

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES McDONALD, OF ELYRIA, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN FOLDING TABLES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **180,487**, dated August 1, 1876; application filed June 14, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES McDONALD, of Elyria, in the county of Lorain and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Tables, Ironing-Boards, or Lap-Boards; 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 which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a plan view. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section.

My invention relates to folding work-tables, ironing-boards, or lap-boards; and consists of brackets, hinged or pivoted in any suitable manner to the rails of the folding legs, and provided with springs for automatically opening the brackets, and holding them against stops provided with stay-pins, for supporting the legs in an upright position when the table or board is in use, as hereinafter described.

The table-top A is strengthened by the usual stay-cleats E E. B represents brackets, having wrought hinge-plates *a* on the upper and lower edges of the brackets, connected by a hinge bolt to plates *a'*, fastened to the upper and lower edges of the rails C; and *b* represents spiral springs adjusted upon the hinge-bolt, for automatically opening the brackets and holding them against the stops D, which are fastened to the top A, and are provided with pins *c*, to extend through holes in the ends of the brackets to sustain outward pressure upon the legs F, which are hinged, in the usual way, to the top of the table. The rails C are set in from the inner surface of the legs

sufficiently to allow space for the brackets when folded, as shown by dotted lines in the drawings.

In unfolding the table for use, as the legs are opened in an upright position, the brackets spring open automatically by the force of the springs, and are stopped at right angles to the rails by the stops D, and are held firmly by the pins on the stops, thus supporting the legs in an upright position against either outward or inward pressure.

In folding up the table the brackets are readily folded by the hand to the side of the rails, as shown by dotted lines in the drawings.

The brackets may be used with any other suitable springs, or without any springs, in which last-named case the brackets must be opened by hand.

What I claim as new in folding work-tables, ironing-boards, or lap-boards, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The brackets B, hinged or pivoted to the rails of the folding table, and provided with springs to automatically open the brackets, and hold them against the stops, substantially as and for the purposes described.

2. The hinged or pivoted brackets B, provided with springs *b*, in combination with stops D, having stay-pins *c*, substantially as and for the purposes described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own invention I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CHAS. McDONALD.

Witnesses:

W. F. BURGERT,
T. N. LAMPEL.