

(No Model.)

J. H. SPICER.  
COFFIN PLATE.

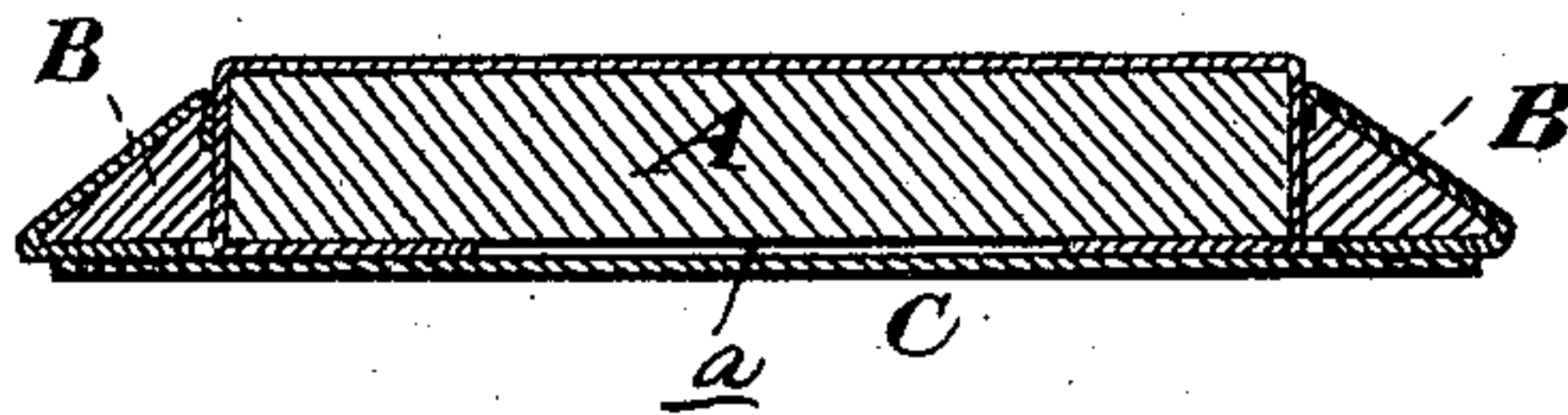
No. 400,963.

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*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Witnesses.*

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*Att'y.*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN HENRY SPICER, OF HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

## COFFIN-PLATE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 400,963, dated April 9, 1889.

Application filed May 10, 1888. Serial No. 273,467. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN HENRY SPICER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Harrisburg, in the county of Dauphin and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Coffin-Plates; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in coffin-plates; and it has for its object to provide a simple, ornamental, and yet inexpensive plate for coffins and burial-cases, which is more especially adapted for use upon children's coffins.

To these ends and to such others as the invention may relate the same consists in the construction and arrangement of parts, all as more fully hereinafter described, shown in the drawings, and pointed out in the appended claim.

The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, which, with the letters of reference marked thereon, form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a coffin-plate constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a cross-section of the same.

Reference now being had to the details of the drawings by letter, A represents a block, which may be of either wood or metal, which forms the body of the plate. In practice I prefer to make this block of wood, and of either square or rectangular form, as shown, though it will be at once evident that in either of these respects the same may be varied without departing from the spirit of my invention, as, if for any reason it should be considered as desirable, the block may be made of metal or other suitable material, and the form may be modified as desired.

The design or inscription which is to appear upon the face of the plate is either worked, stamped, or otherwise affixed to the

surface of a suitable strip of silk or other fabric, and this fabric containing the design or inscription is drawn over the block A, and the edges are passed over the edges of the block and secured upon the lower face of the same in any suitable manner.

B B are strips of either wood or metal, which may be beveled, as shown in the drawings, and may be made of any ornamental design that may be desired. These strips are mitered at their ends, so as to closely embrace the central block, A, and form a frame or border for the same. The strips B may be covered with plush, silk, or other suitable fabric, and by using as a covering for the strips a material of a color different from that of the covering of the central block a very pleasing effect is produced.

C is a thin strip of any suitable material secured to the back of the plate, where it serves to cover the edges of the material used in covering the central block, and at the same time forms a flat and even surface for the back of the plate, adapting it to be fitted neatly upon the top of the coffin or casket.

D D are ornamental screws or nails, which are passed through the plate and serve to secure the same to the coffin.

Importance is attached to the strip C, which serves a double function, that of forming a flat bearing for the device upon a coffin, and also of holding the parts together, being secured to the central blocks and to all of the strips B, and preventing the separation of the strips from the central blocks, which would otherwise occur, and thus spoil the appearance of the device. It will also be seen that the covering of the central block extends only a short distance under the same, leaving, when the strip C is in place, an air-space, *a*, as seen in Fig. 2, which tends to aid materially in preventing the separation of the parts from shrinkage.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim to be new is—

As an improved article of manufacture, the herein-described coffin-plate, consisting of the central block, A, the fabric having affixed thereon an inscription or design stretched



over said block and secured to the under face thereof near the edge, the strips or molding B, covered with fabric, and the strip C, secured to the bottom of said block and to the  
5 bottom of all of said strips, with an air-space, *a*, between said strip C and the bottom of the central block, substantially as shown, and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

J. HENRY SPICER.

Witnesses:

E. J. FAGER,  
S. W. FLEMING.