T. Itzstein,

Check Rein.

No. 87,497. Patented Mar. 2. 1869.

Fig. 1.

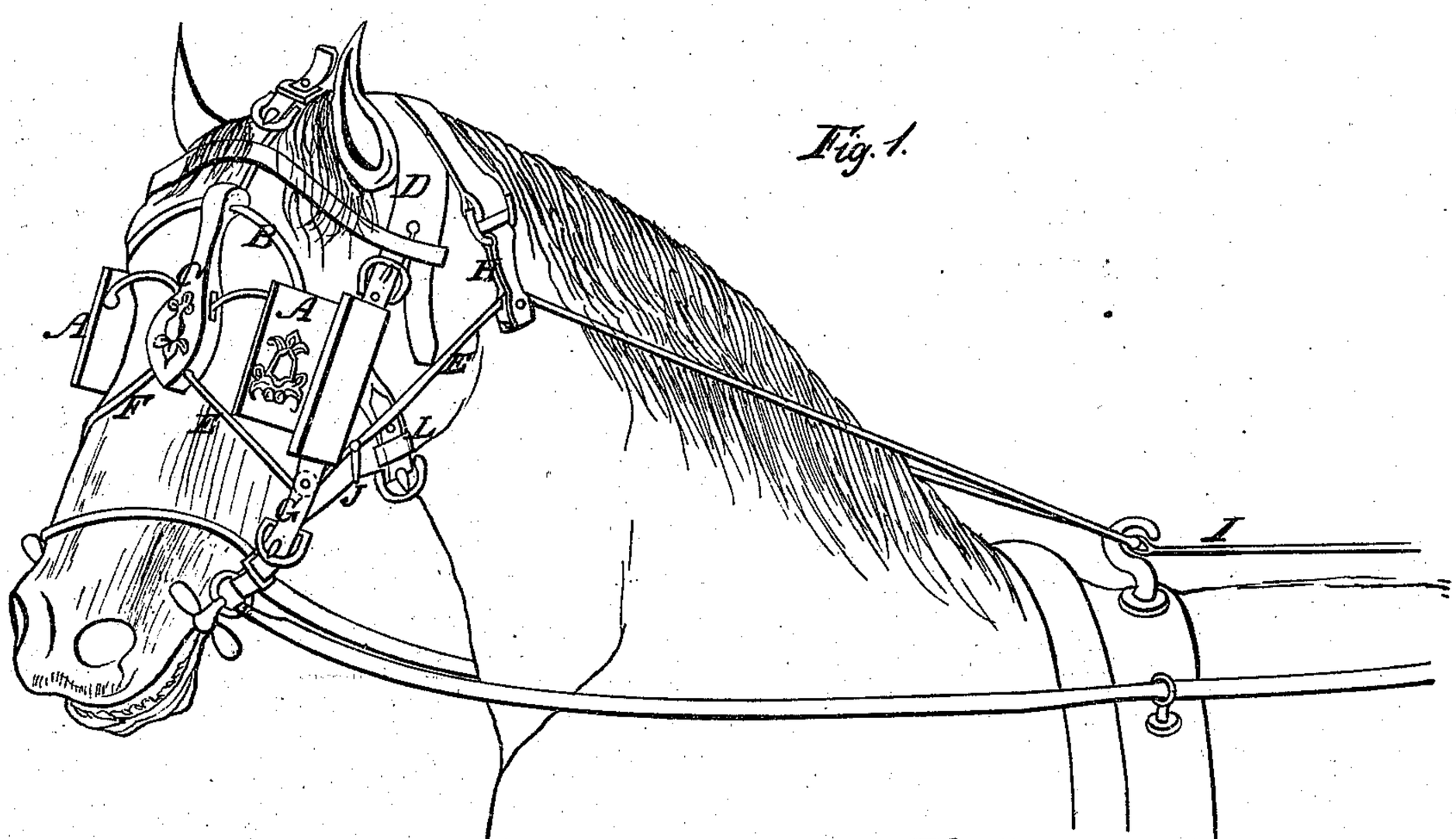
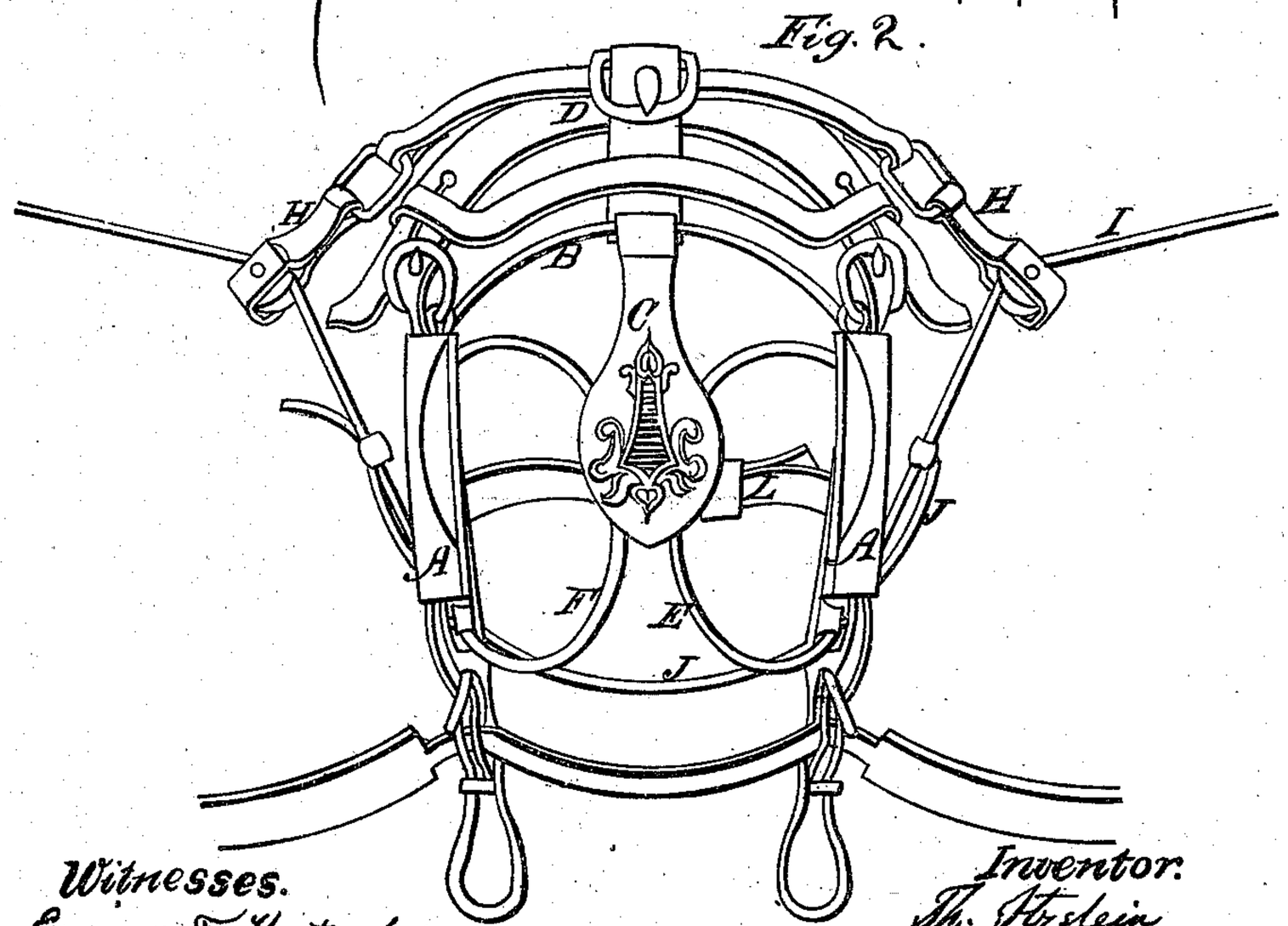


Fig. 2.



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THEODOR ITZSTEIN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

Letters Patent No. 87,497, *dated March* 2, 1869.

IMPROVED DEVICE FOR CHECKING HORSES.

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, THEODOR ITZSTEIN, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and improved Device for Checking Horses; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable those skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification, in which drawing—

Figure 1 is an elevation, in perspective, of my improvement as it appears when the headstall to which it is applied is placed upon the head of a horse.

Figure 2 is a front view of one side or half of the headstall detached from a horse.

Similar letters indicate corresponding parts.

This invention relates to means for checking unruly or runaway horses; and

It consists in several novel features of improvement, whereby such horses can be controlled without loss of time, and without requiring a great degree of skill or strength in the driver.

My improvement for checking and controlling horses is applied by me to the headstall or bridle, as will appear from the following description.

The letter A designates the ordinary winkers, or blinds, which are placed in such a position as to prevent a horse from seeing objects at his side or behind.

The winkers are connected to each other by a curved or bow-spring, B, which rises, in the form of an arc of a circle, from the upper edges of the winkers, and goes through the upper part of the pendent lug C, so called, which hangs down over the forehead from the crown-piece D, the spring being in this example secured to the lug, so that said parts cannot move independently of each other.

The object of the spring B is to hold the winkers, or blinds A, apart at a proper distance from the head of the animal, so that his vision in a forward direction shall not be obstructed when the winkers, or blinds, are in their normal position.

Another object of the spring is to restore the winkers to their normal position away from the eyes of the animal, after the winkers are released from the pull of the rein, that operates to close them, as is hereinafter described.

The spring B is covered with leather, to preserve it from rusting, and to make its appearance and color in keeping with the rest of the headstall or bridle.

The winkers are drawn inward toward the head of the animal, so as to close his eyes, or prevent him from seeing, by means of check-reins, E F, which are secured to the winkers at or near their front edges, going thence respectively through and around pulleys or runners in the sides of the lug, or front piece C; and out at the bottom of said lug C; thence backward under pulleys or runners arranged in the check-straps G G; thence upward toward the neck of the animal, and over pulleys or runners arranged in the ends of the billets H H, which hang down from the crown-piece; and thence backward to the saddle of the harness, where the said check-reins E F are united together and passed loosely around a terret of the saddle, at which point they are connected to a rein, I, which extends backward to the driver.

By means of this construction and arrangement, I am enabled to operate and close the winkers when a horse is unruly or running, and thereby check him and bring him at once under control, the check-reins E F being continuations of the main rein I, which, like the driving-rein, is to be held by the driver, or else is arranged so as to be at hand when wanted.

When the check-reins are pulled back to close the winkers, the resistance of the spring B must be overcome, the ends of the spring being drawn toward each other, so that the spring has increased power to throw the winkers open, and draw the check-reins forward again whenever the pull on the rein ceases.

The spring being applied to the top edges of the winkers, causes said winkers to close first at the bottom part, so that the same adapt themselves to the formation of the horse's head.

To prevent the winkers from being thrown out of position by the strain of the closing-straps, I have applied a strap, L, which extends through under the head, as shown in fig. 1.

Without this strap, the winkers are liable to become displaced, and the action of my checking-apparatus is rendered uncertain and impracticable.

I combine with the check-reins E F, that close the winkers or blinds, a supplementary check or throat-strap, J, which passes behind and under the head, and is attached by its ends to the check-reins E F, as shown in both figures of the drawing.

The said strap J is so arranged on the check-reins, that when the latter are drawn back, the strap J moves back with it, and presses against the windpipe of the animal, and by that means aids in controlling and in reducing him to obedience.

When the check-reins are released from the pull of the driver, they, and the throat-strap and the winkers, or blinds, resume their former position, by the action of the spring B, which is sufficiently powerful to pull the check-reins forward again and force open the winkers to the full distance allowed them apart.

My improvement provides a checking-apparatus, which is easily and cheaply constructed and operated, and is not easily got out of order.

I do not claim broadly, as my invention, to close the winkers of a horse by the action of the check-reins; but having thus described my invention,

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

1. The checking-apparatus, consisting of the check-

reins E F, combined with the winkers, or blinds A, and spring B, substantially as described.

2. The combination of the winkers A, the spring B, the check-reins E F, and the lug or front piece C, substantially as described and shown.

3. The combination of the throat-strap J, check-reins E F, winkers A, and spring B, substantially as described.

4. The safety-strap L, in combination with the winkers A and check-reins E F, substantially as set forth.

THEODOR ITZSTEIN.

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