



Figure 36.—GROVER'S PATENT MODEL FOR THE FIRST PORTABLE CASE, 1856. The machine in the case is a commercial machine of 1854, bearing the serial number 3012 and the patent dates "Feby 11, 1851, June 22, 1852, Feby 22, 1853." Powered by a single, foot-shaped treadle that was connected by a removable wooden pitman, it also could be turned by hand. (Smithsonian photo 45525-D.)

enchained it, and the process repeated. The slack in the needle thread was controlled by means of a spring guide. The cloth was fed by feeding rolls and a band.

A company was organized under the name of Grover and Baker Sewing Machine Company, and soon the partners took Jacob Weatherill, mechanic, and Orlando B. Potter, lawyer (who became the president), into the firm. Potter contributed his ability as a lawyer in lieu of a financial investment and

handled the several succeeding patents of Grover and Baker. These patents were primarily for mechanical improvements such as U.S. patent No. 9,053 issued to Grover and Baker on June 22, 1852, for devising a curved upper needle and an under looper⁶² to form the double-looped stitch which became known as the Grover and Baker stitch.

⁶² A looper on the underside in place of the horizontal needle.