

N. Ames.
Indicator.
N^o 29,430. Patented Jul. 31, 1860.

Fig. 2.

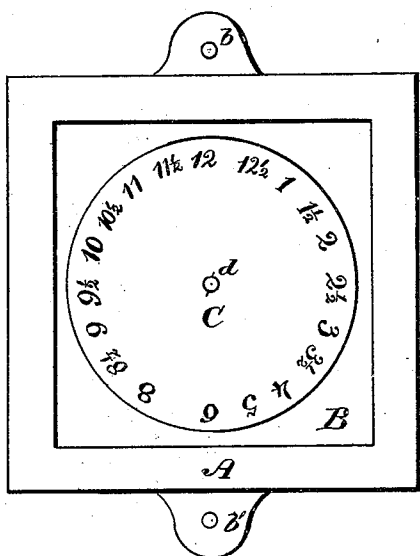


Fig. 1.

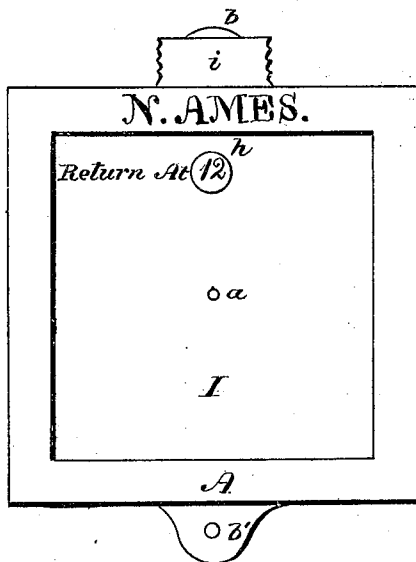


Fig. 4.

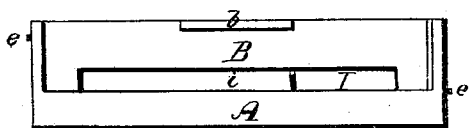
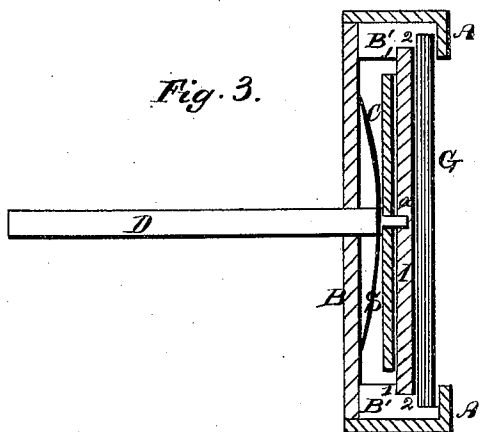


Fig. 3.



Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NATHAN AMES, OF SAUGUS CENTER, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF, AND
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INDEX DOOR-PLATE.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 29,430, dated July 31, 1860; Reissued February 11,
1868, No. 2,860.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NATHAN AMES, of
Saugus Center, in the county of Essex and
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have in-
5 vented a new and useful Index Door-Plate;
and I do hereby declare that the following is
a full, clear, and exact description of the
construction and operation of the same, ref-
erence being had to the accompanying draw-
10 ings, forming a part of this specification, in
which—

Figure 1 is a front view; Fig. 2, a similar
view with the plate, I, removed; Fig. 3, a
horizontal section; and Fig. 4, a top view,
15 showing the slot for receiving plate, I.

Like parts are indicated by the same let-
ters in all the figures.

The nature of my invention consists, 1st,
in the use of a removable plate of ivory,
20 porcelain, slate, or other material capable of
being written upon with a lead, or slate, pen-
cil and the writing readily expunged, in
combination with a suitable frame, or door
plate, furnished with a glass protector, G,
25 (Fig. 3), and confining said removable plate
by means of a spring-bolt, D, or its equiva-
lent, passing through the door into said
plate, so that a person, on leaving his office,
studio, room or house, may, if he wishes,
30 write with a pencil on said removable plate,
any direction, message, or notice, which he
may desire to put there for any length of
time, without the danger of its being erased,
altered, defaced, or taken away, by any per-
35 son, or cause whatever, outside of the door;
2d, in combination with the above the use of
a disk, C, marked with the hours and parts
of an hour, as shown in Fig. 2, said disk be-
ing confined, in the center, to a spindle, D,
40 which passes through the door, so that it,
(the disk), can be turned only by a person
inside of the door, it being impossible to
change it, or take it away, on the outer side;
and 3d, in the use of spring, S, to answer
45 the double purpose of pressing the end of
spindle, D, into a hole in the back of plate,
I, and preventing the disk from turning by
the jar of the door.

To enable others, skilled in the art, to
50 make and use my invention I will now de-
scribe its construction and operation.

B is a thin plate of cast-iron or other suit-
able material, about $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches square, two
sides of which, as shown in Fig. 3, have

flanges, B', provided with shoulders, 1 and 55
2, for the glass and slate to rest upon. The
upper end of B is also furnished with a
flange extending as high as the plate, I, as
represented in Fig. 4.

b b' are provided with holes for screws by 60
means of which the plate is confined to the
door.

A is the lid, or cover, of cast-iron or other
suitable material, shaped as seen in Figs. 1,
3 and 4, and fitting over plate, B, to which 65
it is confined by means of small pins, e e,
(Fig. 4). The flange on the top end of A
extends only to the removable plate, I, as
represented in Fig. 4. The bottom flange is
also cut away so as to receive the ear b'. 70
This cover may be japanned or ornamented
as desired; and the name may be painted
on it, as in Fig. 1.

G is a plate of thick glass, kept in place
by shoulders, 2, and cover, A, as shown in 75
Figs. 3 and 4.

I is a plate of ivory, porcelain, slate, or
other material capable of being written upon
with a pencil and the writing readily exp-
unged, and shaped as shown in Fig. 1; i 80
being a narrow extension of the plate, I, by
means of which it is withdrawn by the
thumb and finger. This plate, as repre-
sented in Fig. 4, passes through a slot, and
lies between shoulders, 1, and glass, G. 85
There is also a small hole, a, (Figs. 1 and 4)
in the back of this plate, into which hole
the end of spindle, D, is pressed by spring
S, so that said plate cannot be withdrawn
by a person on the outside of the door,—the 90
only means of withdrawing it being to pull,
on the inside of the door, the spindle D, so
that the end of it shall be out of hole a,
when I is free to be removed.

h, (Fig. 1) is a hole in the plate, I, 95
through which may be seen, one at a time,
any of the hours, or parts of an hour marked
upon the rotating disk, C, (Fig. 2); and op-
posite said hole, to the left, are the words,
Return at, permanently attached. 100

The disk, C, is made of pasteboard, or
other suitable material, and attached, at its
center, to the end of wire spindle D, and
confined by a small pin, d, Fig. 2. The end
of spindle D, as represented in Fig. 3, is 105
made smaller and projects about $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch
beyond the surface of the disk, so as to enter
the hole, a, in I. The length of the spindle

is such as to pass through a door and project on the inner side enough to be conveniently turned by the thumb and finger. The hours and parts of an hour can be printed on paper, and the paper pasted to the disk, or they can be marked or attached in any other suitable manner.

S is a spring shaped as seen in Fig. 3, with a hole in the middle of it through which passes freely the spindle D. The object of this spring is to force the end of D into hole *a*, so as to confine plate I, and also by pressing the disk against I, prevent it from turning by the jar of opening and shutting the door.

To attach the plate to a door, a hole is bored in the latter sufficiently large for spindle, D, to play through with freedom, when two small screws passing through the ears, *b b'*, are all that is requisite. I prefer to have the plate put on a door above the latch, but it may be attached to the middle.

If a person, on leaving his room or house, desires to have it known to callers, when he will return, he has only to grasp the end of spindle, D, between his thumb and finger and turn the disk, C, so that the hour required is seen through hole, *h*. Or if, as is often the case, he wishes to leave a short notice or direction stating where he has gone, where he may be found, what he wishes to have done, or anything of the kind,

he can withdraw plate, I, and write the same thereon with a pencil, and when the plate is replaced, the writing can neither be altered, defaced, or taken away (as is obvious from the explanations given above) by any person or cause outside the door.

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is.

1. The removable plate, I, of ivory, porcelain, slate, or other material capable of being written upon with a pencil and the writing readily expunged, in combination with a suitable frame, or door-plate, furnished with a glass protector, G, and confining said removable plate by means of a spring-bolt, D, or its equivalent, passing through the door, substantially as set forth and for the objects specified.

2. In combination with the above door plate a rotating disk, C, marked with the hours and parts of an hour, as shown in Fig. 2, said disk being confined, in the center, to a spindle, D, which passes through the door, substantially as, and for the purpose, described.

3. The spring, S, arranged, combined and operating, substantially as described.

NATHAN AMES.

Witnesses:

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DANL. A. AMES.