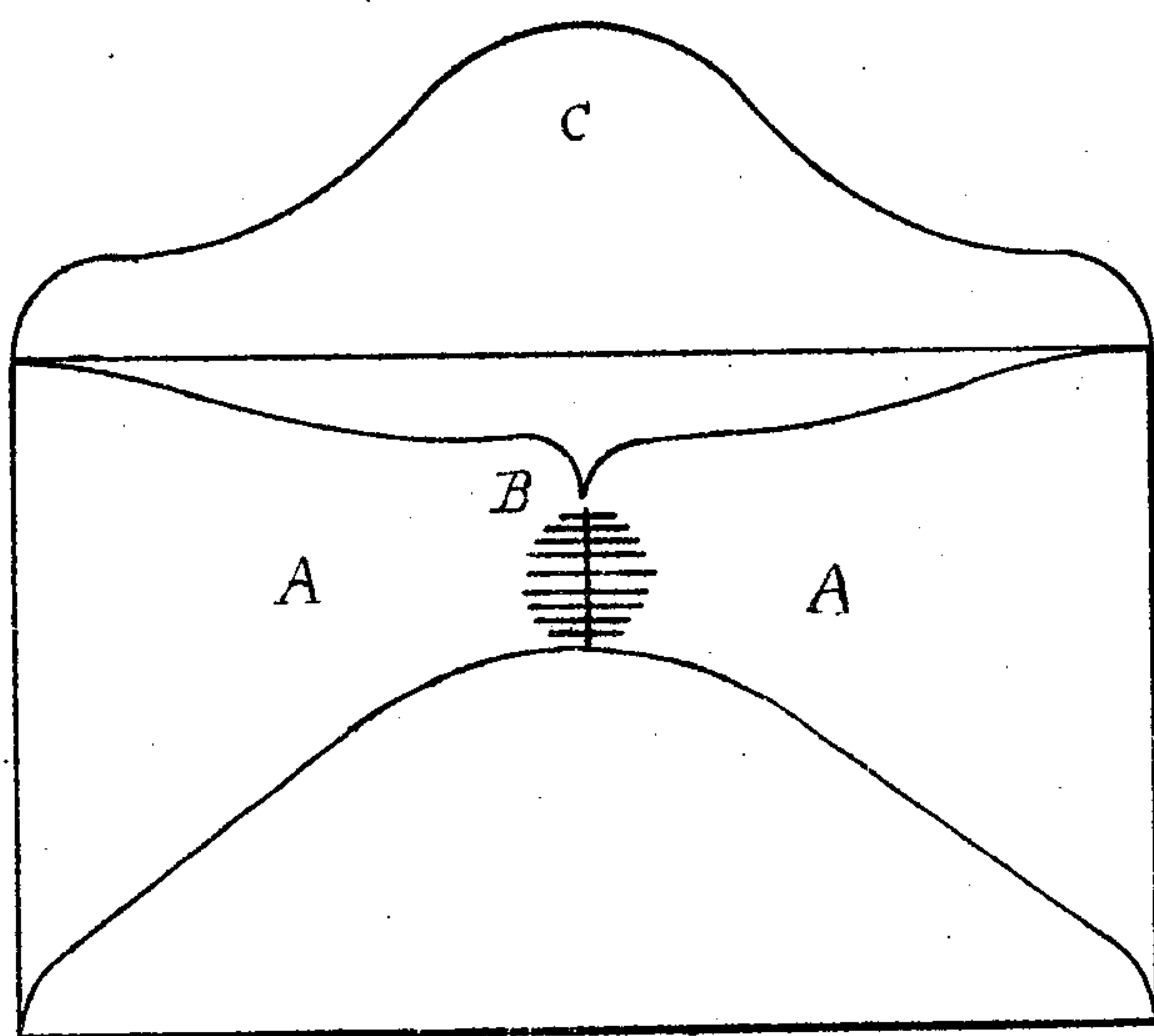


J. C. Gaston.

Envelope.

N^o 72836

Patented Dec. 31, 1867.



Witnesses:

P. T. Dodge

Inventor:

J. C. Gaston
by Dodge & Munroe
his attys.

United States Patent Office.

J. C. GASTON, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO.

Letters Patent No. 72,836, dated December 31, 1867.

IMPROVEMENT IN ENVELOPES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, J. C. GASTON, of Cincinnati, in the county of Hamilton, and State of Ohio, have invented a new and improved Mode of Securing Closed Envelopes, of which the following is a full and clear description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification.

My invention relates to a new and improved method of constructing envelopes, whereby they are prevented from being opened clandestinely, as hereinafter explained.

The drawing represents a front view of an envelope with my improvement applied, before being closed.

I construct my envelope in the usual manner, and after the end flaps A are bent or folded in place, either before or after they are gummed, I perforate both the ends of the flaps and the back with a series of fine parallel slits, as shown at B. After the letter is closed, the flap C is pasted or fastened down in the usual manner, thereby entirely covering and obscuring the perforations from view.

When thus constructed and closed, it will be found that any attempt to open it by clandestinely raising the edge of the flap C, will at once rupture or tear the paper of the flaps A where they are perforated, and thus will afford the sure means of detecting any effort thus made. A person attempting to thus tamper with a letter, seeing that such effort will result in the certainty of detection, will be deterred from proceeding, and its contents will thereby be protected.

If the perforations were made in the ends of the flaps A alone, and these folded over the back, as is sometimes done, instead of the back being folded over them, it will only be necessary to make the perforations in the flaps alone, and not in the back. In cases where the end flaps do not meet at the centre, the perforations will be made in the back, which consists of a single thickness. The perforations may be made by any suitable machinery when the envelope is cut out, or they may be made by a suitable hand-instrument when the envelope is used; the first plan being adapted to cases in which the ends of the flaps A only are perforated, while the latter can best be used where both the flaps and the back are perforated.

By this method of constructing the envelope, and having the perforated portion concealed by the flap C when closed, the latter will have the appearance of an ordinary envelope, and there will be nothing in its appearance to indicate that the letter contains valuables, as is the case in all envelopes in which the perforations appear on the exterior, and thus there will be nothing to indicate in its appearance anything unusual to attract the attention of those who would be likely to tamper with it if it bore on its face external evidence that it contained valuables.

The main object attained by the specific arrangement of the perforations or slits so as to be invisible or concealed when the envelope is closed in the usual way for mailing, is, that it avoids exciting the cupidity of persons handling the letter, while it furnishes a security against any attempt that may be made to tamper with it.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, is—

An envelope having the perforations in the end flaps or back, or both, so located as to be covered and concealed by the closing flap C, when closed, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

J. C. GASTON.

Witnesses:

CHARLES L. FISHER,
SAMUEL R. RUSSELL.