G. Rice. Sheet 1. 3 Sheets.

Portfolio.

No. 87,591. Patented Mar. 9, 1869.

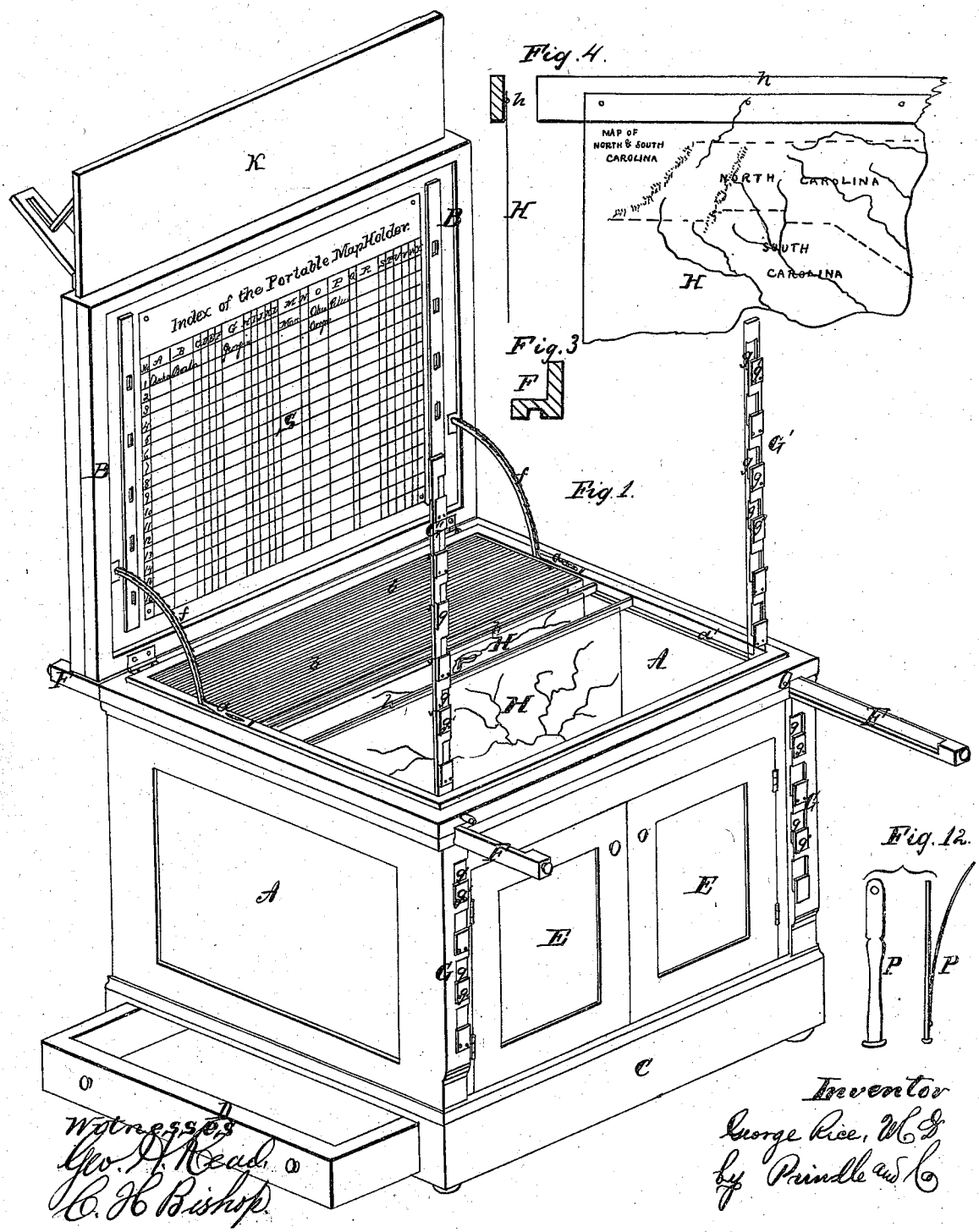


Fig. 4.

Fig. 3

Fig. 1.

Fig. 12.

Witnesses:
Geo. T. Read.
C. H. Bishop.

Inventor
George Rice, U.S.
by Prindle & Co

N. PETERS, PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

G. Rice. Sheet 3. 3 Sheets.

Portfolio.

No. 87,591. Patented Mar. 9, 1869.

Fig. 5.

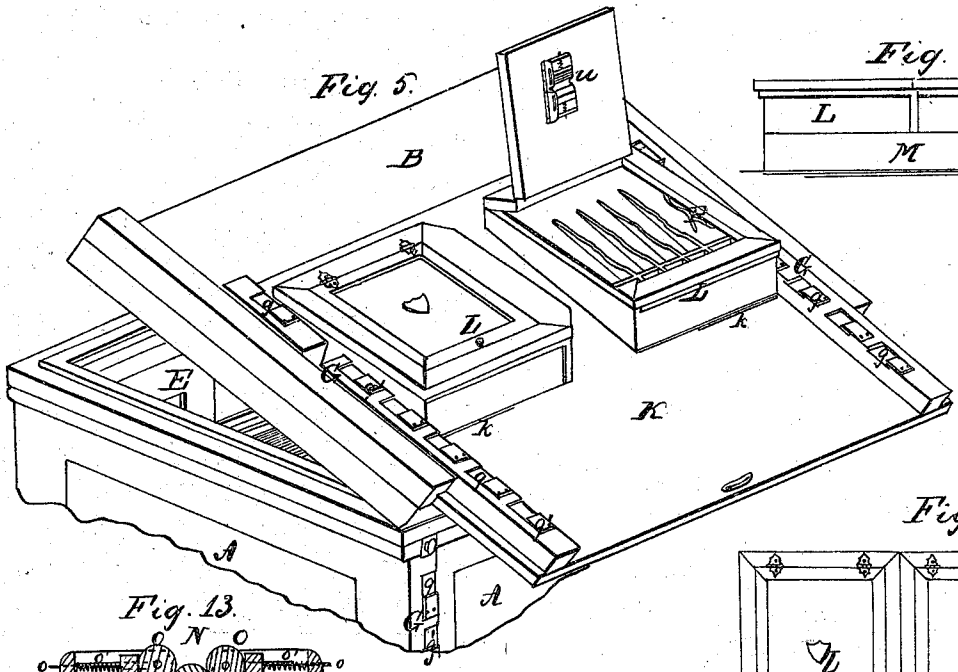


Fig. 6

Fig. 7.

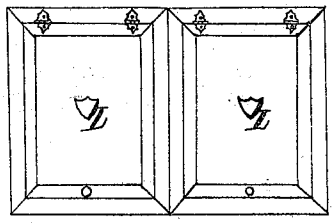


Fig. 8.

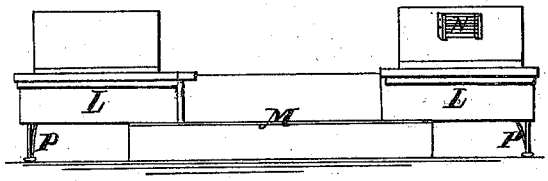


Fig. 13.

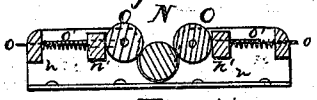


Fig. 14.

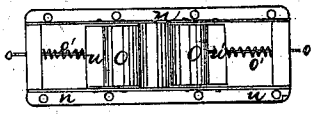


Fig. 15.

Fig. 16.

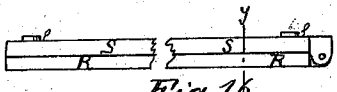


Fig. 17.

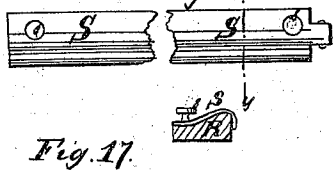


Fig. 9.

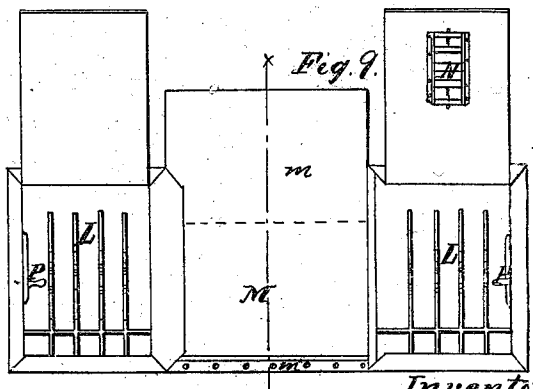


Fig. 11

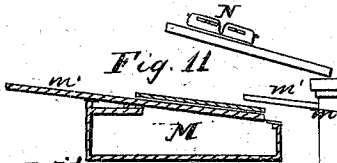
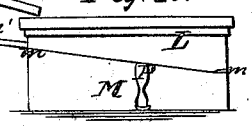


Fig. 10.



Witnesses

Geo. H. Read.

C. H. Bishop.

Inventor

George Rice, M. D.

by Prindle and Co.

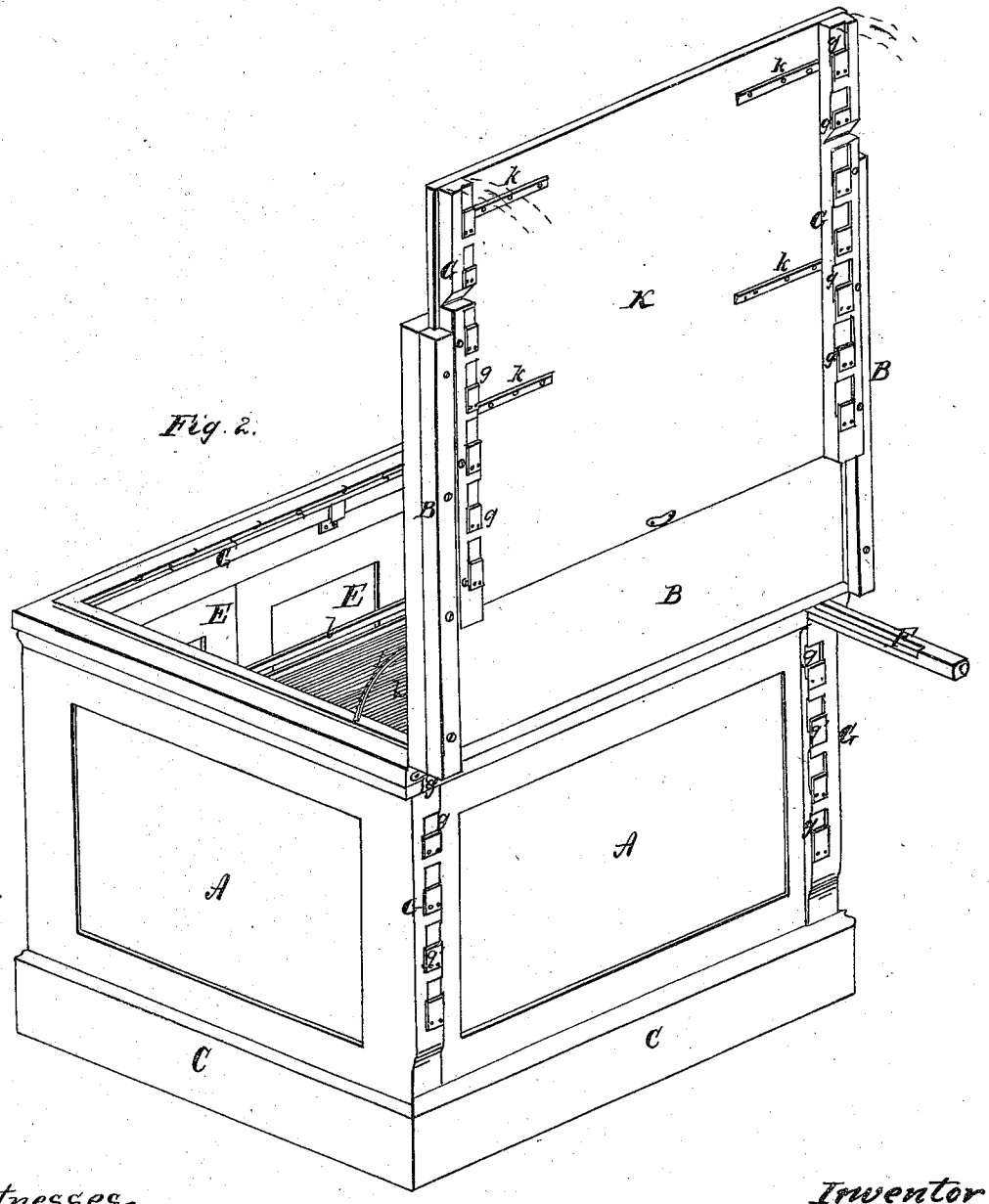
N. PETERS, PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

G. Rice. Sheet 2. 3 Sheets

Portfolio.

No. 87,591. Patented Mar. 9, 1869.

Fig. 2.



Witnesses

Geo. D. Read.

C. H. Bishop

Inventor

George Rice M.D.

by Pindle & Co.

N. PETERS, PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

United States Patent Office.

GEORGE RICE, OF FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS.

Letters Patent No. 87,591, *dated March* 9, 1869.

IMPROVEMENT IN PORTABLE MAP-HOLDERS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE RICE, M. D., of Framingham, in the county of Middlesex, and in the State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improved Portable Map-Holder and Exhibitor; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a front perspective view of the map-holder with the cover raised, so as to show the interior arrangement;

Figure 2 is a perspective rear view of the same;

Figure 3 is a cross-section of the slides, for supporting the maps outside of the holder;

Figure 4 represents a broken front and edge view of a map, showing the manner of securing it to the supporting-slats or files;

Figure 5 is a perspective rear view of the holder, showing the cover partly raised, and supplied with the necessary appliances for use as a desk;

Figure 6 is a front elevation of a portable desk for use with the map-holder;

Figure 7 is a plan view of the same;

Figure 8 is a front elevation of the same, as prepared for use;

Figures 9 and 10 are a plan view and an end elevation of the same;

Figure 11 is a cross-section of fig. 9 on the line *x x;*

Figure 12 represents a side and an edge view of the legs used, the outer ends of the upper section of the portable desk spread apart, as shown in fig. 8;

Figure 13 is a vertical longitudinal section of a pen or pencil-holder or rack;

Figure 14 is a plan view of the same;

Figures 15 and 16 represent an edge and a side view of a map-file; and

Figure 17 is a cross-section of the same on the line *y y.*

Letters of like name and kind refer to like parts in each of the figures.

The object of my invention is to furnish a suitable and convenient means for storing, transporting, and exhibiting maps, and in connection therewith, a portable desk; and to this end,

It consists of a suitably-constructed box, for containing the maps when not in use, and in providing means whereby they may be suspended at any desired height from either side or end of said box, when required for reference.

It further consists of the peculiar construction and arrangement of the appliances, by means of which the map-holder can be readily converted into and used as a desk, or a separate and independent writing-desk furnished, as may be desired.

In the annexed drawings—

A A represent the holder, consisting of a box corresponding, in inside length and depth, to the size, and in width, to the number of maps it is designed to hold, and provided with a cover or lid, B, hinged to the back side of said holder in the usual manner. Said cover is provided with two quadrants *b b*, working in grooves in the ends of the holder, and so arranged as to permit the cover to be raised only to a perpendicular position.

The outer edge of each quadrant is provided with a series of teeth, with which sliding stops, *a a*, may be made to engage, so as to secure the cover at any height desired.

To the bottom of the holder A is added a base, C, containing a drawer, D, as large as the size of said base will permit, opening from one end, for the purpose of containing maps upon rollers, or of a larger size than can be suspended within the holder.

The front side of the holder is provided with two doors, E E, through which access can be had to its interior.

Extending across each end of the holder, upon the inside, are cleats *a' a'*, one inch in width upon their upper face, and placed at about one inch and a quarter from the top edge of said holder, for the purpose of supporting the ends of the files or strips to which the maps are secured.

F F represent four slides, two, each, upon the front and back side of the holder, which work in suitable grooves in its ends. Said slides are placed at a suitable distance apart, and grooved out, as shown in fig. 3, so as to furnish a support for the map-files outside of said holder, and as the length of said slides corresponds to the width of the box, each set may be adjusted so as to contain from one to two-thirds the number of maps that can be suspended upon the inside of the holder.

Placed upon the front and rear sides, and upon the cover of the holder, are strips G G, &c., having upon their faces a series of niches, *g*, corresponding in depth to the thickness, and in length to twice the width of the map-files.

The lower half of each niche is covered by a piece of sheet-metal, *g'*, and forms a recess, for receiving the ends of said map-files.

Similar strips, G', are pivoted at one end within the front corners of the holder, so as to allow of their being placed in a vertical position, as seen in fig. 1, when desired, for supporting maps, or folded together, so as to occupy but little space when not in use, as shown in fig. 2.

It is intended that the maps H shall be secured to files or strips of wood which are somewhat longer, and project at either end beyond said maps, furnishing a space for the ends to rest upon or within the supports provided.

In order that the maps may be properly designated, and easily referred to, an index, I, covering the inside of the cover B, is formed by dividing its surface vertically into twenty-seven columns, and horizontally into spaces of suitable width, to contain a name written plainly.

Placed directly over each vertical column, except the first, is a letter, commencing with "A" upon the left, while the first column contains numerals correspond-

ing with the number of horizontal spaces, commencing with "1" at the top of said column, and increasing as they descend.

Upon the upper edge of each file is the initial letter of the State or Territory represented, together with a number, there being, of the latter, a series for each letter of the alphabet. The letters are arranged upon the files, in a line corresponding to the vertical column in the index headed by a like letter, in which the name of the map, fully written out, is placed, occupying the horizontal space corresponding to the number upon said file.

This arrangement prevents confusion, and permits any map to be readily found, it being only necessary to ascertain, upon the index, the number of the required map, and then, commencing at the bottom of the vertical column in which the name appears, run the eye forward across the files, and select, from those whose letters are in a line with said vertical column, the number desired, which will designate the required map.

It being very necessary that facilities for writing should be furnished for the use of those examining the maps, in order that their observations may be noted for future reference, the cover B is provided with a sliding part, K, upon which are arranged the upper portions of a portable writing-desk, L L, for containing writing-material, so that by raising said cover to an angle of about ten degrees, and drawing out the sliding part K, so as to give room beneath for the legs, as shown in fig. 5, a complete and convenient desk is formed.

As seen in fig. 5, the upper portion of the portable desk is in two sections, L L, which are attached to the sliding part K by means of two dovetailed strips of metal *k k*, secured to each side of said sliding part, and fitting into corresponding grooves in the bottom of said sections, allowing the latter to be readily secured in position, or removed.

The bottoms of the sections L L are inclined upward from the front at an angle of ten degrees, so as to bring their upper sides horizontal when placed upon the sloping cover; and in order that they may retain the same position when removed therefrom, a lower section or base, M, is provided, the upper side of which has the same inclination as the bottom of said sections, and is provided with dovetailed strips *m m*, &c., similar to those upon the sliding part *k k*, allowing the sections to be attached thereto in a like manner, so that when closed, they present the appearance seen in figs. 6 and 7.

The sections L L are intended for holding ink, pens, pencils, &c., to which end each is divided by partitions, as shown in fig. 6, so as to furnish suitable spaces for each article; the ink and small articles being placed in the square spaces along the front, and the pens, pencils, &c., in the long divisions extending backward.

Upon the under side of the lid of one of the sections is a rack or holder, N, for containing such pen-holders, pencils, &c., as are frequently used. As seen in figs. 13 and 14, this rack consists of an oblong open frame, *n*, in which slide two cross-pieces *n'*, to which are pivoted two rollers O O by means of strips of metal secured to and projecting forward from the ends of each cross-piece.

A spindle or rod, *o*, is attached to the centre of each cross-bar *n'*, and extends outward through suitable openings in the ends of the frame *n*, and has coiled around it, between the end of said frame and the cross-bar *n'*, a spiral spring, *o'*, which, while allowing said rollers to be pressed apart or toward the ends of said rack, will force them together as soon as the pressure is removed.

A semicircular depression is made in the centre of the frame *n*, into which a pen-holder or pencil can be easily pressed, the rollers moving apart to allow it to pass, after which they will close together, and firmly hold it in place, as shown in fig. 13, the pen-holder being indicated in red.

In order that the portable desk may be used separate from the map-holder, if desired, the upper side of the base, M, is provided with an extension or leaf *m'*, hinged or otherwise secured to said base, so that when opened or thrown back, as shown in figs. 6, 10, and 11, it shall furnish an increased width of surface, upon which paper or books may be laid. The interior of this base furnishes an ample space for containing stationery, or even books of a medium size.

Suitable supports, P P, are pivoted within each section, L L, at their outer sides, so that when the latter are spread apart, as shown in figs. 6 and 8, said supports may be turned down, so that their lower ends shall rest upon the surface supporting the base, M, and thus hold up the outer ends of said sections. When not in use, the supports may be returned to their positions within the sections, where they occupy but little space.

It is intended that the maps shall be suspended from plain slats or strips of wood, to which they may be secured by tacks or by eyleted holes in said maps, passing over hooks upon said slats; but as it may sometimes be desired to use maps temporarily in connection with the holder, provision is made for their suspension to or removal from the file without mutilation or injury. In figs. 15, 16, and 17, are shown different views of a file for accomplishing this object, consisting of a strip of wood, R, corresponding in width and length to the slats before described, one of its sides being plain, while the other has the ogee-form peculiar to frames, with a strip of sheet-metal, S, corresponding in width, length, and form, fitted thereto; one of its ends being hinged to the end of said strip, so as to allow of their being spread apart.

Two thumb-screws *s s*, one at either end, pass through the metal strip into the wood, for the purpose of enabling them to be pressed firmly together, and it will be readily seen that if said file is opened, the edge of a map inserted, and the file closed and secured by the thumb-screws, said map will be firmly held therein without injury.

The advantages possessed by my invention are obvious, and scarcely require enumeration. I will, however, briefly notice some of its principal points of excellence.

First, it furnishes a convenient and desirable means for filing maps, as, by the peculiar arrangement of said maps within the holder, and the method used for recording or indexing them, less time and labor are required to select any desired map, than by any other known manner of filing.

Second, the manner of suspending the maps allows a larger number to be filed within the same space than could otherwise be done, and a most compact and secure means is provided for preserving said maps from injury, and for transporting them when desired.

Third, by means of the devices for suspending the maps outside of the holder, they are more conveniently arranged for reference than heretofore; and by the addition of the appliances for converting the cover of said holder into a desk, a desirable and convenient means is provided for noting down observations for future use. In addition to the before-mentioned conveniences for writing, a most convenient, well-arranged, and useful portable desk is provided.

Fourth, the file shown, provides means whereby a map may be secured and suspended without the slightest mutilation or injury.

Having thus fully set forth the nature and merits of my invention,

What I claim, as new, is—

1. The within-described map-holder, consisting of the box A, cover B, operated by quadrants *b b* and stops *a a*, with the cleats *a'*, upon which maps may be suspended in the manner shown, substantially as described, and for the purpose specified.

2. Also, the slides F F, &c., placed upon or within the front and rear sides of the map-holder, and with

their inner upper corners rabbeted out, so as to receive one end of the map-files, substantially as and for the purpose shown.

3. Also, the strips G and G′, provided with the niches *g*, and secured to the sides and cover, and pivoted within the front corners of said map-holder, for the purpose of enabling the maps to be conveniently suspended for examination, substantially as shown and described.

4. Also, the sliding part K upon the cover B, substantially as shown, and for the purpose set forth.

5. Also, in combination with said sliding part K, the sections of the portable desk L L, substantially as and for the purpose shown.

6. Also, the portable desk, consisting of the sections L L and base M, constructed and arranged to operate substantially as herein described, and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing, I have hereunto set my hand, this 24th day of December, 1868.

Witnesses: GEORGE RICE, M. D.

GEO. S. PRINDLE,

JOHN S. HOLLINGSHEAD.