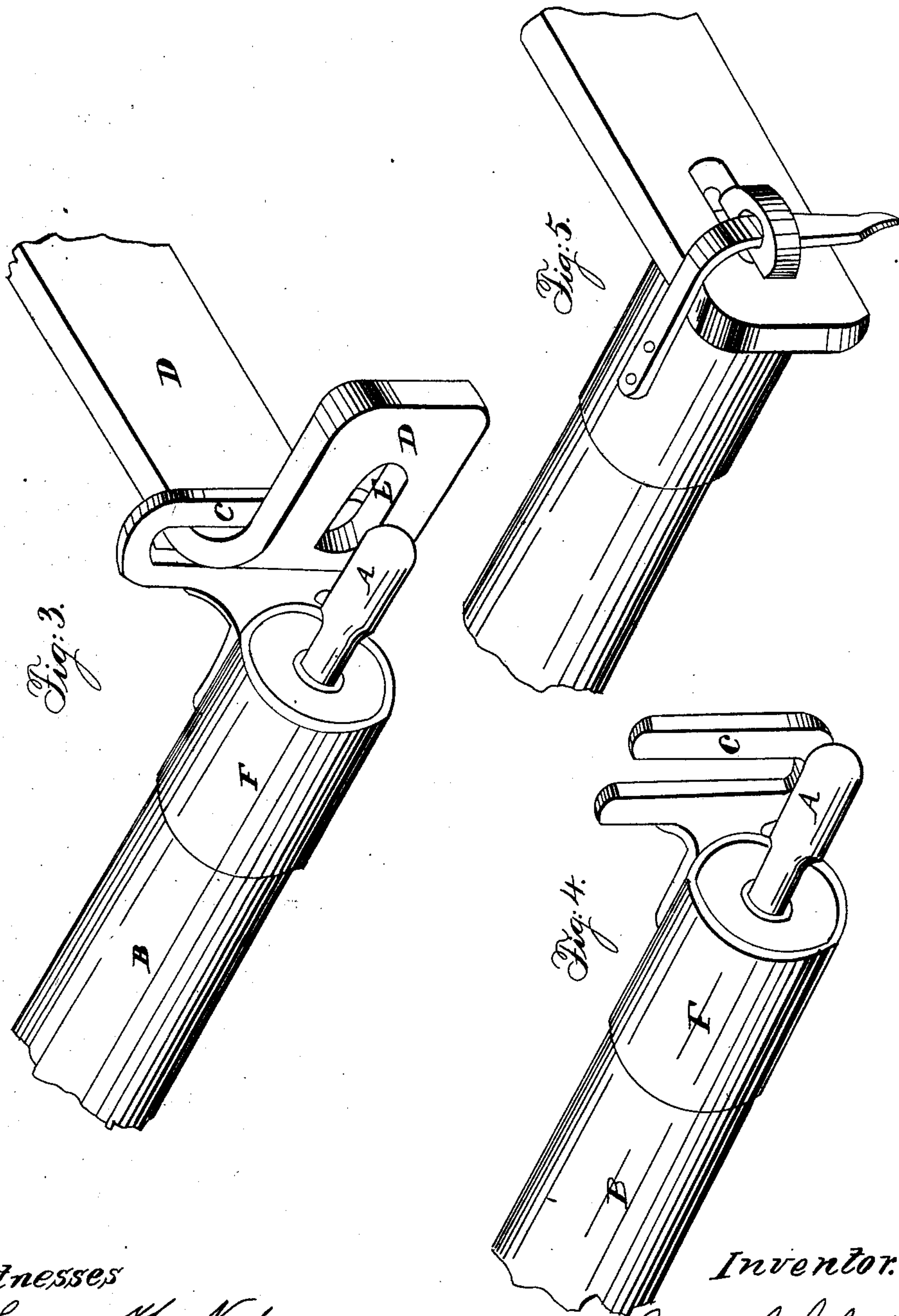


L. C. CLARK.

Whiffletree.

No. 69,771.

Patented Oct. 15, 1867.



Witnesses
Simon H. Norton
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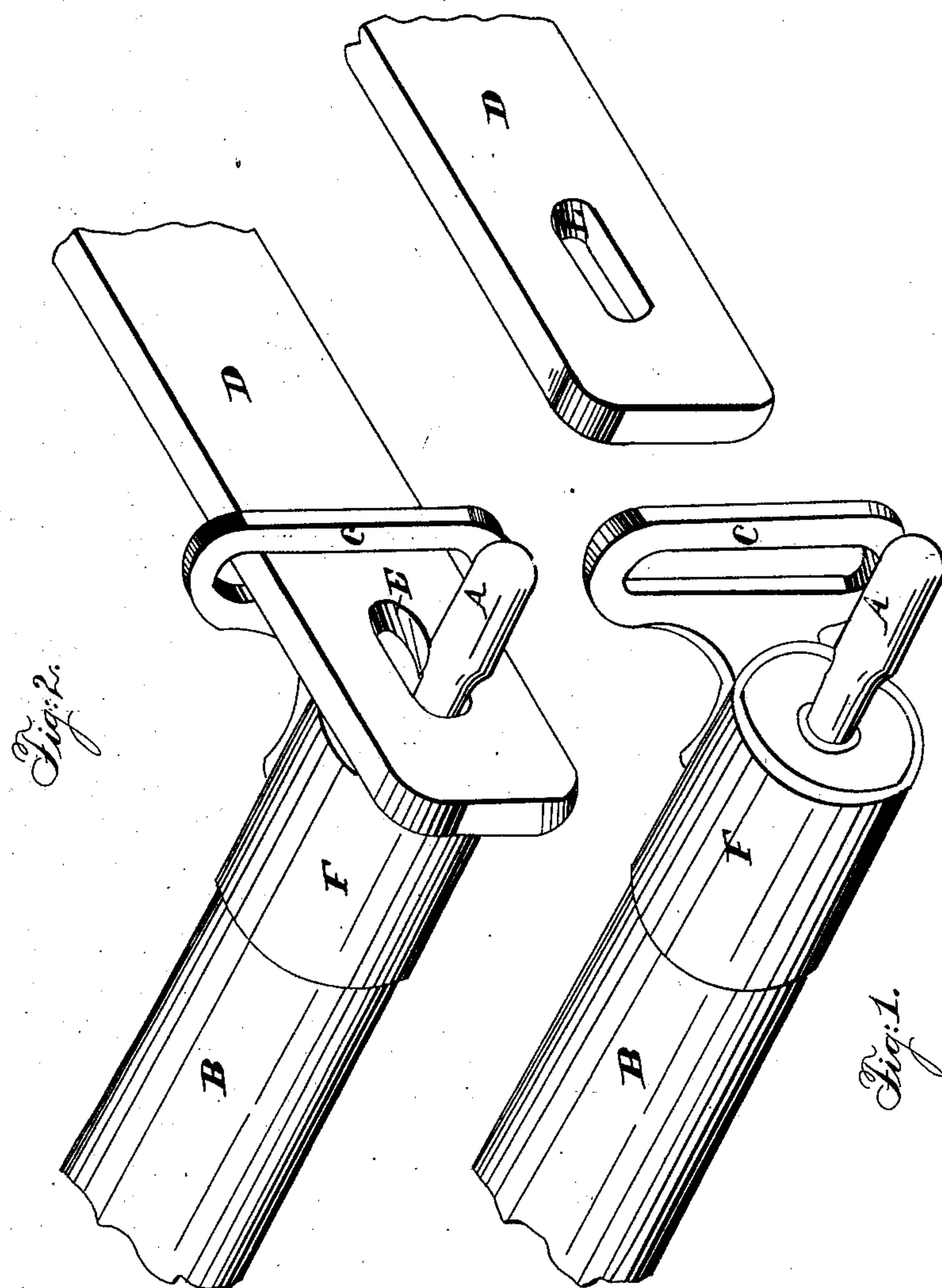
Inventor.
Lucas C. Clark

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United States Patent Office.

LUCAS C. CLARK, OF PLANTSVILLE, CONNECTICUT.

Letters Patent No. 69,771, dated October 15, 1867.

IMPROVEMENT IN TRACE-FASTENING.

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, LUCAS C. CLARK, of Plantsville, in the county of Hartford, and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and improved Device for a Trace-Fastener; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my invention.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the same with the trace attached.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the same with the trace in position to be withdrawn from the fastener or attached to the cock-eye.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the same, in which the guide which fastens the trace is made open on its upper side.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the most common trace-fastener in use.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

My invention consists in the use or employment of a cock-eye attached to the end of a whiffle-tree, in front of and to which is secured a guide or fastener, through which the trace passes and is then passed or slipped on to the cock-eye.

A designates the cock-eye; B designates the whiffle-tree; C designates the guide or fastener; D designates the trace; E designates the slot in the trace; F designates a ferrule on the end of the whiffle-tree. The cock-eye A can be made of any desired shape, but for a perfect safeguard its length should be somewhat longer than the distance from the cock-eye A to the guide or fastener C. It is preferable to have the cock-eye A smooth and round, with its diameter lessened near the whiffle-tree, where the trace D rests when in use. The guide or fastener C can be cast solid on or riveted on to the ferrule F, or secured to the whiffle-tree B in any other proper manner. The shape represented in fig. 1 I consider the best, but it would answer the same purpose if made open on its upper side or edge, as represented in fig. 4, or of any other analogous shape, providing that it reaches forward to the outer side of the trace D, so as to hold it from slipping off from the cock-eye A.

To attach the trace D, pass it through the guide or fastener C, and deflect the end of the trace D outward, so that the slot E in the trace D shall be even and parallel with the end of the cock-eye A, and then pass the trace on to the cock-eye A, and the trace is fastened. If the guide or fastener C is made open on its upper edge, as in fig. 4, the trace D can be first passed on to the cock-eye A, and then raised enough to allow it to pass over the top of the guide or fastener C, and then lowered into the guide or fastener C. It will be seen that neither of the two motions necessary to detach the trace D from the cock-eye A can be caused by accident or the chances of ordinary use, but must be caused by design, as, in order to detach the trace D, it must be pulled back, and then deflected from the cock-eye A, as shown in fig. 3, and consequently it is a perfect safeguard against the accidents which occur from the detaching of a trace when in use.

By my invention I produce an article for a trace-fastener that is perfectly safe, and can be made at only a trifling advance on the cost of the common fastening. It is much more durable than any in use, as there are no springs or slides or leathers to be operated or tied, and there is no rattling of any loose parts as all the parts are firmly and rigidly secured.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The cock-eye A, the guide or fastener C, when attached to the whiffle-tree B, the whole arranged and used substantially as described.

LUCAS C. CLARK.

Witnesses:

SIMEON H. NORTON,

WILLIAM COOK.