

H. M. Whitmarsh,

Shoe Last,

N^o 44,266.

Patented Sep. 13, 1864.

Fig. 2.

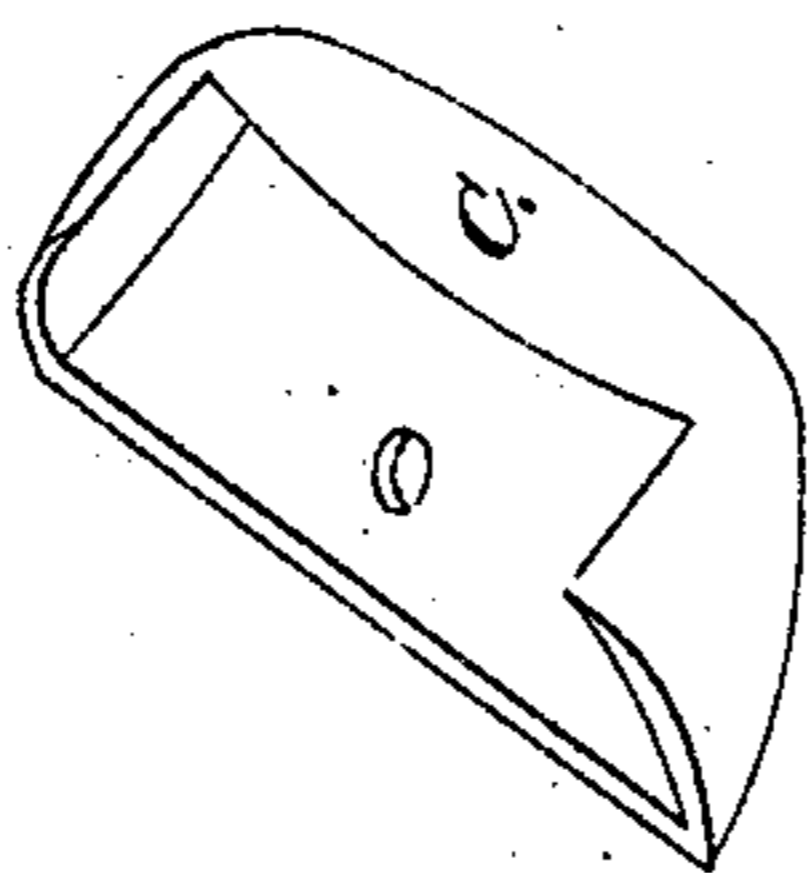


Fig. 4.

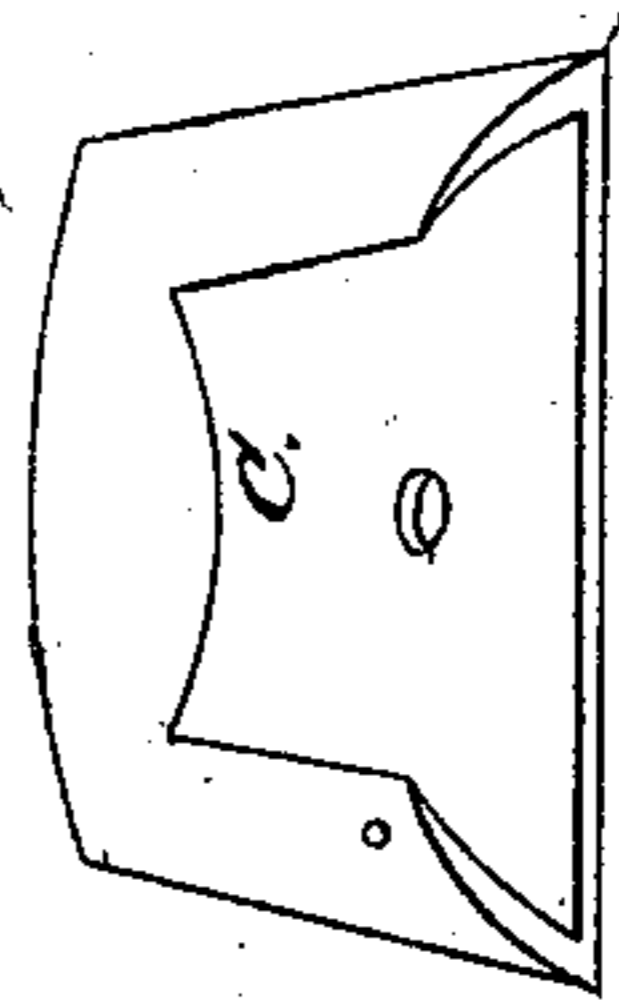


Fig. 1.

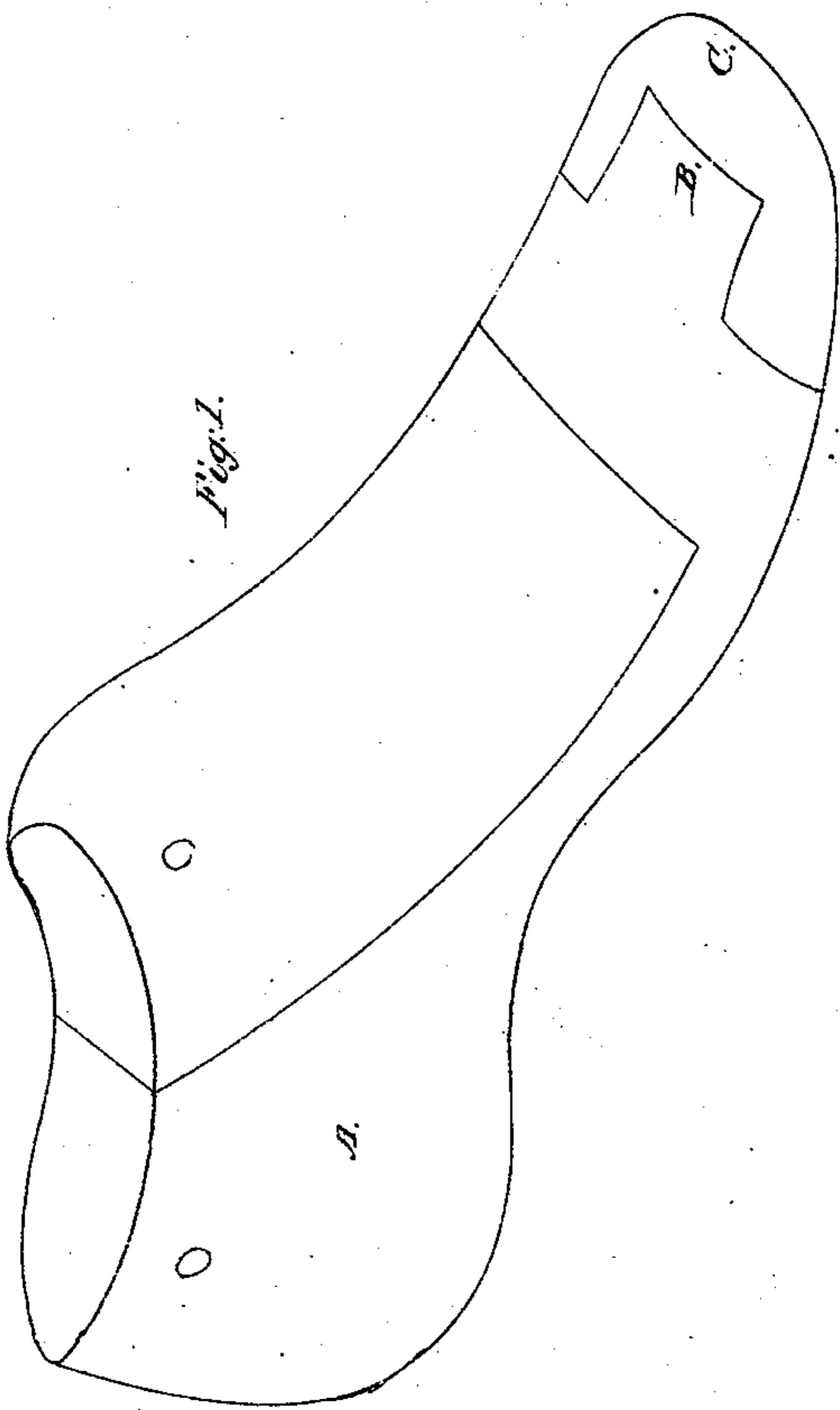
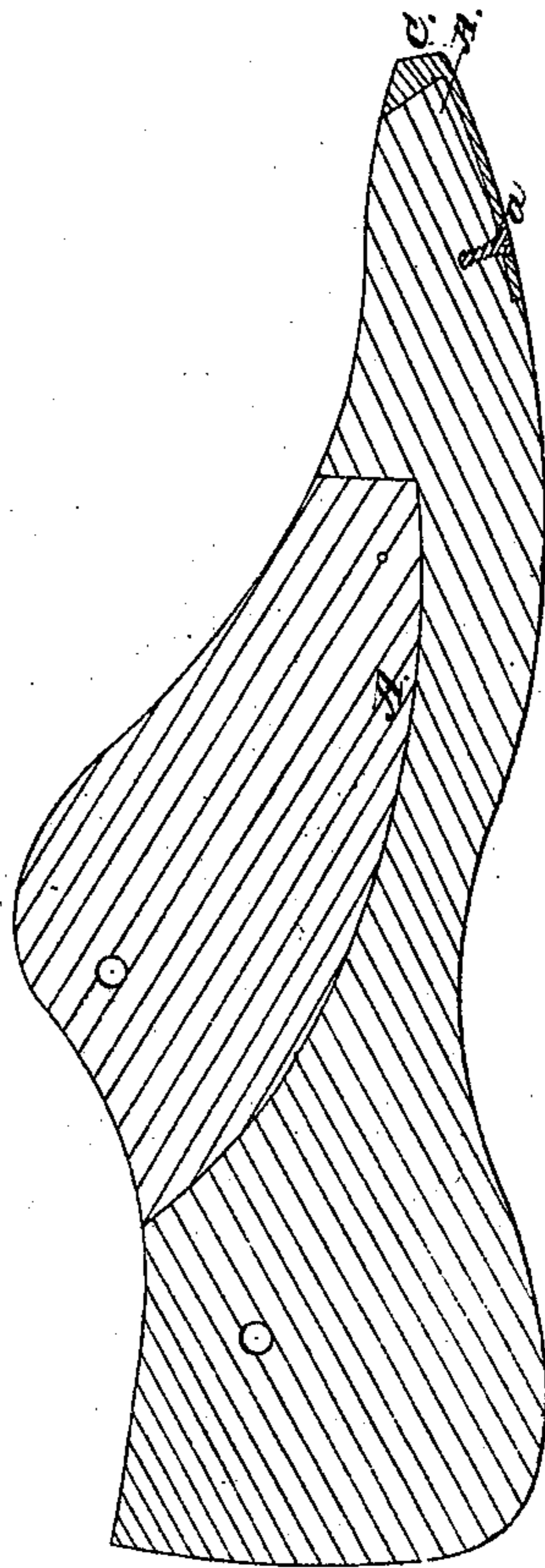


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

*Benj. Hornell
Jas. D. Litchfield*

Inventor:

Henry M. Whitmarsh

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY M. WHITMARSH, OF ABINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND MERITT NASH, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN LASTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 44,266, dated September 11th 1864

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY M. WHITMARSH, of Abington, in the county of Plymouth and State of Massachusetts, have made a certain new and useful Improvement in Lasts for Boots and Shoes; and I hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a view of a last showing my improvement attached thereto. Fig. 2 is a view of a round toe-piece detached. Fig. 3 is a vertical longitudinal section through Fig. 1, and Fig. 4 is a view of a square toe-piece detached.

Owing to the frequent changes made in the form of the toes of boots and shoes; it has been necessary to use a last of different shape every time the style was changed, and consequently these changes of style were attended with considerable expense to the shoe-manufacturer.

The object of my improvement is to reduce this expense; and it consists in making that part of the last which forms the toe removable, so that it may be taken off and be replaced by one of a different pattern with facility, when desired, to accommodate the changes in fashion.

To enable others skilled in the art to understand and use my invention, I will now proceed to describe the manner in which I have carried it out.

In the said drawings, A represents a last a portion of the toe of which is cut away, leaving a projection or tenon, B, to which is adapted a removable toe-piece, C, which is made of brass or other suitable material.

The interior of the toe-piece C is beveled to correspond to the form of the projection B, and is secured in place by means of one or more screws, *a*. It will thus be seen that when the manufacturer wishes to make a boot of a different pattern at the toe it is only necessary to unscrew and remove one toe-piece and substitute another of the style required. By thus having the toe-piece removable the expense of lasts occasioned by the alteration in the fashion of the boot is less than one-third of that which it has usually been when it was necessary to use a new last altogether. By my said invention I am also enabled to utilize lasts which have been discarded on account of the variation of the style by simply providing them with toe-pieces of the required form, and lasts which have been broken or defaced at the toe by use may be trimmed down and my improvement adapted thereto.

I do not confine myself to any particular mechanical construction of the toe-piece and last, as it is evident that, instead of the toe-piece being made as represented, it may consist of a solid piece with a projecting tenon, while the last may be provided with a corresponding mortise.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent as an improvement in lasts for boots and shoes, is—

A toe-piece made separate from the body of the last, so that it may be removed and another of different form substituted, substantially as described, for the purpose set forth.

HENRY M. WHITMARSH.

Witnesses:

THOMAS P. LITCHFIELD,
BENJ. WORMELL.