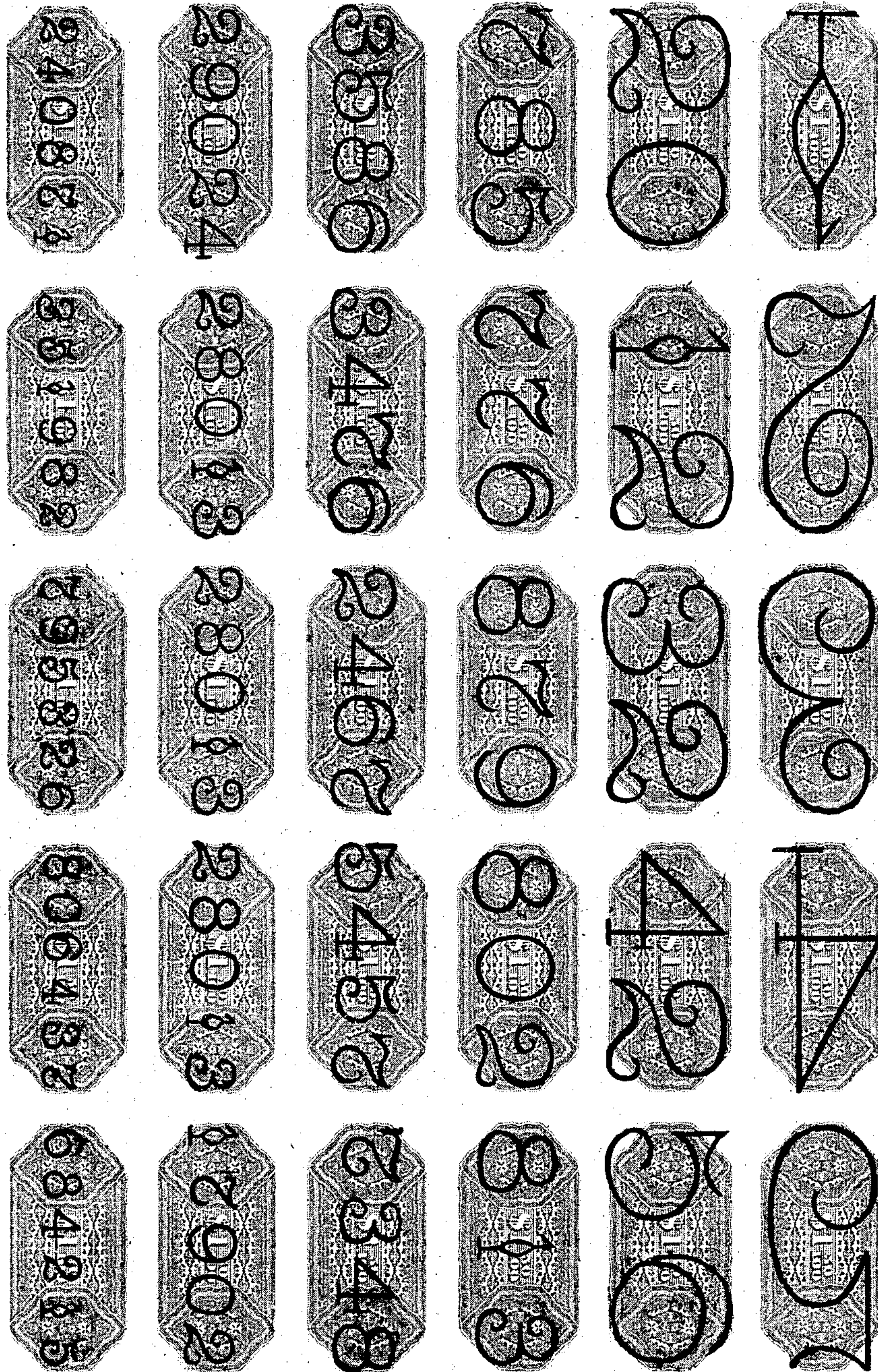


N^o 66.461.
S.M.CLARK.

NUMBERING COUPONS,&C.

PATENTED
JUL. 9 1867



McRae
John Mattheys

WITNESSES.

McRae

United States Patent Office.

SPENCER M. CLARK, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Letters Patent No. 66,461, dated July 9, 1867.

MODE OF NUMBERING COUPONS.

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

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, SPENCER M. CLARK, of Washington, in the county of Washington, and District of Columbia, have invented a new and improved Method of Numbering Coupons, Checks, Bank Notes, and other Tokens; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the specimen accompanying this application.

It is well known that coupons, bank notes, and other like tokens, are marked on their face with numbers, which are intended to enable any one issuing the notes, &c., to identify or recognize them, and to stop the payment of them in case they should be lost or stolen from the possession of the rightful proprietor.

The present system of numbering them, however, affords but little real security against the evils it is intended to remedy. The numbers are placed somewhere on the face of the notes where they may be seen without much difficulty; but they are also printed or stamped so as to occupy but little space on the note, and there is nothing to prevent the addition of one or more numerals to the number already printed. For instance, a thief who abstracts a note or coupon numbered 85, can readily change it by placing either before or after it one or more numbers or figures, as for example, 9, thus making the number 859 or 985, at pleasure, and effecting a complete change in the number which is supposed to identify the particular token to which it is attached.

The experience of bankers and others in like business proves beyond question that much money has in this way been frequently obtained by persons not entitled to it, and for some time, but hitherto in vain, a ready and efficient means has been sought to render it impossible to change or alter the number without making the fraud apparent and easily discoverable. It is to remedy these evils that I have devised the method of numbering, which I desire to have secured to me by Letters Patent.

In conformity with my system, I print the numbers so that in whatever direction they run, whether parallel to the length of the note, or transversely thereto, or diagonally, they shall extend from one end or side of the note to the other, and thus leave no room at either end where a numeral could be added so as to form part of the series already printed. In the specimen sheet accompanying this application I have shown a series of coupons stamped with numbers in accordance with my invention, and it will be seen that although the numbers printed on the different coupons may vary, yet the arrangement of them, from 1 to 100,000 and more, is identical in principle, for in every case they extend from one end to the other of each coupon, varying in size, of course, according to the number of places of figures, and to the dimensions of the coupon or other token, but so that there shall be no space left for the addition of other numerals. The identity of the coupon is thus preserved, and the number can only be altered or changed by its partial or entire erasure, which would be exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to successfully accomplish.

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

The method of numbering coupons, bank notes, and other tokens, substantially as herein set forth and described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification before two subscribing witnesses.

S. M. CLARK.

Witnesses:

L. B. ALLYN,
JULES GOLAY.