

(Model.)

A. A. BISHOP.
ENVELOPE.

No. 311,946.

Patented Feb. 10, 1885.

Fig. 1.

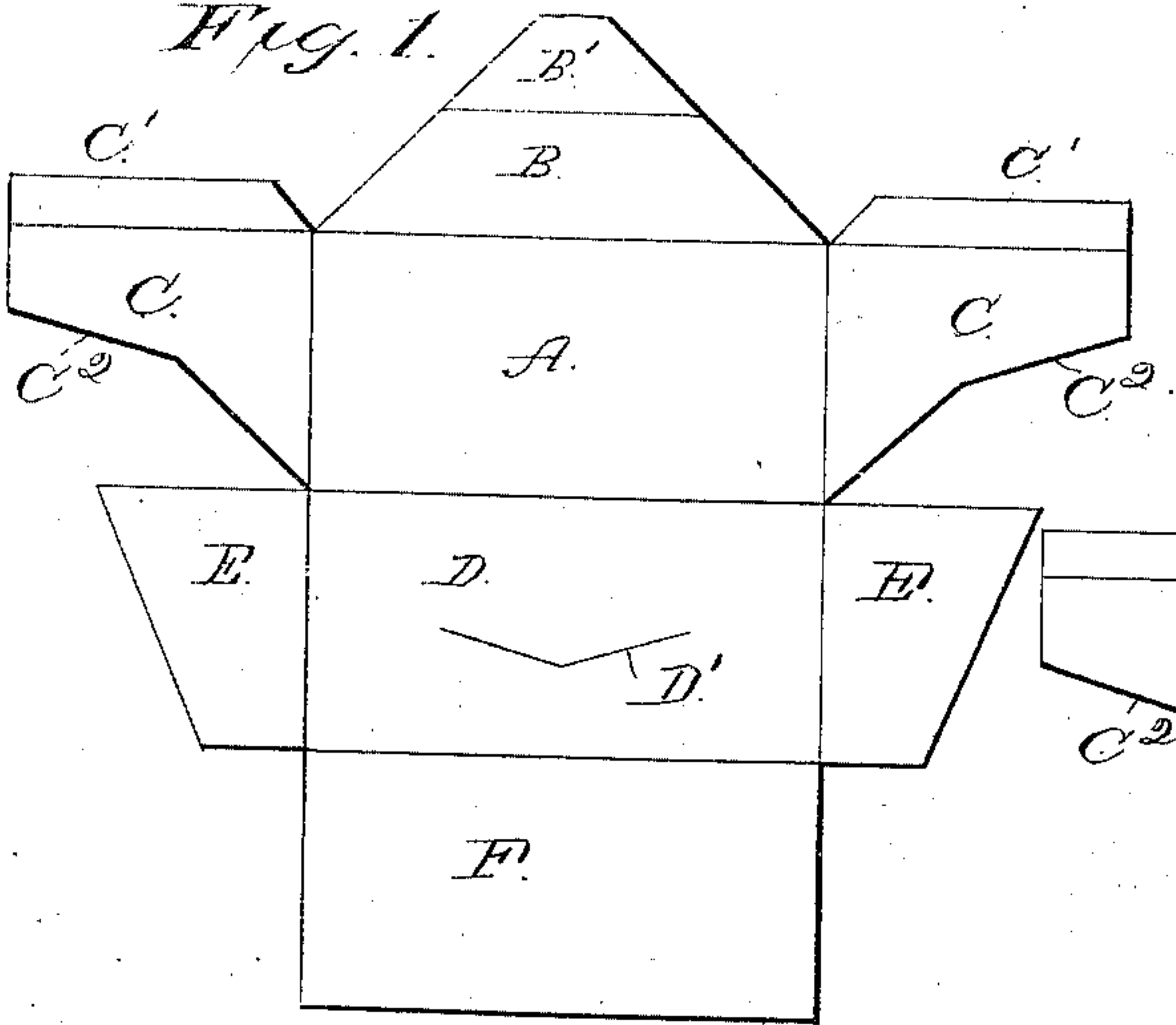


Fig. 4.

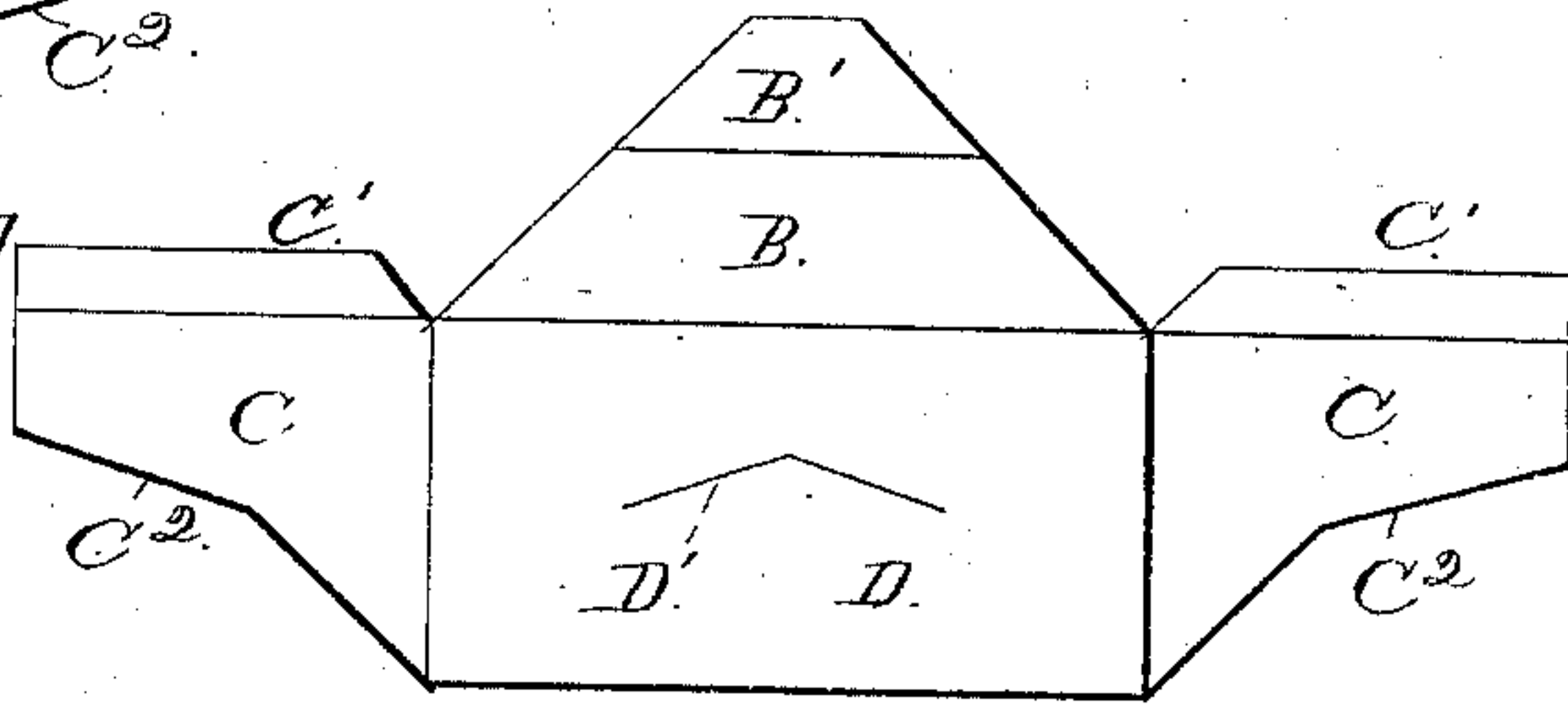


Fig. 2.

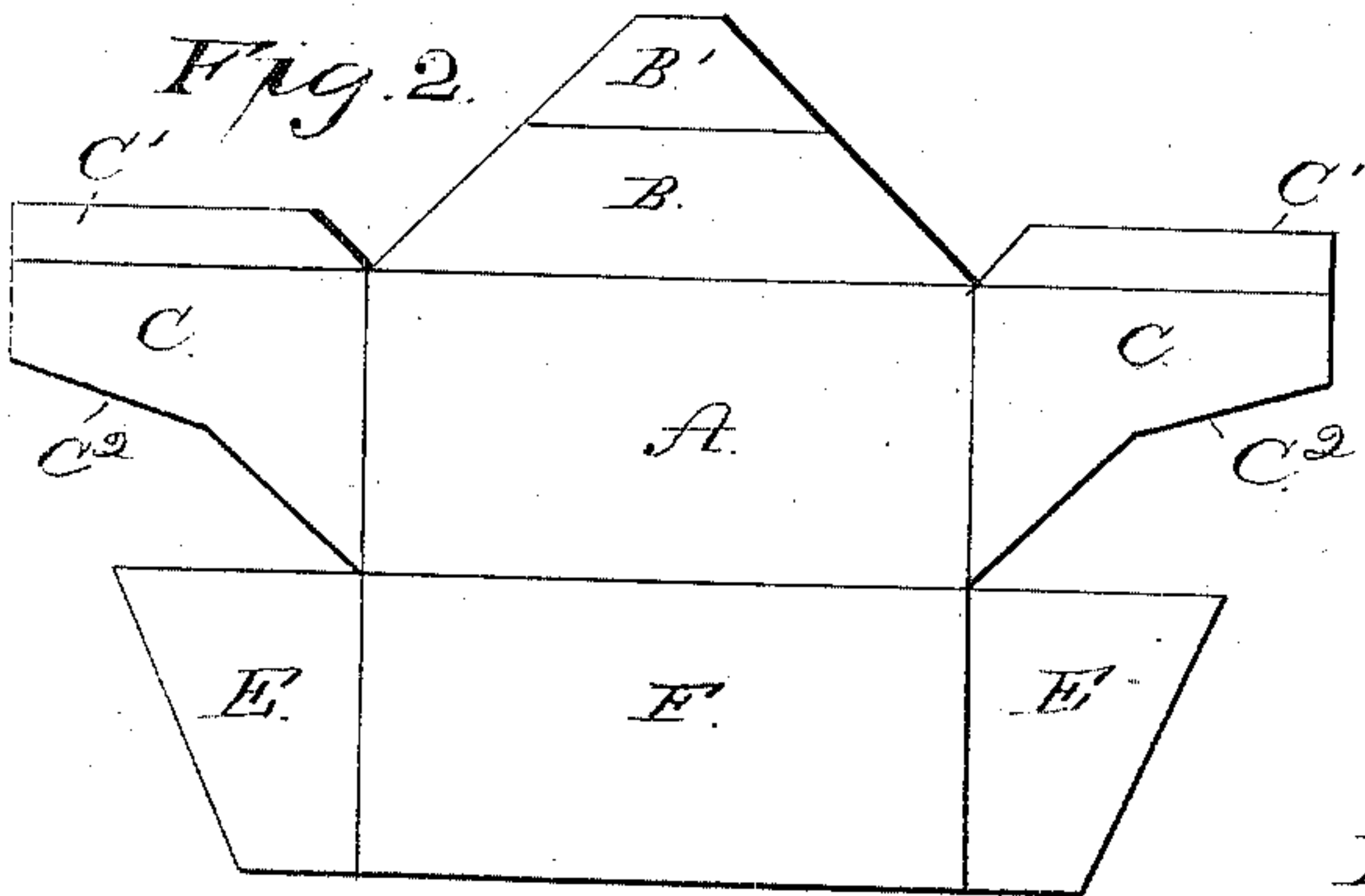


Fig. 5.

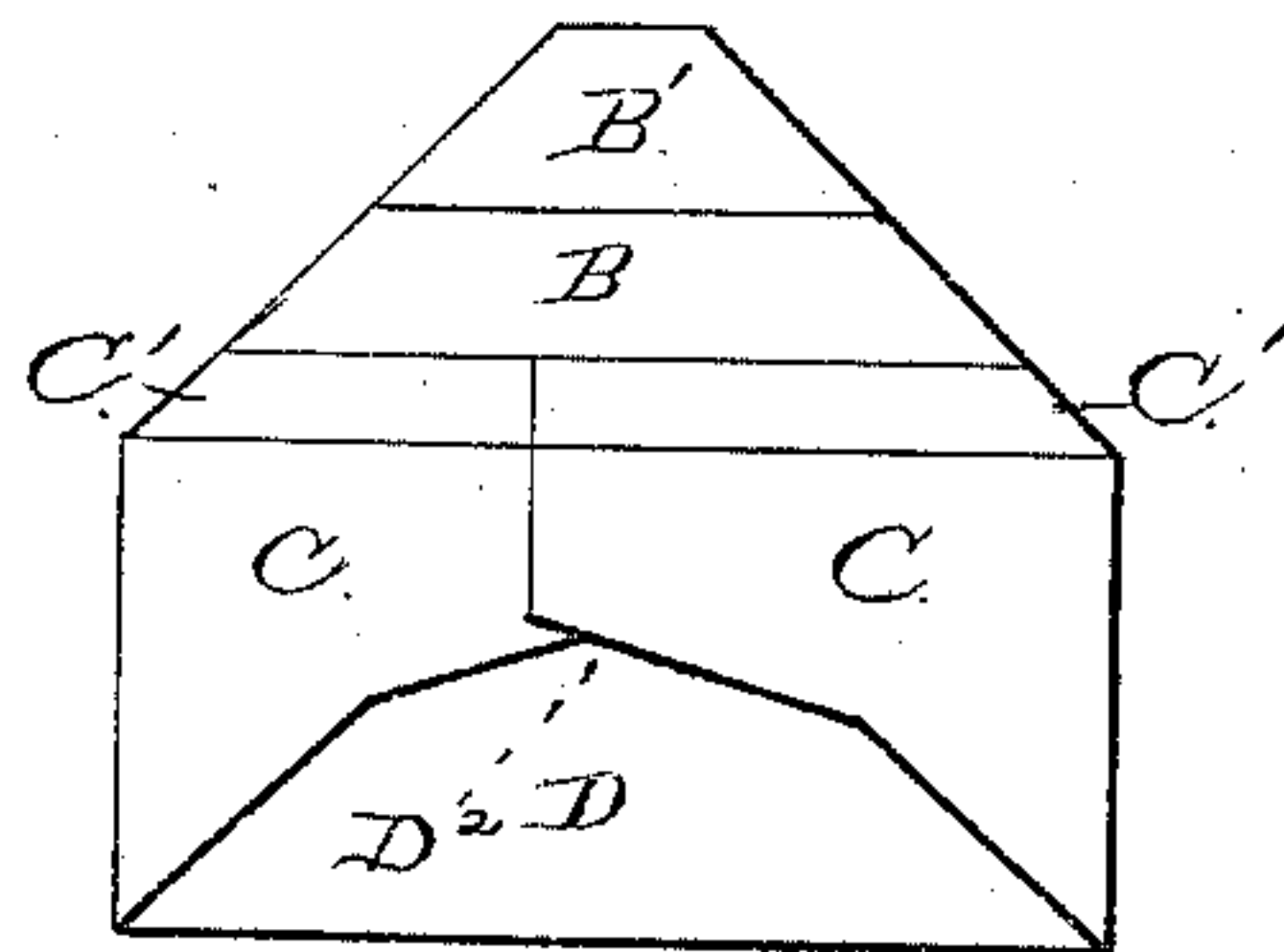


Fig. 3.

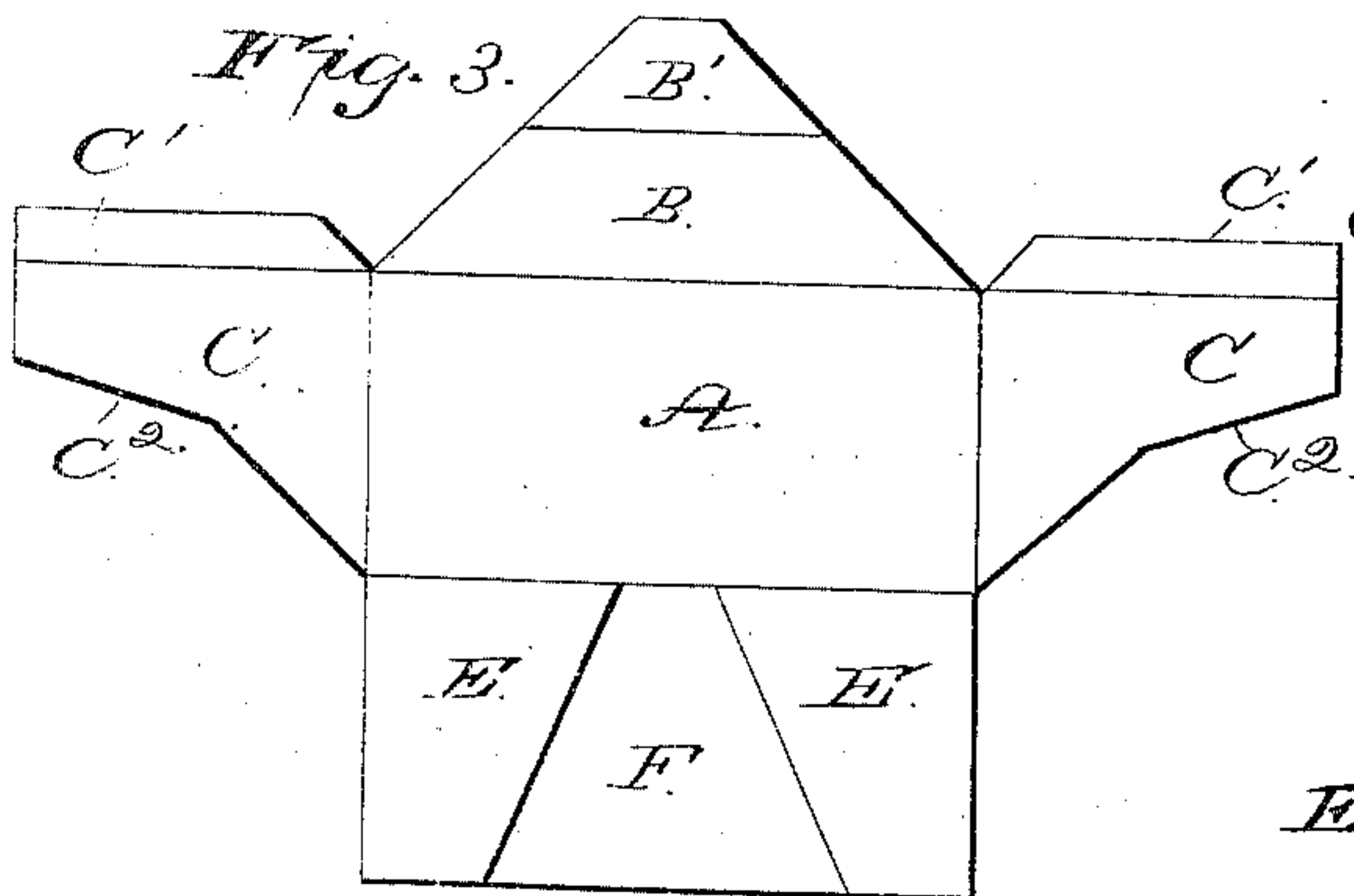


Fig. 7.

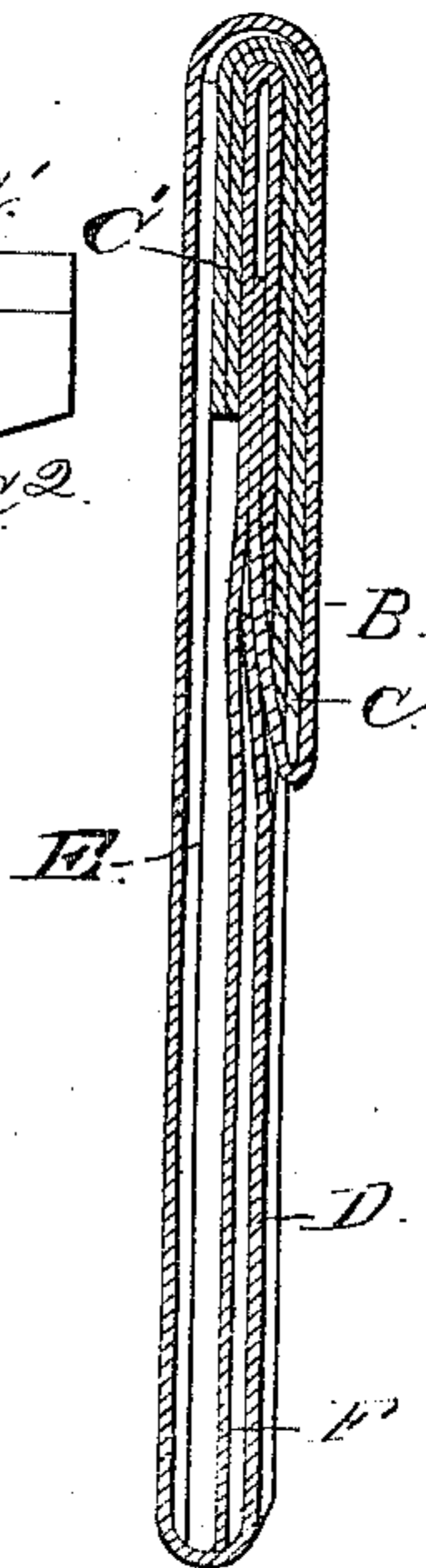
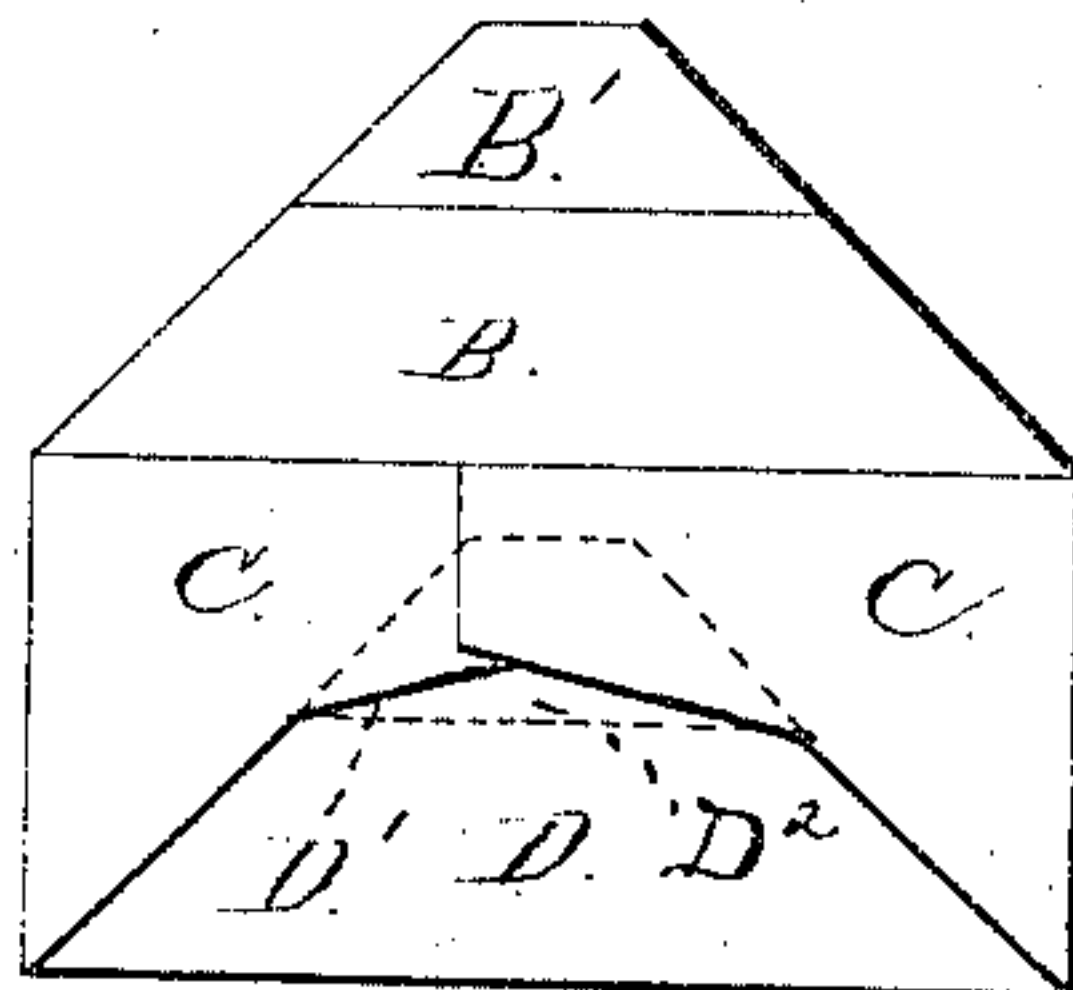


Fig. 6.



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AUGUSTUS A. BISHOP, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

ENVELOPE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 311,916, dated February 10, 1885.

Application filed February 7, 1884. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AUGUSTUS A. BISHOP, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Envelopes; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to safety-envelopes, and has for its object improvements in that class of such inventions which seek to provide an envelope which cannot be opened without such mutilation thereof as would lead to the ready detection of the perpetrator. Where safety-envelopes are used they are ordinarily delivered from one to another employé of the express companies, post-offices, or other carriers in their transit from sender to addressee. Where an envelope evidenced the fact of its having been tampered with, the person to whom it would be tendered in such chain of employés would refuse to receive it from the mutilator, or would only receive it when properly indorsed by the mutilator, showing its condition when delivered. This renders certain the detection of the perpetrator; and to prevent tampering with envelopes it is only necessary to provide an envelope which cannot be opened without showing the results of such operation. This is effected by my improvements, as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a view of the envelope-blank when unfolded. Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 show the manner in which the envelope is folded up from said blank. Fig. 7 is a cross-section of the envelope when made and sealed.

The envelope is composed of the face-piece A, the flap B, the wings C, extended on opposite sides of the piece A, the back piece, D, depending from the piece A, the wings E, extended laterally from the piece D, and the reinforcing and safety piece F, depending from the piece D, as shown. The envelope-blank is cut in a single piece, and I have indicated

by light lines the folds made in forming the envelope and sealing same, in the manner presently described. The front, back, and reinforcing pieces, A, D, and F, are made of approximately the same size and shape. The wings C, answering to the wings of common envelopes, are formed on their upper edges with extensions C', which project above the folding-line, and are gummed on the side which appears in Fig. 5. The lower edges of these wings are cut in any suitable form, preferably that shown, so that their inner ends at C² will coincide with the slit D' in the back piece, D. The slit D' is made through the back piece, D, and preferably formed of the two wings shown. These wings are cut at an obtuse angle to each other, and are inclined outward and downward from their meeting-point, which is toward the opening of the envelope when wing D is turned into proper position, as most clearly shown. The reason for preferring this form of slit will more fully appear hereinafter. The flap B is provided with an extension or tongue, B', which in operation of sealing the envelope is passed through slit D', and is bent up, as indicated in dotted lines, Fig. 6, and is gummed to the back of the envelope.

In folding my envelope, piece F is folded onto back D, as shown in Fig. 2. Wings E E are then folded onto said piece F, as shown in Fig. 3, and are gummed on the side which appears in said figure. The parts D E F are now folded onto the front piece, as shown in Fig. 4, the wings E E being gummed securely to the back of said piece A. The pocket is now formed between the pieces A and F, the wings being pasted to and forming practically a part of the face-piece, as will be understood. The wings C are now folded onto the piece D, as shown in Fig. 5, and securely gummed thereto. As before stated, the sides of extensions C' (shown in Fig. 5) are gummed. The envelope is now ready for use. When the money or valuable papers are put in, the extensions C' are turned into the pocket and gummed securely to the back of piece A. This of itself securely seals the envelope, and will be useful in connection with any form of fastening-flap. The flap B is now turned

down, as usual, and the tongue B' folded on the line indicated and passed through the slit in the back piece and turned up, as shown in Fig. 7, and indicated in dotted lines, Fig. 6.

5 The side of the tongue shown in the several figures is gummed, and when the tongue is inserted, as before described, it is pasted to the inner face of the back piece, D. By carrying this tongue up, as shown, it will be
10 seen it cannot be loosened by the insertion of a sharp instrument, because no point is left uncovered through which the instrument can be passed. It is obvious that this fastening is desirable; also, that when so desired the slit
15 may be made in a straight line instead of angular, as shown. While the flap and tongue arranged as shown will give good results, yet I prefer to use the extensions E and the re-enforcing piece F, the former because they
20 strengthen the ends of the envelope, and the latter because it prevents the contents of the envelope from being drawn through the slit D' by an instrument inserted upward through the same. It will appear that when the tongue
25 is inserted through the slit D' its joint or fold with the flap B is a straight line below the inclined cuts of the slit. This forms the guard-piece D², which projects up under the fold of the tongue B' when the envelope is sealed.
30 This construction prevents an instrument being passed downward through slit D', so as to draw the contents of the envelope under piece F and up through the slit D'.

It is obvious that the form of tongue B', wings C, extensions C', and wings E, as well
35 as flap F, may be modified without departing from the principles of my invention. The sides C² of the wings C coinciding with slit D' serve to strengthen said slit and prevent the
40 tearing of the envelope when the tongue is being inserted.

These envelopes, it will be seen, can be used with or without the wax seals, as desired.

45 Instead of cutting the wings of the slit straight, they may be curved, or said slit might be formed in the arc of a circle with its crown

corresponding to the meeting-points of said straight cuts or wings, as will be readily understood.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. An envelope having in its back piece a slit composed of two cuts angled outward and downward from their upper or meeting ends
55 and provided with a re-enforcing piece, F, and the wings extended from the front piece and having their lower edges cut to coincide with said slit, substantially as set forth.

2. The herein-described envelope composed
60 of the face-piece A, the flap B, having a tongue or extension, B', the wings C, having upward extensions C', the back D, provided with a slit, D', the wings E, extended laterally from piece D, and the re-enforcing piece F, depend-
65 ing from back piece, D, all arranged and adapted to operate substantially as and for purposes set forth.

3. An envelope having a slit, D', in its back, a guard-piece formed by the slit and having
70 its middle portion extended upward, as shown, and a flap extended downward over the guard-piece and having on its lower end a tongue adapted to be turned upward and inserted through the slit against the inner face of the
75 upper portion of the back, substantially as set forth.

4. An envelope having its wings C provided with extensions C', and its back piece, D, provided with wings E, and covering-piece F,
80 substantially as and for the purposes specified.

5. In an envelope having its back piece provided with a slit adapted to receive the tongue of the flap, the wings C, having their
85 edges C² cut to coincide with the slit in the back piece, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

AUGUSTUS A. BISHOP.

Witnesses:

C. R. BENEDICT.

SAMUEL WALLACE.