

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

D. B. RICE, C. N. SWORD & F. M. WILDER.

FOLDING STEPS.

No. 310,226.

Patented Jan. 6, 1885.

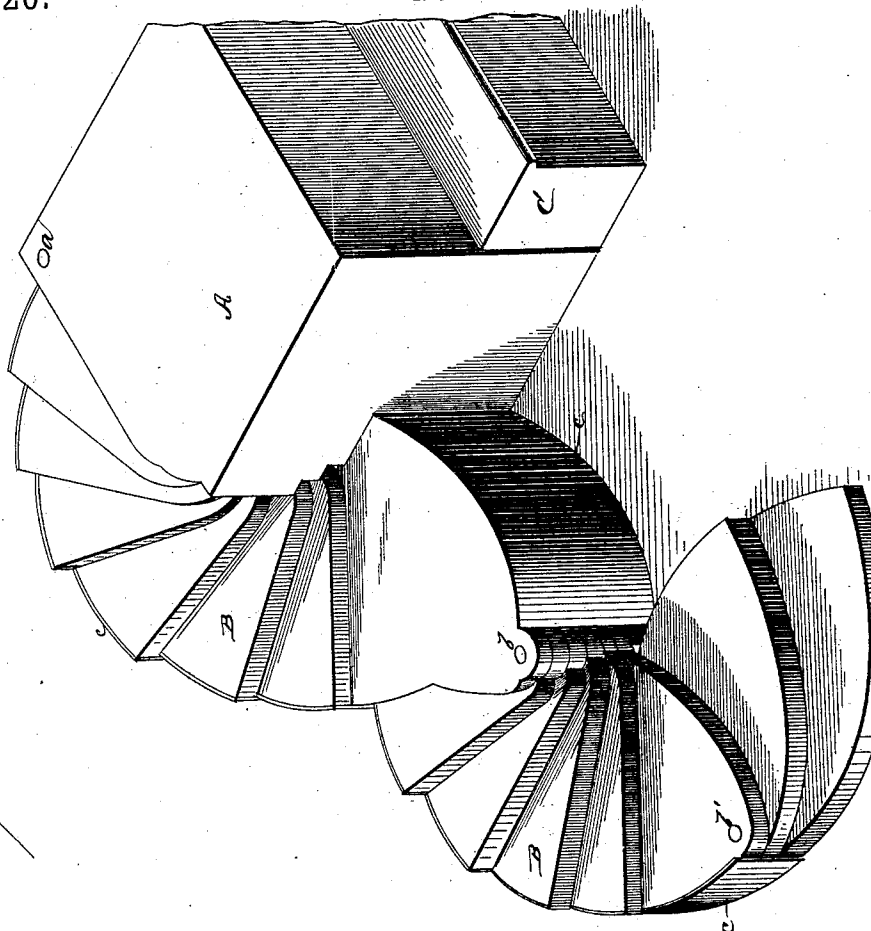


Fig. 1.

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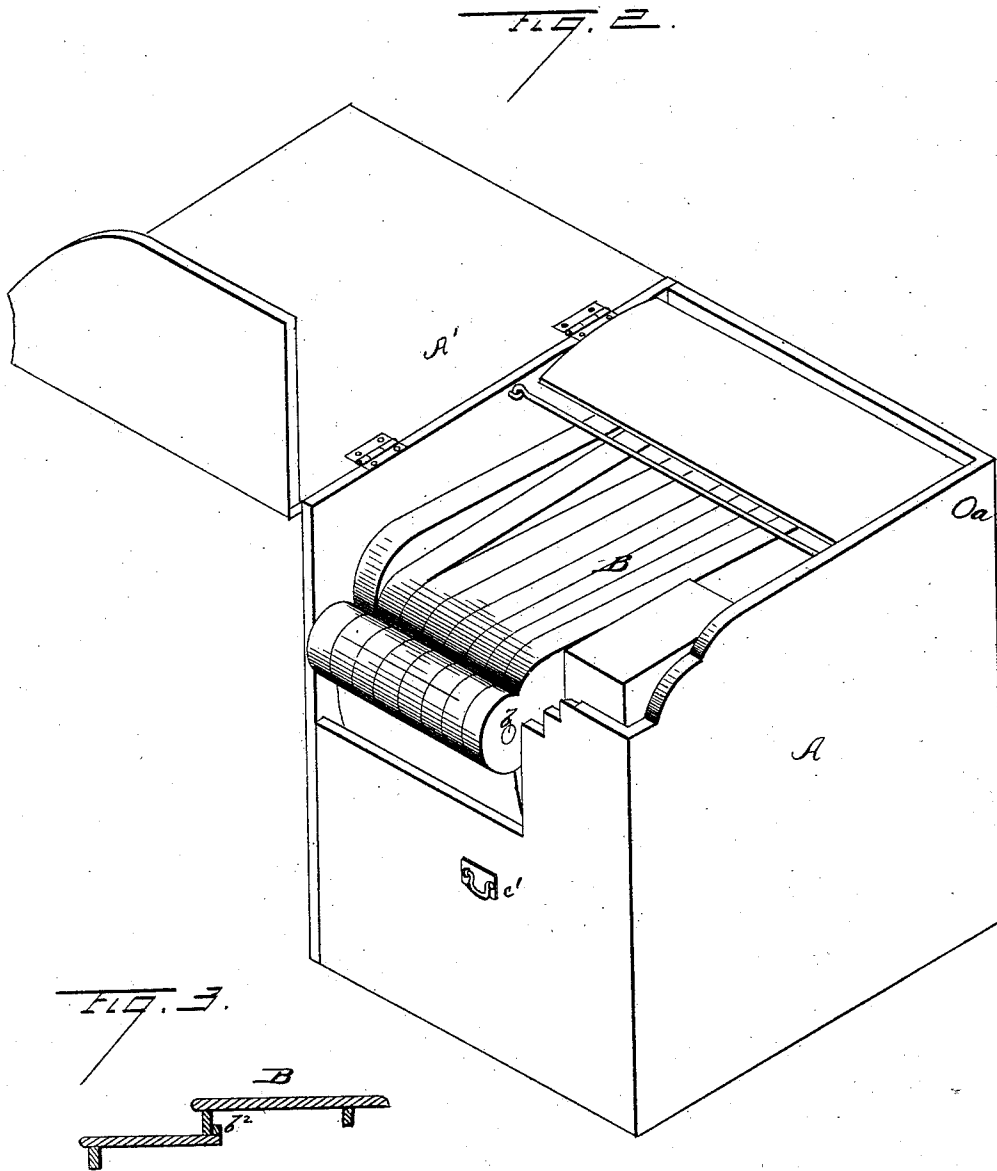
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

D. BURT RICE, CHANCEY N. SWORD, AND FLAVIUS M. WILDER, OF CHICAGO,
ILLINOIS.

FOLDING STEPS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 310,226, dated January 6, 1885.

Application filed April 10, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, D. BURT RICE, CHANCEY N. SWORD, and FLAVIUS M. WILDER, citizens of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Steps, of which the following is a specification, to wit:

This invention relates to folding steps; and it consists in a box or platform provided with a series of steps hinged therein and to each other, and adapted to be drawn out or entirely folded within the box or case, substantially as and for the purpose hereinafter more fully set forth and claimed.

In order to enable others skilled in the art to which the invention appertains to make and use the same, we will now proceed to describe its construction and operation, referring to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device opened out. Fig. 2 is a similar view folded up for convenience and transportation, and Fig. 3 is a section through two of the steps, showing the stop for preventing their being drawn out too far.

A represents a box or case forming a platform of sufficient strength to sustain the weight of one or more persons, and having its bottom and one side made removable, as will be evident by an inspection of the drawings. Within the box, and pivoted thereto by a bolt or rod, *a*, is placed a series of steps, B B, which are preferably of an approximate triangular form. These steps may be of any number required by the height of the case or platform, and may be all hinged or pivoted upon the same pivot *a*, so as to fold with one motion, or if of too great a number for this, as in Fig. 1, they are pivoted to each other, as at *b b'*, and fold together in opposite directions, and finally within the case. The steps are each provided upon their upper inner edges with a lug or stop, *b²*, which engages with the next step above, as in Fig. 3, and prevents its being drawn out too far. Each step is upon one end provided with a wood or sheet-metal casing, which is curved to correspond to the shape of the step, as at *c*, and, reaching to the floor, serves to effectually hide

the space beneath the steps, and does not in any manner interfere with its being freely folded as desired.

This device is well adapted to halls used for lectures, dancing, &c., as being quickly placed in position and removed, to public stands for outdoor meetings, to stage fittings and scenes, and various other places of a similar nature. The drawings herewith show it especially designed for use by Masonic lodges, and in this case the steps are arranged in three series of three, five, and seven, respectively, and is exceedingly convenient for this purpose, requiring but a few moments to place in position or remove. The lower three steps are folded from one end, then the next series shoved together, and finally the whole folded and turned entirely within the case, which is then turned in the position seen in Fig. 2, the side and hinged end *A'* secured in position, and the whole removed by means of the handles *c'*, secured to the case.

The device is ornamented in any manner desired, and forms a slightly article of great value. When used by Masonic bodies, it will usually be made quite low, and with it is used a stool or step, C, which is also contained in the case when folded up.

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

1. In a folding stair, a case or frame in combination with a series of steps pivoted in one corner of the same, and adapted to be drawn out or entirely folded within the case at will, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The box or case A, having handles *c'* and a removable bottom and end, *A'*, in combination with a series of triangular steps, B, hinged or pivoted in one corner of the box, and provided with the stops *b²*, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

D. BURT RICE.
CHANCEY N. SWORD.
FLAVIUS M. WILDER.

Witnesses:

W. C. McARTHUR,
CHAS. KRESSMANN.