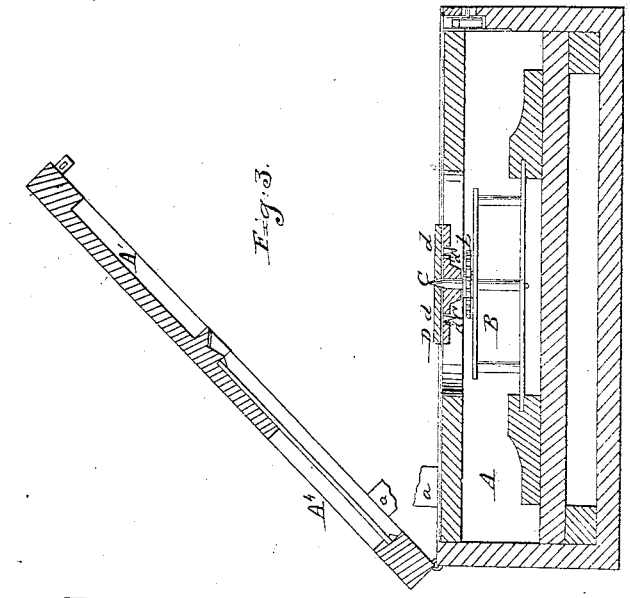
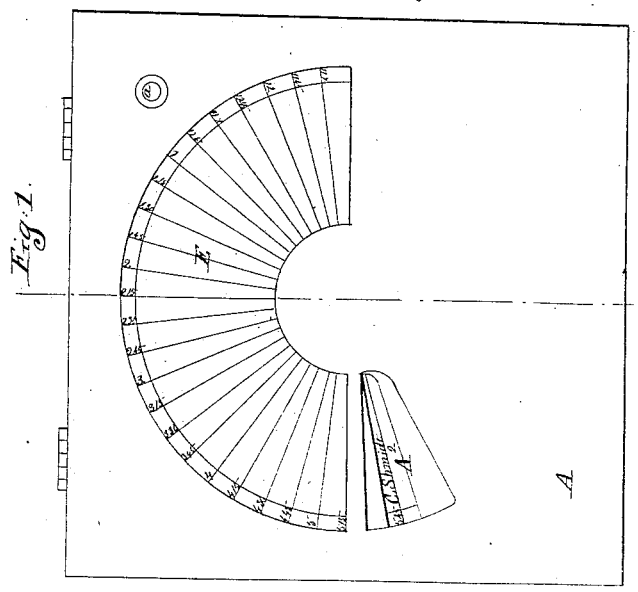
Sheet 1-2, Sheets.

T. Aschenfeld.

Time Check.

No. 47,266. Patented Apr. 18, 1865.





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Sheet 2-2, Sheets.

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No. 47,266. Patented Apr. 18, 1865.

Fig. 1.

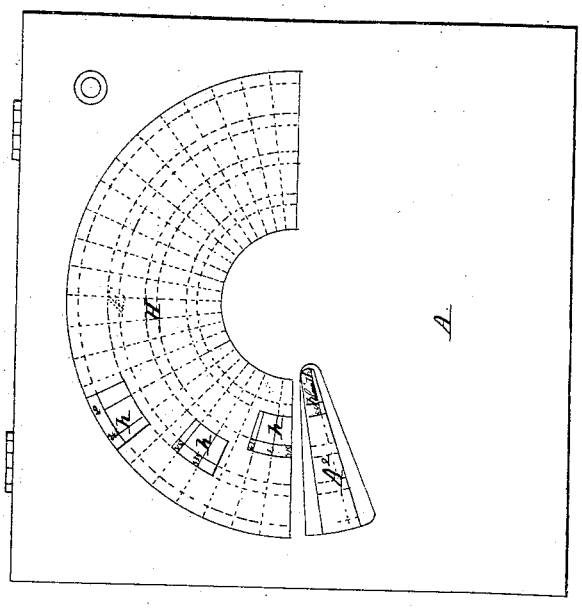
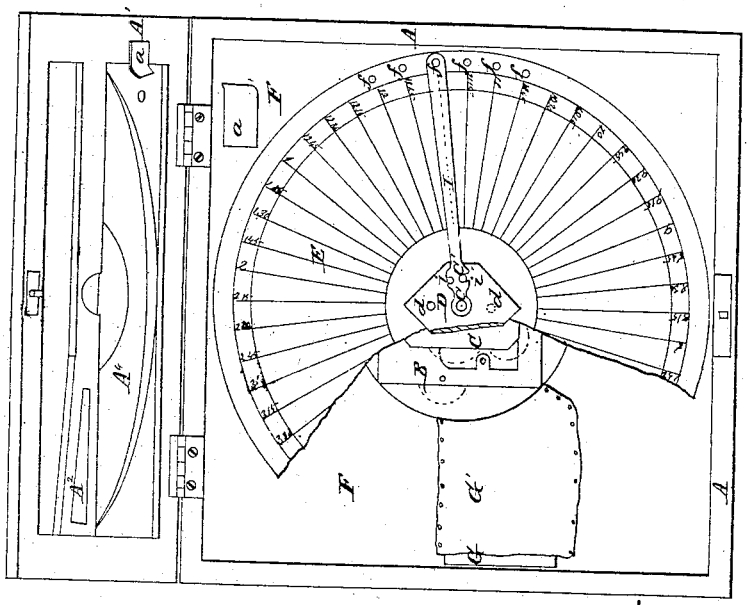


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THEODORE ASCHERFELD, OF ELKTON, MARYLAND.

IMPROVEMENT IN TIME REPORTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **47,266**, dated April 18, 1865; Ante dated April 17, 1865.

To all whom it may concern.

Be it known that I, THEODORE ASCHERFELD, of Elkton, in the county of Cecil and State of Maryland, have invented a new and Improved Time-Reporter; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan of my improved reporter. Fig. 2 is a similar view, the lid being in an open condition and the dial partially broken away to expose the plate or platform whereby it is turned. Fig. 3 is a vertical section in the line *x x*. Fig. 4 is a plan or top view illustrating a modification of my invention.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in several figures.

The object of this invention is to produce an apparatus whose use is to insure punctuality, sobriety, and attention on the part of persons to whom the care of life, property, or other important matters may be intrusted, or detect negligence, inattention, or intoxication, so that the character of an individual may thus be readily ascertained and his employer enabled to act with discretion in assigning him to duties of importance.

The various uses for which my invention may be employed will be hereinafter more fully explained.

In order that others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains may be enabled to fully understand and use the same, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

In the accompanying drawings, A may represent a rectangular box containing the mechanism B of a clock.

C represents a plate attached to and adapted to revolve with the wheel *b*, which, in common clocks, operates in connection with the hour-hand. This plate C is provided with two pointed projections, *c c'*, which are arranged one at the center and one at or near the longitudinal edge of the plate C in the manner shown, and the plate C is also provided with two holes, located one at each end.

D represents a plate, which is provided with projections *d d* and apertures *d' d'*, arranged in corresponding manner to those with which the plate C is provided. By means of these plates C D is secured in position a dial, E, the projections on each plate passing through perforations in the dial and entering the apertures in the other. The dial may be composed of paper or any other soft material so that it may be readily written upon, and secured between the plates C and D in the manner described. The dial E, when thus adjusted, revolves between the lid A', of the box A, and a platform, F.

In the lid A' is formed an aperture, A^2, which is located at the left of the center of the box, and which is formed in such manner that its opposite sides will be parallel with the divisions of time on the dial E when coincident with the latter; or, in other words, the sides of the aperture A^2 are concentric with the dial. This aperture A^2 may be sufficiently large to allow a person to write through it and upon the dial either the signature of the writer and some other item, if desired—a character, mark, or any other sign to indicate the presence of the person.

Beneath, or in contraposition to the aperture A^2, and secured upon the platform F, is a plate of metal, G, which prevents the entrance of a pin or any other pointed instrument which might be made use of to stop the turning of the dial, and which at the same time affords a better foundation to be written upon. This metallic plate G is covered with a piece of cloth, G', for imparting steadiness to the dial while being written upon, and the cloth may be saturated with printer's ink, or other suitable transferring material, or covered with copying paper, so as to indicate on the back of the dial that the writing was done through the aperture A^2.

By the employment of a dial of increased size the successive divisions of time exposed through the aperture A^2 will pass more rapidly, and it is manifest that the apparatus may be adapted for the most minute reports.

In order to prevent fraud by the opening of the lid A', I employ a strip of paper, as shown at *a*, which may be attached at its respective ends to the lid A' and platform F, and bear the signature of the person having charge of the apparatus. The strip is so attached that it will certainly be torn in pieces on the lid

being opened, and its condition may be perceived at a glance through an aperture, A^3, in the lid A′.

A^4 represents a pane of glass inserted in an opening in the lid A′, which opening is sufficiently large to expose one-half of the dial, with its reports. This can be made larger or entirely dispensed with, as may be desired.

The apparatus above described may be permanently located in convenient situations, and it is designed to make it obligatory for policemen, watchmen, and other employés to report their presence by writing their names or signatures upon the dial. This will indicate conclusively at precisely what time each individual was present, and as the writing of a sober person may be readily distinguished from that of a person intoxicated, the signature upon the dial will also indicate whether the individual was in a proper condition to discharge the duty or duties to which he may have been assigned.

Inasmuch as it may not be practicable or desirable to give the apparatus daily or frequent attention for the purpose of replacing the dial or erasing the signatures, &c., therefrom, the invention may be so modified that the dial will serve to report for any required number of days. This is accomplished as follows: Concentric circles are drawn upon the face of the dial, thereby dividing the latter into circular sections, which may be as numerous as its size will admit of, each section having the time indicated. Under the lid A′ is then adjusted a platform, H, Fig. 4, which is provided with as many openings *h* as the dial has divisions. These openings *h* are so arranged that when the platform H is turned at stated intervals they will be successively brought into coincidence with the aperture A, so that each circular section may thus suffice for the reception of one day's reports. The openings *h*, if arranged together or consecutively, would correspond in length to the aperture A^2 in the lid A′; or this aperture may be extended to conform to the number of divisions on the dial. A pencil, I, may be securely attached to the box A.

It is apparent that a dial attached to the the hour-wheel of a day-clock in the manner described would, after twelve hours' running, expose the same spaces again, and enable a policeman to report at eight o'clock in the morning what he may have neglected at eight o'clock the night before, if the dial has not been changed. This I obviate by arresting the motion of the dial after running or turning twelve hours in the following manner: Around the dial upon the platform F may be placed a series of projecting metal pins, *f*—say as many as two to each hour, or more, if desired. After arranging the dials for use, I place in the desired position a metal strip or arm, I, the respective ends of which are provided with apertures, which adapt it to be immovably retained by the center pin, *c*, and either of the pins *f*, said arm I being provided on each side and at a suitable point near it inner end with notches *i i*. When the dial has turned the desired length of time, the pin *c*, which projects through the plate D, enters the notch *i*, and, thus coming in contact with the arm I, arrests the motion of the dial. By means of this device the promptness of the controller of the apparatus can be secured, as he may have to make the change every twelve hours.

This invention provides a simple and cheap medium for promoting the efficiency of the police department. As used in connection with railroad-cars, the running of the train may be reported by the station agent writing on the dial of an apparatus placed in the cars, whereby he also proves his presence at his post. It can be made the duty of switch-tenders and persons in charge of railroad-bridges to report at a fixed time before trains are due at or near their posts, and an engineer may exhibit by the employment of this reporter the amount of steam and water he may have kept up.

The apparatus is adapted for many other very useful purposes, which it is needless to specify.

Having thus described my invention, the following is what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. The plates C D, having pointed projections *c d* and aperture *c′ d′*, for securing the dial E and preventing the position of the same being changed without detection, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

2. The metallic plate G, applied beneath the dial E and apertures A^2, to prevent the entrance of a pointed instrument, as described.

3. The cloth G′, placed beneath the aperture A^2, and saturated with printer's ink or other suitable material or covered with transferring-paper, for preventing fraudulent inscriptions, as explained.

4. The aperture A^3 and strip of paper *a*, for detecting the opening of the lid A′, substantially as set forth.

THEODORE ASCHERFELD.

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