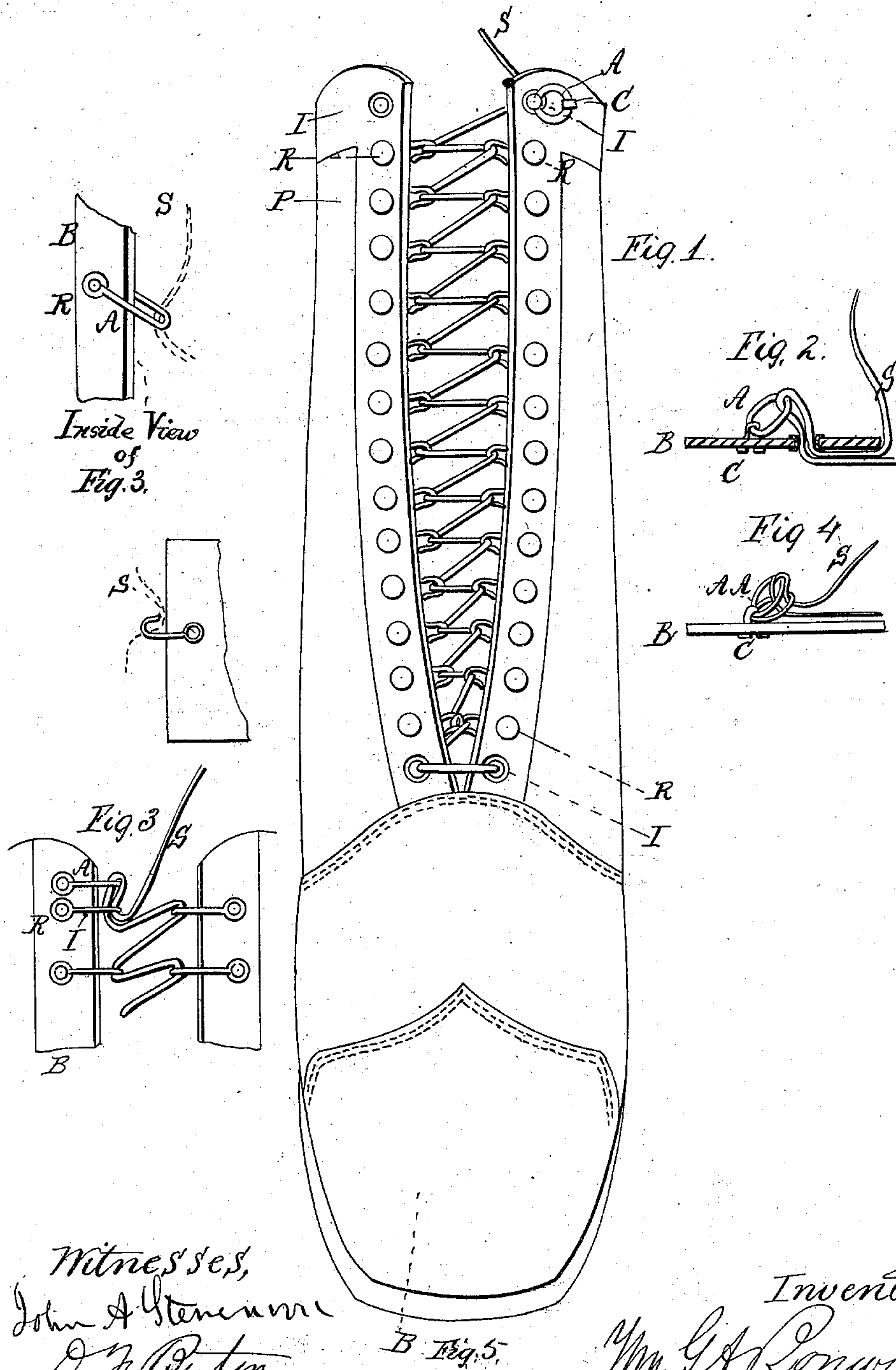


W. G. A. Bonwill,

Shoe Fastening,

No 66,073,

Patented June 25, 1867



Witnesses,
John A. Stearns
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United States Patent Office.

WILLIAM G. A. BONWILL, OF DOVER, DELAWARE.

Letters Patent No. 66,073, dated June 25, 1867.

IMPROVED SHOE-STRING FASTENER.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM G. A. BONWILL, of Dover, in the county of Kent, and State of Delaware, have invented a new and improved Mode of Fastening or Holding Shoe-Strings; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference thereon marked, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a front view of a shoe, the lacing of which is secured with my improved fastening.

Figure 2 is a side view of my shoe-tie, and illustrates the manner of fastening the lacing.

Figures 3 and 4 are modifications of my invention.

Figures 5 and 6 are interior and exterior views of the hooks through which the lacing passes.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

To enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to understand its operation, I will proceed to describe it, as follows:

A, in fig. 2, is a ring securely fastened in any suitable manner to the leather or other material of which the shoe is composed. B is a side section of the material composing the "upper" part of the shoe. It is pierced by the hole I, in which an eyelet can be inserted, or any other suitable means be employed, to prevent undue enlargement by constant use. S is the string or shoe-tie, with which the shoe, having first been laced, (see fig. 1,) the end thereof is then passed up through the hole I from the inside of the shoe; and then, being passed through the ring A, it is returned through the hole or eyelet I, and, the string being drawn, causes the ring A to close over the aperture or eyelet I, (see fig. 1,) and thus securely fastens the shoe-string. The ring A should be fastened in such a position as to enable it to co-operate with the highest eyelet or aperture made in the "uppers" of the shoe to receive the lacing. Rings can also be placed at points along the row of eyelets, and thus enable the lacing to be made tight or loose at intervals, to suit the pleasure of the wearer. Fig. 3 illustrates a modification of my invention, showing its adaptation and application to shoes where hooks are used, instead of eyelets, to effect the lacing. In fig. 3 I is a hook, which, in its operation, is equivalent to the eyelet I in figs. 1 and 2. A is a hook, which operates in lieu of ring A in figs. 1 and 2. R indicates rivets, on which the hooks A and I have sufficient movement to enable them to be drawn together. S is the string or lacing, which, having first been passed upwards through the hooks I and A, is then returned to and through the hook I, and is then secured by being tightly drawn. Fig. 4 illustrates a modification of my invention, wherein the two adjustable rings A A are secured to the upper B by the staple C, or any other suitable means. The string S (after having performed its office of lacing the shoe) is then passed upward and through the two rings A A, after which, being passed outside the upper ring, it is carried downward to the lower ring, and, being repassed through the inside of which and drawn, it operates to close the rings together in such manner that the lacing between them is securely fastened.

In my invention and its several modifications we have a shoe-tie complete without the use of bow-knots, and which will not come undone or work loose. Shorter strings can be used than in the old method, accompanied with less wear and tear of the same. The lacing can be accomplished by using only one end, making it one of the most useful, economical, and pleasant inventions of the age, particularly so with young children, who are constantly untying and unlacing their shoes, whereas in this plan the very pulling at it keeps it tied. This invention is manifestly applicable to ladies' corsets and dresses, carriage-curtains, and other purposes.

Having thus described my invention, what I wish to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combined fastening A I, arranged to operate substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

WM. G. A. BONWILL.

Witnesses:

J. A. STEVENSON,

D. F. BURTON.