

*R. O. Lowrey,*

*Insole.*

*No. 88494.*

*Patented Mar. 30. 1869.*

FIG. 1.

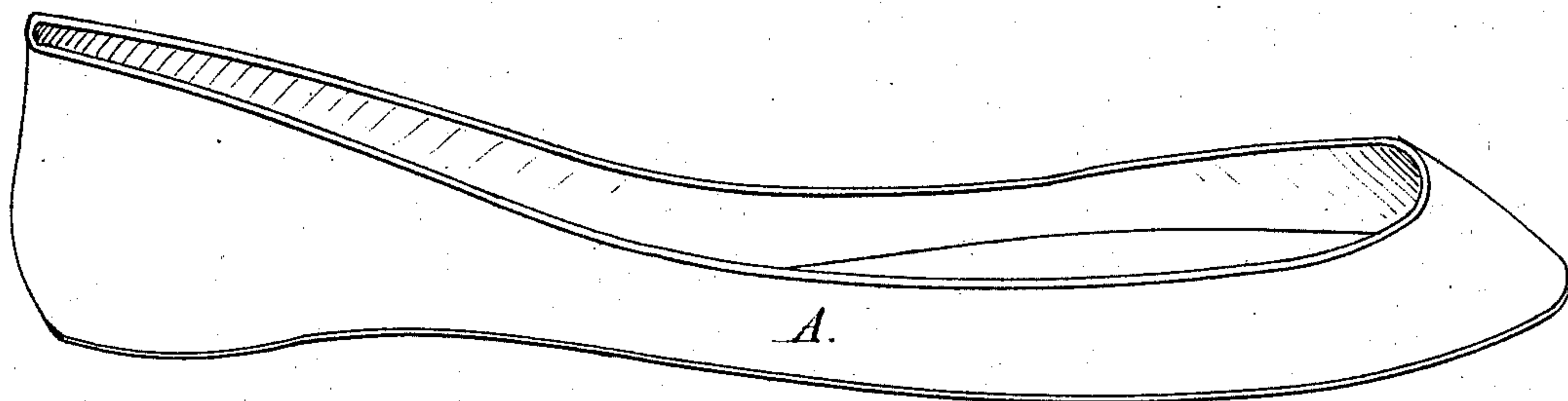


FIG. 2.

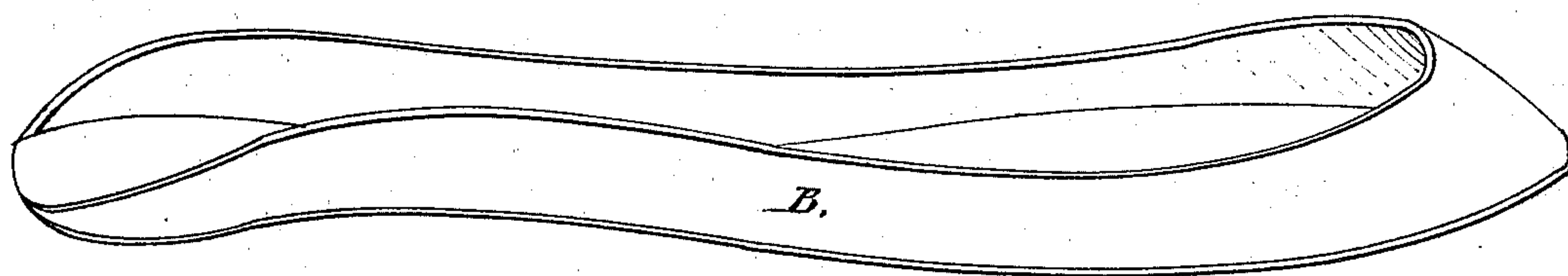
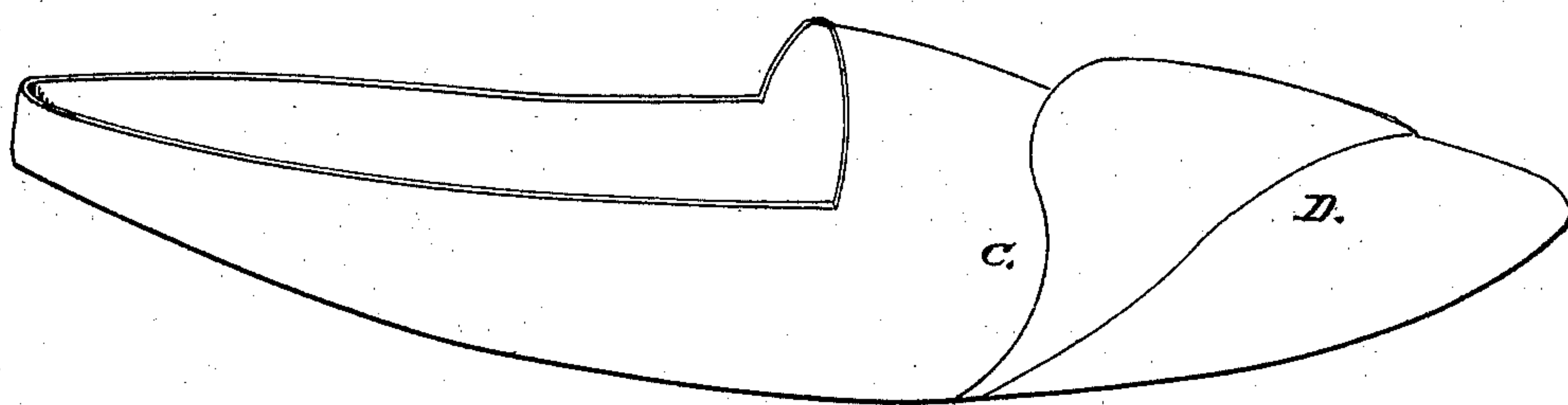


FIG. 3.



WITNESSES:

*L. Hailer.*

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# United States Patent Office.

ROBERT O. LOWREY, OF SALEM, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 88,494, dated March 30, 1869.

## IMPROVED INSOLE.

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, ROBERT O. LOWREY, of Salem, in the county of Washington, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Water-Proof Insole-Slippers; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, like letters indicating like parts wherever they occur.

To enable others skilled in the art to construct and use my invention, I will proceed to describe it.

My invention relates to water-proof protection for the feet, and consists in the manufacture of a water-proof slipper, to be worn inside of a boot or shoe.

In the drawings—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a slipper, complete;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a slipper without any heel-piece; and

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the upper, partly complete, &c.

Heretofore it has been customary to protect the feet from water, or dampness, by the use of over-shoes, made of India rubber, or other water-proof material. For many purposes these are found oftentimes to be inconvenient, and, besides, when most needed, are frequently where they cannot be had.

Instead of over-shoes made of water-proof material, the boots or shoes are sometimes manufactured with a layer, or lining of water-proof material in the sole or upper, or in both; but these are seldom found to furnish the protection desired; besides, as the boot or shoe wears out, this lining becomes injured, so as to be of little service.

The object of my invention is to furnish a soft, light, closely-fitting slipper, made of water-proof material, that may be conveniently worn inside of a boot or shoe, and without taking up any more room than is occupied by the ordinary stocking, or sock.

In constructing my water-proof insole slipper, I take any suitable-fibrous fabric, whether woven, knitted, felted, or flocked, and made sufficiently thin, or light for the purpose, and water-proof it with a thin sheet of rubber, rolled on its surface, or with any other water-proof material, by any of the well-known processes, and, with the use of the requisite tools, cut out the uppers and soles, and form them on lasts in the usual way, so that they may have the form of a slipper, A, as shown, in fig. 1, or of the slipper B, as shown in fig. 2.

My water-proof insole-slipper may be cheaply and conveniently made out of the material known to the trade as stockinet cloth, and this material, for most purposes, I prefer. It is a thin, light, and elastic material, with a thin sheet of rubber compound rolled on one side of it, while the other is soft and elastic.

Out of this I cut two uppers, C D, of the same size,

and fasten their rubber surfaces together with any suitable cement, as shown in fig. 3, where a portion of one of the uppers is shown turned back. In like manner I cut out two soles, and cement their rubber surfaces together.

These uppers and soles I then form upon a last of the proper size, and cement, or unite them together, by any suitable means, so as to be thoroughly impervious to water.

I then place the last, with the slipper upon it, in a vulcanizing-oven, and allow it to remain there until the rubber is vulcanized, after which I remove it, when it is ready to be trimmed, and packed for the market.

As it is usually only desirable to protect the sole and sides of the feet, it may be made as shown in fig. 1, or as shown in fig. 2. The former of these is designed to remain upon the foot as it is inserted or removed from the boot or shoe, while the latter, as it has no heel-piece, is designed to remain in the boot or shoe.

It is obvious, that if desired, either of them may be fastened permanently or temporarily in the boot or shoe.

The upper side of the slipper I make very open, as shown in all the figures, so as to allow for the escape of perspiration, and so that the foot may not be surrounded by an air-tight covering.

A slipper made in this form, it will thus be seen, protects the bottom and sides of the foot as well as an over-shoe, or as well as water-proof material between the soles, or as lining in the uppers, and is ready at all times for use.

It is obvious, that when desired, it may be used to partially supply the place of a sock, or stocking, as it has a soft interior as well as exterior surface, and when used with a sock, or stocking, it will save them, to some extent, from wear, and will add to the warmth of the foot as well.

Being thin, light, and pliable, it can be conveniently packed, so as to be easily carried from place to place, in and with the usual articles taken by travellers, so as to be at hand for use when desired.

I do not confine myself, in its construction, to any particular kind of water-proof material, but use that which is found to be most convenient for the purpose. In this way, I am able to furnish a cheap, useful, and convenient insole water-proof slipper.

Having thus described my invention,

What I claim, is—

A water-proof insole-slipper, constructed substantially as herein described, to be worn inside of a boot or shoe, as set forth.

R. O. LOWREY.

Witnesses:

N. G. WHITE,

J. G. GOULD.