

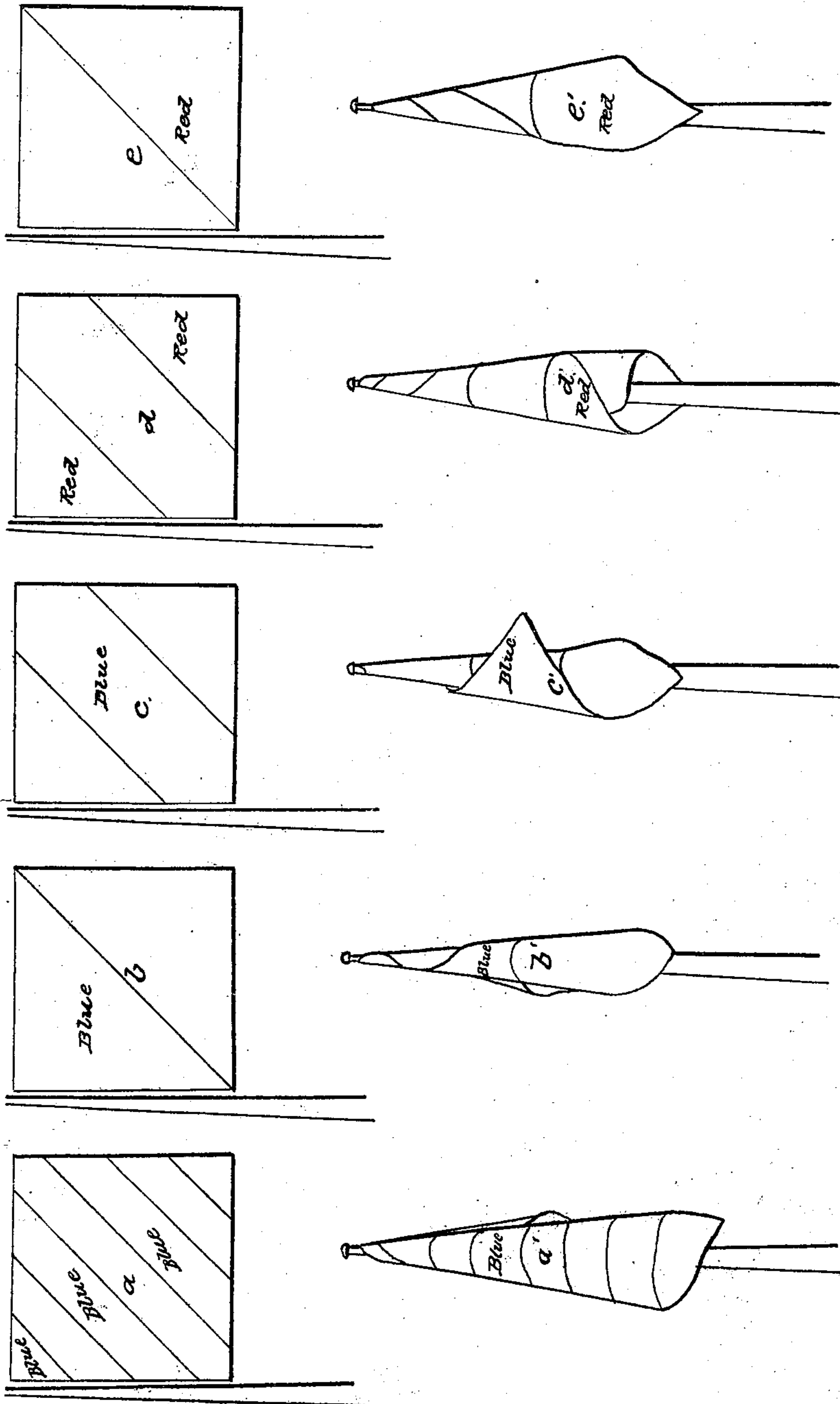
H. J. ROGERS.

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Signal Flag.

No. 12,140.

Patented Jan. 2, 1855.



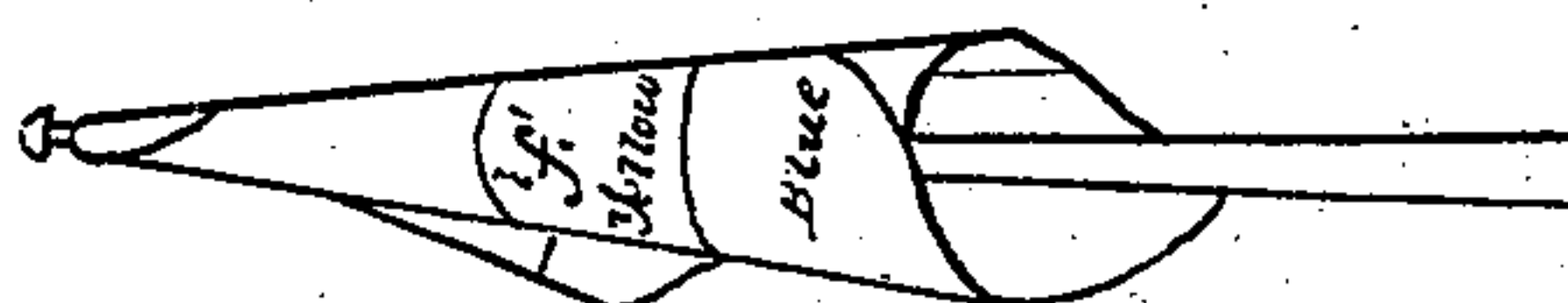
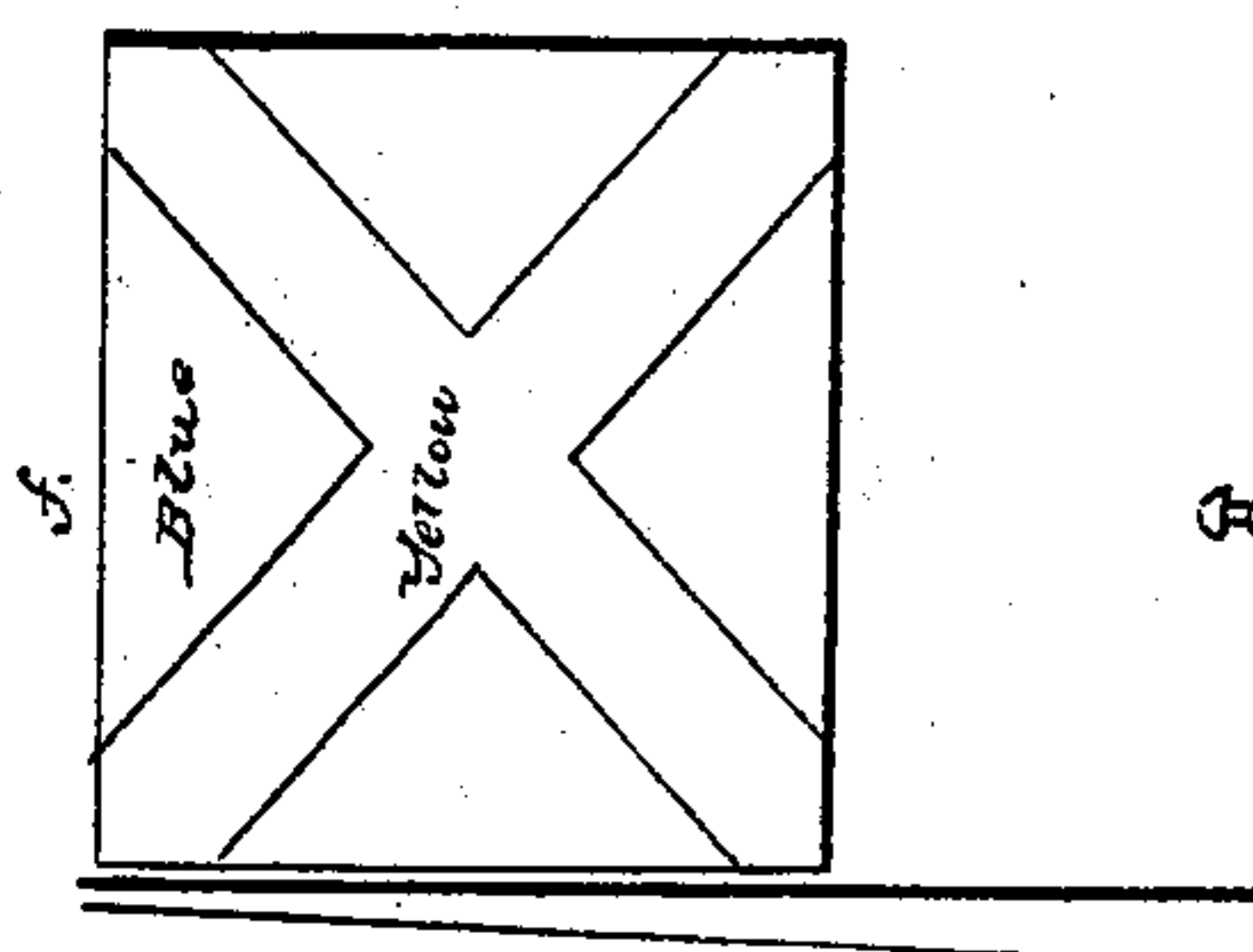
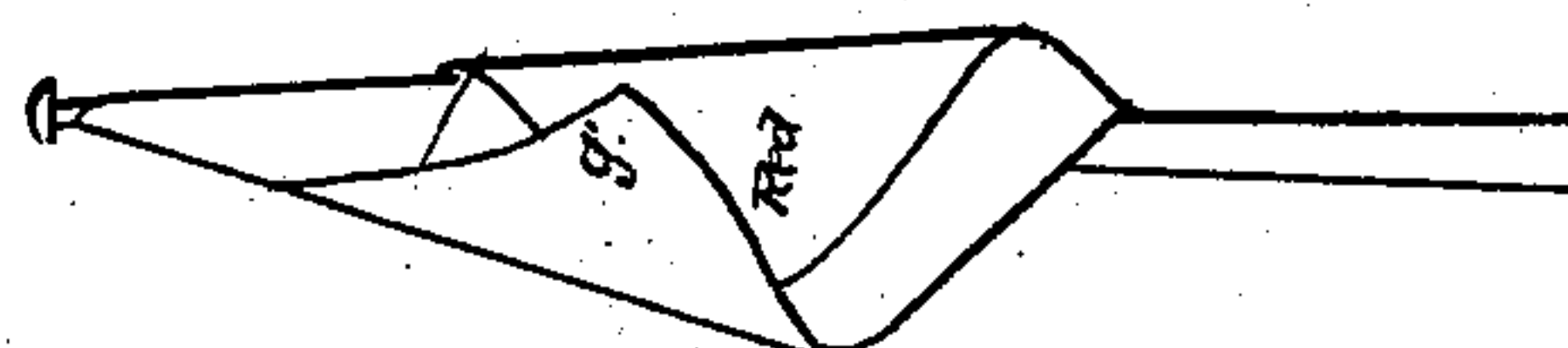
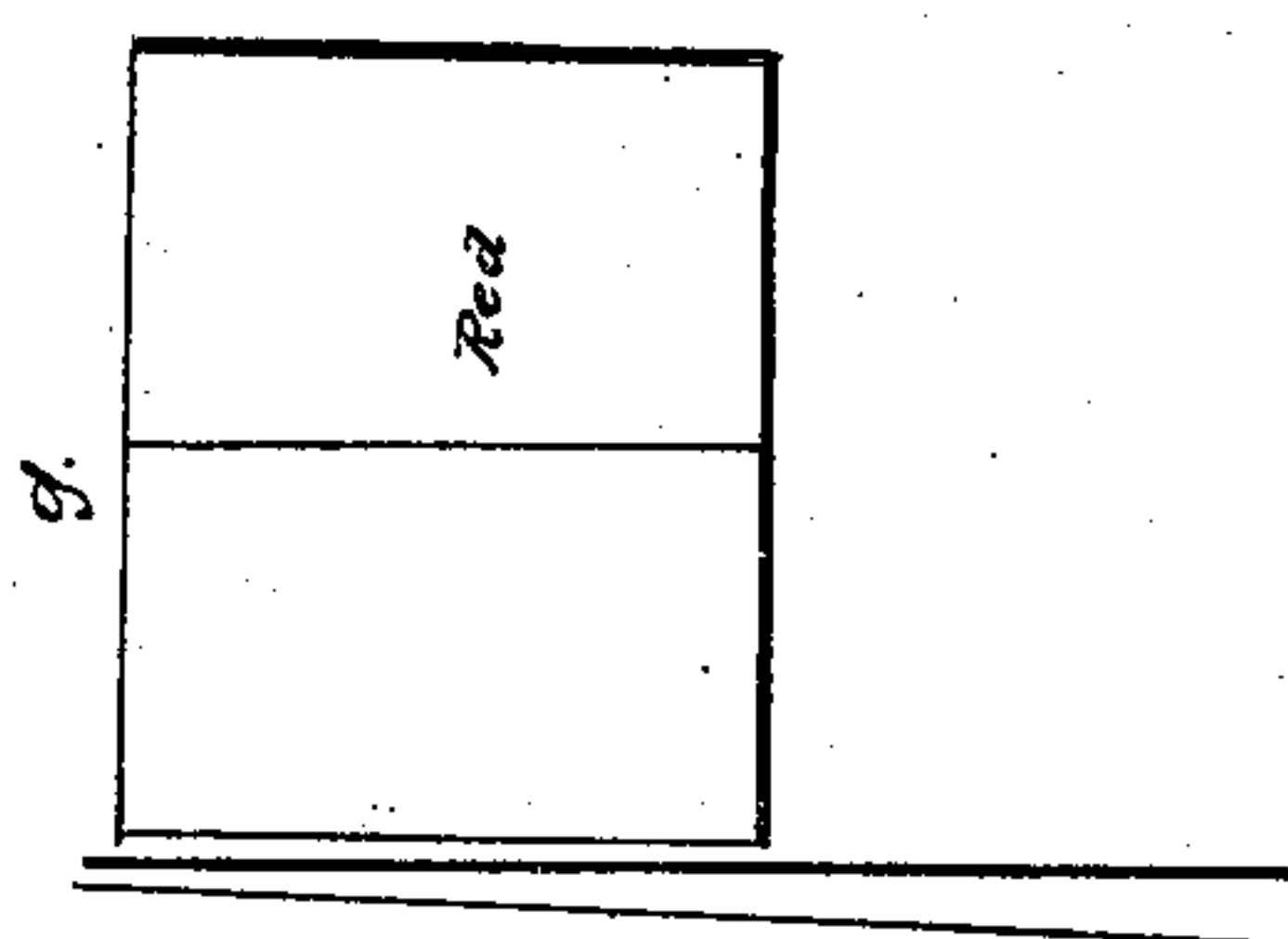
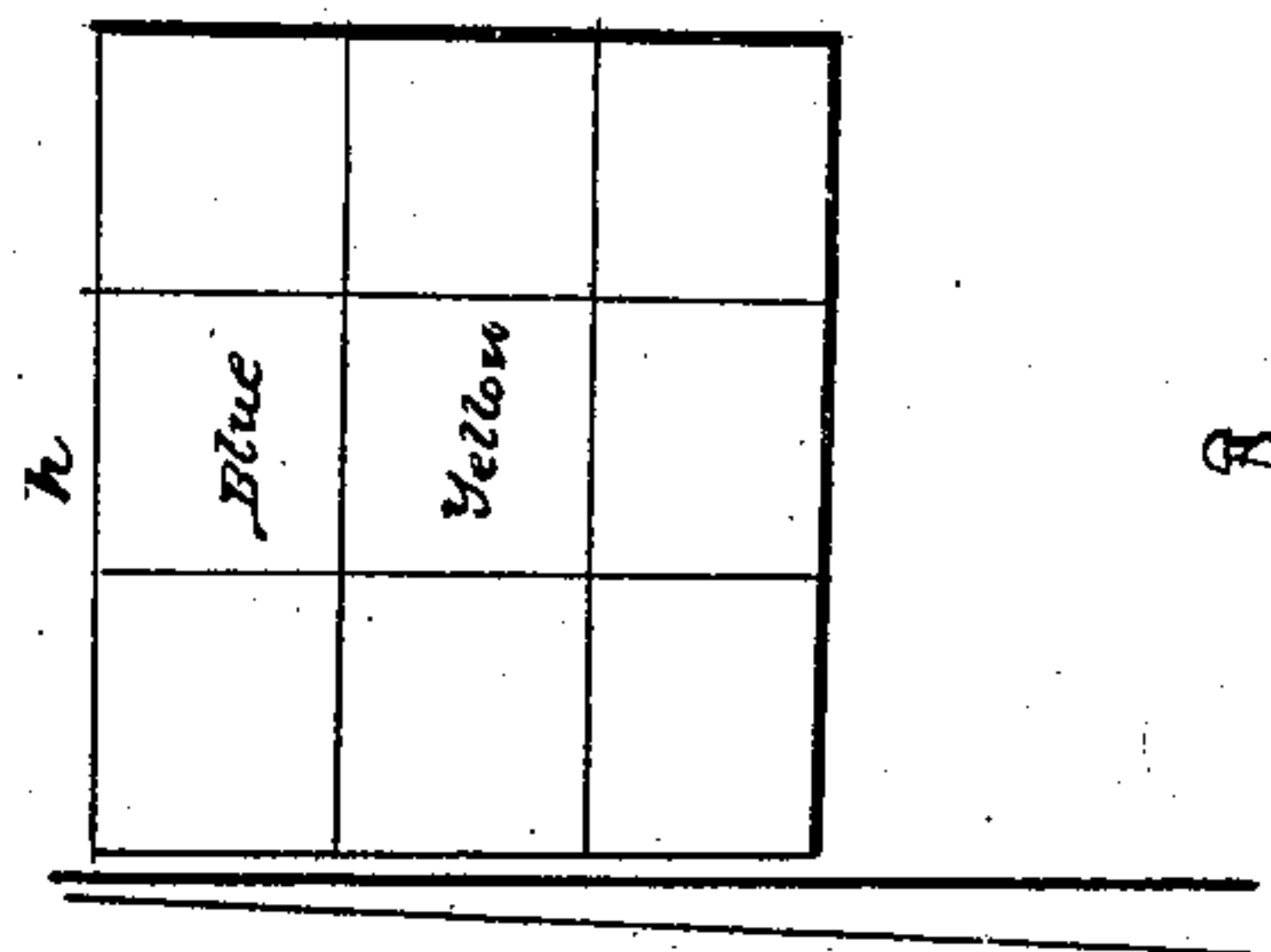
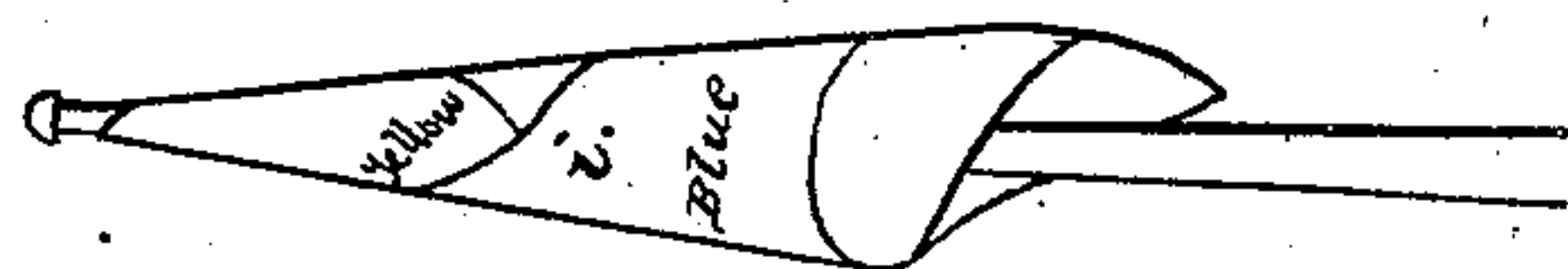
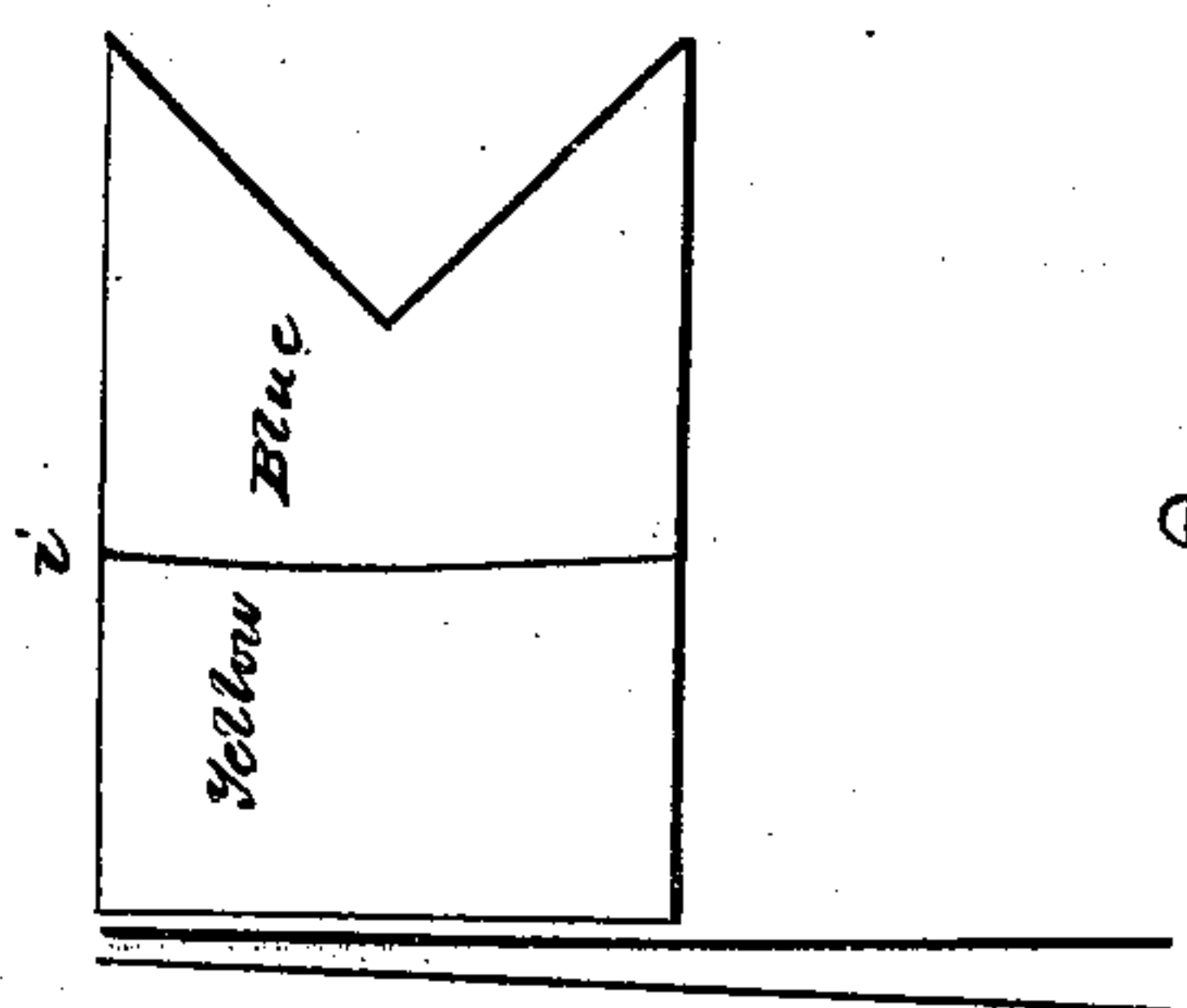
H. J. ROGERS.

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

Signal Flag.

No. 12,140.

Patented Jan. 2, 1855.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY J. ROGERS, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

IMPROVEMENT IN SIGNAL-FLAGS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **12,140**, dated January 2, 1855.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY J. ROGERS, of Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, have invented an Improvement in Signal-Flags; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the principle or character which distinguishes it from all other things before known, and of the usual manner of making, modifying, and using the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing.

My invention consists in a mode of making signal-flags and in arranging the symbols thereon so that the same flags will answer for signals in a perfect calm as well as in high wind, and at the same time are not so apt to be mistaken as the calm-signals in universal use at this time.

The various signal-flags now in use have one great defect which it is desirable and important to obviate, and that is but few of the flags can be recognized during calm or light winds. Consequently the flags are of little use under such circumstances. The great difficulty has been in distinguishing the flags from each other during a calm or where there is not sufficient wind to display their distinctive features to the observer. This applies to all codes with which I am acquainted, and in the best codes but few of the flags can be recognized in calm weather. Therefore they are useless under such circumstances, and resort has to be had to hoisting of balls, cones, hexagons, cylinders, and similar geometrical figures composed of light wood frames covered with painted canvas or bunting, which get foul of the vessel's rigging while being hoisted and cause delay and annoyance in making signals. My improvement overcomes all these difficulties, and I therefore name them "Rogers's Calm and Storm Signal Flags."

The flags for which I claim a patent are made

square, or nearly so, and by referring to the drawing it will be observed that the symbols or distinguishing-marks of five of the flags *a b c d e* are placed diagonally, the symbols forming a distinct mark in a calm similar to those exhibited by the flags in a stiff breeze. The flag marked *a*, it will be seen, is composed of blue and white stripes or symbols arranged alternately and forming angles with the top of the mast, and which meet each other at their base when the flag drops during a calm, as shown at *a'*. The same applies to flags *b' c' d' e'*, which are fully illustrated as they "appear in a calm." It will be seen that each of these five flags possesses a distinctive character and all agree in the common principle of construction, and that they may be used with or without the aid of other flags or symbols and according to any arbitrary or conventional system of signaling. The universal code of signals of Captain Marryatt in general use throughout Europe has labored under the want of a reliable calm-signal flag, and with the help of these new diagonal calm-flags I am now preparing an entire code of signals for the United States.

Flags *f, g, h*, and *i* are some of those used in the universal code of Captain Marryatt, and these are shown as they appear in a calm at *f', g', h'*, and *i'*, where it is evident that the symbols of the several flags are changed in character and cannot be relied upon, as they run through a variety of changes, according to the strength of the wind.

What I claim as my invention is—

The square signal-flag with diagonal symbols, so that the same flags shall answer for signals in a high wind and in a calm, as set forth.

HENRY J. ROGERS.

Witnesses:

SOLUNI CAMPBELL,
HENRY WATERMAN.