

J. Nealey Jr.
Lacing-Device.

N^o 76234

Patented Mar. 31, 1868.

Fig. 1.

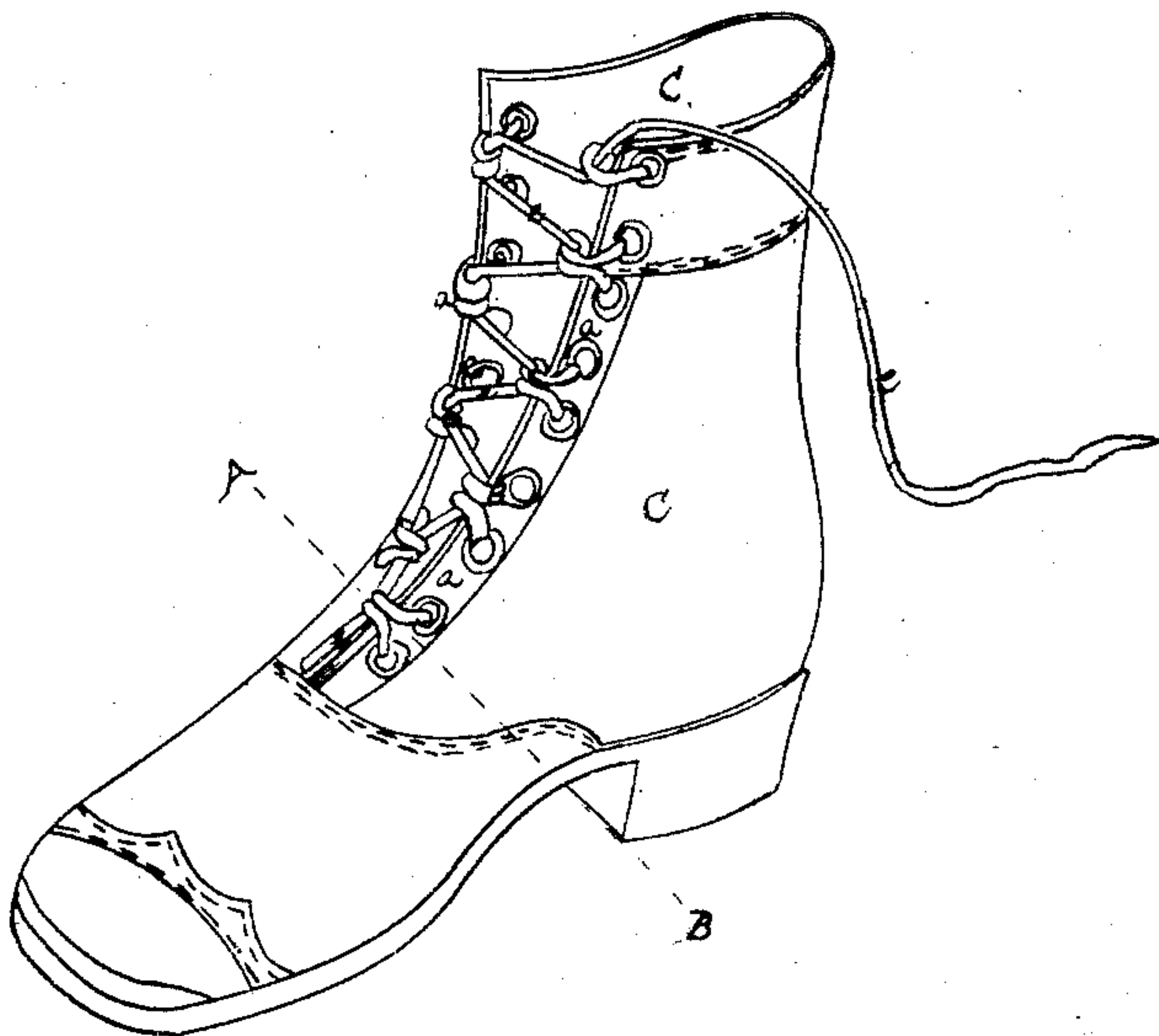


Fig. 2.

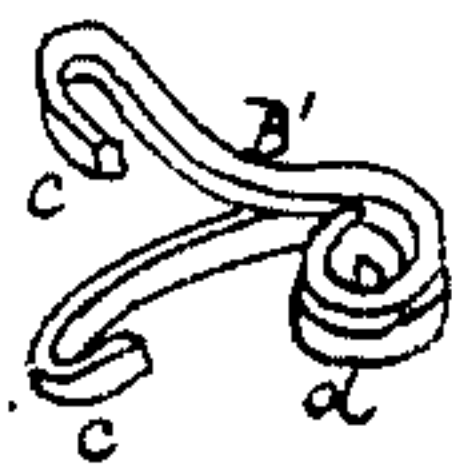


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:
H K Porter
John W Gillion

Inventor:
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his Atty.

United States Patent Office.

JAMES NEALEY, JR., OF BANGOR, MAINE.

Letters Patent No. 76,234, dated March 31, 1868.

IMPROVED LACING-DEVICE.

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, JAMES NEALEY, Jr., of Bangor, in the county of Penobscot, and State of Maine, have invented a new and useful or improved Lacing-Hook for Boots 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, and the letters of reference marked thereon, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my invention applied to a gaiter-boot, also shown in perspective.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the lace-hook; and

Figure 3 is a section taken in line A B, fig. 1, showing the leather, the eyelet, and the hook applied thereto.

Similar letters indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

The nature of my invention consists in a metallic hook of peculiar construction adapted to shoes, either with or without eyelets, and so constructed as not to wear the clothes, and to admit of unlacing the shoe without removing the lacing from the hooks.

To enable others to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

In the drawings, C represents a common gaiter-boot, provided with eyelets in the usual manner. B' B' are hooks formed of flattened wire, and of a single piece, the piece being bent at the centre and doubled together edgewise, after which the two eyes *cc* are formed at the two ends, and the eye *d* is formed at the other extremity, as shown. The eyes *cc* may be inserted and clinched in the eyelets, as shown, or they may be inserted in perforations in the leather, and clinched, so as to retain them firmly in place. The eye *d* is closed so that the lacing *e* can only be removed from the eye in the same manner as from an eyelet. By turning the eyes *cc* and *d* inward, and placing them at the respective edges of the leather, the only protuberance produced upon the leather is the thickness of the wire, thus preventing the catching and wear of clothing caused by hooks upon the outside for the reception of the lacing.

The two eyes *cc* may both be inserted in one perforation, or in separate ones, and in applying this invention to eyeleted shoes, I usually insert the two eyes in separate eyelets, with the exception of one at the top, and when applied without eyelets, I insert each hook in a separate perforation.

By the use of this invention the shoe can be readily laced or unlaced, the lacing rendering freely through the eyes of the hooks, and the lacing will be more durable than when used with eyelets.

I do not claim broadly the use of hooks for lacing boots and shoes, as I am aware that they have before been used, but

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

1. The hook B, as a new article of manufacture, when constructed within turning eyes, and the lacing-eye closed, substantially as described and shown.
2. Combining with shoe C, the lacing-hooks B, when constructed and combined with the shoe, substantially as described and shown.

JAMES NEALEY, JR.

Witnesses:

H. L. MITCHELL,

C. P. BROWN.