

(No Model.)

H. STEPHENS.
MAIL BAG.

No. 490,232.

Patented Jan. 17, 1893.

FIG. 1

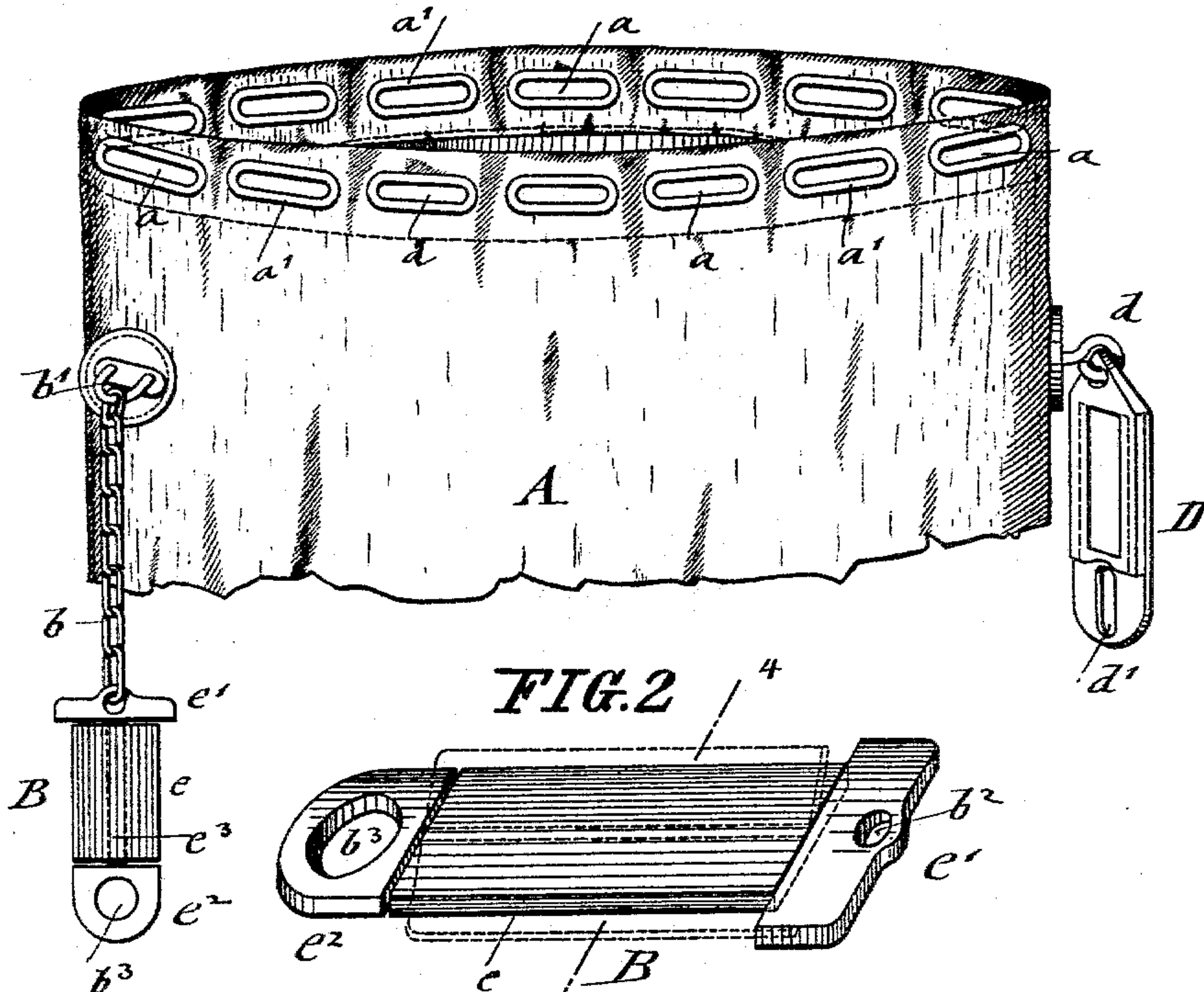


FIG. 2

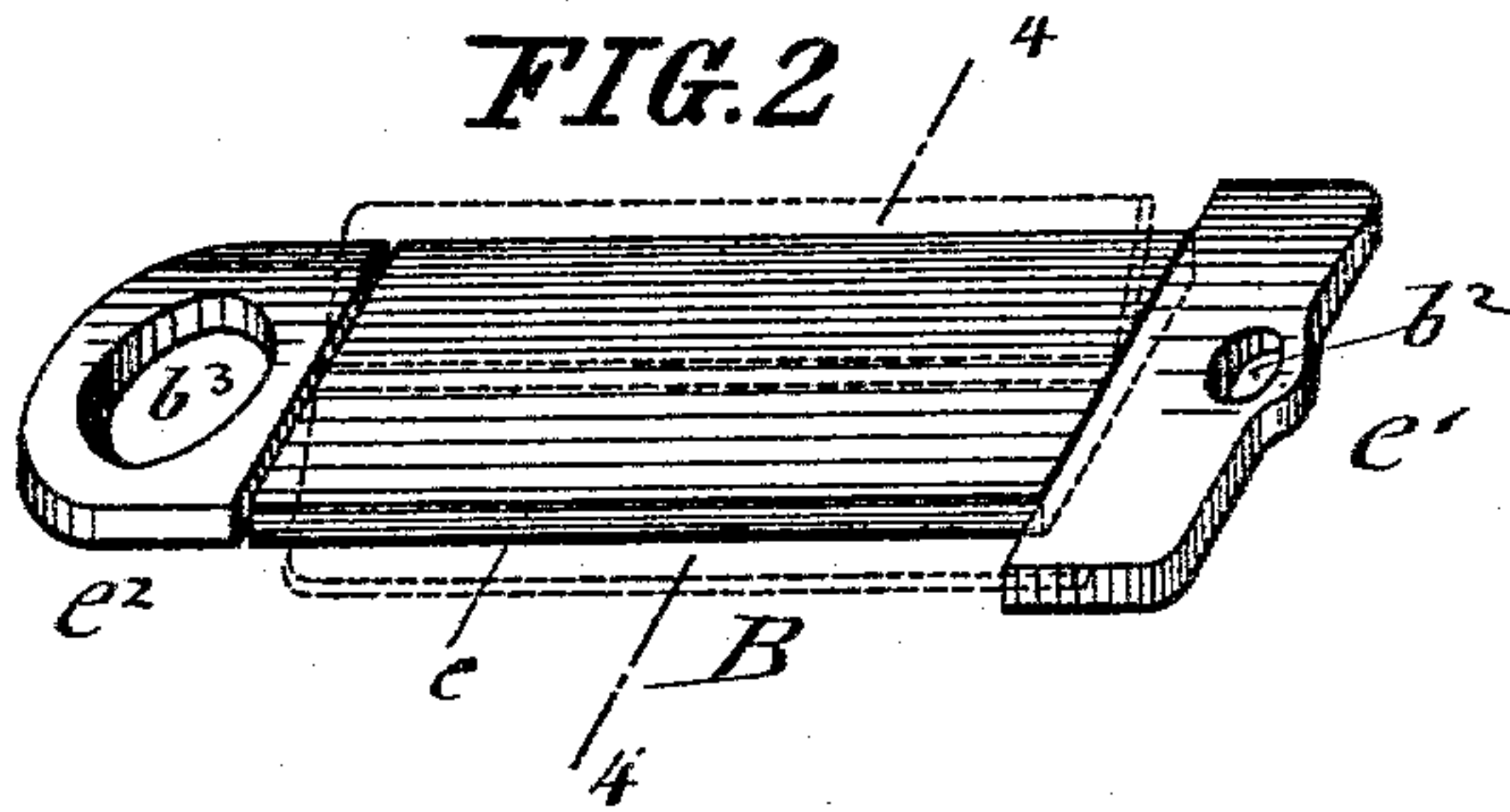


FIG. 3

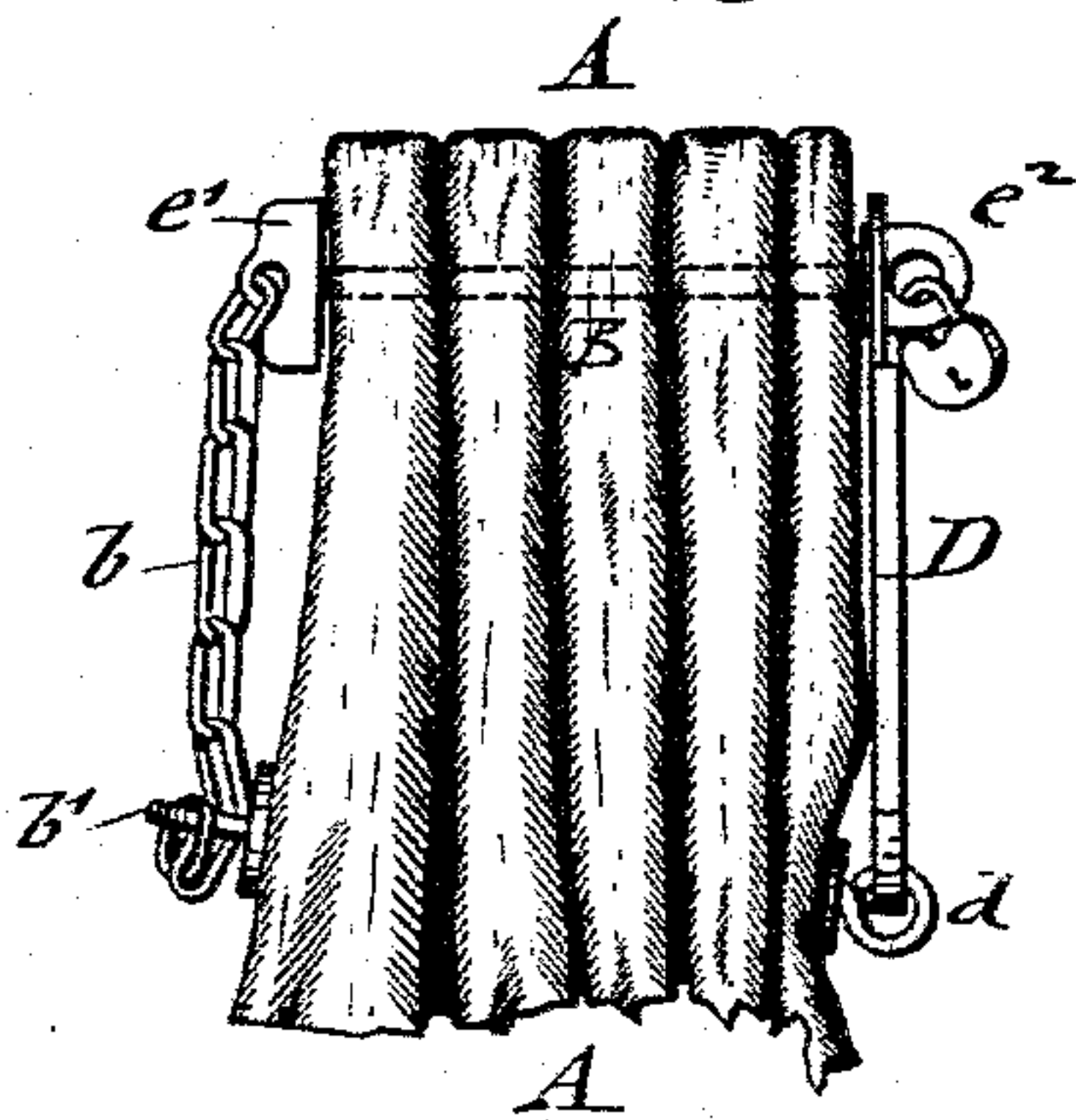
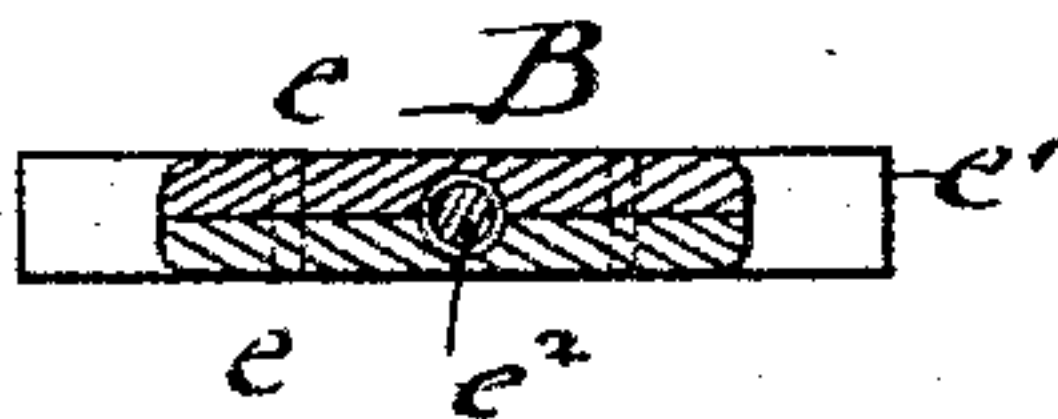


FIG. 4



WITNESSES:

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HENRY STEPHENS, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR, BY MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO CHARLES D. SILLECK, OF SAME PLACE.

MAIL-BAG.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 490,232, dated January 17, 1893.

Application filed May 16, 1891. Serial No. 392,956. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY STEPHENS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bags, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to certain improvements in mail-bags, whereby the locking of the same is facilitated and at the same time the direction conveniently applied to the bag by means of a tag-receiver; and the invention consists of a mail-bag the mouth of which is provided with a number of slotted openings reinforced by grommets, and a locking tongue passed through said openings when the mouth of the bag is folded, one end of said tongue being connected by a chain to a fixed staple of the bag while the opposite end is locked by a tag-frame which is applied to a staple at the opposite end of the bag. The locking tongue is formed of a main-plate passing through the grommet, and of T-shaped heads that are connected by a pivot-pin which passes through a central opening of the main-plate of the tongue, as will be fully described hereinafter and finally be pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a perspective view of my improved mail-bag; Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the locking tongue of the same, shown as detached therefrom; Fig. 3 is a side-view of the mail-bag shown with folded and locked mouth; and Fig. 4 is a vertical transverse section of the locking tongue, on line 4, 4, Fig. 2.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

Referring to the drawings, A represents a mail-bag of the ordinary construction, which is provided at its mouth with a number of slotted openings *a* that are reinforced by the ordinary grommets *a'*. When the mail-bag is closed the mouth of the same is folded up, so that the openings reinforced by the grommets are in line with each other, through which a locking tongue B is placed, which is connected by a chain *b* to a staple *b'* which is attached to one side of the bag, as shown clearly in Fig. 1. To the opposite side of the bag is applied by means of a staple *d*, a tag-frame D into which the tag on which the destination of the

bag is marked, is inserted. The tag-frame D is provided with a slot *d'* at its outer end, which serves to be placed over the projecting end of the locking tongue B. The locking tongue B is formed of three parts, a flat main-piece *e* formed of two plates which are riveted together and which are provided with a longitudinal center hole formed of two grooves arranged in the adjacent faces of the plates of which the main-piece is formed, and two T-shaped heads *e'* and *e''* which are connected by a pivot-pin or spindle that passes through the longitudinal hole of the main-piece and is rigidly attached to the heads *e'* and *e''*. The T-shaped heads *e'* and *e''* are provided with openings *b''* *b'''* respectively for attaching the chain *b* and the bail of a padlock by which the mail-bag is held in closed position. By means of the pivot-connection of the T-shaped heads *e'* and *e''* with the main-part *e* of the locking tongue B, the heads can be turned at right-angles to the plane of the main-piece *e*, which is done after the tongue is passed through the grommets, as shown in Fig. 3, so that in this position the heads bind on the folded-up mouth of the bag and retain it firmly in position, so as to permit the placing of the slotted end of the tag-frame over the projecting head *e''* of the tongue. A padlock is then applied to the head *e''*, as shown in Fig. 3, and the mouth of the bag and the tag-frame locked thereby rigidly and reliably in position. By this arrangement, a tag-frame on which the direction of the bag is marked, is furnished in connection with a reliable locking device for the bag, while the mail-bag can be conveniently opened and closed and is provided with all the safeguards required by a good and reliable bag.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. The combination, with a mail-bag the mouth of which is provided with slotted openings, a locking tongue passed through said openings and connected at one end by a chain to a staple on the bag, and a tag-frame applied to a staple at the opposite side of the bag, said tag-frame being provided with a slot for being placed over the tongue and locked thereto, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, with a mail-bag having a mouth provided with slotted openings, of a locking tongue passed through said openings and formed of a main-piece and T-shaped
5 heads connected by a longitudinal pin and pivoted to said middle portion, said heads being provided with openings, a chain connecting one of said heads with a fixed staple at one end of the bag, and a tag-frame applied
10 to a staple at the opposite end of the bag pro-

vided with a slot fitting over the opposite head of the locking tongue, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

HENRY STEPHENS.

Witnesses:

PAUL GOEPEL,

CHARLES SCHROEDER.