R. S. Jennings.

Envelope.

No. 55,955. Patented June 26, 1866.

Fig. 1.

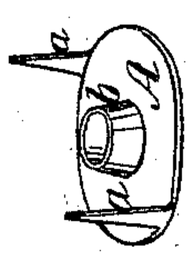


Fig. 2.

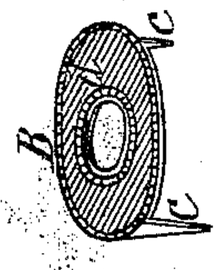


Fig. 5.

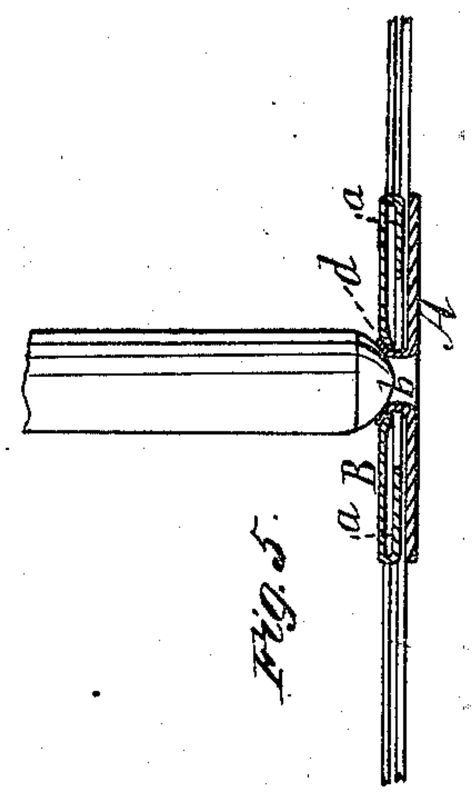


Fig. 4.

Fig. 3.

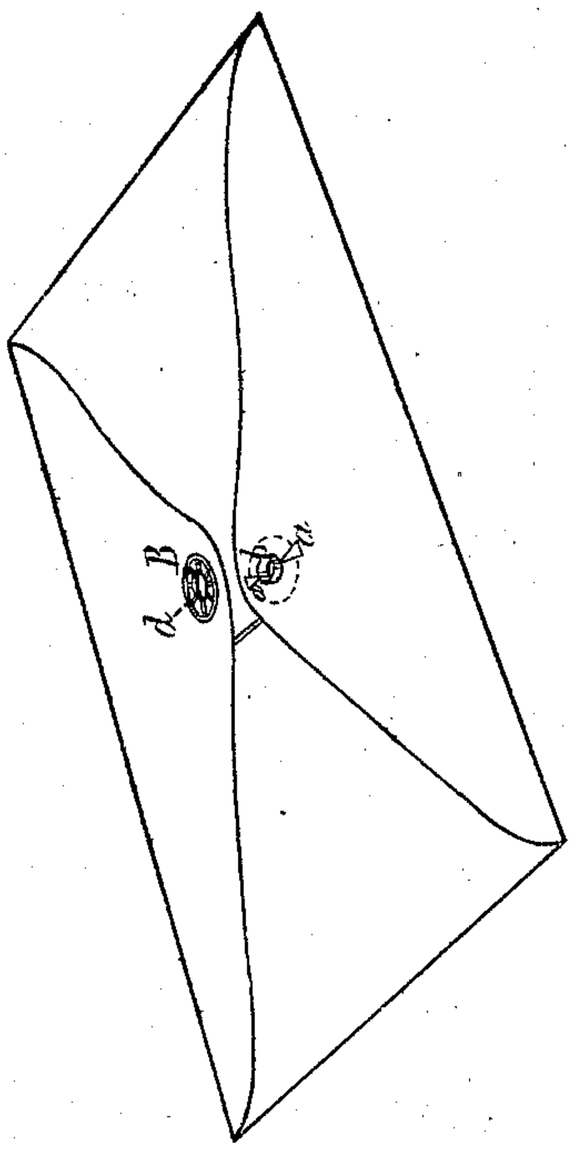
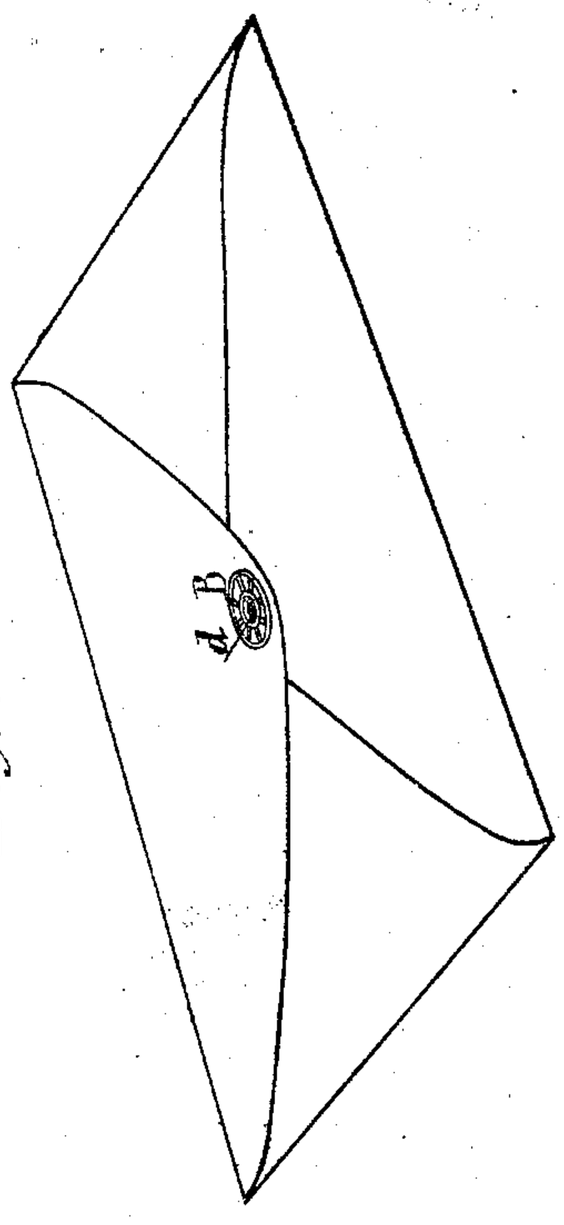


Fig. 6



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RALPH S. JENNINGS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND NORMAN G. KELLOGG.

METALLIC-SEAL ENVELOPE.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **55,955**, dated June 26, 1866.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RALPH S. JENNINGS, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Metallic-Seal Envelopes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figures 1 and 2 show perspective views of the two parts which form the seal of the envelope. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of one of my metallic-seal envelopes as ready for sale or use. Fig. 4 shows a section of the two parts of the seal brought together as in the act of sealing the envelope. Fig. 5 shows a similar section as Fig. 4, the two parts being riveted together upon the back and fly of the envelope by a round pointed key or instrument, as illustrated. Fig. 6 is the metallic-seal envelope as it appears when sealed or riveted together.

Similar letters of reference in the several figures indicate corresponding parts.

Attempts have been made to use metallic seals for packages and envelopes instead of mucilage, wafers, and wax, but as yet but little success has been experienced; but the necessity which prompted these attempts still exists, because very little security from mucilage-seal envelopes is warranted, it being a very easy matter to open such envelopes without detection after the seal has been steamed or otherwise moistened.

To lessen the inconvenience and cost of metallic-seal envelopes is the object of my invention, and to this end I make with dies two metal devices, such as are represented in Figs. 1 and 2, and lettered A B. The device A has two or more sharp points, *a a*, projecting up at its rim or circumference, and a tubular conic protuberance, *b*, at its center. This protuberance is open at top and bottom, so that there is a passage entirely through the device A. The device B has two sharp points, *c c*, extending down at its circumference, and a circular hole cut through it at its center. Around this hole on top of the device B a depression, *d*, is made, as represented. I use thin sheet metal which is sufficiently ductile to bend under a moderate pressure upon the points and the protuberance above described.

The upper device, B, I ornament in any neat and chaste manner, and both devices may be dipped or coated, so as to have the appearance of silver or gold, and thus present an attractive appearance.

The device A is attached to the back of the envelope by forcing its points up through the paper, and then clinching these points on the outer surface of the said back. At the same time that the points are forced through the paper the tubular protuberance is passed up through a hole which has been prepared in the paper previously.

The device B is attached to the fly or flap of the envelope by forcing its points down through the paper and clinching them on the under surface of the flap.

The attachment of the devices A B may be made before the envelope-paper is pasted into the form of envelopes, or it might be done afterward.

When the attachment of the devices A B has been effected as above described, and the envelope-paper is cut and pasted into form of envelopes, the trade will be provided with metallic-seal envelopes, which can be sealed almost as readily as the mucilage-seal envelopes, which are now so commonly used. The cost will be slightly enhanced; but this is not to be regarded when the question of security is involved.

To seal the metallic-seal envelopes it is only necessary to press the flap down to its place, as this action will cause the device B to encircle the tubular protuberance of the device A and to stand down below the upper edge of the said protuberance. This accomplished, the letter-writer takes a key with rounded point and inserts said point into the tubular protuberance with a downward pressure, a slight twisting movement being at the same time imparted to the key. This operation causes the upper end of the protuberance to bend over into the recess or depression *d* in such a manner as to just fill said recess and form a level surface on the surface of the metallic seal. The envelope thus sealed cannot, without tearing out the seal, be opened, and hence the safety of the contents of the envelope may be relied upon during its transmission through the mails.

I make the protuberance *b* of conical form, in order that it may readily pass through the round hole in the center of the device B, and also that it shall be spread over into the recess or depression *d* in a more perfect manner.

The great advantage of my metallic seal is this: It can be applied to the envelopes in their manufacture, and when the envelopes are bought they are self-sealing metallic-seal envelopes in substantially the same sense as mucilage-envelopes are self-sealing, pressure in both styles of envelopes being necessary to effect the end desired.

The letter-writer, when using my envelopes, will be saved the unpleasant operation of moistening the sealing substance with his mouth, which is a matter of some consideration when a great number of letters are required to be sealed.

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

1. The metallic seal applied to envelopes in their manufacture, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. The new article of manufacture herein described and shown—to wit, an envelope for letters furnished with a metallic seal, which envelope is ready for being sealed when on sale, as set forth.

RALPH S. JENNINGS.

Witnesses:
EDW. SCHAFER,
R. T. CAMPBELL.