

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE W. NEILL, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO CHICKERING & SONS, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN UPRIGHT PIANO-FORTES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 183,773, dated October 31, 1876; application filed April 24, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE W. NEILL, of Boston, of the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have made a new and useful Invention having reference to Upright Piano-Fortes; and do hereby declare the same to be fully described in the following specification and represented in the accompanying drawings, of which—

Figures 1 and 2 are front elevations of a piano-case provided with my invention, the first of said figures showing the case as closed and the other exhibiting it as open. Fig. 3 is a transverse section of the piano-case as open. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the folding music desk or supporter.

In most if not all the upright pianos as heretofore made the fall or key cover, when turned up, has been used as a rest for supporting the sheet or book of music, such fall being constructed concave for such purpose. This has been very objectionable, for various reasons, particularly in it not affording the requisite support, to prevent the sheet of music from crippling or dropping down in a curved form.

In carrying out my invention, or that part thereof which has particular reference to the music desk or supporter, I make such desk to close into a recess in the front, or to constitute part of the front of the piano-case, and I construct such music-supporter in two portions, plates, or boards hinged together and provided with one or two arms or struts fixed to the lower portion, the said supporter being at or near its upper edge, pivoted to the next adjacent vertical part or parts of the front.

I also compose the "key fall" or cover of two parts hinged together, one, as shown, being quadrantal and recessed in transverse section, and the other concavo-convex in such section, such cover being pivoted at its two opposite lower corners to the case. The quadrantal part I usually provide with a lip or flange, arranged with and extended from it in manner as represented in the drawings, such lip being to serve as a stop to arrest the cover when thrown open or back. Furthermore, I make the case with a chamber to receive such cover, and with a shelf over such chamber, such shelf terminating in rear against the

portion of the front of which the music-desk constitutes a part.

The shelf suffices for the support of sheet-music, books, lamps, or other articles, and to enable the music-supporter to be brought forward into an inclined position without coming directly over the keys.

In the drawings, the music desk or supporter is shown at A, as arranged within that portion of the front of the piano-case B, which is above the keys C and their cap or shelf D.

Fig. 5 is an elevation, and Fig. 6 a transverse section, of the front board or frame *a* in which the desk is arranged, and to which it is hinged, such front board or frame being constructed with an opening, niche, or recess, *f*, to receive the desk in order for its anterior face to be flush or even with the front surfaces of those parts of the frame which are on its flanks. The front board *a*, as well as the larger board *b* of the music-desk, I usually perforate ornamentally, and subsequently line them with silk. This desk, arranged as shown, is composed of one wide board, *b'*, and one narrow one, *c*, the two being hinged together at *d d*. There is extended back from the lesser board one or two arms or struts, *e e*. At its upper edge the board *b'* is hinged to the front of the case. When thrown out for supporting a book or sheet of music, the desk has its lower board *c* turned at a right angle with the larger one, *b'*, the strut or struts resting against the lower part of the recess or niche *f*. The key fall or cover is shown at F as composed of the quadrantal part or pivotal name-board *g* and the concavo-convex part *h*, the said part *g* being recessed or hollowed on its arcal side to receive the part *h* when the latter is folded back upon such part *g*. The two parts *g h* are hinged together, and the part *g* has a lip or flange, *i*, extended from it, in manner as shown. This flange, when the cover is turned back, brings up against the front edge of the shelf D. This shelf constitutes the cap of the chamber or space *k*, into which the cover F is received when turned back so as to bring its name-surface vertical.

From the above it will be seen that I have pivoted the name-board to the case, and provided such name-board with an extension, *m*,

which, when the name-board is turned down over or into parallelism with the keys, is brought into a position to fill the opening or mouth of the chamber, into which the compound fall is received when turned back. Furthermore, that I have added to the name-board provided with such extension, the curved part *h*, to effect the complete covering of the keys when the name-board is turned down.

I claim as my invention as follows:

1. The compound key fall or cover *F*, substantially as described, consisting of the quadrantal and recessed portion *g*, and the concavo-convex portion *h*, arranged and hinged together, and applied to the case essentially as set forth.

2. The music-desk *A*, substantially as described, composed of the two boards or plates, *b' c*, and one or more arms or struts, *e e*, arranged and applied as set forth.

3. The music-desk *A*, hinged at its upper part to the front of the case, in combination with the said front, provided with an opening

or niche to receive the said desk, in manner substantially as specified.

4. The combination of the shelf *D* with the music-desk *A*, as described, hinged at its upper part to the front of the case, and with the said front provided with an opening or niche for reception of said desk, as set forth.

5. The combination of the shelf *D* with the music-desk *A*, as described, and the compound fall *F* and its chamber *k*, all arranged with the keys as set forth.

6. The compound fall *F*, composed of the two parts *g h*, applied as described, and the lip or flange *i*, extended from the quadrantal portion, all being as set forth.

7. The name-board, pivoted to the case, and provided with the extension *m* and the lip or flange *i*, all as set forth.

GEO. W. NEILL.

Witnesses:

R. H. EDDY,
J. R. SNOW.