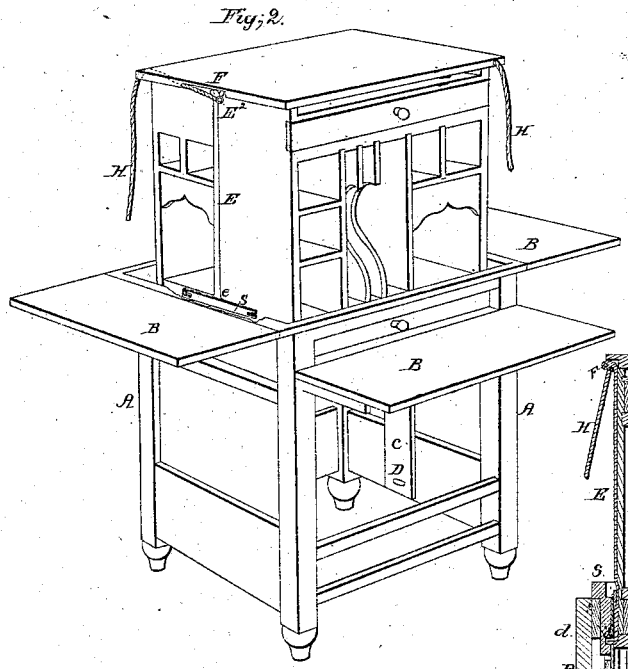
# J. White,

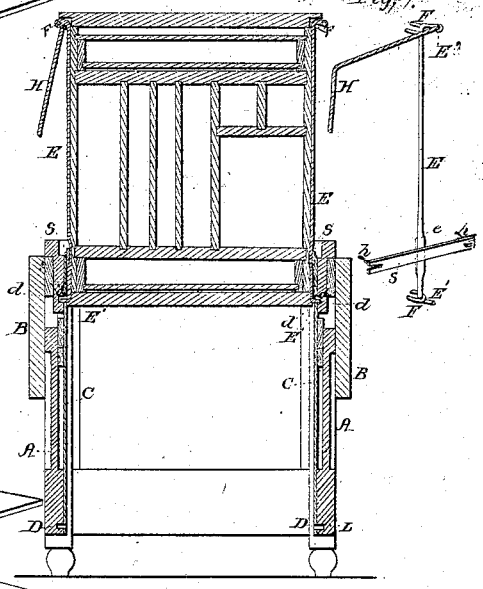
## Drawing Table,

No. 4252. Patented Nov. 1, 1845.

Fig; 2.



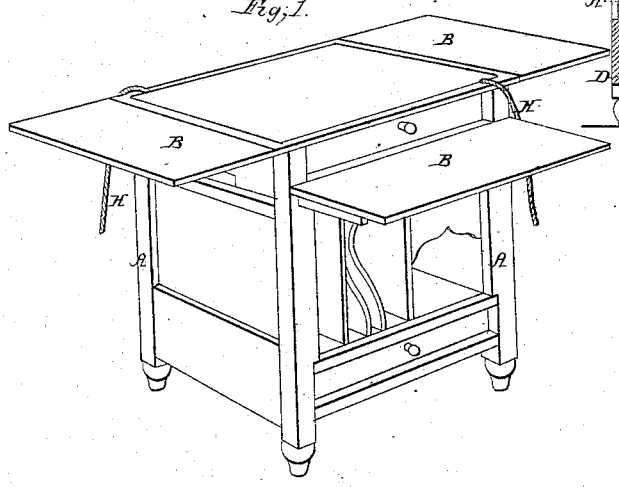

Fig; 3.




Fig; 4.




Fig; 1.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN WHITE, OF MARSHALL, MICHIGAN.

## IMPROVEMENT IN WRITING-DESK AND TABLE COMBINED.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 4,252, dated November 1, 1845; antedated July 18, 1845.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN WHITE, of Marshall, in the county of Calhoun and State of Michigan, have invented a new and useful portable folding escritoire, drawing-tables, drawers, cases, &c., called "White's Manifold Writing-Desk and Drawing-Table," which is described as follows, reference being had to the annexed drawings of the same, making part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the exterior and internal escritoires or desks, forming a piece of furniture resembling a table, with the leaves extended. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the same, the internal escritoire or desk being raised, so as to bring its bottom nearly on a level with the external escritoire or desk, exposing to view the drawers, pigeon-holes, divisions for paper, books, &c., and the leaves extended horizontally, forming tables, desks, &c. Fig. 3 is a vertical section, showing the catches on the rods, the horizontal spring-bars, vertical plates of metal, &c. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the turning-catches, spring, and cord.

The external escritoire or desk consists of a rectangular frame, A, composed of four posts connected by horizontal side and end rails, mortised and tenoned together, having leaves B, hinged or otherwise attached to the four sides, forming, when let down, sides to the external desk or escritoire, and when raised, as represented in Fig. 2, tables or desks for writing, drawing, and other purposes, the said leaves being held in a horizontal position by horizontal sliding rests or hinged supports of the usual form and construction as those used in common tables. The horizontal top board of the frame is perforated with a rectangular opening of size and shape corresponding with the size and shape of the top of the rising and falling desk or escritoire, which fits said opening exactly when let down, as shown in Fig. 1. When the side leaves, B B, are raised, they form, with said tops of the external and internal escritoires or desks, a horizontal plane, as shown in Fig. 1. The insides of the external frame are lined with vertical plates of metal, C, Fig. 3, perforated with oblong slits D *d*, to admit right-angled turning-catches E′, let into the sides of the rising and falling or folding desk or escritoire, for holding the movable desk at the height required, and also for holding it securely when let down into the frame of the external escritoire. The right-angled catches are rods of iron, E, bent at right angles at their lower ends, turning in staples F, inserted into the sides of the folding escritoire, having their lower ends bent or turned at right angles, as above mentioned, for entering the slits D *d* in the aforesaid vertical plates, being held in that position by a horizontal spring-bar, S, Figs. 3 and 4, grooved at each end, and held by hooks *h*, let into the sides of the escritoire, passing through said grooves, the said spring-bar pressing against a flattened part, *e*, of the rod E, so that when it is turned, in order to throw the catches out of the slits D *d* in the plate *c*, the flattened portion bending the spring at the middle, whose ends are drawn inward and toward the catches E, at the same time slipping over the hooks *h*, in which position it is held by a cord, H, attached to a crank, E″, on its upper end, passing horizontally through an aperture in the top of the desk, until the central escritoire or desk be slightly raised or lowered. The cord may then be slackened, as the solid portions of the plates on the insides of the frame will keep the catches in a proper position until the upper slit comes opposite the catch, when it will be thrown into it by the spring-bar. Both sides of the escritoire or desk are provided with similarly-constructed catches, cords, &c. The central folding desk may be raised by racks and pinions, cords, pulleys, and axles or weights, or by any suitable mechanical means arranged in any convenient way. The rising and falling desk is divided throughout by vertical and horizontal partitions into various kinds of apartments for papers, drawings, and the several descriptions of writing and drawing implements used. It is to be made of any suitable material and of any convenient size and proportion to suit the views of the constructer. The central desk, with its various append-

ages and contents, may be balanced by a weight attached to one end of a cord carried over a pulley and attached to the top of the central desk and concealed from view, by which the desk may be raised and lowered by the application of very little power to the cord and desk.

What I claim as my invention, and which I desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

Combining the internal escritoire with the external folding desk in the manner and for the purpose set forth.

JOHN WHITE.

Witnesses:
WM. P. ELLIOT,
A. E. H. JOHNSON.