L. NIELANDER.

VARIABLE SIGNS.

No. 183,414. Patented Oct. 17, 1876.

Fig. 2.

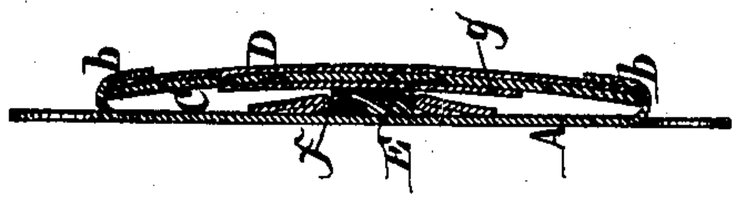
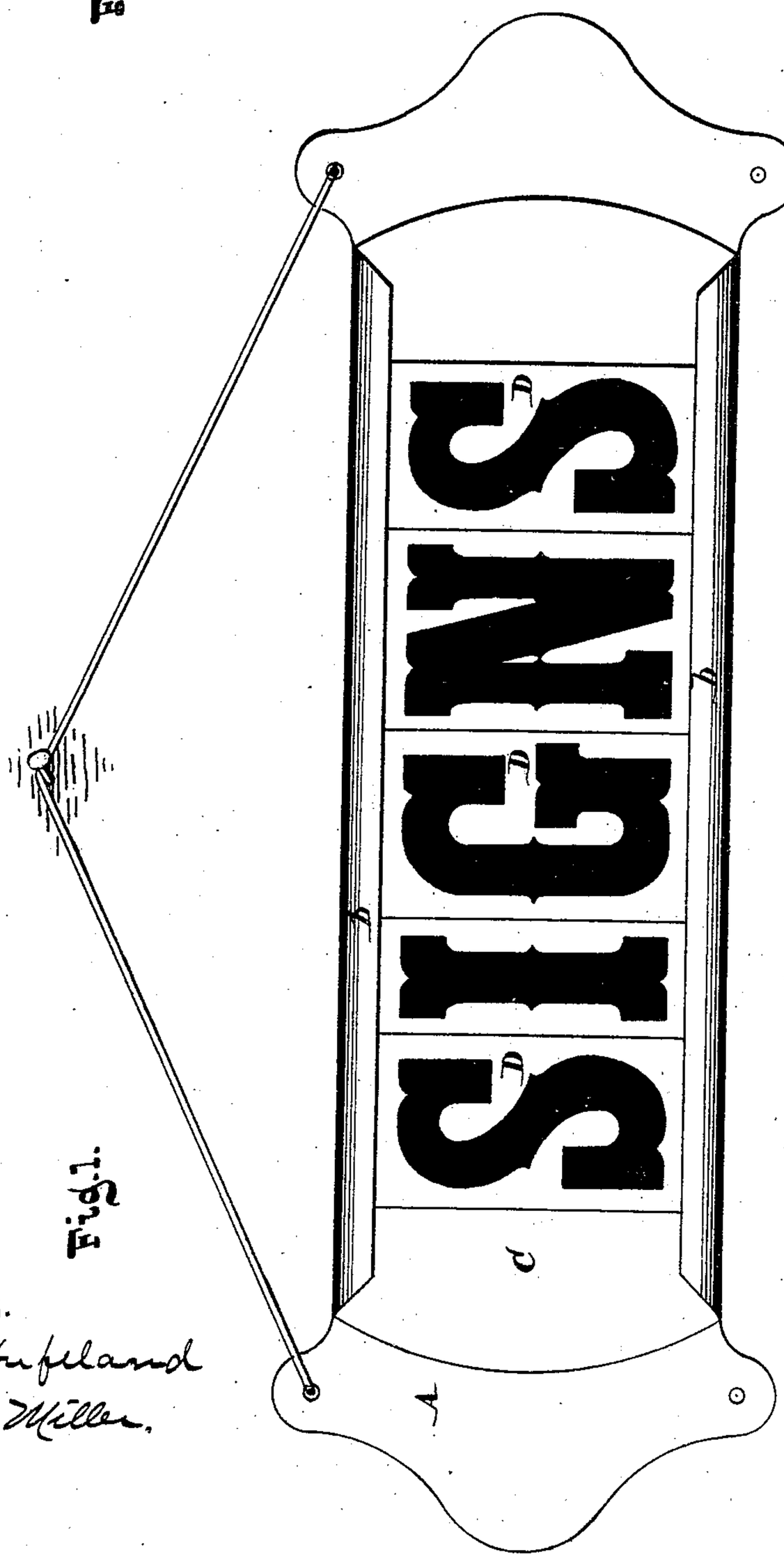


Fig. 1.



Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LOUIS NIELÄNDER, OF PITTSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN VARIABLE SIGNS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **183,414**, dated October 17, 1876; application filed June 6, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LOUIS NIELÄNDER, of Pittsburg, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Variable Signs, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 represents a face view of my sign. Fig. 2 is a cross-section thereof.

Similar letters indicate corresponding parts.

My improvement relates to the construction of variable signs; and consists in the combination of a back plate, which is provided with flanges on two opposite edges, of a face-plate, which is slid under the flanges of the back plate, a key which is shoved under the face-plate, and of a series of letters, which are slid under the flanges of the back plate and over the face-plate, in such a manner that by the action of the key the face-plate and letters are firmly clamped in position. The back plate is provided with a groove to receive and hold the key in the proper relative position to its concomitant parts.

In the drawing, the letter A designates the back plate of my sign, and *b b* are its flanges. C is the face-plate, which is made of cardboard or other flexible material, and D are the letters or letter-plates, which, as well as the face-plates, are slid under the flanges *b b* of the back plate, the letters being uppermost. E is a key, which is shoved under the face-plate C, and which is made of wood or other suitable material. When this key E is put in place, the face-plate C and the letters D are thereby bulged out or curved in cross-section, as seen in Fig. 2, and by this means the said plate and letters are firmly clamped in the flanges *b b*. In order to impart a symmetrical shape to the sign, the key E should be slid under the central portion of the face-plate C; and to this end I provide the back plate A with a groove, *f*, to receive the key, such groove being made as nearly as possible in the central part of the back plate. By sliding the key in the groove *f* a concentric curve is given to the face-plate C and the letters D. Through the medium of the key E the face-plate and letters are not only clamped in position, but also braced, so that in case the sign is pressed on by accident or otherwise the letters and face-plate are not liable to become broken. With the key E is combined a plate, *g*, which is fastened to the outer surface of the key, and, when the latter is put in position, presses against the under surface of the face-plate C. This key-plate is preferably made of sheet metal, and its object is to assist in preserving the symmetrical shape of the face-plate.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, in a variable sign, of a flanged back plate, A, a flexible face-plate, C, a key, E, and letters D, the whole constructed and arranged substantially as described.

2. The combination of a guide-groove, *f*, with the flanged back plate A, key E, flexible face-plate C, and letters E, substantially as and for the purpose described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 2d day of June, 1876.

LOUIS NIELÄNDER. [L.S.]

Witnesses:

SAMUEL MCMASTERS,

AUG. PLOEGER.