

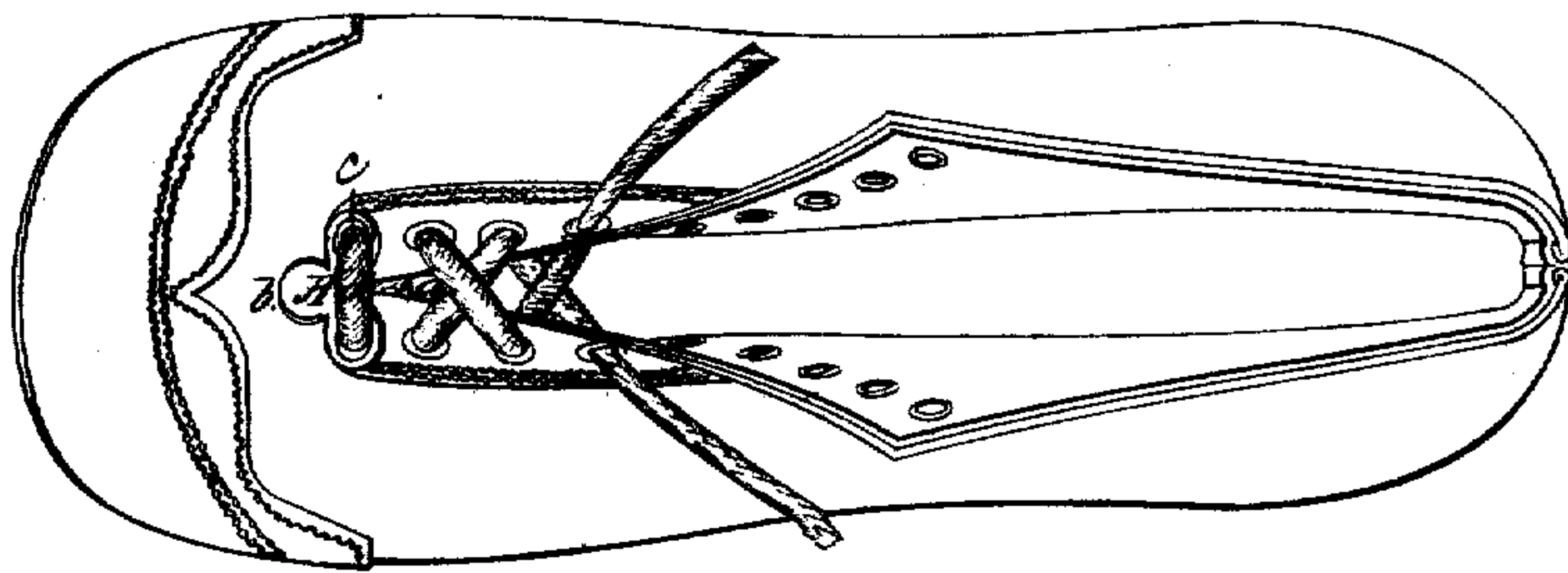
*Shaw & Worcester,*

*Shoe Uprer,*

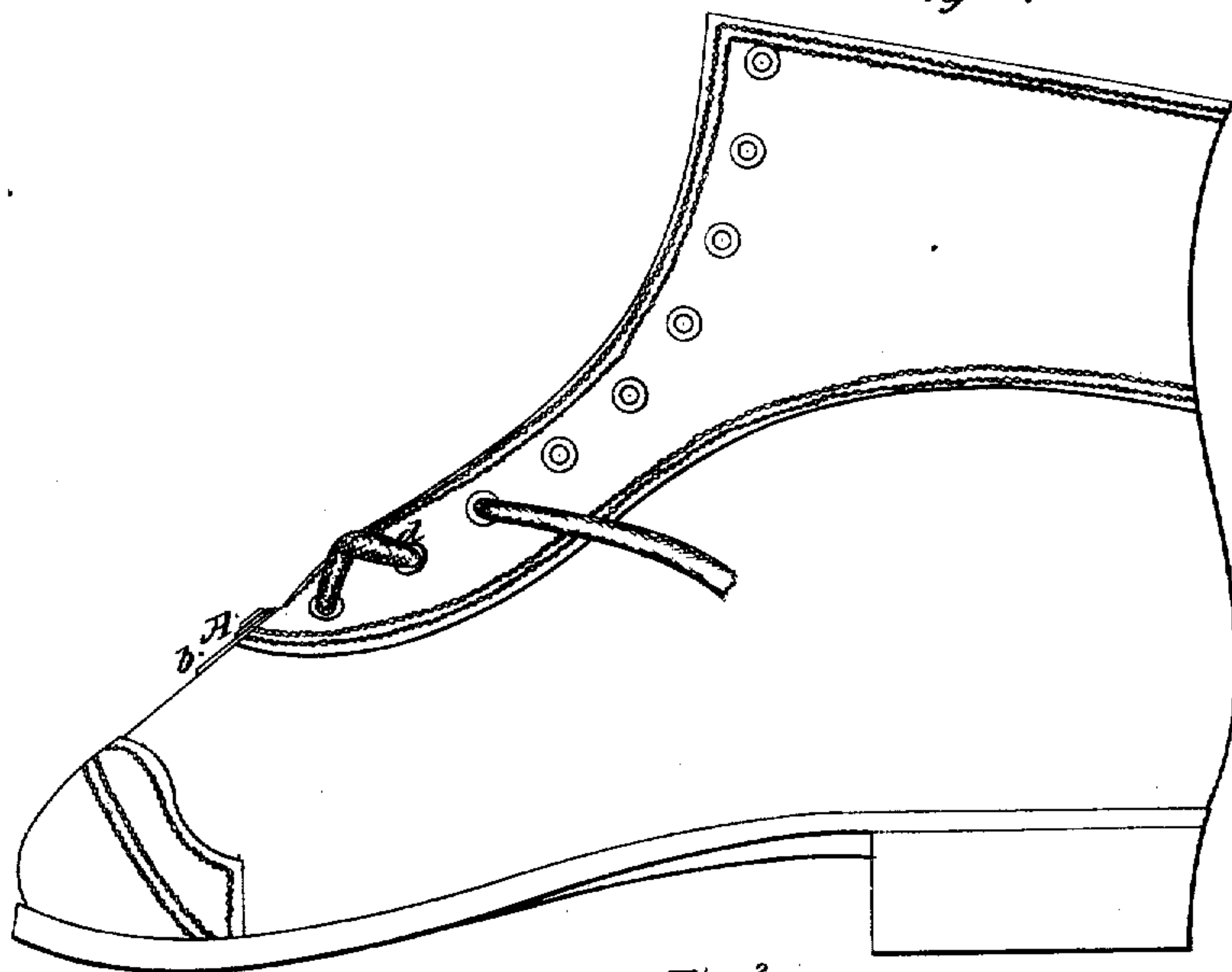
*Nº 58,955.*

*Patented Oct. 16, 1866.*

*Fig. 1.*



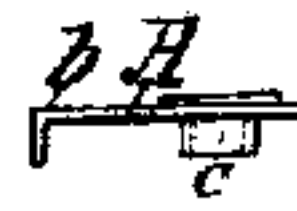
*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 4.*



*Witnesses:*

*S. J. Shaw Jr.*  
*C. B. Washburn.*

*Inventor:*  
*Samuel J. Shaw*  
*W. E. C. Worcester:*  
*by their attorney:*  
*R. M. Eddy*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL J. SHAW AND W. E. C. WORCESTER, OF MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNORS TO THEMSELVES AND THOMAS COREY, OF SAME PLACE; SAID WORCESTER ASSIGNS TO SAID SHAW HIS RIGHT.

## IMPROVED BRACE AND LACING DEVICE.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 58,955, dated October 16, 1866.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, SAMUEL J. SHAW and W. E. C. WORCESTER, of Marlborough, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Shoes; and do hereby declare the same to be fully described in the following specification, and represented in the accompanying drawings, of which—

Figure 1 denotes a top view, and Fig. 2 a side elevation, of a shoe provided with our invention. Fig. 3 is a top view, and Fig. 4 is an edge view, of the metallic stay-piece employed in carrying out our invention.

In removing balmorals or booties from the last it frequently happens that the leather of the vamp becomes torn down or slit at the vertex of the lacing-opening. The so tearing the leather also frequently happens when the shoe is in use. When such is the case the appearance as well as the value of the shoe is impaired.

The purpose of our invention is to prevent such accidents to shoes and add to their ornamentation. For these purposes we arrange across the lacing-slit *a*, and at or near the vertex thereof, a metallic stay, *A*, to extend across such slit and cover the vertex, and be fastened to the shoe by eyelets *c c*, or equivalents, so as to receive the lacing *d*.

We provide the stay with a lip or clinching-tang, *e*, extending down from it below the vertex of the slit, and going through the leather of the upper, and being clinched or bent down against the under surface thereof. The purpose of such clinching-tang is not only to prevent

grass or other matters from becoming caught between the stay and the leather, but to strengthen the connection of the stay with the shoe.

The lowermost eyelets *c c* go through the stay and the leather or upper, and, besides performing their usual functions, they serve to aid in securing the stay to the shoe. The stay is so made that the lacing *d* goes through it twice, and thus aids in keeping it in place. The stay, as shown in the drawings, is formed with a tongue, *b*, projecting from it, the clinching-tang being made to extend from the lower edge of this tongue. The tongue, besides being an ornament to the stay, is a cover to the vertex of the slit, and is useful in other respects.

We do not claim the combination of a metallic stay with the instep-opening and upper of a shoe; but

We claim as an improvement the following—that is to say:

The combination of the metallic stay as made with the lacing-holes, and the arrangement of the lacing so as to go through such holes or eyelets, serving to fasten the stay to the upper, the whole being substantially as described, whereby such lacing is made to protect the stay from being torn or separated from the shoe while in use.

SAMUEL J. SHAW.  
W. E. C. WORCESTER.

Witnesses:

R. H. EDDY,  
F. P. HALE, Jr.