

(No Model.)

E. S. VANCE.  
ENVELOPE.

No. 534,458.

Patented Feb. 19, 1895.

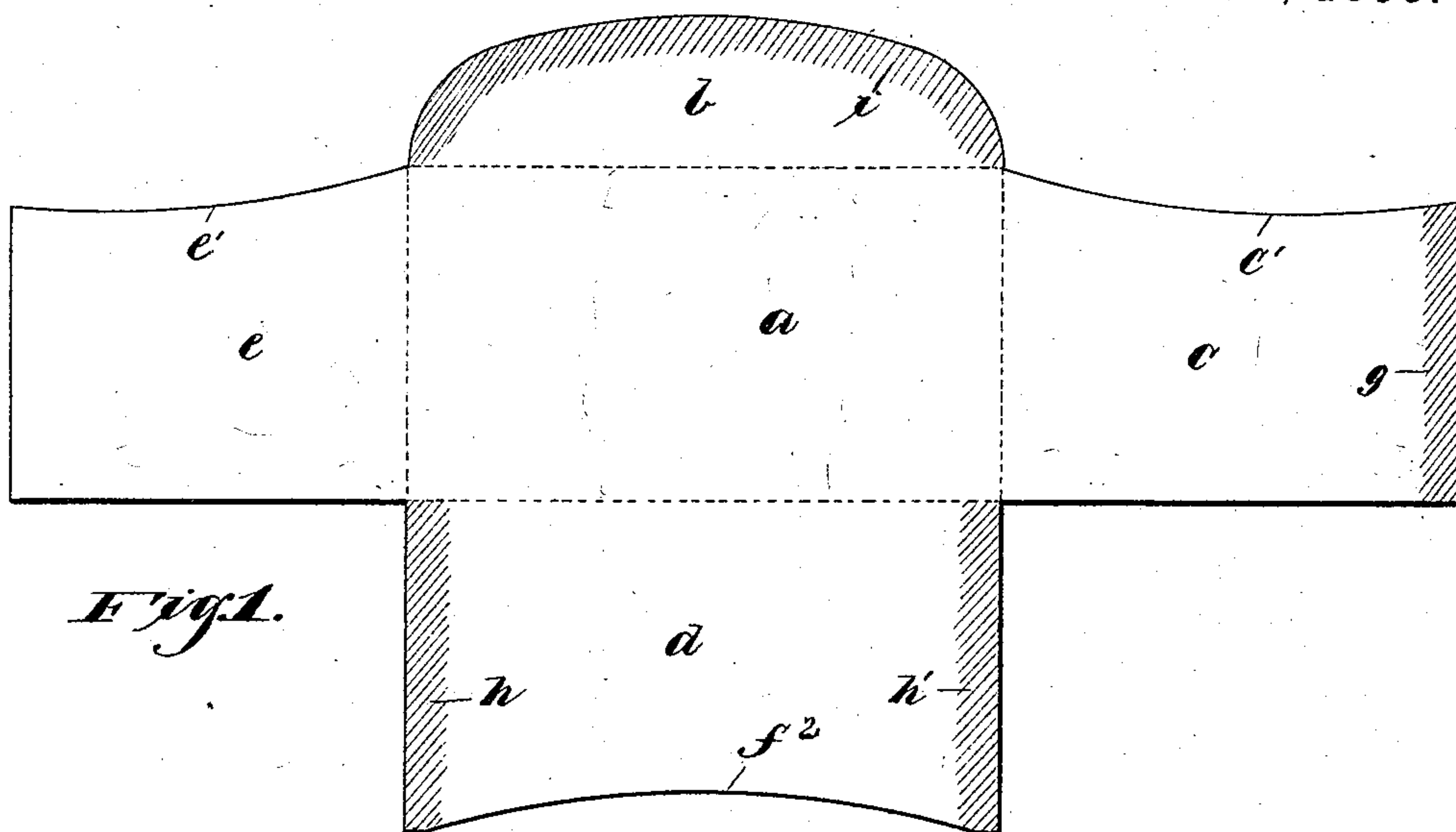


Fig. 1.

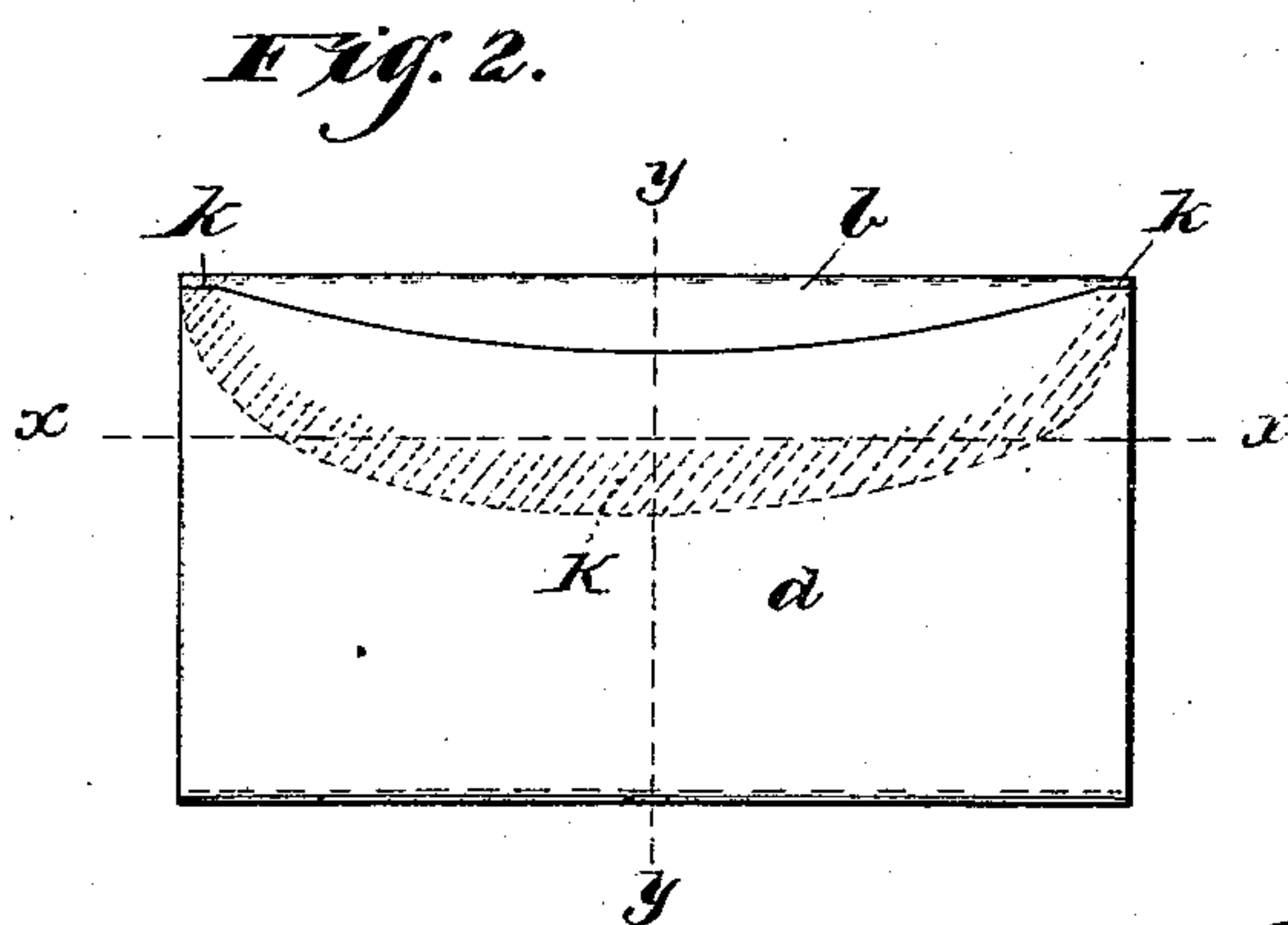


Fig. 2.

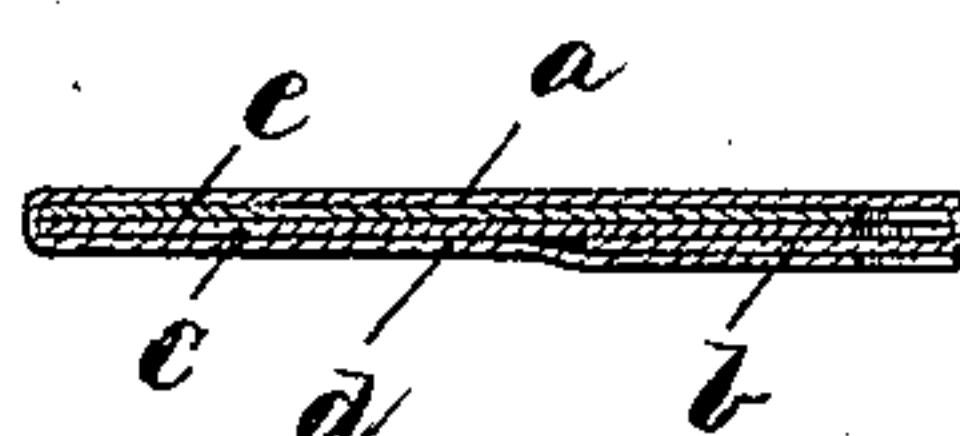


Fig. 5.

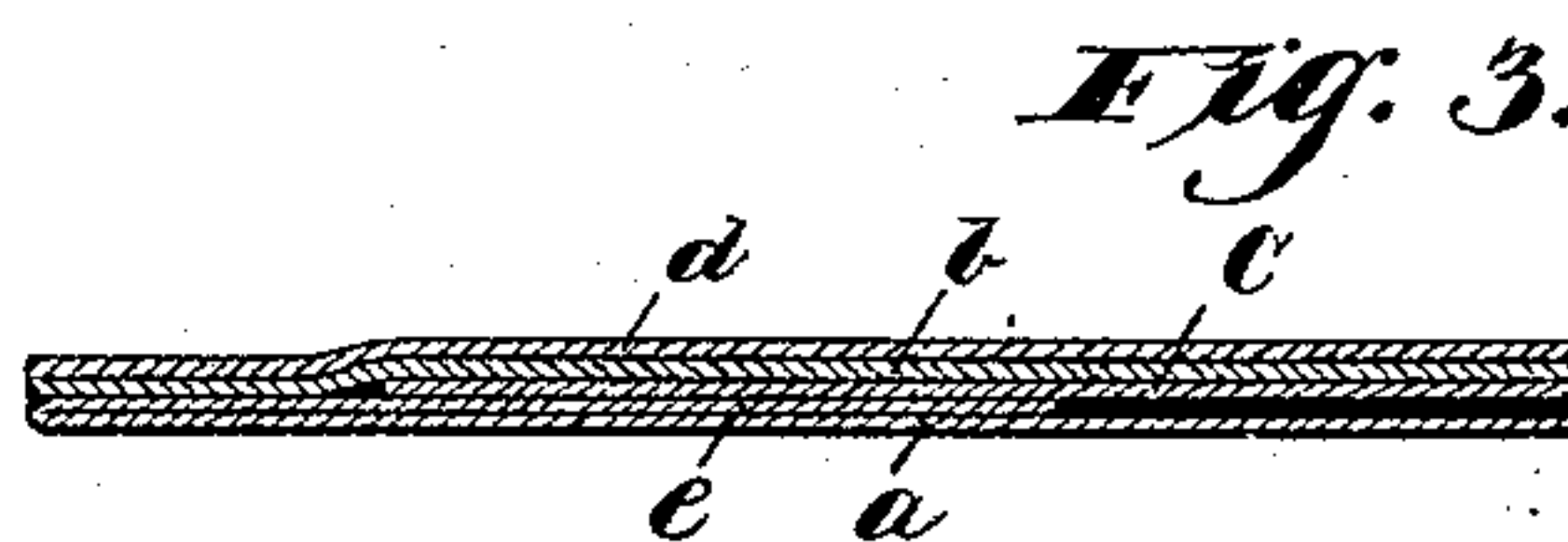


Fig. 3.

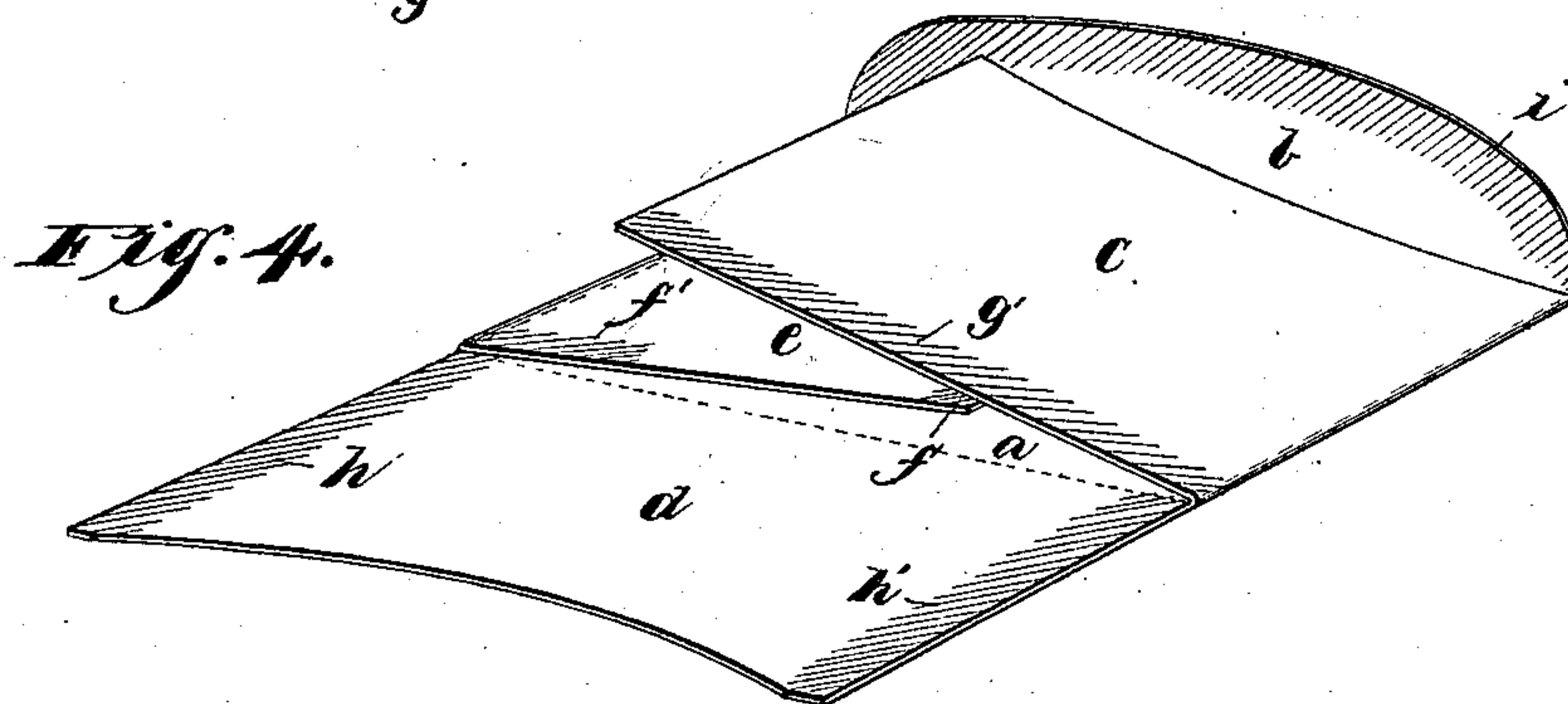


Fig. 4.

Inventor

Eldred S. Vance.

Witnesses

W. F. Doyle.  
J. B. Evans

By his Attorneys.

C. A. Snow & Co.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELDRED SHERRELL VANCE, OF DONOHO, TENNESSEE, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO THOMAS F. McCLELLAN, OF SAME PLACE.

## ENVELOPE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 534,458, dated February 19, 1895.

Application filed February 23, 1894. Serial No. 501,204. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ELDRED SHERRELL VANCE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Donoho, in the county of Smith and State of Tennessee, have invented a new and useful Envelope, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an envelope designed for use in the mail and express services, and the objects in view are to provide an improved form of envelope to open which it is necessary to destroy the same, whereby the fraudulent opening of the envelope in transit is prevented; and furthermore, to provide an envelope of cheap and simple construction wherein the minimum amount of material is used to accomplish the ends of my invention.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will appear in the following description, and the novel features thereof will be particularly pointed out in the appended claim.

In the drawings:—Figure 1 is a view of the blank from which the improved envelope is formed. Fig. 2 is a view of the completed envelope. Fig. 3 is a section on the line  $x-x$  of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing the blank partly folded. Fig. 5 is a section on the line  $y-y$  of Fig. 2.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

The blank comprises a body portion  $a$ , an upper flap or wing  $b$ , an opposite lower flap or wing  $d$ , and opposite lateral flaps or wings  $c$  and  $e$ . The lateral flaps  $c$  and  $e$  are of different lengths, the former being of a length corresponding approximately with that of the main or body portion of the blank, while the flap or wing  $e$  is shorter than  $c$ , whereby when folded upon the main or body portion it terminates short of the inner end of the flap  $c$ , to avoid forming a bunch or enlargement adjacent to the inner end of the flap  $c$ . Furthermore, the upper edges of the flaps  $c$  and  $e$ , are concavely curved as shown at  $c'$  and  $e'$ , whereby said upper edges, when the lateral flaps are folded upon the surface of the main or body portion, are arranged below the folding line of the upper flap  $b$ . The upper flap

$b$  is semi-elliptical in contour and is of a depth slightly less than one-half the vertical measurement of the main or body portion  $a$ , the object thereof being to cover the upper concave edges of the lateral flaps  $c$  and  $e$  when said flaps are folded upon the main or body portion  $a$ . The lower or closing flap  $d$  corresponds in length with the main or body portion and in width with the same, the outer edge of said flap being concaved as shown at  $f^2$ , whereby when folded to cover the lower edge of the flap  $b$  a portion of the surface of the flap  $b$  will be exposed, as shown in Fig. 2.

The flap  $e$  is provided with adhesive material, or is gummed, on its outer surface contiguous to its free edge as shown at  $f$ , the shaded portion indicating the surface gummed. Said flap  $e$  is also gummed for a short distance upon its outer surface contiguous to its inner end, and parallel with its lower edge, as shown at  $f'$ . This flap  $e$ , in the process of manufacture, is first folded upon the line indicated by dots, upon the inner surface of the main or body portion  $a$ , as shown in Fig. 4, thus exposing the gummed portions of its surface, as indicated at  $f$  and  $f'$ , and subsequently the opposite lateral flap  $c$  is folded upon the inner surface of said main or body portion to lie in contact with the exposed surface of the flap  $e$ . This flap  $c$  is gummed at its outer edge upon its inner surface, as indicated at  $g$ , and after the folding of the flap  $c$  it is connected to the flap  $e$  by means of the gummed surfaces  $g$  and  $f$ . The flap  $c$ , having been properly secured to the flap  $e$ , the upper flap  $b$  is folded downwardly to cover the upper edges of the lateral flaps, and said flap  $b$  is gummed at its outer curved edge, as shown at  $i$ , to adhere to the outer surface of the longer flap  $c$ . This completes the initial preparation of the envelope, the fastening of the lower or closing flap  $d$  being left for the user to accomplish, and if preferred the flap  $b$  may be left open also. The flap  $b$  is gummed at its outer edge and upon its outer surface as shown at  $k$ , in Fig. 2, the gummed surface being shown in dotted lines, and the flap  $d$  is gummed at its lateral edges and upon its inner surface as shown at  $h$  and  $h'$ , and in addition to this the outer surface of the flap  $c$ , at its lower edge, and therefore contiguous to



the folding line of the closing flap, is gummed as shown at *g'*. Thus when the closing flap is folded upon the exposed surface of the flaps *b* and *c*, it is secured by the adhesive material at all four edges, namely, at its outer concaved edge by the gummed surface *k*, at its lateral edges to the outer surface of the flap *c* by the gummed surfaces *h, h'*, and at its inner edge, at the point of contact with the flaps *c*, and *e*, by the gummed surfaces *g'* and *f'*.

It will be obvious that with this arrangement and manner of securing the cover or closing flap of the receptacle the difficulty of opening the envelope without marring or destroying the same is increased to the maximum, inasmuch as four gummed edges must be released before access can be had to the interior; but in order to still further increase this difficulty it is preferred to place the address upon the surface of the flap *d*, and the postage stamp, if placed at the upper right hand corner, as usual in mailing, will adhere to the exposed surfaces of both the closing flap *d* and the upper flap *b*, thus serving as a seal. It will be seen furthermore, that the construction of the blank is compact, and that it may be struck from the material without extensive waste, this being a desideratum in the manufacture of envelopes for the reason that the cost is thereby materially reduced. Furthermore, the contour of the blank is approximately regular, the only departures from straight lines being the convexed outer edge of the flap *b*, and the concaved edges of the flaps *c, d*, and *e*, the concaving of the lateral flaps being only sufficient to permit the accurate folding of the flap *b*, and the concaving of the outer edge of the flap *d* being suf-

ficient, merely, to expose a portion of the outer surface of the flap *b*.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

The herein described mail and express envelope having a blank comprising a rectangular body portion *a*, lateral integral flaps *c* and *e*, the flap *e* being of less length than the flap *c*, and said flaps *c* and *e* being gummed respectively upon their inner and outer surfaces as shown at *g* and *f*, whereby when the lateral flaps are folded parallel with the inner surfaces of the main or body portion they may be secured together by means of said gummed surfaces, an upper semi-elliptical flap *b* adapted to fold over the upper edges of the lateral flaps and provided with a gummed inner surface *i* to adhere thereto, and a lower or closing flap *d* of a width approximately equal to the main or body portion, and cut-away at its free edge to expose a portion of the surface of the flap *b*, said flap *d* being gummed at its lateral edges, as at *h, h'* the lateral flaps being gummed upon their outer surfaces adjacent to their lower surfaces as at *f', g'*, and the flap *b* being gummed upon its outer surface as shown at *k*, whereby the lower or closing flap *d* is secured by adhesive material at its inner, outer and lateral edges, substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

ELDRED SHERRELL VANCE.

Witnesses:

W. B. CANTER,  
E. E. KEMP.