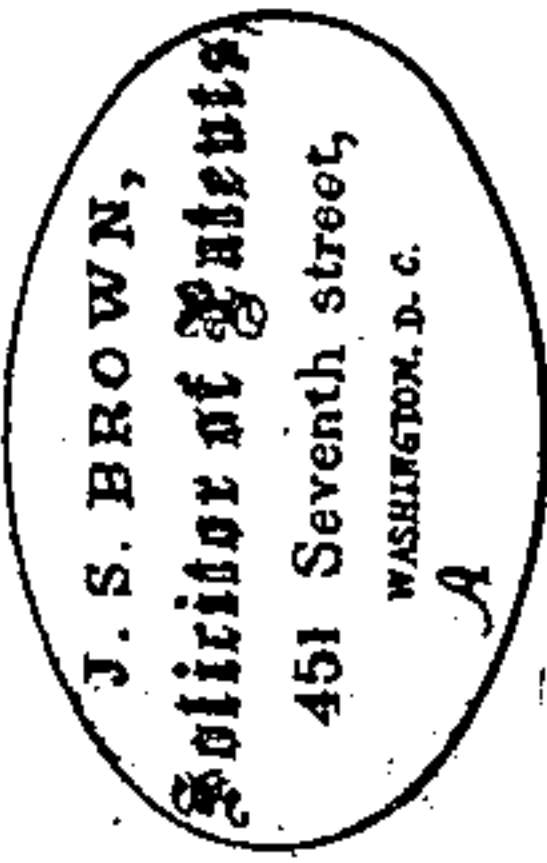


*J. S. Brown.*  
*Addressing Letters.*

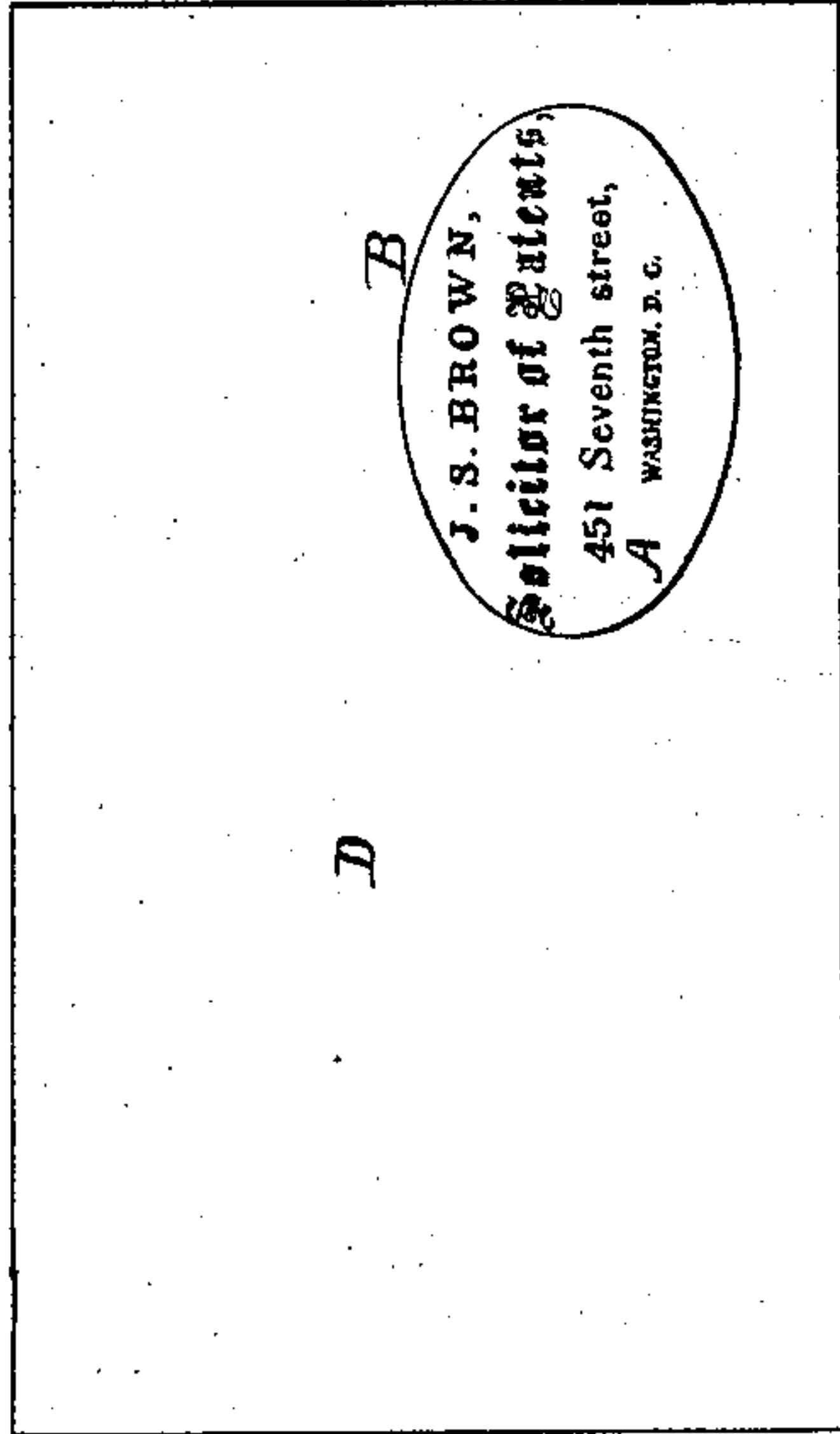
*N<sup>o</sup> 36,393.*

*Patented Sept. 9, 1862.*

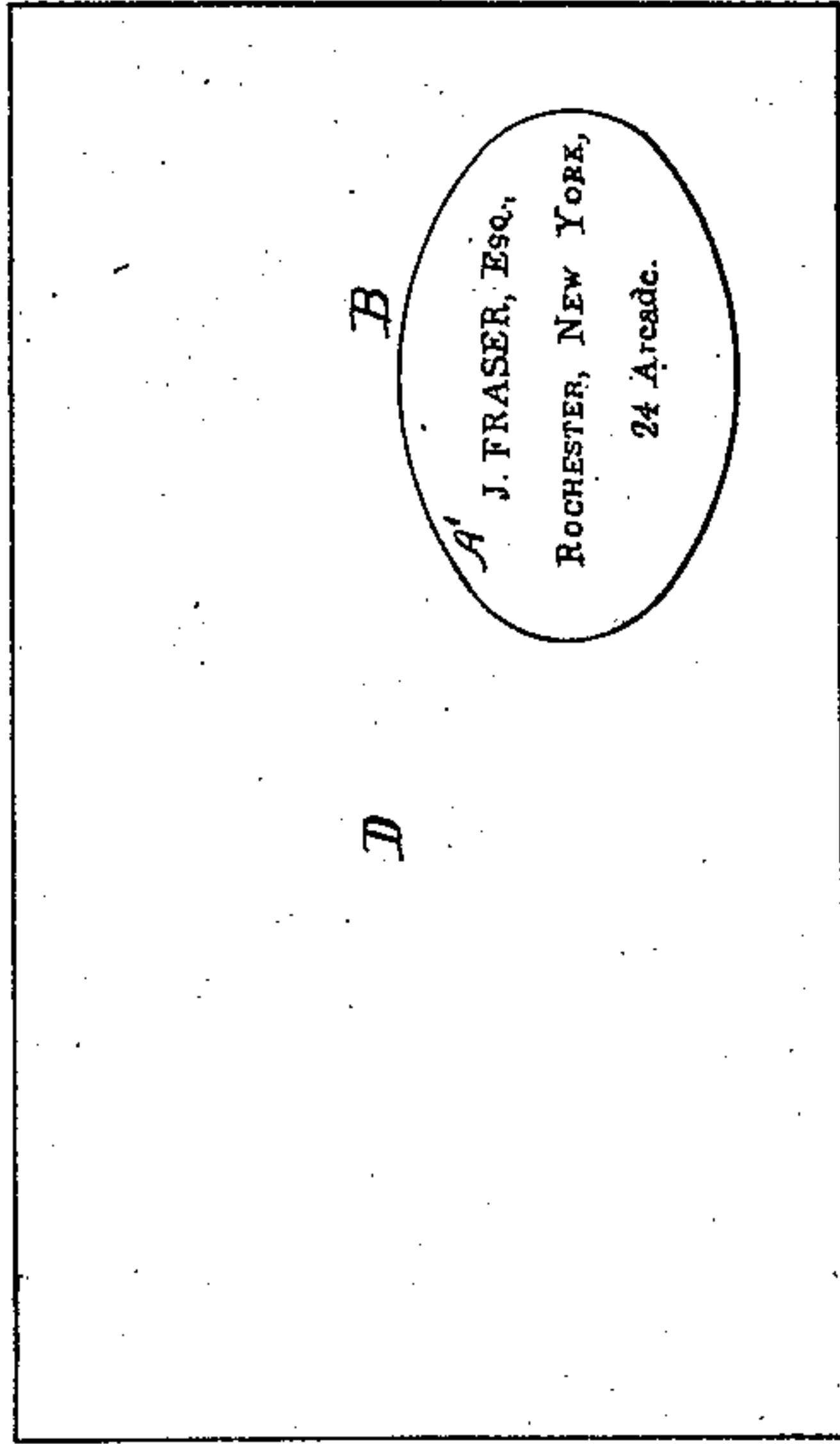
*Fig. 1,*



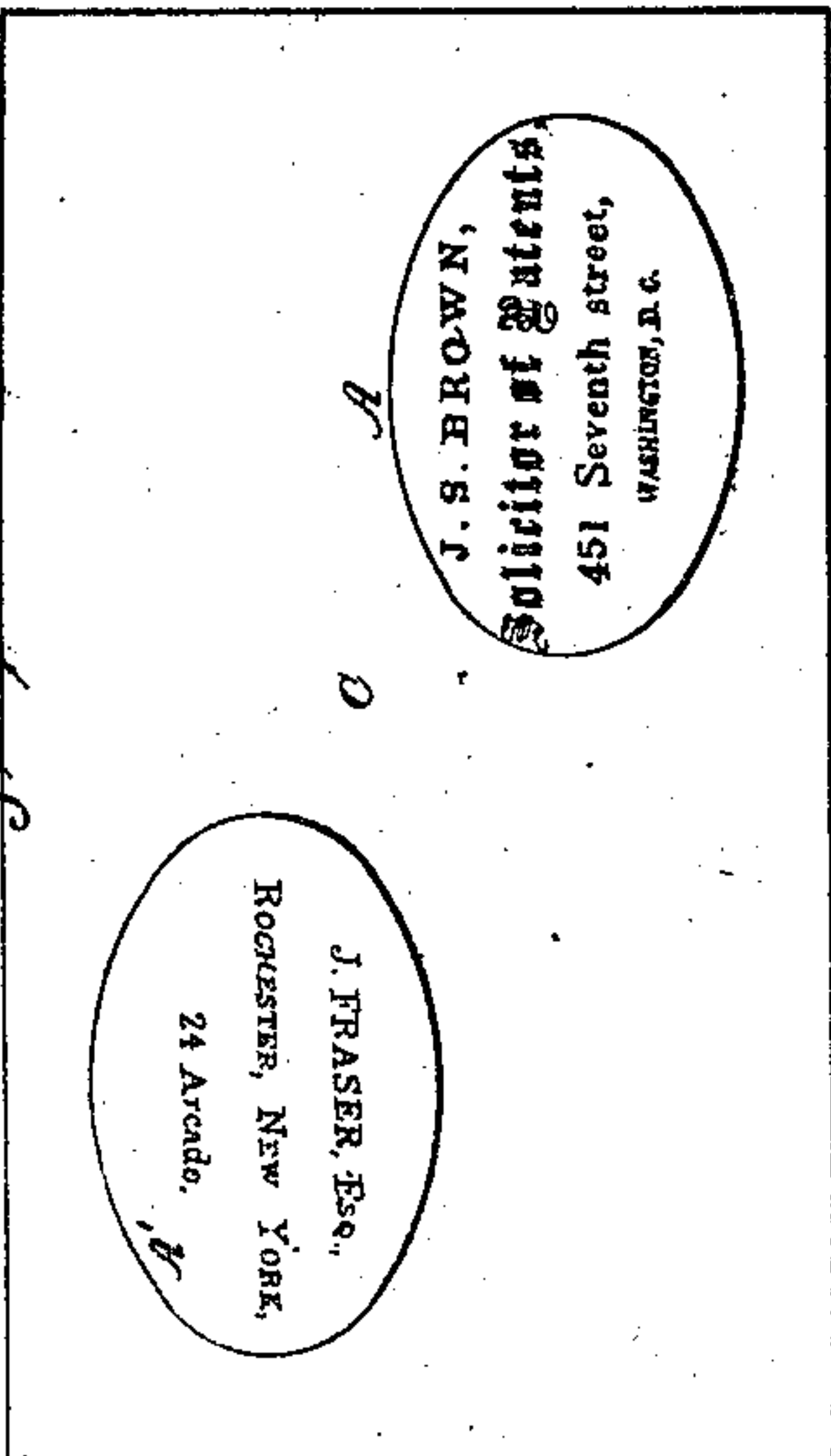
*Fig. 3;*



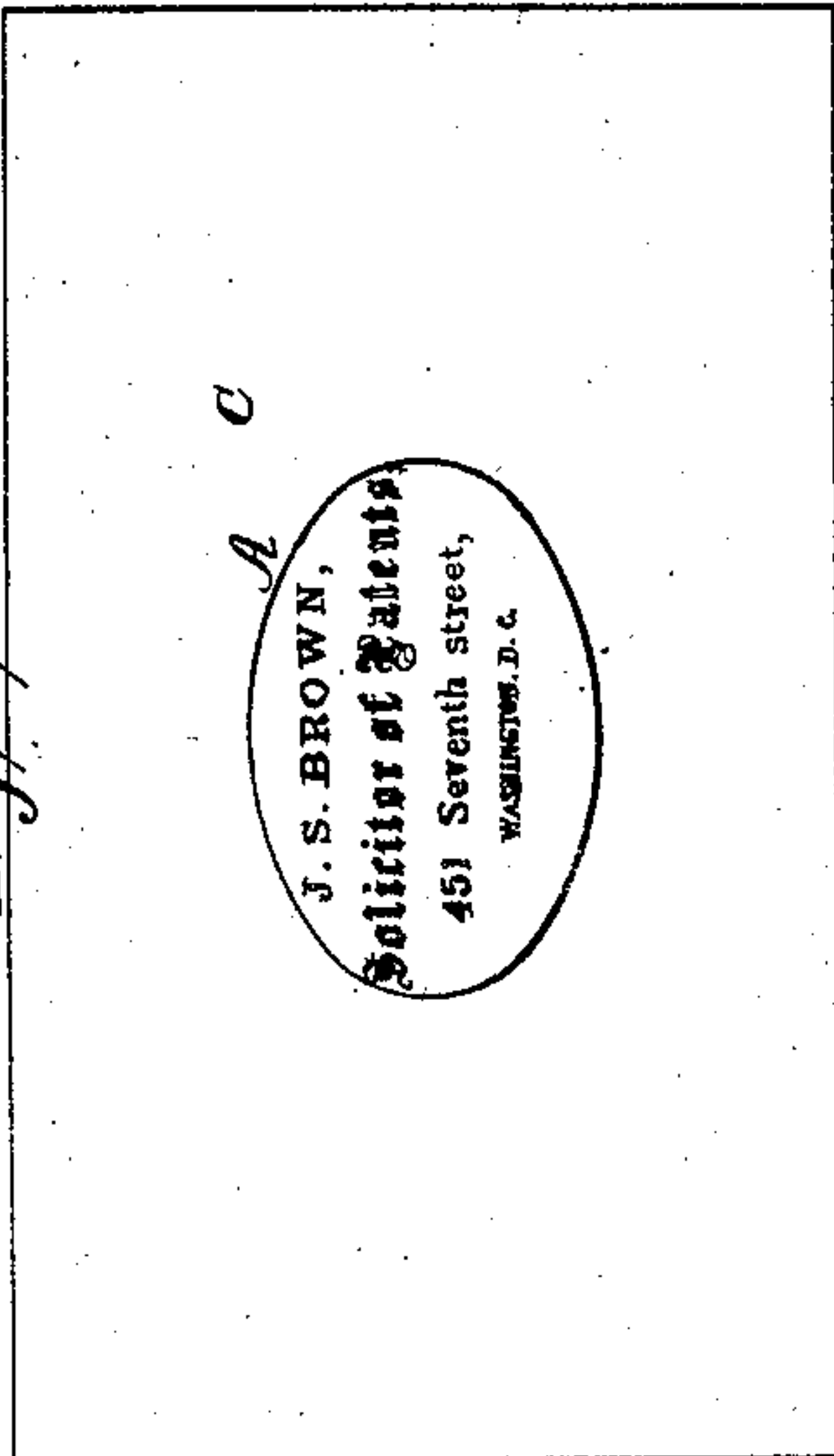
*Fig. 4:*



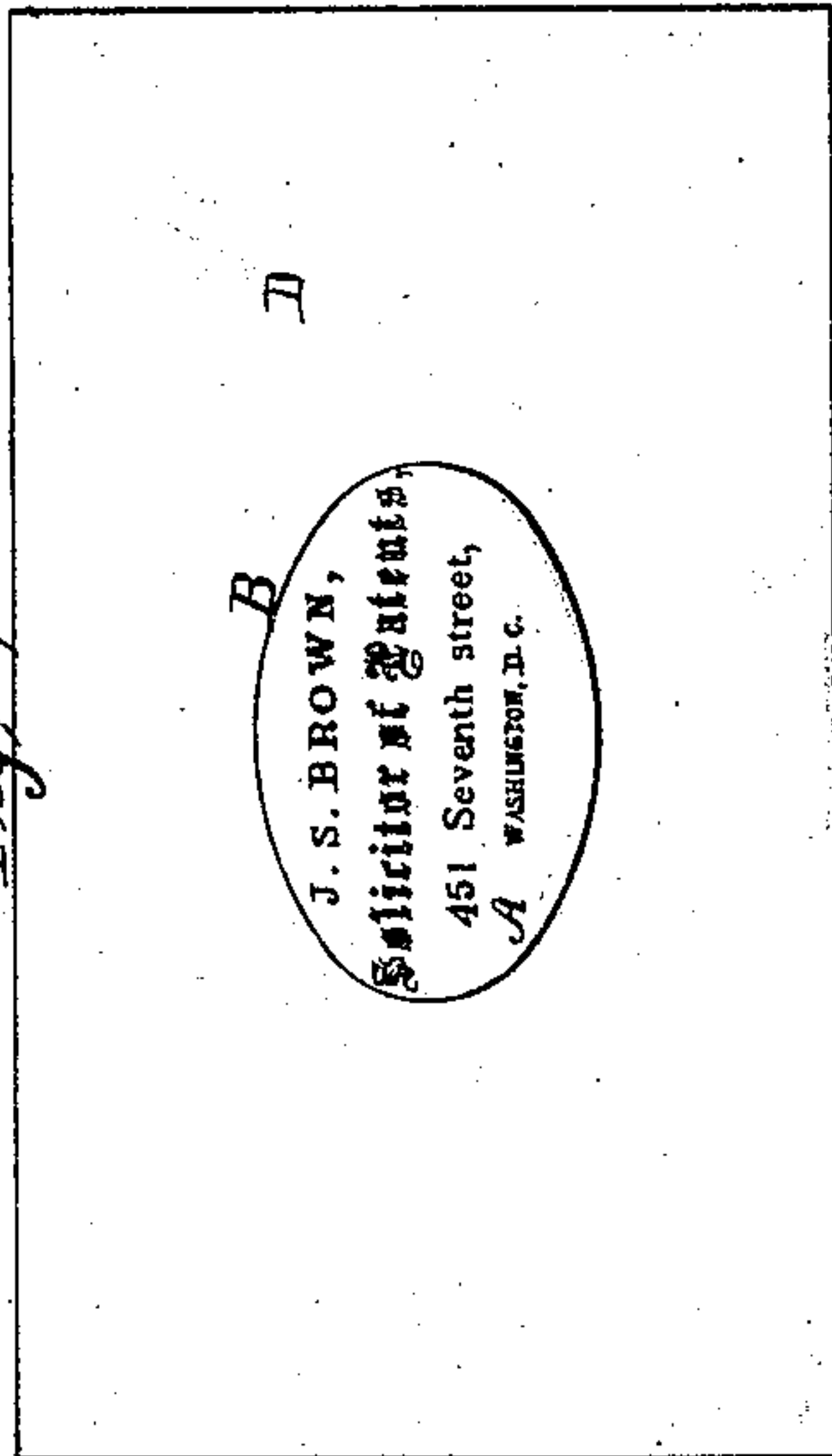
*Fig. 2;*



*Fig. 5;*



*Fig. 6;*



*Witnesses:*  
*R. L. Casgood*  
*John Leranth Brown*

*Inventor;*  
*J. S. Brown.*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

J. S. BROWN, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

## ADDRESSING LETTERS.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 36,393, dated September 9, 1862.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, J. S. BROWN, of Washington, in the county of Washington and District of Columbia, have invented a new and Improved Direction for or Method of Directing Letters, Papers, and Packages; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, like letters designating corresponding parts in all of the figures thereof.

One part of my invention consists in separate, transferable cards of address, as in Figure 4; and indicated at A, in all of the figures of the drawings. These cards are to contain the name of the person, or party, addressed, his place of residence, and such other particulars as may be useful in giving a correct and sure direction of the letters, papers, or packages; and for letters and packages, may also include the business or professional card of the person, or party, addressed, and any other information usual or convenient and desirable. The direction may be written, but generally and preferably printed. The cards may be only large enough to contain the address, as indicated in Fig. 1; or the address may be attached to, or printed on, slips of paper, C, of sufficient length and breadth, nearly or quite to fill the envelop, as shown in Figs. 2, and 5. Or they may be provided with an adhesive substance on the back, for attaching to envelops, or wrappers, like stamps.

The other part of my invention consists in an improved envelop, or wrapper, D. The improvement is, to make the envelop, or wrapper, transparent, sufficiently to clearly show the cards of address through its face. There may be only a transparent portion B, large enough to exhibit the "direction" through it; and this may be made either by rendering a portion of the envelop, or wrapper, itself transparent, by the same means or substances as employed for making tracing paper or any other, in the process of manufacturing the paper, or the envelop, leaving the remainder of the envelop opaque. Or a piece of the envelop, of the proper size and shape, may be cut out of the envelop; and the aperture, thus made, covered with transparent paper, or other equivalent transparent covering. For some uses, the aperture need not have the transparent covering; but some of the advantages of the complete

invention are thereby lost. The transparent portion may be either near one corner of the envelop, as shown in Figs. 3, and 4; or near the center thereof, as in Fig. 6.

Instead of making only a small portion of the envelop, or wrapper, transparent, the whole envelop, or, at least, the whole face of it, may be made transparent. There may be an unsealed, opaque wrapper inside of the entirely transparent envelop, if desired; the said wrapper having the address card printed on, or attached to it, or separate therefrom, as may be most convenient.

The card of address is to be simply placed within the envelop, or wrapper, along with the letter, paper, or other article inclosed, in such a manner as to exhibit the direction through the transparency of the envelop. When the paper C, of the address card nearly fills the envelop, as indicated in Figs. 2, and 5, there will be no difficulty in securing the direction in the right position. If the transparent portion B, of the envelop is near one corner, as in Figs. 3, and 4, the card of address A, will be in a corresponding position on the paper C, as shown in Fig. 2. And if the transparent portion of the envelop is in the middle thereof, as in Fig. 6, the card of address will also correspond, in position, on the paper C, as shown in Fig. 5.

When persons, or parties, correspond frequently, or in any case, if desired, the directions of both persons, or parties, may be on the same slip of paper. If the address of one person, or party, is near one corner of the paper C, as shown at A, Fig. 2, and exhibited through the envelop in Fig. 3, by a corresponding letter, the address of the other person, or party, in correspondence, may be on the same side of the paper C, near the corner diagonally opposite, as indicated at A', Fig. 2, and exhibited through the envelop by the corresponding letter, in Fig. 4. But if the address of one person, or party, is on the middle of the paper C, as shown in Fig. 5, and exhibited through the envelop in Fig. 6, the address of the other person, or party, will be on the middle of the other side of the paper slip.

The uses and advantages of this invention are many and important. Among the most obvious, the following may be mentioned:—

First, a considerable saving of time is effected, since the writing of every address



is obviated. For it will be found extremely advantageous to have the address printed; and, since the same card of address may be used again and again, a supply, in the first instance, sufficient to furnish each correspondent with one, will last for years. And if the cards of address should be written, the comparatively small number required, may be prepared in a very short time.

Second, greatly improved distinctness and accuracy of direction are thus secured; a consideration of the utmost importance, since misdirections, and consequent losses and inconveniences will be almost entirely avoided; and the perfect clearness and correctness of the address will enable the post-office clerks to handle the letters, papers, and packages much faster and with much less liability to mistakes, in mailing and delivering than heretofore. Besides, the printing of the cards of address will enable persons to have their address more fully and particularly given—even to such minuteness, (in smaller characters,) not only as the street, and number of the house or office, but more particular directions, as, for instance, how the carriers may find the person addressed, or at what hours of the day, or night, in special places.

Third, business, or professional, men can have their business, or professional, cards continually accompanying their post-office address, at a trifling cost, the cards of address required, being comparatively few, as explained above.

Fourth, newspaper publishers may greatly facilitate the mailing of papers to subscribers, who will furnish, on subscribing, a number of cards of address equal to the number of papers subscribed for, to be yearly (or at any other stated period) returned to the publishers, without any additional cost. These address cards may be

put in small compartments of a subscription case, whence they may be readily taken, and inclosed in the transparent wrapper, at once, with the papers. 45

Fifth, the saving to the Government, by diminishing clerk hire, in the large post-offices, and otherwise, incidentally, in connection with franking, and by diminishing the number of advertised and dead letters, &c., when the improvement shall have come into general use, will be quite great. The Government may further facilitate the operations of the post-office department, by special law, or regulations, such as directing that the name of the distributing office be printed on the card of address. 50 55

The cost of manufacturing the improved envelopes will scarcely, if any, exceed that of ordinary envelopes now in use. For while the additional cost of rendering the envelopes and wrappers transparent, will be but little, a cheaper quality of paper may be employed, not requiring to be finished so highly as for receiving the pen. The cards of address also will cost only a mere trifle. Particularly, business men will really save expense, by being enabled to dispense with many of the ordinary business cards. 60 65 70

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

1. The envelopes made transparent, (or equivalently prepared,) so as to receive and properly exhibit the cards of address, substantially as and for the purpose herein specified. 75

2. I also claim the combination of the cards of address and the transparent (or equivalent) envelopes, substantially in the manner and for the purpose herein specified. 80

J. S. BROWN.

Witnesses:

WM. FRANK BROWN,  
R. F. OSGOOD.