

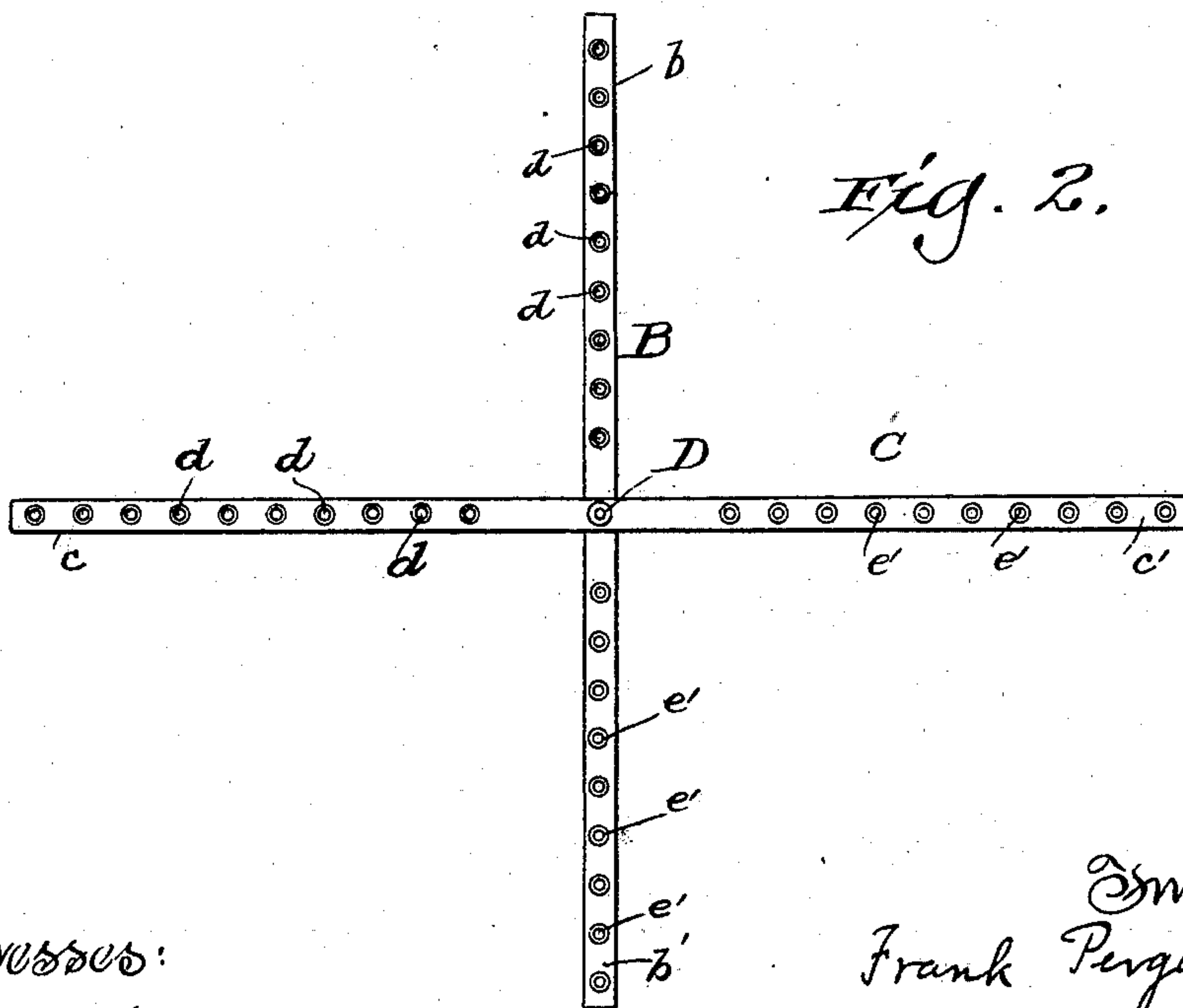
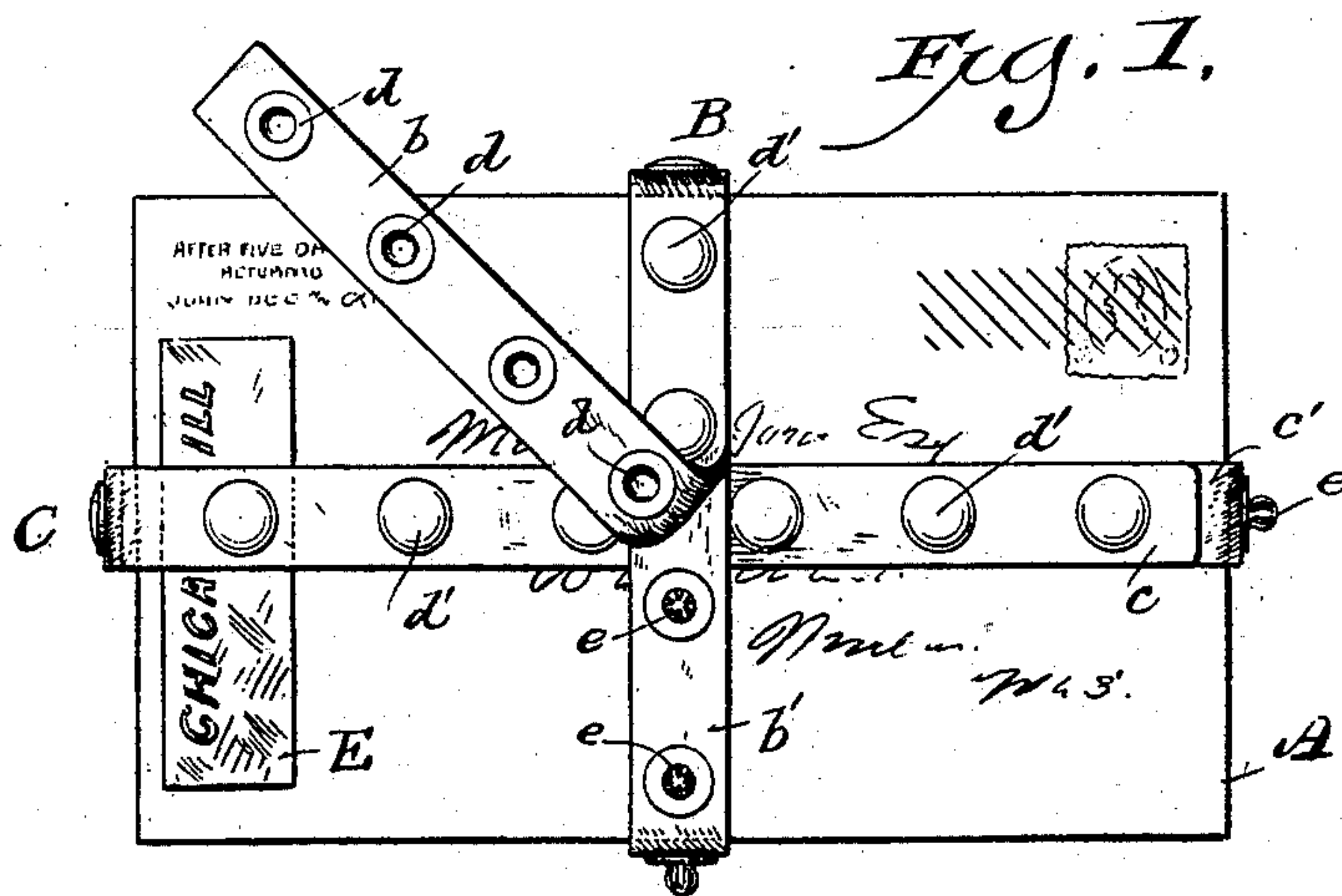
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LETTER HOLDER.

(Application filed Aug. 14, 1899.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK PERGANDE, OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

LETTER-HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 654,668, dated July 31, 1900.

Application filed August 14, 1899. Serial No. 727,114. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK PERGANDE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Milwaukee, in the county of Milwaukee and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Holders; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

My invention relates especially to devices for holding any desired number of letters in one compact bundle which can be thrown about, as in a post-office or railway postal car, or transferred from one to another mail bag or receptacle, without liability or danger of the package becoming undone and which at the same time can be almost instantly undone and again secured with a greater or less number of letters held thereby, if desired, and which can be reused indefinitely; and to these ends it consists in certain peculiarities of construction and combination of parts, as will be fully set forth hereinafter and subsequently claimed.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view representing a bundle of letters secured by my device, one end of the latter being shown as partially unfastened. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the inner side of my device ready for use.

In post-offices and postal cars it is customary when letters have been assorted into different bundles, each bundle for some particular destination or distributing-office, to separately tie up each bundle with twine or cord, and then when said bundle has to next be undone, as in the further assortment of said letters or the addition of others thereto or subtraction of certain letters therefrom at the next distributing-point, the twine or cord is simply cut and thrown away and the bundle retied with fresh twine or cord, all this consuming considerable time in the wrapping and tying of the twine or cord as well as involving the waste of that formerly used, millions of balls of cord being thus used every year in the railway postal service alone. To obviate this waste of time and material and at the same time to provide a device which is adapted to secure any number of letters from one or two up to, say, several hundred is the principal object of my present invention.

Referring to the drawings, A represents the upper letter of a bundle containing any num-

ber of letters within the limit of my device irrespective of the size and shape of the envelops of said letters.

B C represent two straps, preferably of leather, said straps being herein shown as of unequal length, inasmuch as most envelops are of considerably-greater length horizontally than vertically, although this difference in length between the two straps is immaterial, as the thickness of the bundle of letters in any given case may compensate for the difference in horizontal and vertical length of ordinary envelops just referred to. These two straps are centrally crossed and permanently united at this central point, as by a rivet D, as shown, with the four ends which extend from said central point entirely free from all connection or attachment. The end *b* of strap B and the end *c* of strap C are each provided with sockets *d d*, adapted to receive balls *e e*, secured to the ends *b' c'* of said straps, the heads of said sockets being shown at *d' d'* in Fig. 1 and the lower or under side fastening-plates of said balls being shown at *e' e'* in Fig. 2, the said parts *e e'* and *d d'* forming what are known as "ball-and-socket fasteners," such as are in common use on gloves and other articles of wearing-apparel, and these devices are secured to the strap ends at exactly equal distances apart in each series, as shown.

The operation of my device will be readily understood from the foregoing description of its construction, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings. When the bundle of letters A is made up, the said bundle is placed upon my device, the latter being then in the fully-opened position shown in Fig. 2 and with the greater length of said bundle preferably in line with the strap C. The end *c'* of said strap is then brought up along the center of the right-hand end of said bundle and along the top of the bundle and the end *c* of said strap C brought up along the center of the left-hand end of the bundle and over the end *c'* on top of the bundle and pressed down, so that the balls *e e*, then on top of the said strap end *c'*, will be received within the sockets *d*, then on the under side of the strap end *c*, said strap ends projecting as far over the top of the bundle or down past the ends thereof as is necessary, owing to the thickness of the bundle and the length of the strap

ends. Next, in similar fashion, the end *b'* of the strap B is brought up along the center of the lower edge of said bundle and across the top thereof, (and down over the upper edge of the bundle, if necessary,) so that the balls *e e* on said strap end *b'* are uppermost, and finally the other strap end *b* is brought up along the center of the upper edge of said bundle and across the top thereof over the end *b'* (and down over the lower edge of the bundle, if the said end *b* projects to such a length as to render this necessary) and then said strap end *b* is pressed down upon the strap end *b'*, so that the balls *e* on the latter will be received within the sockets *d*, now on the under side of the former, and the operation of securing the bundle is completed, this whole action requiring only a few seconds of time. E represents the usual slip or tag giving the name of the destination or next distributing-point of said bundle, and ordinarily this is placed at one end on top of the upper letter of the bundle and held beneath the locked ends of the strap C, although if there are only two or three letters in the bundle said slip or tag may be placed between said ends *c c'* of the strap and locked by one of the balls passing through said slip or tag before it enters its socket. The bundle can be undone as quickly as it was secured and as rapidly resecured, and yet when the strap ends have been locked, as described, the bundle can be thrown about and into its proper receptacle as freely as if it had been tied with twine or cord in the old way without the least danger of the strap ends becoming detached thereby, and said devices will last for years without their efficiency becoming in the least degree impaired.

The described straps, while of course flexible, so as to readily bend around the bundle of letters, are longitudinally unyielding, and hence there is no danger of any of the letters escaping from the bundle when the strap ends have been fastened as described, and there is nothing about said straps and fastening devices to catch in or injure other letters or mail-matter in the use of my device.

It is of course essential that my straps should be of non-fracturable material and be entirely free from metal plates, hooks, buckles, and similar devices, as the same would be liable in the tossing about to which bundles of letters are subjected in railway or other post-offices to injure other mail-matter, and it is further essential that the described interlocking devices on the opposed ends of each strap should be equal in number and at equal distances apart on each strap end in order to afford secure engagement and guard against loose ends. Further, by having the described two independent straps centrally crossing each other, so that the two straps occupy different planes, the increased thickness of each strap, consequent upon the addition of the described fastening devices, is

compensated for and the said straps secured together throughout practically the entire length of their overlapping portions.

While my device is especially designed for holding together letters in a bundle, it is apparent that it is equally efficient for the securing together of other articles or small packages.

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

1. A holder for a bundle of letters, or similar package, consisting of two non-fracturable flexible and longitudinally-unyielding straps, crossed at right angles to each other, and secured together at that point, the opposed free ends of each strap being provided with series of interlocking devices for adjustable attachment, the locking devices on one end of each strap being equal in number to those on the other end of said strap, and located at equal distances apart, whereby when the two ends of each strap are brought together the said ends will be locked together in close contact throughout practically their entire length, and the said opposed ends of each strap will always lie in different planes, one above the other, and be capable of instant separation, without injury, and be then ready for reuse as required.

2. A holder for a bundle of letters or similar package, consisting of two flexible but longitudinally-unyielding straps centrally crossed and there united by a central rivet, leaving two opposed free ends of each strap, one of said ends of each strap being provided with a series of sockets placed at equal distances apart, and the other of said ends of each strap being provided with a series of balls, also placed at corresponding equal distances apart, and adapted for ready interlocking with said sockets, the free ends of each strap being of equal length, but the two straps themselves being of unequal length.

3. A holder for a bundle of letters, or similar package, consisting of two independent non-fracturable flexible and longitudinally-unyielding straps, crossed at right angles to each other and there united, so as to extend in different planes, together with series of interlockable devices, secured to said straps at equal distances apart, and extending between the central point of union of said straps and the free ends thereof, whereby said straps may be secured together throughout practically the entire length of their overlapping portions.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand at Milwaukee, in the county of Milwaukee and State Wisconsin, in the presence of two witnesses.

FRANK PERGANDE.

Witnesses:

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