

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID I. BARNETT, OF TORONTO, CANADA.

ENVELOPE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 496,385, dated April 25, 1893.

Application filed November 18, 1892. Serial No. 452,458. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID IRVINE BARNETT, of the city of Toronto, in the county of York and Province of Ontario, Canada, have
5 invented a certain new and useful Reversible Envelope; and I hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

This invention relates to a reversible envelope more particularly designed for the
10 transmission and return of samples; and the object of the invention is to construct an envelope which can be cheaply and readily manufactured, and which will comply with the
15 post office regulations governing the carriage of samples through the mails, and which will securely retain possession of its contents until they are extracted by the party receiving the package;—and the invention consists essentially of a wrapper or case open at both
20 ends;—a central dividing-wall separating the interior of the wrapper or case into two or more contents-receiving-pockets in which are adapted to be inserted the articles for transmission;—the central dividing-wall terminating at both ends in a flap each of which is adapted to fold over and close its respective
25 end of the envelope;—a fastening device to securely lock together the said flaps, said fastening device being so constructed that it can be readily undone and refastened; the whole device being constructed and operated as hereinafter more fully set forth and more particularly pointed out in the claims.

35 In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved reversible envelope showing the wrapper, the central dividing wall separating the wrapper into two or more contents-receiving-pockets also showing the
40 central dividing-wall terminating at each end in a flap and the fastening device to secure the flaps together. Fig. 2 is a plan view showing the reversible envelope closed and the flaps locked together. Fig. 3 is a view of the
45 alternate form of fastening device for the flaps. Fig. 4 is a cross sectional view.

Like numerals of reference refer to like parts throughout the specification and drawings.

50 The reversible envelope consists of a wrapper 1 of any size convenient for the purpose

intended and made of any suitable material. The opposite meeting edges respectively 1^a, 1^b, overlap each other and are gummed, sealed
55 or otherwise fastened together. The ends respectively 1^c and 1^d, of the wrapper are open as shown in the drawings.

Located within the wrapper 1, is a central dividing-wall 2, nearly equal in width to the
60 interior width of the wrapper 1. This central dividing wall projects beyond each end respectively 1^c and 1^d, the wrapper 1, to form the flaps respectively 3 and 4.

It will be noticed by referring to the drawings that the central dividing-wall 2, separates
65 the wrapper 1, into two contents-receiving-pockets respectively 5 and 6, only one of which is made use of at a time. We will suppose for example that the pocket 5 is in use and contains samples or other merchandise or material;—the central dividing-wall
70 forms one side of the contents-receiving-pocket 5, while that portion of the wrapper marked *a*, forms the other side. The flaps respectively 3 and 4, as hereinbefore stated
75 are arranged to be folded on either side of the said wrapper and in this case the flaps 3 and 4, will be folded over on the side marked *a*, in order to close the open ends of the wrapper to prevent the emission of the contents.
80 When it is desired to use the pocket 6, the central dividing-wall 2, forms one side of the pocket while that portion of the wrapper marked, *b*, forms the other side. The flaps in this case being folded upon the side marked
85 *b*, in order to close the ends of the wrapper when pocket 6, contains the contents. The outer side of the wrapper is arranged also to be addressed on either side to different parties. We will suppose for example that a
90 firm is utilizing the wrapper for sending samples to a customer. In this case the name and address of the customer would be written on the side of the envelope marked *b*, and the sample inserted in the pocket 5, the
95 flaps 3 and 4 folded over on the side marked *a*, and fastened together by the device shown in the drawings and hereinafter explained, or by any other device which can be as readily operated. The customer after receiving the
100 package extracts the samples from the pocket 5, and when returning places them in the

pocket marked *c*, and folds the flaps over the ends of the said pocket on the side of the envelope marked *b*, writing the address of the party to whom he sends the package upon the side *a*, and fastens the flaps by the device provided for the purpose. By this means one envelope may be utilized for transmission and return, and the sender before dispatching the package can have the address written or otherwise marked upon the envelope on that side marked *b*, in order to insure its safe return.

The fastening device which is shown in Figs. 1 and 2, consists of a slit 7, extending from the edge of the flap inwardly and forwardly toward its middle and front and preferably at an acute angle to its side, the said slit terminating in a rounded or enlarged hole 8, the opposite edge of the second flap having a corresponding slit, inclined in the opposite direction but at the same angle. The interlocking of these slits securely fastens the flaps 3 and 4, together as far as all practical purposes are concerned.

In Fig. 3, I have shown an alternative form of fastening-device, which consists of a hook 9, secured to one flap which enters a hole or opening 10, made in the opposite flap to receive it. I may however, use any other form of fastening device which I find convenient for that purpose, such as a paper fastener, a seal, &c. This envelope is more particularly designed for samples, though I may, if I so desire employ the envelope for any other purpose to which it can be applied. It is also possible to withdraw the central dividing-wall from the wrapper or case when such wrapper or case is used up and insert the central divid-

ing-wall into a new wrapper or case, thus curtailing a considerable portion of the expense. 40

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A reversible envelope comprising a case open at both ends, a central dividing-wall within the case separating the envelope into two contents-receiving-pockets, a flap at each end of the central dividing-wall adapted to close the open ends of the envelope substantially as and for the purposes specified. 50

2. A reversible envelope comprising a case open at both ends, a central dividing-wall within the case separating the envelope into two contents-receiving pockets a flap at each end of the central dividing-wall adapted to close the open ends of the envelope and means for fastening said flaps substantially as specified. 55

3. A reversible envelope comprising a case open at both ends, a central dividing-wall within the case separating the envelope into two contents-receiving-pockets a flap at each end of the central dividing-wall adapted to close the open ends of the envelope, a fastening device to secure said flaps comprising a slit formed in each of said flaps and extending inwardly and forwardly from the edge and arranged at an angle thereto, the said slits being cut from the opposite edges of said flaps substantially as and for the purposes specified. 60 65 70

Toronto, November 5, 1892.

D. I. BARNETT.

In presence of—

C. H. RICHES,
M. E. ANGELL.