

*N. Kirchner,
Shoe-Fastening.*

N^o 75.768.

Patented Mar. 24. 1868

Fig. 1.

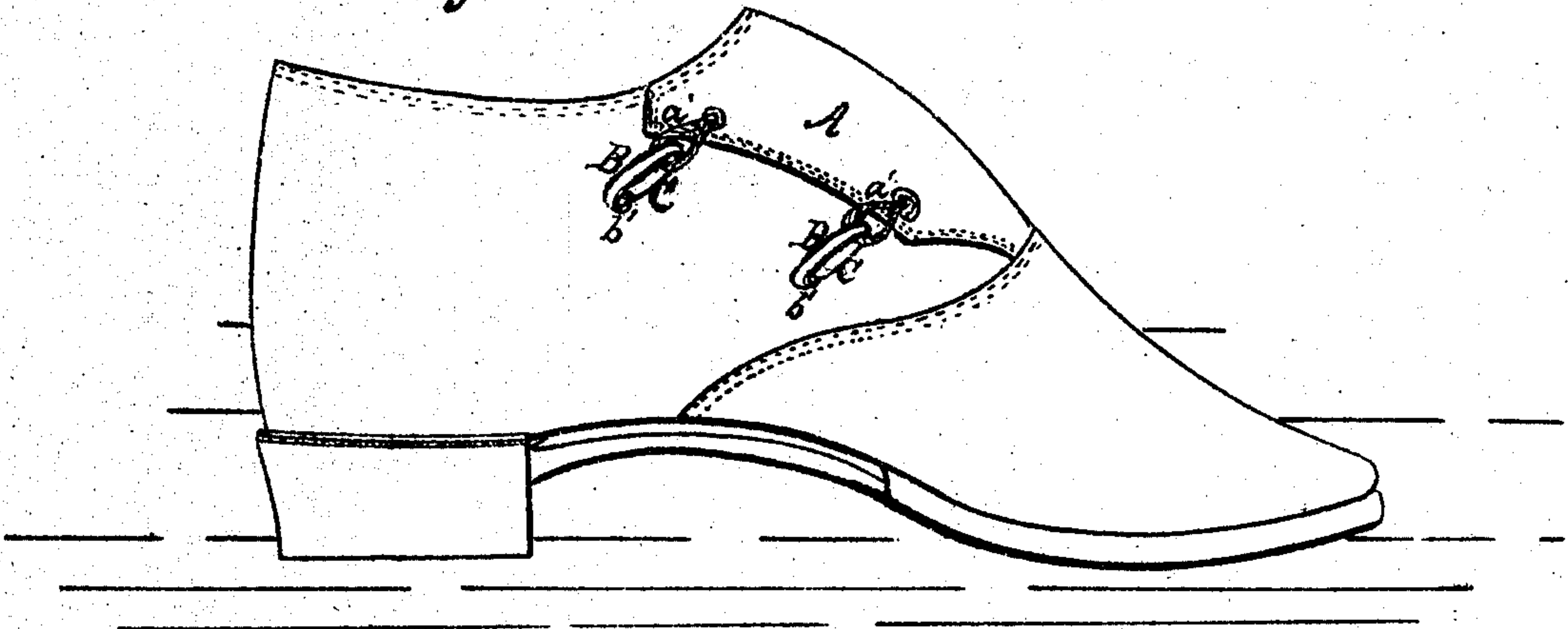


Fig. 2.

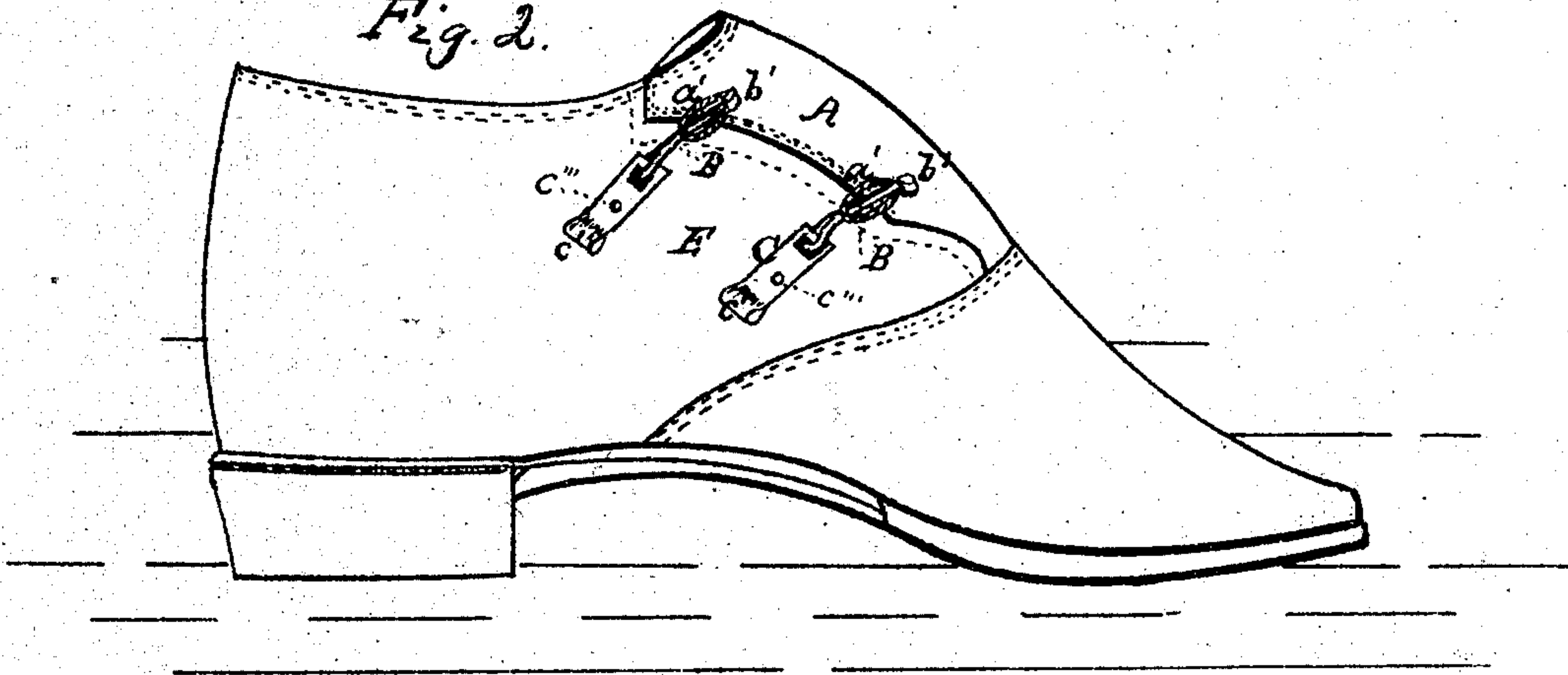
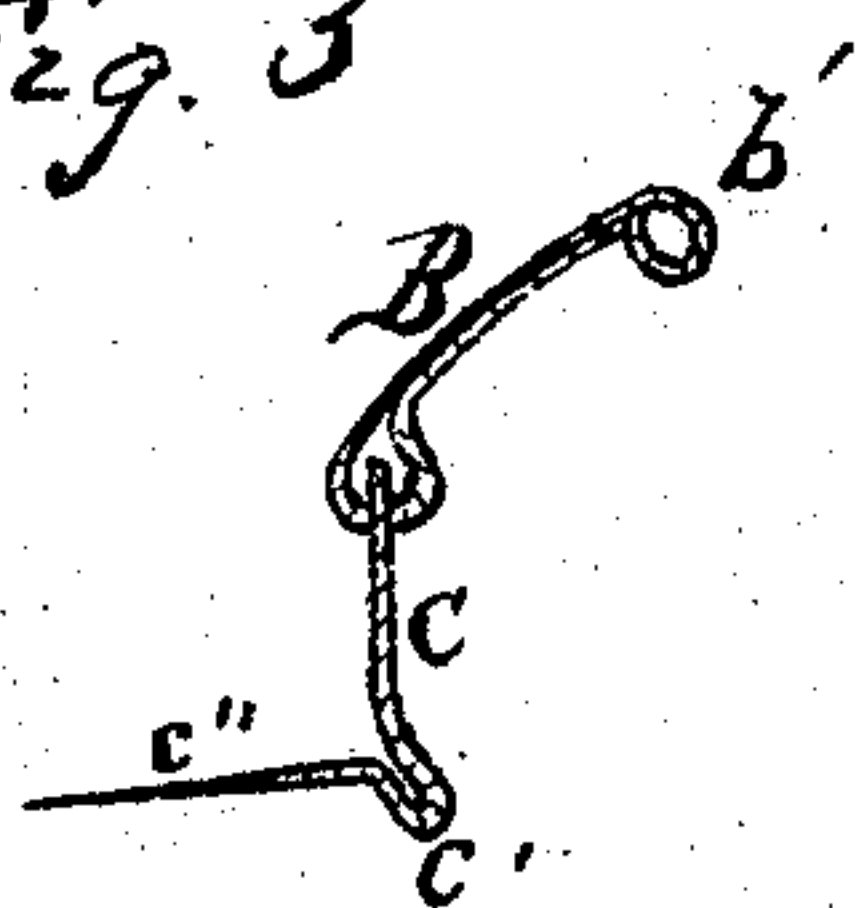


Fig. 3.



Witnesses.

Benj. Morrison.

Wm. H. Morrison.

Inventor.

Nicolaus Kirchner

United States Patent Office.

NICOLAUS KIRCHNER, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

Letters Patent No. 75,768, dated March 24, 1868.

IMPROVED DEVICE FOR FASTENING SHOES.

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, NICOLAUS KIRCHNER, of the city of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Lever-Fastening for Gaiters and Shoes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a shoe having my said fastening applied thereto, and the shoe-lap closed and fastened down thereby.

Figure 2, a like view of the same shoe and fastening, showing the fastening and the lap of the shoe as opened for the application of the shoe to one's foot; and

Figure 3, a side view of the full-sized fastening, as opened, for being permanently secured to the shoe or gaiter—

Like letters of reference being used for indicating the same parts when in the several figures.

The object of my invention is to afford a simple and more easily-operated fastening for gaiters, shoes, &c., whereby the wearer can with the greatest facility either draw the overlapping piece upon the underlapping piece of a shoe and the two opposite edges of a gaiter-boot together properly, and fasten them securely in place, or unfasten and release the same, as occasion may require.

My invention consists of a springy lever having one of its ends jointed to one end of a flat piece of metal, (which is provided with a pliable spur or stem, whereby it can be readily and permanently fixed to the leather on one side of the shoe or gaiter,) and its other end formed into a transverse cylinder or head, which will spring over and catch under the opposite end of the fixed plate, when the said lever (previously passed through a loop or hole in the opposite lap or edge of the shoe or gaiter) is pressed downward by the thumb or finger of the operator, substantially as hereinafter set forth and described.

Referring to the drawings, A is the overlapping piece of the shoe, B the springy lever, and C the flat piece of metal to which the lever B is jointed. The lever B is a thin, flat piece of spring-steel or other springy metal about three-sixteenths of an inch wide and three-quarters of an inch long, (more or less,) having one end hinged to one end of the plate C and its other end looped, so as to produce thereat a transverse cylindrical head, *b'*, (see fig. 3.) The plate C is a flat strip of sheet metal, about three-eighths of an inch wide, having a transverse slot in one end, whereby the lever B is attached, so as to form the hinge-joint, and extending in length about half an inch in a straight line, where it is bent to a right angle, so as to form a projecting loop, *c'*, (see figs. 2 and 3,) over and under which loop the head *b'* of B will catch, when the free end of the latter is pressed down upon it, (see fig. 1.) The free end *c''* of the plate C is narrowed to a pointed stem about half an inch in length from the turn *c'*, and in the middle of the plate C there is made a small hole, *c'''*, (see fig. 2.) Several of the plates C, with the levers B attached, as described, are fastened permanently by the shoemaker to the part E of the shoe by forcing the stem, *c''*, of each down through the leather and then up through another hole made in the leather into the hole *c'''*, bringing the plate, leather, and stem into close contact thereby, and then cutting off the projecting pointed end of the stem, and, finally, riveting it fast in the hole *c'''*, thus securing the several fastenings permanently to the shoe in the relation to each other and the lapping parts of the shoe, as shown in figs. 1 and 2. The overlapping piece A of the shoe has loops, *a'*, attached, or suitable holes made near the edge of the lapping-piece A, through which the free ends of the levers B, respectively, can be readily passed, as represented in fig. 2.

The shoe or gaiter is closed and fastened upon one's foot by passing the free ends of the levers B through their respective opposite holes or loops, *a'*, and then drawing the overlap A into its proper position, by turning and pressing down the lever B upon the plate C until its head, *b'*, catches under the projecting loop *c'*, thus securing the overlapping piece A in a properly-closed position, as shown in fig. 1. To release the overlap and open the shoe, all that is required is that the wearer raise the head end of B by his finger, when it will be drawn upward by the released overlap A, and the shoe consequently opened.

This is a very simple and perfectly reliable device for fastening shoes, gaiters, &c., and can be applied as readily to either, whether they close by a lapping-piece, A, as shown, or by the edges of the two closing sides of the shoe or gaiter coming opposite to or abutting against each other; and it will be seen that the lever B

enables the wearer to bring the closing sides of the shoe together with facility, and without straining the fingers.

I wish it to be understood that I do not intend to confine myself, in the construction of the plate C, to the use of the pointed stem *a''* for fastening the same to the shoe, as two tongues may be readily cut out longitudinally in the plate, so as to be bent out and passed down through the leather and clinched on the under side of the same, so as to hold the plate permanently thereon, in substantially the same manner; but, having fully described my fastening—

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is confined to the following, viz:—

I claim a fastening for shoes and gaiters, consisting of the springy lever B and plate C, constructed and combined together substantially as described, and operating, when applied to the shoe or gaiter, as a lever for drawing the closing parts together, and as a spring-catch for fastening them in that position, as described.

NICOLAUS KIRCHNER.

Witnesses:

BENJ. MORISON,

WM. H. MORISON.