

United States Patent Office.

JAMES HESTER, OF KNOXVILLE, ILLINOIS.

Letters Patent No. 75,758, dated March 24, 1868.

MODE OF SECURING CHECKS, DRAFTS, &c., FROM FRAUD.

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, JAMES HESTER, of Knoxville, in the county of Knox, in the State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Method of Detecting Forged Checks, Drafts, &c.; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the manner of making and using the same, reference being had to the accompanying specimens, marked, respectively, No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4.

Nature.

The nature of my invention consists in attaching to checks, drafts, bills of exchange, and such like papers, concealed private marks and instructions, by metallic or other suitable fasteners, so that the private marks cannot be seen or inspected until the fastenings or seals are properly opened by the payer, and thus affording a sure test of the genuineness of the paper, and a very great protection against the payment of forged or altered checks, drafts, &c.

To apply my invention to and use it with ordinary checks, drafts, &c., I write, print, or otherwise place upon paper or other suitable material the private mark or marks and instructions, and the amount for which the check or draft is drawn, and then fold and attach the same to the check or draft by metallic or other suitable fastenings, similar to example O on Specimen No. 1.

Checks, drafts, &c., may be prepared expressly for my invention by making them with a stub or blank end, as shown by example T on the right end of Specimen No. 2. Upon this blank stub or end of the check the private marks, letter of instruction, amount for which drawn, and the signature, are placed, and the stub is then folded in a triangular shape, and the point inserted through the slit *e e*, and secured by metallic or other suitable fastenings, as shown at S in the above-named specimen and example.

I contemplate that, before being given out for use, the checks, drafts, &c., may be marked by the bank with perforations, notches, lines, &c., as shown at *a*, *b*, and *d*, on Specimen No. 1.

Any fastening may be used which will effectually secure the private marks to the checks or drafts, so as to prevent the liability of their being opened or inspected without the same being noticed by the payer, and any private mark or marks understood and agreed upon by the drawer and drawee may be used and changed by them at pleasure.

The signature of drawer may be entirely concealed, and not liable to be forged; and the amount of the draft or check, being also concealed, as well as written on the face, is not liable to be altered without detection by the payer the moment he opens the private instructions and marks.

Claims.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim therein as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The method of attaching and using upon checks, drafts, and such like papers, concealed private marks and instructions, substantially as described, and represented by example O on Specimen No. 1.
2. The method of making, folding, and fastening concealed private marks, instructions, and signatures, upon stubs or blank ends of checks, drafts, &c., substantially in the manner and for the purposes as herein described, and as shown by example T S on Specimen No. 2.

JAMES HESTER.

Witnesses:

M. D. COOKE,
L. S. BARTLETT.