C. K. MARSHALL.

POSTAL-CARD.

No. 193,012. Patented July 10, 1877.

Fig. 1.

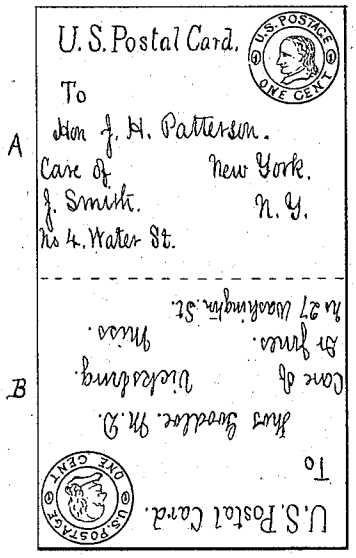


Fig. 2.

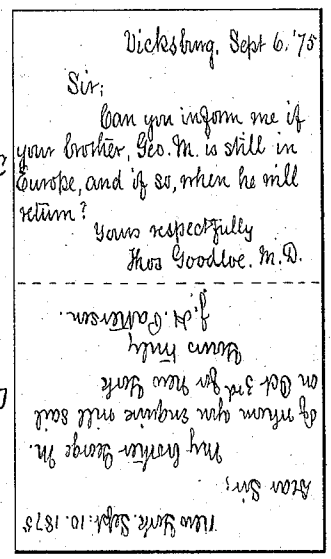


Fig. 3.

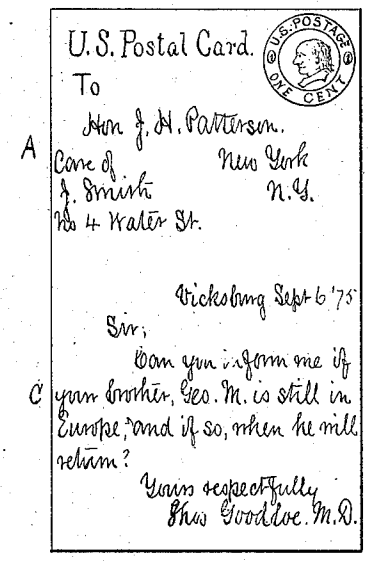
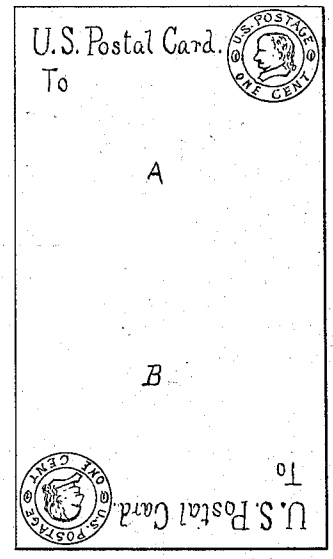


Fig. 4.



WITNESSES

F. W. Howard

Edwin James

INVENTOR

Charles. K. Marshall.

per J. E. F. Holmead.

Attorney

N. PETERS, PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES K. MARSHALL, OF VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-FOURTH OF HIS RIGHT TO NATANIEL H. HARRIS.

IMPROVEMENT IN POSTAL CARDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **193,012**, dated July 10, 1877; application filed January 20, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES K. MARSHALL, of Vicksburg, in the county of Warren and State of Mississippi, have invented certain Improvements in Postal Cards, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, and the letters of reference marked thereon, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view. Fig. 2 is a reverse plan view of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a plan view of a modification of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a plan view of the postal card as it appears before it is used.

The nature of my invention is a new article of manufacture; and consists in a single postal card provided with two stamps, and which may be arranged at the opposite ends of the same face of the card, or one on each face, one stamp being designed to carry the card containing the inquiry or other written or printed matter from a party to his correspondent, and the duplicate stamp to prepay its return with the correspondent's reply, and with duplicate spaces for a double address, and duplicate spaces, one on which to write for the information sought, and the other for the response thereto.

The ordinary and well-established usage of society renders it almost obligatory in business and professional correspondence, when a party writes to another seeking information in regard to a matter in which he alone is interested, that he should forward the means necessary to defray the postal expense which a reply involves. When such correspondence is conducted by letter, custom requires a stamp to be inclosed; but as yet I am not aware that, previous to my invention, any attempt to successfully provide the means of forwarding in connection with a single postal card a stamp to pay return postage, has been essayed. And it is the successful meeting of this want, which, in view of the general use of postal cards, is now almost universally felt, that not only constitutes the novelty of the invention, but imparts to it its chief value and importance. To forward to a correspondent an ordinary postal card to be returned with an answer to the information sought requires, in order to protect its stamp, that it should be inclosed in an envelope, which necessitates the use of a three-cent stamp, and making, with the card, the postage four cents, while, with my improved card, the entire expense is only two cents; and thus what has long been considered a great desideratum is now furnished for all that general class of correspondence which is now carried on through the medium of postal cards.

The construction and operation of my invention are as follows:

On the face of the card, as shown at Fig. 1, are two stamps—one above and at the right-hand corner of the space A, and the other in the same position when the card is reversed to be used for the return address to be written on the space B. These spaces A B, for the double address, may be ruled or lined, as is now customary. The back of the card, Fig. 2, is blank, and consists of spaces C D, opposite the address, the space C being for the inquiry or other information sought to be written on, and the space D for the reply, or vice versa.

At Fig. 3 is shown a modification of my improved postal card, in which, instead of having the duplicate stamps on the face of the card, it is contemplated to stamp the reverse side of the card as well as what is ordinarily its face. In this case one side is used for the information sought and the address, the same being written on spaces A C, and the other for the return address and the reply, written on what will correspond to spaces B D.

In carrying out my invention it is not contemplated, as has heretofore been done by others, to make two postal cards united together, and each of such cards of equal size and weight, which size and weight is that legalized in the United States or in foreign governments; but I adopt a single card of either the present size and weight of postal cards, or of a size and weight which will be, say, about one-third more than the present single card, which latter size and weight will make the card of an area equal to what is now

known as the "No. 5 letter-envelope," and thus afford convenience for handling at the distributing post offices.

A card of this latter-mentioned size will not cost for its manufacture over one-third more than the present single postal card, and yet it will be capable of doing double work, as herein described, and will be provided with two postage-stamps—one for carrying it forward, and the other for paying the return postage for the reply which is to be written upon the unoccupied portion of the card. In a word, my postal card is in no sense two postal cards, each of which is of the legalized size and weight of the known postal cards of this and foreign governments, but it is a single card not to be folded, and of the size and weight to be determined by the government sanctioning its use, and adapted for doing the work of two single cards.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. As a new article of manufacture, a single unfolded or unfoldable postal card, consisting of the sections A B C D and the duplicate stamps, whereby an inquiry can be made and an answer returned, simply employing a single card, substantially as described.

2. A section of a single postal card constructed with a writing-surface to receive the address and the written inquiry of the person sending it, and a stamp for paying the postage, in combination with a duplicate section of said postal card, which duplicate is an extension on the same plane of the first-mentioned section of the postal card, and is attached thereto and spread out when mailed, and is used, when received by the person to whom the inquiry is addressed, for writing an answer and an address upon, and for paying the return postage, all as and for the purpose described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

C. K. MARSHALL.

Witnesses:
GENELLA, L. M.,
JOSEPH GENELLA.