

J. P. LORD.

Key-Caps for Key-Board Instruments.

No. 144,399.

Patented Nov. 11, 1873.

Fig. 1.

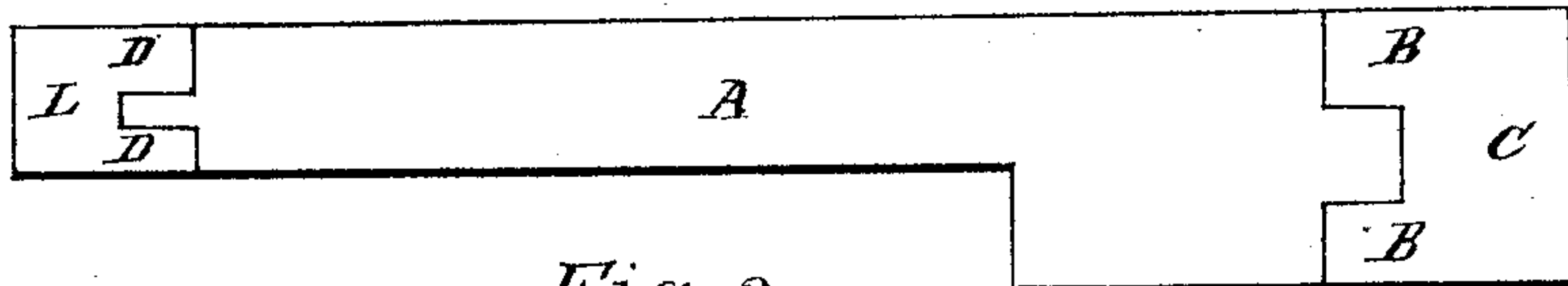


Fig. 2.

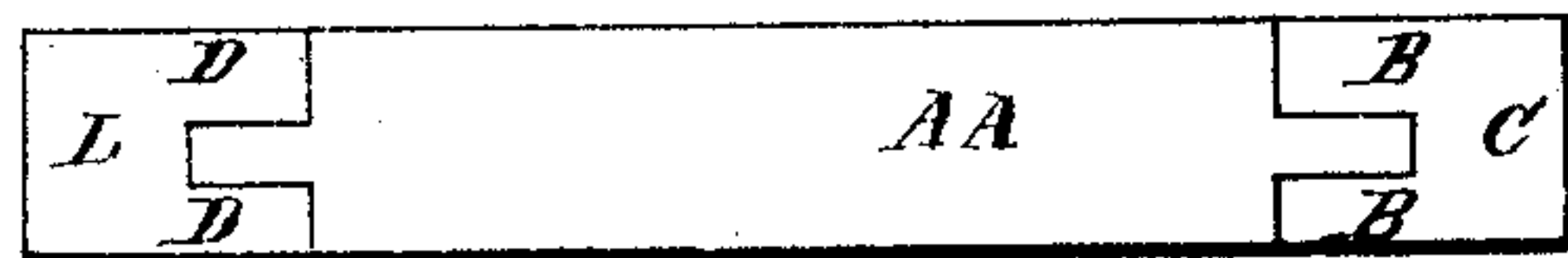


Fig. 3.

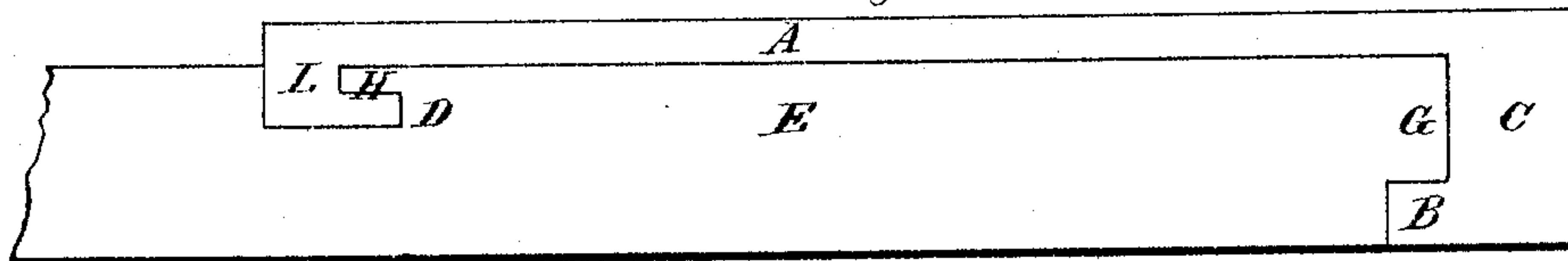


Fig. 4.

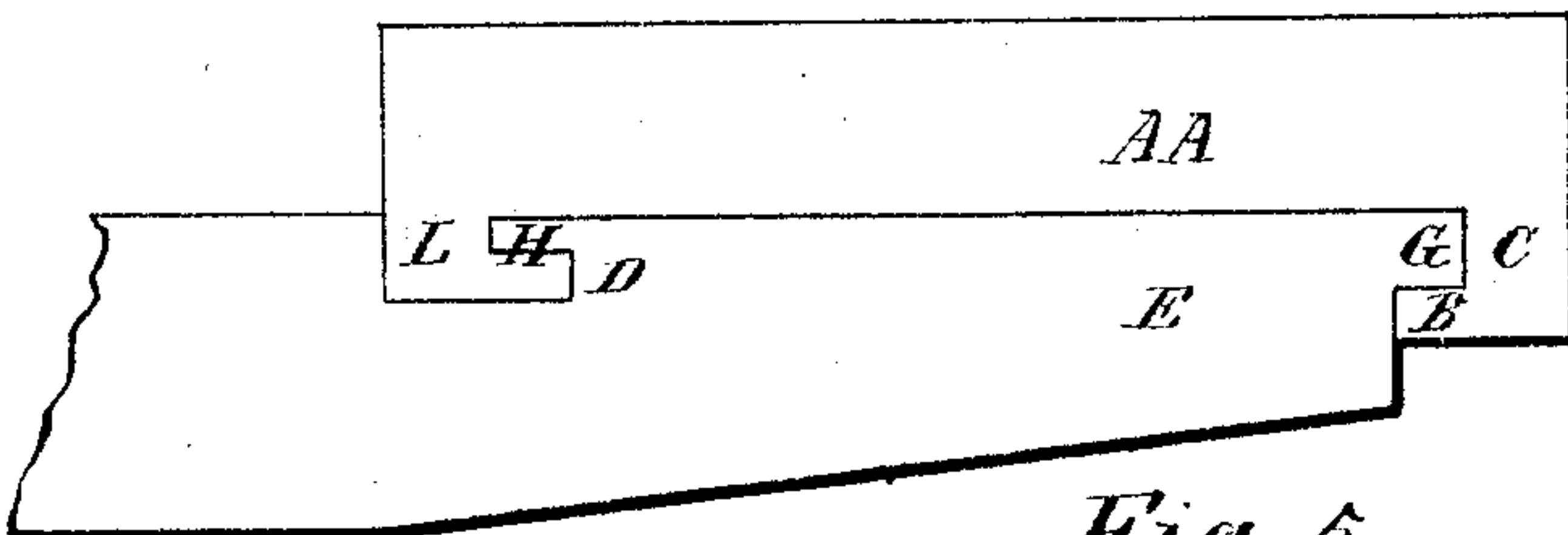
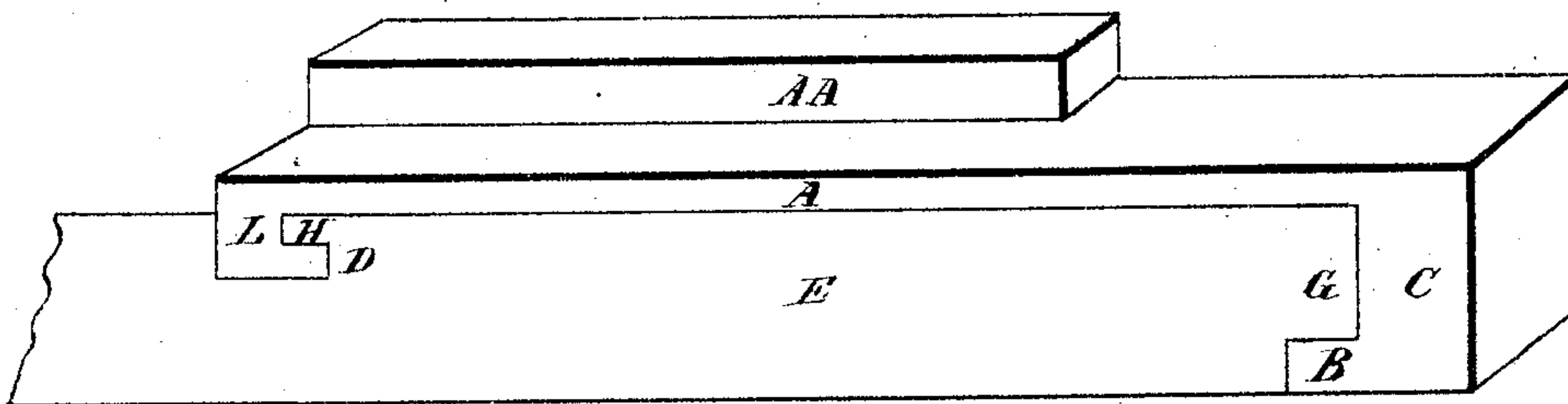


Fig. 5.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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IMPROVEMENT IN KEY-CAPS FOR KEY-BOARD INSTRUMENTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **144,399**, dated November 11, 1873; application filed May 5, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN P. LORD, of Manchester, in the county of Hillsborough and State of New Hampshire, have invented certain Improvements in the Caps to the Keys of Musical Instruments, of which the following is a specification:

The nature of my invention consists in combining crystal caps with the keys of musical instruments—namely, pianos, organs, seraphines, melodeons, and all other musical instruments having similar keys and key-boards—the object of said invention being to substitute the said crystal caps for ivory and ebony, now generally used as a covering for instrumental keys. My invention relates to the compositions or materials from which the said caps are made—how they are made, and how combined with the instrumental keys; also, to the mode of ornamenting the said caps and the compositions or materials used for that purpose.

Reference may be had to the accompanying drawings, annexed hereto and forming a part of this specification, like parts in the different drawings being lettered the same.

No. 1 represents a bottom view of the caps that cover the natural keys, (so-called.) No. 2 represents a bottom view of the caps that cover the keys to the flats and sharps, (so-called.) No. 3 represents a side view of No. 1 combined with the key, (natural.) No. 4 represents a side view of No. 2 combined with the key, (flats and sharps.) No. 5 is a plan of the same.

These caps A and A A, which embody the first part of my invention, are made from artificial crystal, or what is known to the arts and trade as glass, porcelain, china-ware, stone-ware, or compositions or materials of the same nature. They are cast, cut, ground, or blown,

and formed to suit the shape and size of the keys that they cover. They are made one-eighth of an inch in thickness, (more or less,) the front ends C covering the key E at the end. Upon the bottom two lips, B B, are formed, one-quarter of an inch long, wide and deep, leaving a space, G, between the top and lips B B. The rear ends of said caps A and A A are made with two lips, D D, upon the bottom, (same as the front ends,) but a space of one-eighth of an inch is left between the top and lips D D, as shown at H, and the ends L are fitted into the key E. They are made to cover only so much of the keys E as project upon the lap of the key-board, and are secured by fitting the key E into the space G and H, and with glue or cement. These caps A and A A are made transparent or opaque, and are colored, stained, or painted of any desirable tint or shade. They are enameled or burnished, and ornamented with designs, shapes, figures, or letters, by being cast, cut, ground, blown, or etched therein, or with alloys, amalgams, gold leaf or foil, silver leaf or foil, or with precipitates of gold or silver, or by being plated so as to reflect.

I claim as my invention—

1. The method of uniting the caps A and A A with their respective keys E and E' by means of the dovetails L D and C B, substantially as described and shown.

2. The combination of the ornamented glass or crystal caps A and A A, constructed as described, with their respective keys E and E, substantially as herein described, and for the purpose set forth.

JOHN P. LORD.

Witnesses:

SEYMOUR A. BOSTWICK,
THOS. H. DUNHAM, Jr.