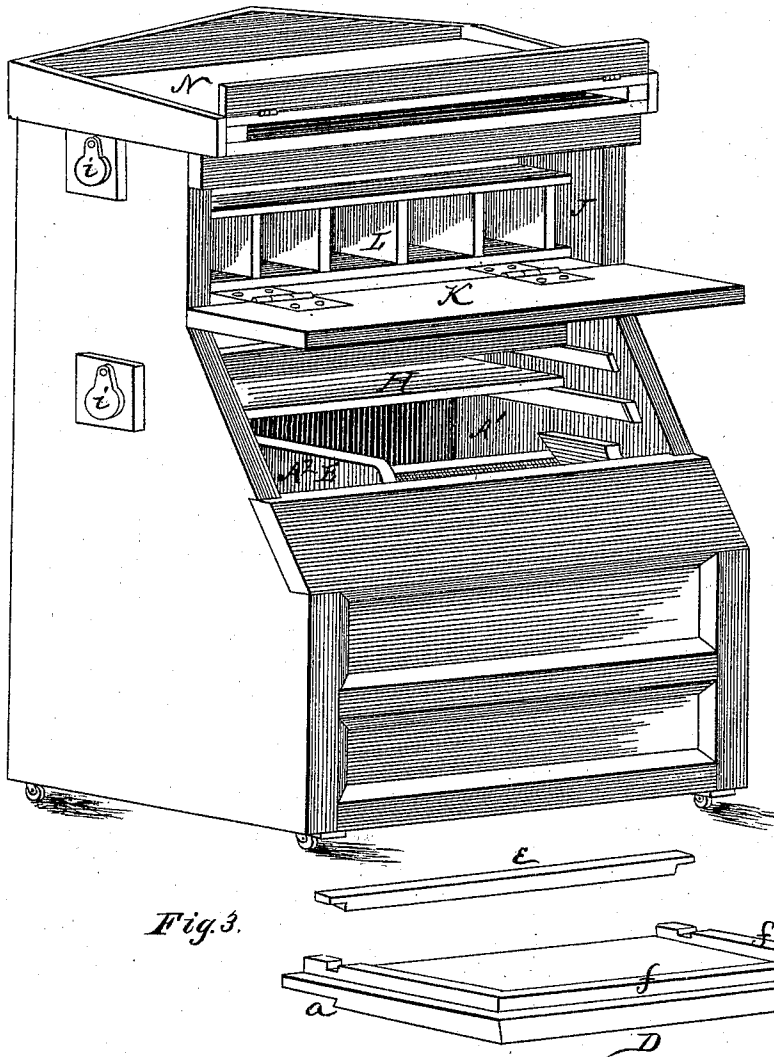


Fig. 3.

WITNESSES

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Fig. 2.

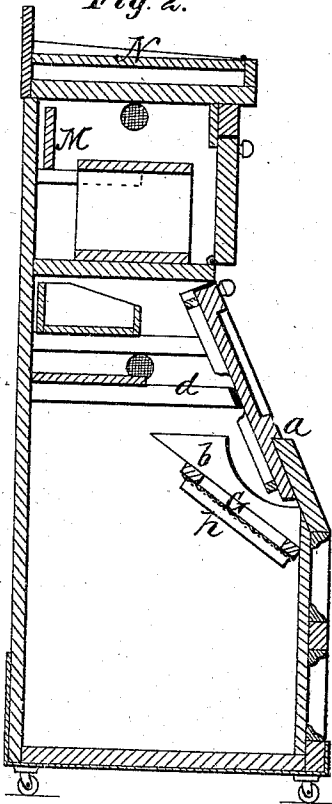


Fig. 4.

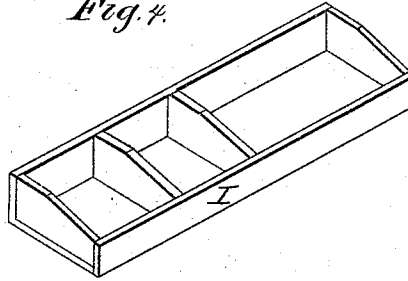


Fig. 5.

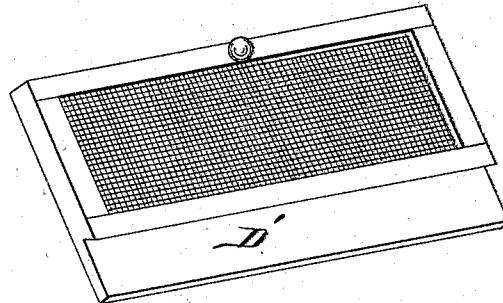


Fig. 6.

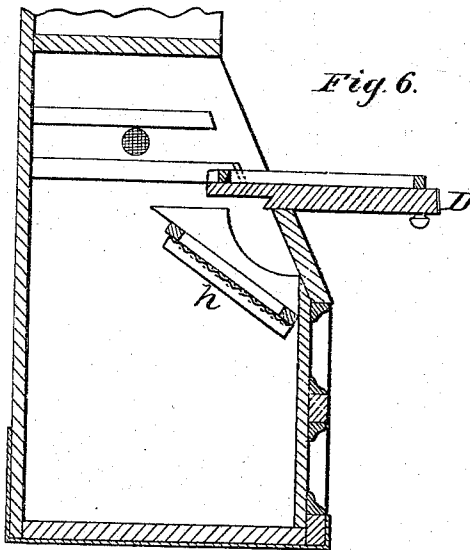
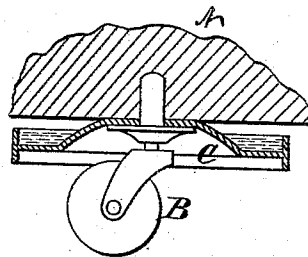


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. STEPHENSON, OF BLUFFTON, INDIANA.

IMPROVEMENT IN COMBINED WRITING-DESK AND MEAL-CHEST.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **182,238**, dated September 12, 1876; application filed February 10, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. STEPHENSON, of Bluffton, in the county of Wells and in the State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cabinets; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making a part of this specification.

The nature of my invention consists in the construction and arrangement of a cabinet for flour, meal, &c., which can be changed and used as a milk-safe and a writing-desk in combination, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

In order to enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to make and use the same, I will now proceed to describe its construction and operation, referring to the annexed drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved cabinet. Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the same. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a cake-board used therein. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a drawer. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the milk-safe door. Fig. 6 is a section of the lower part of the cabinet. Fig. 7 is an enlarged section of the caster and ant-cup supporting the cabinet.

A represents the frame of the cabinet, supported at each corner by a caster, B, around the shank of each of which is an ant-cup, C. This cup is concave on its bottom, which will prevent ants from coming up; but if they should succeed in reaching the rim of the cup they will be drowned in the water or other liquid contained in the cup. The lower part of the frame or case A is divided by a vertical transverse partition, E, into two compartments or bins, A¹ and A²—one for flour and the other for meal. The front edges of the sides of the case are made inclined above these bins, and the front closed by a lid or door, D, having an inclined shoulder at *a*, a suitable distance above its lower edge, and extending the entire length thereof, to form a tight joint when closed. In opening this door its lower end moves in circular cleats *b*, at-

tached to the inside on the sides of the frame, and the lid can then be moved inward until its lower (or inner) edge gets under and is supported by cleats *d*, also attached to the sides of the frame. On the top or inner side of the lid D are flanges *f f*, extending around the front and ends, as shown in Fig. 3. Along the inner end of the lid is a removable bar or cleat, *e*. In kneading dough on the lid this cleat is removed, allowing surplus flour to fall off the lid into the flour-bin again. The flour thus falling off is caught on a sieve, G, placed in inclined position under the cleats *b* upon cleats *h*, so that any pieces of dough that may fall off with the flour will also be caught by said sieve, and be prevented from falling into the flour-bin. The contents of this sieve can then easily be sifted.

Within that part of the case closed by the lid D is a shelf, H, and a box or drawer, I, divided into several compartments to contain spices, baking-tools, &c. The shelf H and drawer I are removable, so that they can be taken out, and other shelves, &c., put in for various purposes, especially if desired, to convert the cabinet into a milk-safe. In such case the lid D must be exchanged for the lid or door D', (shown in Fig. 5,) which door has the ordinary wire-cloth for ventilation.

In one or both sides of the case A are inserted ventilators *i*, so as to allow free passage of air, which is essential both when used as a milk-safe and when not so used.

Above the door D (or D') in the case is a desk-compartment, J, with hinged door K, to be let down and form the desk. Within this compartment is a nest of pigeon-holes, L, which is also removable, so that a shelf, M, may be substituted therefor, if desired.

In the top of the case is another shallow compartment, formed by a movable flanged tray, N, having its front side hinged, as shown. This tray may be taken off and used for other purposes, if desired.

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

1. In a flour cabinet or case, the lid or door D, provided with the flanges *f* and the re-

movable cleat *e*, as and for the purposes herein set forth.

2. The combination of the case A, divided to form bins A¹ A², the rounded cleats *b b*, lid or door D, and inclined sieve G, as and for the purposes herein set forth.

3. The combination, with a flour and meal cabinet, of a desk-compartment, J, having hinged door K and removable pigeon-hole nest L, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of January, 1876.

WILLIAM H. STEPHENSON.

Witnesses:

JOHN K. RINEHART,
JOHN H. BARKER.