(No Model.)

# T. M. CARDWELL & N. B. BERRY.

## HINGED MOUTH PIECE FOR MAIL POUCHES.

No. 280,572. Patented July 3, 1883.

Fig. 1.

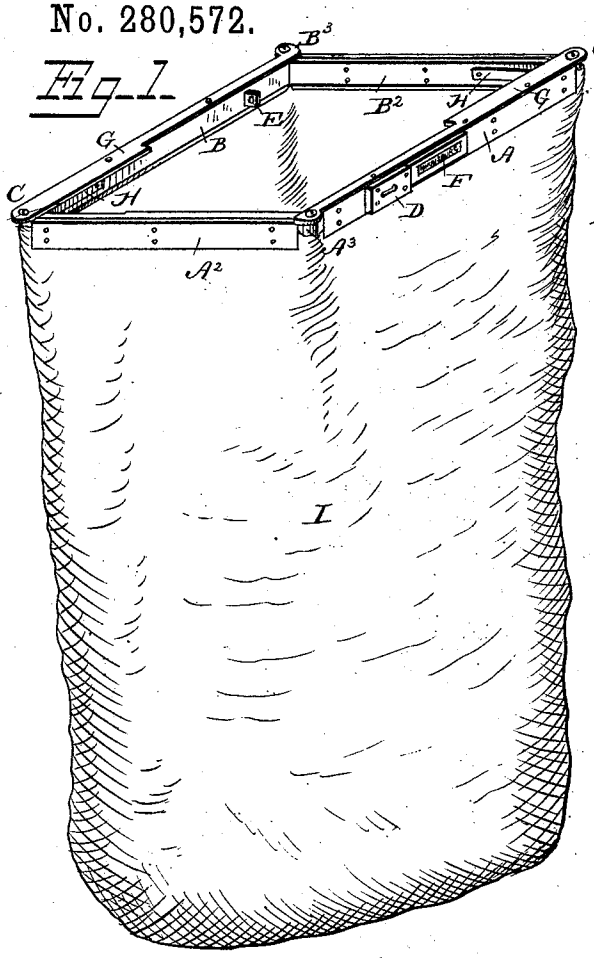



Fig. 2.

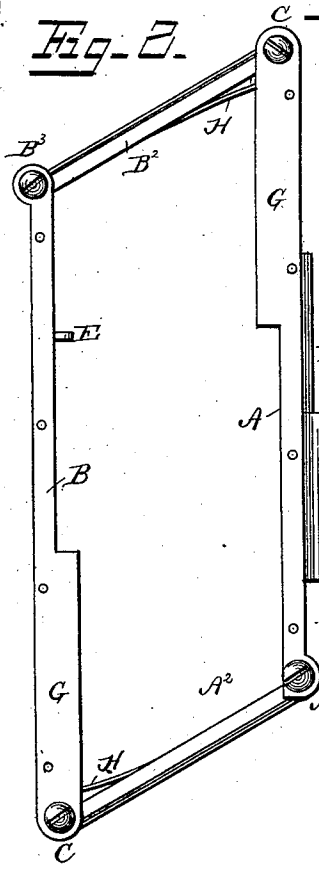



Fig. 3.

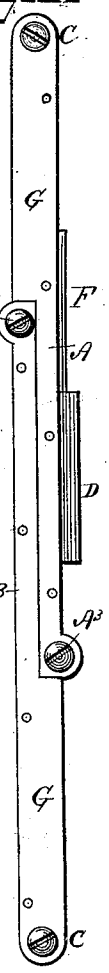



Fig. 4.

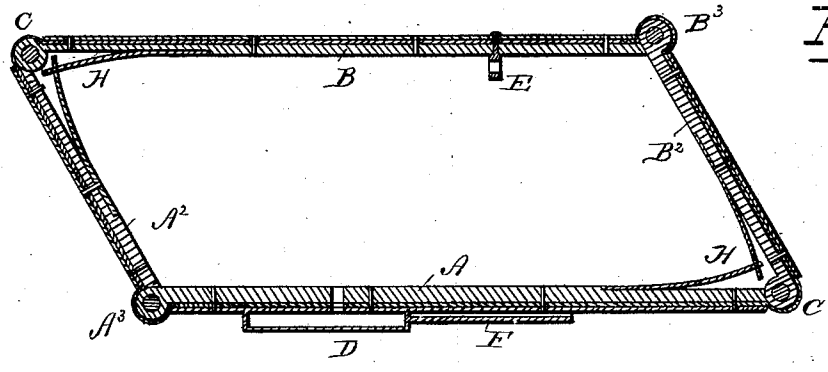
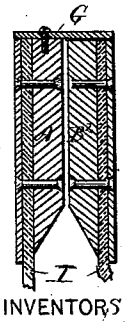



Fig. 5.




WITNESSES

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS M. CARDWELL AND NATHAN B. BERRY, OF HARRODSBURG, KY.

## HINGED MOUTH-PIECE FOR MAIL-POUCHES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 280,572, dated July 3, 1883.

Application filed March 7, 1883. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, THOMAS M. CARDWELL and NATHAN B. BERRY, citizens of the United States, residing at Harrodsburg, in the county of Mercer and State of Kentucky, have invented a new and useful Hinged Mouth-Piece for Mail-Pouches, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to mail bags or pouches; and it consists in a mouth-piece consisting of two pairs of arms hinged together and equipped with springs, by which they may be forced open, and having overlapping top flanges and a suitable locking device, all as will be hereinafter fully described, and particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the drawings hereto annexed, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bag or pouch having our improved mouth-piece, showing the same open. Fig. 2 is a top view. Fig. 3 is a top view, showing the bag or pouch closed. Fig. 4 is a horizontal sectional view, and Fig. 5 is a vertical sectional view.

The same letters refer to the same parts in all the figures.

In the drawings, A $A^2$ and B $B^2$ represent two pairs of metallic arms, suitably constructed of flat metal bars, substantially as shown in the drawings. The inner adjoining ends of the arms A $A^2$ and B $B^2$, respectively, are connected by hinges $A^3$ and $B^3$. The outer ends of the arms A $A^2$ are likewise joined to the outer ends of the arms B $B^2$ by hinges C C, thereby enabling the arms to be folded or unfolded, much like the frame of a valise. The arms composing the hinged frame or mouth-piece may all be of the same length; or, as shown in the drawings, the arms A and B, which are located diagonally opposite each other, may be longer than the arms $A^2$ and $B^2$. This is for the purpose of enabling a lock, D, which is secured to the arm A, to be located at the center of the frame without interfering with the hinges. This is more convenient and neat than locating the lock near one end, as it would have to be if the arms were all of the same length. The lock may be a spring-lock of the usual construction, and it engages a staple, E, secured to the inner side of the arm B, as shown. A tag-holder, F, to receive the destination-card, may also be secured to one of the arms composing the frame.

To the upper edges of the arms A and B are secured plates G G, projecting inwardly, so as to form flanges, which, when the mouth-piece or frame is closed, overlap the arms $A^2$ $B^2$, thus forming a tight joint.

H H are springs secured to the ends of the arms forming the frame near the hinges C. These springs, which may be of any suitable construction, serve to force the arms apart, thus opening the frame.

The bag, which is denoted by letter I, may be secured to the arms forming the frame by rivets, or in any suitable manner. Metallic clamping-plates may also be employed; but this is not necessary.

The operation of our invention will be readily understood from the foregoing description, taken in connection with the drawings hereto annexed. It is simple, inexpensive, and exceedingly convenient, enabling access to be had to the contents of the bag or pouch with very little trouble.

We claim as our invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

As an improvement in mouth-pieces for bags and pouches, the combination of two pairs of arms hinged together so as to form a folding frame, springs arranged to force the said frame open, plates secured to the upper edges of two diagonally-opposite arms, and projecting so as to form flanges overlapping the other arms when the frame is closed, and a lock secured to one of the arms and engaging a staple secured to the other arm, as herein described, for the purpose shown and specified.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing as our own we have hereto affixed our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

THOMAS M. CARDWELL.
NATHAN B. BERRY.

Witnesses:
BENJAMIN MILLS,
S. DAVIS CARDWELL.