

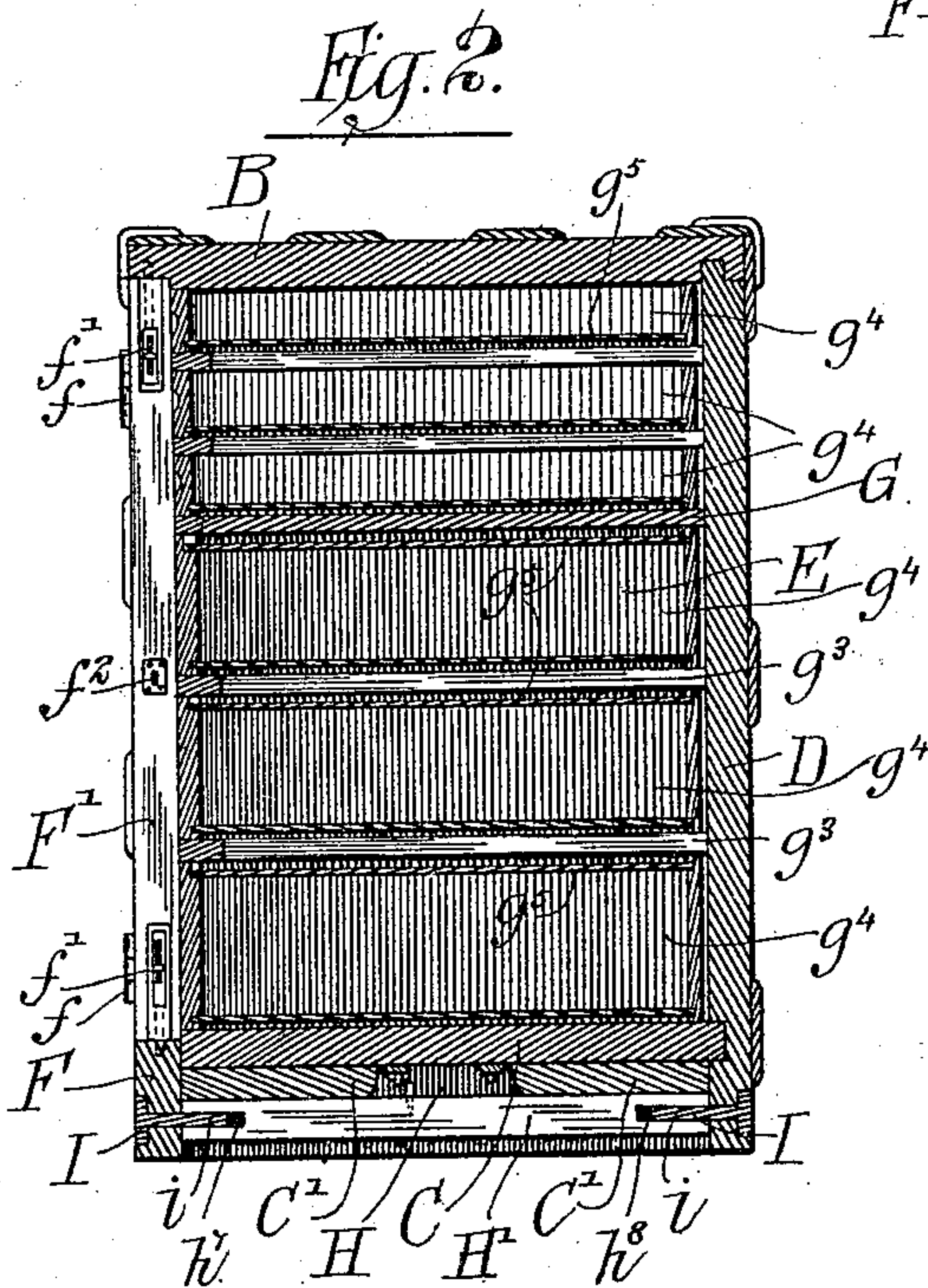
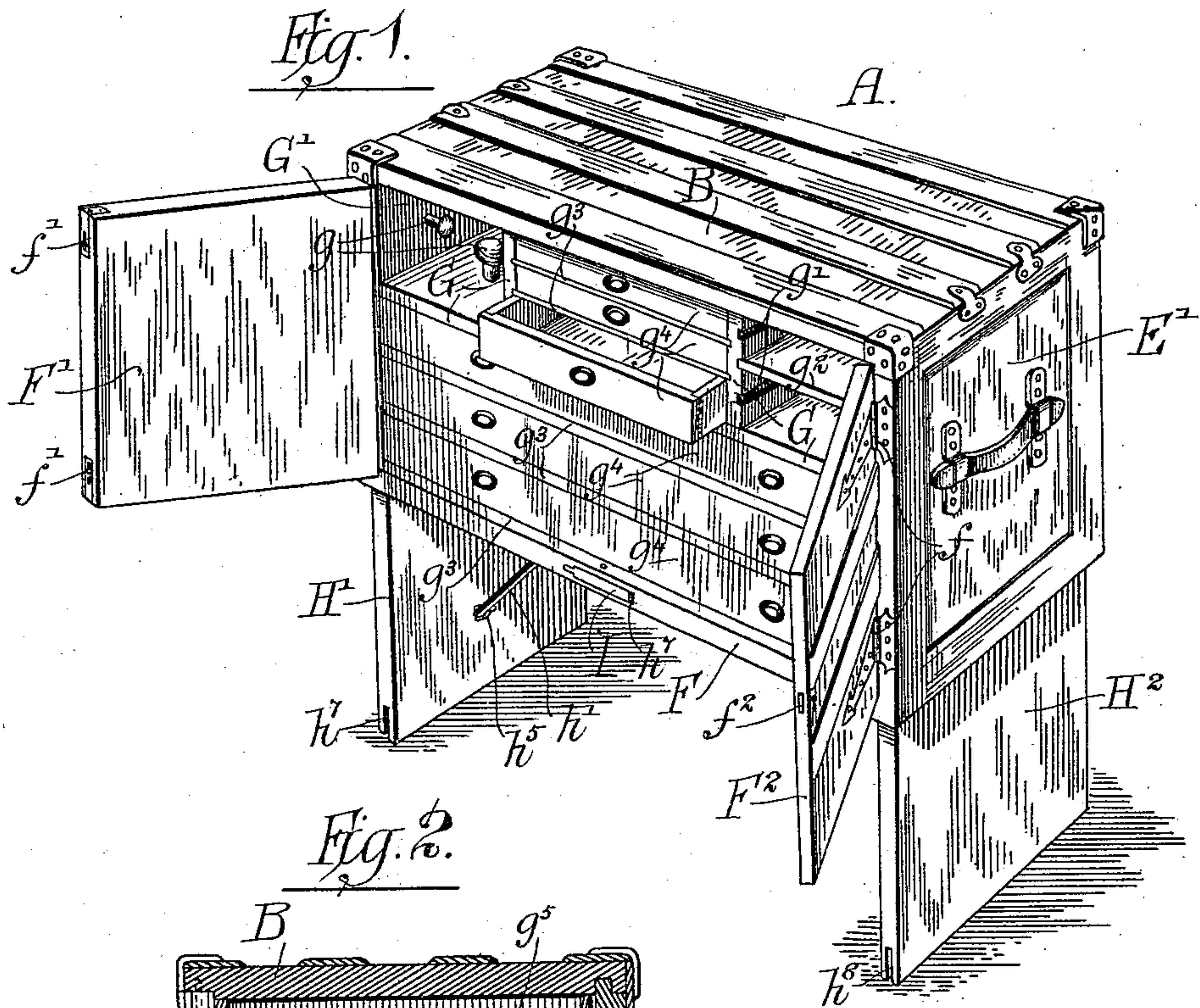
(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

M. L. H. KEEN.  
TRUNK.

No. 486,254.

Patented Nov. 15, 1892.



*Witnesses:*

*Sidney W. Brainard*  
*Louis M. F. Whitehead.*

*Inventor:*  
*Maria L. H. Keen.*

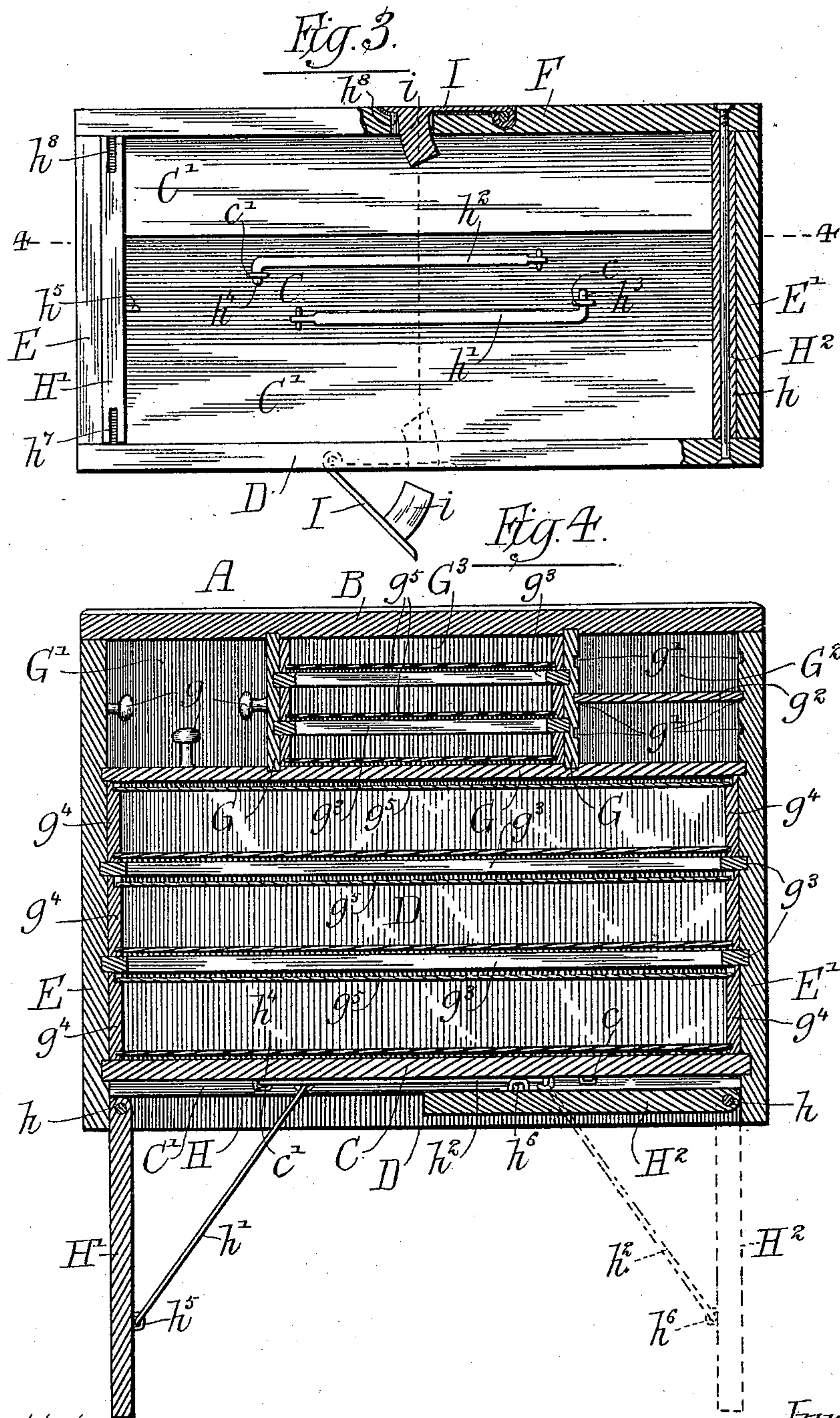
*By: Dayton, Poole & Brown*

*her Attorneys*

3 Sheets—Sheet 2.

No. 486,254.

Patented Nov. 15, 1892.



Witnesses:-

Sidney W. Brainard.  
Louis H. F. Whitehead.

Inventor:-

*Maria L. H. Keen.*

By:- Mayton, Poole & Brown

Her Attorney's:-



(No Model.)

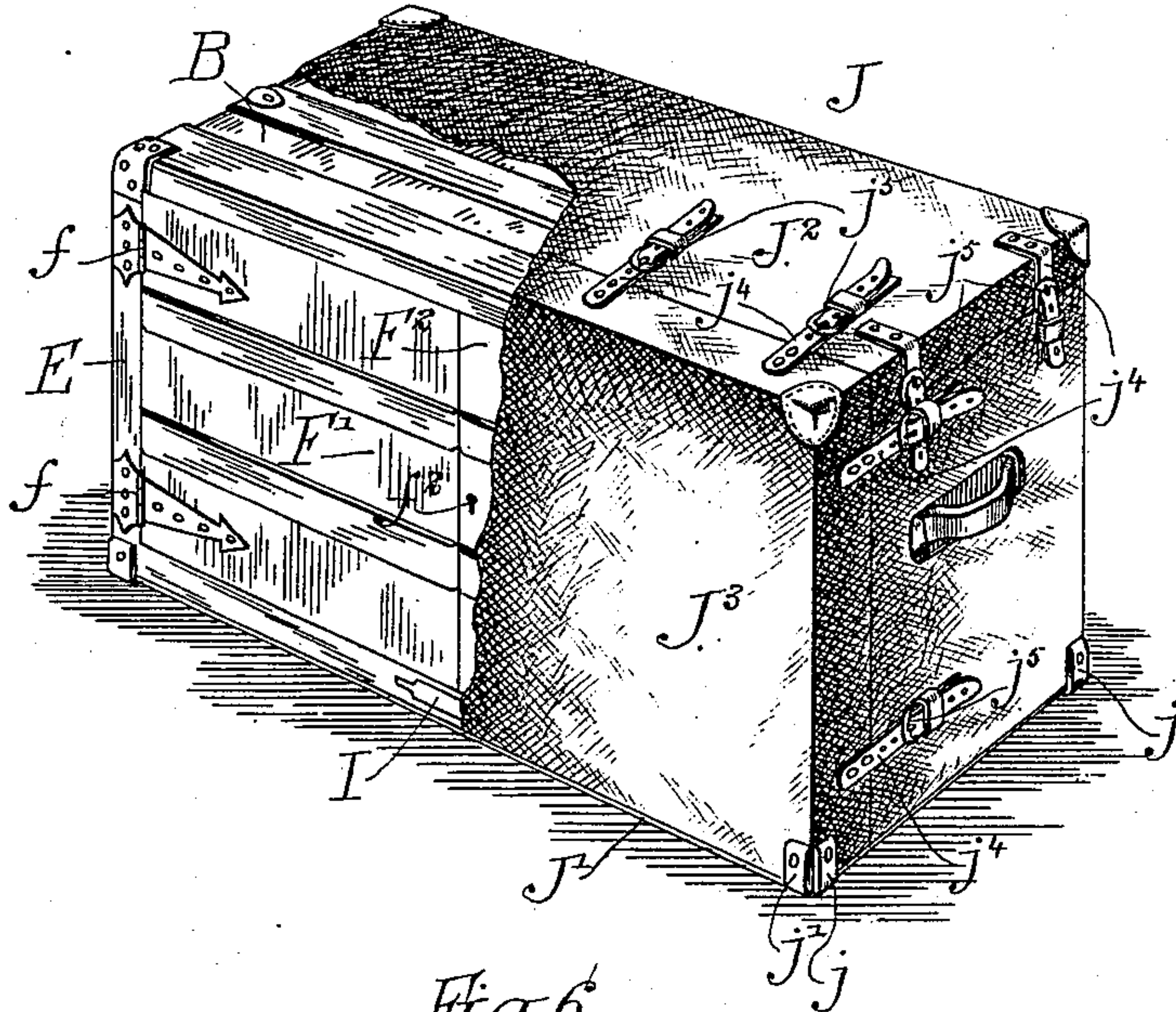
3 Sheets—Sheet 3.

M. L. H. KEEN.  
TRUNK.

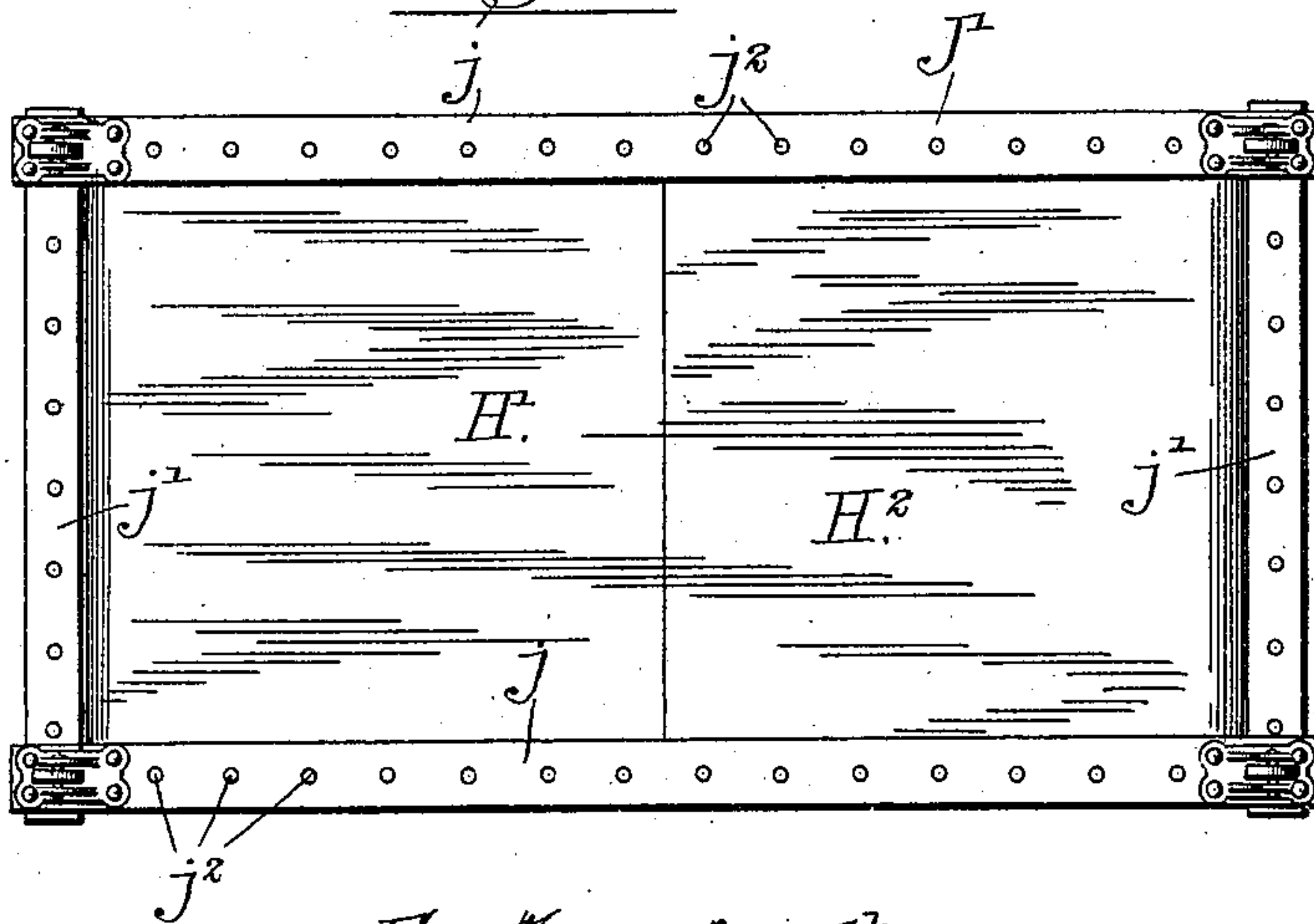
No. 486,254.

Patented Nov. 15, 1892.

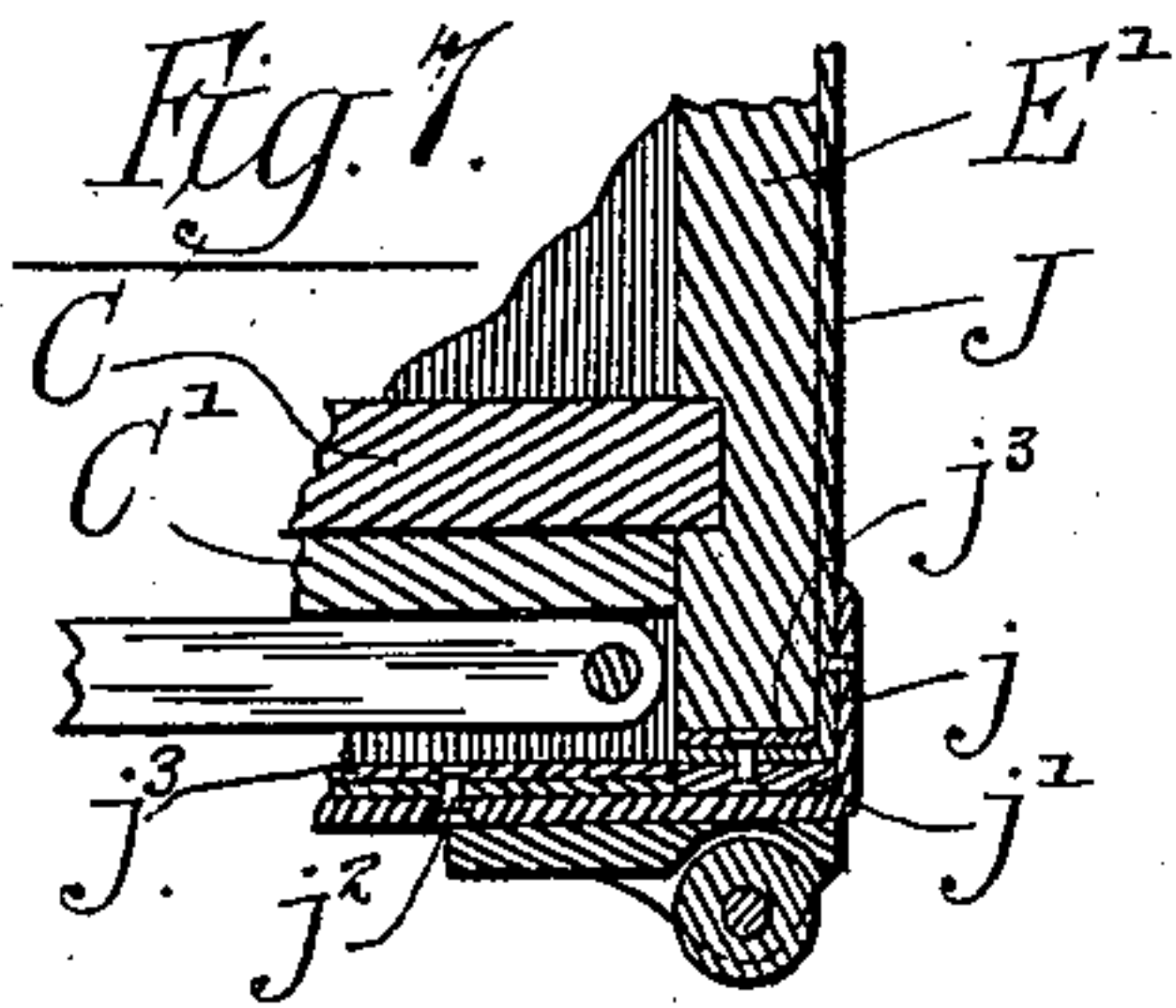
*Fig. 5.*



*Fig. 6.*



*Fig. 7.*



*Witnesses:-*

*Sidney M. Brainard.*  
*Louis M. F. Whitehead.*

*Inventor:-*  
*Maria L. H. Keen.*

*By:-* *Dayton, Poole & Brown*  
*Her Attorneys.*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARIA L. H. KEEN, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## TRUNK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 486,254, dated November 15, 1892.

Application filed January 26, 1892. Serial No. 419,298. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MARIA L. H. KEEN, of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful  
5 Improvements in Trunks; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form  
10 a part of this specification.

The object of this invention is to provide a trunk in which access may be had to the contents of the same in one part or section thereof without moving or disturbing the contents in  
15 other parts.

A further object of the invention is to provide simple and efficient means for supporting the trunk at a distance above the floor to afford easier access thereto.

20 With these and minor objects in view the invention consists in the matters hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating a trunk embodying my improvements. Fig. 2 is a vertical section taken transversely through the same at the center thereof. Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view, partly in section. Fig. 4 is a vertical longitudinal section on the line 4 4 of  
25 Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a trunk closed and incased in its removable cover, part of said cover being broken away to expose the front of the trunk. Fig. 6 is a bottom plan view of the trunk in its protecting-cover. Fig. 7 is a detail section, drawn to a  
30 large scale, of one corner of the trunk and its cover.

The trunk frame or body A comprises top and bottom walls B and C, a back wall D, end  
40 walls E and E', and a front rail F, all permanently framed or connected together to form a rigid structure, and two doors F' and F<sup>2</sup>, each connected at its outer edge to the front edge of one of the end walls by hinges  
45 f in such a manner that when closed their outer surfaces will be flush with or inside of the front edges of the top wall B, front rail F, and end walls E E' of the frame, as indicated in Figs. 2 and 5. The inner or free  
50 edges of the doors meet to form a close joint when closed, the door F' being provided at its upper and lower corners with bolts f', de-

signed to engage recesses in the upper wall B and the front rail F of the frame to lock this door securely in its closed position, and  
55 the door F<sup>2</sup> being provided with a suitable lock f<sup>2</sup>, by means of which it may be locked securely to the door F'. The frame so constructed is fitted interiorly with partitions G to form separate compartments G' G<sup>2</sup> G<sup>3</sup> G<sup>4</sup>,  
60 conveniently arranged and proportioned for any usual or special requirements—as, for instance, in a trunk designed for use by women one compartment G' is provided with bonnet or hat posts or hooks g, as illustrated,  
65 and another G<sup>2</sup> is provided with a vertical series of horizontal grooves g', formed in its opposite side walls, to receive a removable shelf or shelves g<sup>2</sup>, thus admitting of subdividing the space within said compartment to suit different  
70 requirements. The remaining compartments G<sup>3</sup> and G<sup>4</sup> are provided with rigidly-secured drawer-slides g<sup>3</sup> to support and guide drawer-shaped trays g<sup>4</sup>, whereby each tray may be drawn out to afford access to its con-  
75 tents, thus permitting the removal of articles from the bottom of the trunk without removing or disturbing the entire contents thereof. These drawer-slides g<sup>3</sup> serve to greatly strengthen the frame A, while adding but  
80 slightly to its weight. The trays g<sup>4</sup> may be provided with the usual hinged covers g<sup>5</sup> to avoid liability of articles within a tray catching against the front rail of a drawer-slide, and thus interfering with the withdrawal of  
85 said tray, and the trays so provided may be more tightly packed with articles, as the cover will serve to compress the contents of a tray and will be held securely by the drawer-slide above it when the tray is slid within the trunk-  
90 frame A, thus securing all the advantages of a solid horizontal partition above each tray with but a small proportion of its weight and at a less cost.

The bottom wall C of the trunk-frame is arranged somewhat above the bottom edges of  
95 the back wall D, end walls E and E', and front rail F thereof, thus forming a shallow rectangular chamber or recess H, within which the supporting-legs H' and H<sup>2</sup> may be folded  
100 and retained when desired. These legs are each pivoted at one end between the lower edges of the back wall D and front rail F of the frame and adjacent to the end walls E E'



thereof in any suitable manner, though preferably by a rod  $h$ , passing through said legs and through said back wall D and front rail F. The hinge-rod  $h$  thus serves as a tie-rod to prevent spreading or springing of the front and rear parts of the frame, and by rounding the hinged ends of said legs in an arc the radius of which is equal to the distance between the center of said hinge-rod  $h$  and the inner surface of the end walls E or E' adjacent a close joint is always maintained between said pivoted ends of the legs and the end walls, preventing the entrance of dirt or dust between them. Brace-rods  $h'$  and  $h^2$  are connected at one end with the bottom C of the frame by staples which pass through eyes formed at the ends of said rods, the free ends of said rods terminating in hooks  $h^3$  and  $h^4$ , Fig. 3, which are adapted to engage eyes or staples  $h^5$  and  $h^6$ , secured at proper points to the inner surfaces of the legs H' and H<sup>2</sup>, thereby serving to brace said legs against inward or outward pressure when they are unfolded to support the trunk, as seen in Fig. 1. Staples  $c$  and  $c'$  are secured to the bottom wall C to receive the hooks  $h^3$  and  $h^4$  of the brace-rods and retain them close against said bottom wall C when the legs H' and H<sup>2</sup> are folded.

To provide a solid support or abutment against which the legs may rest when folded within the recess H, as in Fig. 2, and still give room for the brace-rods  $h'$   $h^2$  and their staples, cleats C' are secured to the bottom wall C and within said recess H, against the surfaces of which the legs H' and H<sup>2</sup> will fold snugly, thus avoiding the breaking of said legs by inward pressure thereon and giving additional strength to said bottom wall C, as well as bracing the lower edges of the rear and end walls of the frame and the front rail F thereof.

To retain the folding legs H' and H<sup>2</sup> securely within the recess H when not in use to support the trunk, latches I I are pivoted in recesses formed to receive them in the back wall D and front rail F near the lower edges thereof, these latches being provided each with a thin laterally-projecting fin or blade  $i$ , adapted to project through a mortise in the wall or rail and enter mortises  $h^7$  and  $h^8$ , Figs. 1 and 2, formed in the edges of said legs at their free or meeting ends, said fins or blades  $i$  being of such width that each will occupy the mortises  $h^7$  and  $h^8$ , Fig. 3, of both legs at the front and back of the trunk, thus locking the free or meeting ends of the legs securely to each other and to the trunk-frame. The trunk so constructed is provided with a canvas or other flexible cover J, having an open rigid bottom frame J', adapted to fit against the margin of the trunk-bottom. This frame is of rectangular form and composed of two longitudinal straps  $jj$ , of iron, arranged parallel with each other and connected at their ends by rivets or otherwise to the ends of similar transverse straps  $j'j'$ .

The ends of these several straps  $jj$  and  $j'j'$  are extended somewhat beyond their crossing-points, and said extended ends are bent upward to embrace the sides and ends of the trunk, Figs. 5 and 7. The bottom edges of the canvas cover J are secured to the upper side of this frame J' by rivets  $j^2$ , passing through said frame and cover, and I prefer to overlay the edges of said cover with thin sheet-metal straps or stay-strips  $j^3$  to avoid liability of the heads of the securing-rivets being pulled through the edges of the cover. The cover is, as shown, constructed with a top flap J<sup>2</sup> and a front flap J<sup>3</sup>, the edges of which are provided with straps  $j^4$  to engage buckles  $j^5$ , secured to the main part of the cover, by which means the flaps may be secured to inclose the trunk or released to admit of its removal therefrom. The frame J', constituting a part of the cover, is provided at its corners with caster-wheels of any approved pattern to facilitate handling the trunk when the cover is in position thereon. The inner edges of the longitudinal and transverse parts  $j$  and  $j'$  of the frame J' are arranged flush with the inner edges of the side and end walls of the trunk, thus admitting of unfolding the legs H' and H<sup>2</sup> to support the trunk without removing the cover J, said cover being provided at the back with a slit or flap to admit of the withdrawal of the rear latch I, and as the front flap J<sup>2</sup> of the cover is also arranged with a view to permit of the opening of the doors F' and F<sup>2</sup> and the operation of the front latch I the cover may remain upon the trunk if it is so desired while in use in an apartment, the flap J<sup>2</sup> serving as a curtain to conceal any articles that may be temporarily stored beneath the trunk.

The legs H' and H<sup>2</sup> consist of flat boards or other suitable material which when folded completely fill the recess H beneath the trunk-bottom C, Fig. 6, and present no projections or recesses to be engaged by foreign objects—such as the angles or corners of other trunks, &c.—during transportation, thus avoiding breakage of the legs and affording protection to the trunk-bottom C.

I claim as my invention—

1. The combination, with a trunk having its bottom wall secured above the lower edges of its end and side walls, so as to form a shallow recess in the under surface of its bottom, of folding legs hinged within said recess adjacent to the end walls, said legs being of the same width as said recess and adapted to fill the space between the end and side walls, and to thereby form a continuous bottom surface for the trunk when the legs are folded, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with a trunk having its bottom wall secured above the lower edges of its side and end walls, forming a shallow recess, folding legs hinged within said recess adjacent to the end walls, said legs being of the same width as the recess and adapted to fill the same when folded, and brace-rods hinged



to the inner surfaces of the legs for holding them extended, said trunk being provided with cleats secured longitudinally to the bottom adjacent to the side walls and affording  
5 supports for the legs when folded, of a central recess to receive said brace-rods, substantially as described.

3. The combination, with a trunk, of a removable flexible cover having attached to its  
10 lower edge a rigid open frame adapted to fit against the margins of the bottom of the trunk, substantially as described.

4. The combination, with a trunk, of a removable cover composed of flexible material  
15 and having attached to its lower edges a rigid open-bottom frame having upwardly-extending projections to engage the side and end walls of the trunk, substantially as described.

5. The combination, with a trunk, of a removable flexible cover having attached to its  
20 lower edges a rigid open-bottom frame provided with caster-wheels, substantially as described.

6. The combination, with a trunk having legs adapted to fold inwardly against its bot-  
25 tom, of a cover of flexible material having attached to its bottom an open rigid frame, through which the legs may pass when unfolded, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as  
30 my invention I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

MARIA L. H. KEEN.

Witnesses:

C. CLARENCE POOLE,  
TAYLOR E. BROWN.