W. L. BENHAM.

Envelope.

No. 200,853. Patented March 5, 1878.

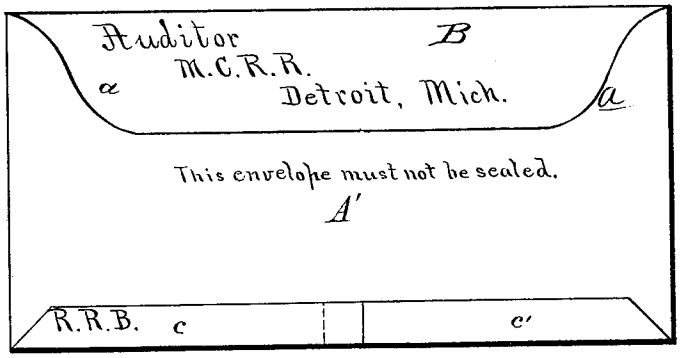



Fig. 1.

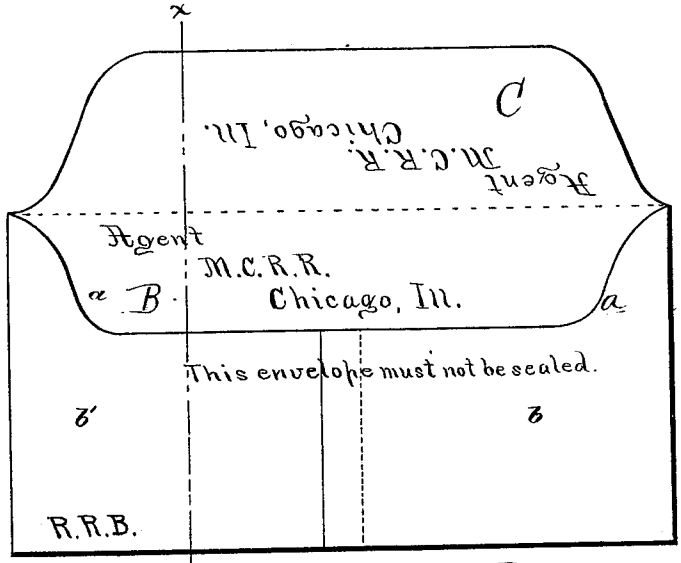



Fig. 2.

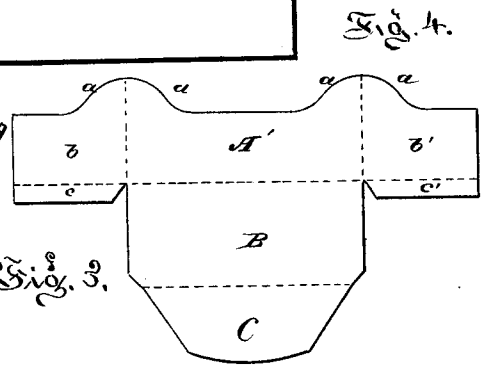



Fig. 4.

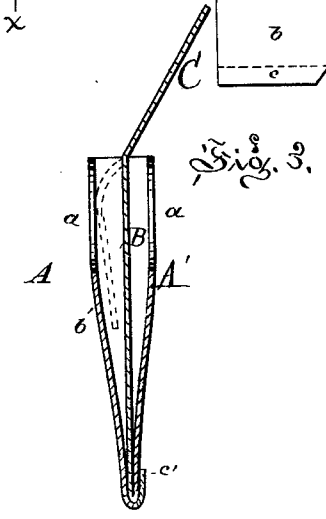



Fig. 3.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM L. BENHAM, OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF HIS RIGHT TO CHARLES H. NORRIS, OF SAME PLACE.

## IMPROVEMENT IN ENVELOPES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **200,853**, dated March 5, 1878; application filed December 31, 1877.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM L. BENHAM, of Detroit, in the county of Wayne and State of Michigan, have invented an Improvement in Envelopes, of which the following is a specification:

The nature of my invention relates to new and useful improvements in the manufacture of envelopes, so that the same may be used repeatedly, thereby, under certain circumstances, effecting a large saving to consumers.

In railroad business, for instance, the agent at Chicago is compelled to transmit reports daily to the agent at Detroit, and the agent at the latter point is required to transmit like reports to the agent at Chicago. For this purpose the railroad company purchase a large quantity of envelopes of suitable size, and print upon the superscription face thereof the names and addresses of the various agents to whom such reports are to be made, and these are distributed to the various agents, those received by the agent at Chicago being addressed to the agent at Detroit, and vice versa. These reports, in their envelopes, are usually sent by the hand of the baggageman, and are very rarely used but once, although it is common to request the agents to preserve and return the envelopes for reuse. In the hurry of their business, or from negligence, this is rarely done, and the company is put to a large expense, which it is the object of my invention to save, at least in part.

Figure 1 is a plan view of my double-pocket reversible-flap envelope. Fig. 2 is a like view of the reverse side with the flap open. Fig. 3 is a vertical cross-section of the same on the line *x x* in Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is the blank of the envelope, the dotted lines showing the folds.

Like letters refer to like parts in each figure.

A represents a bag or envelope, made of proper size and material, of the shape shown in Fig. 4 before being folded and gummed. The central portion A′ of this bag is cut away, as shown at *a a*, and has two flaps, *b b′*, which are adapted to fold and lap over one another, as shown in Fig. 2. These flaps are provided with lapels *c c′*, which, when the flaps *b b′* are folded and gummed, are turned over on the opposite side of the envelope and pasted there, Figs. 1 and 3. A partition, B, which forms part of the portion A′ of the envelope, is turned up, as shown in Fig. 3, and thus divides the envelope into two divisions or pockets.

The partition is furnished with a flap, C, which can be turned down into either of the pockets, to hold their contents in place.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The envelope A, having the central partition B, dividing the envelope into two pockets, and the single reversible flap C, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The envelope described, consisting of the side A′, cut away at *a a*, the flaps *b b′*, having lapels *c c′*, the partition B, and flap C, all constructed and arranged substantially as described.

WILLIAM L. BENHAM.

Witnesses:
H. S. SPRAGUE,
CHAS J. HUNT.