

W. F. OSBORNE.  
Shoe-Fastening.

No. 222,725.

Patented Dec. 16, 1879.

Fig. 1.

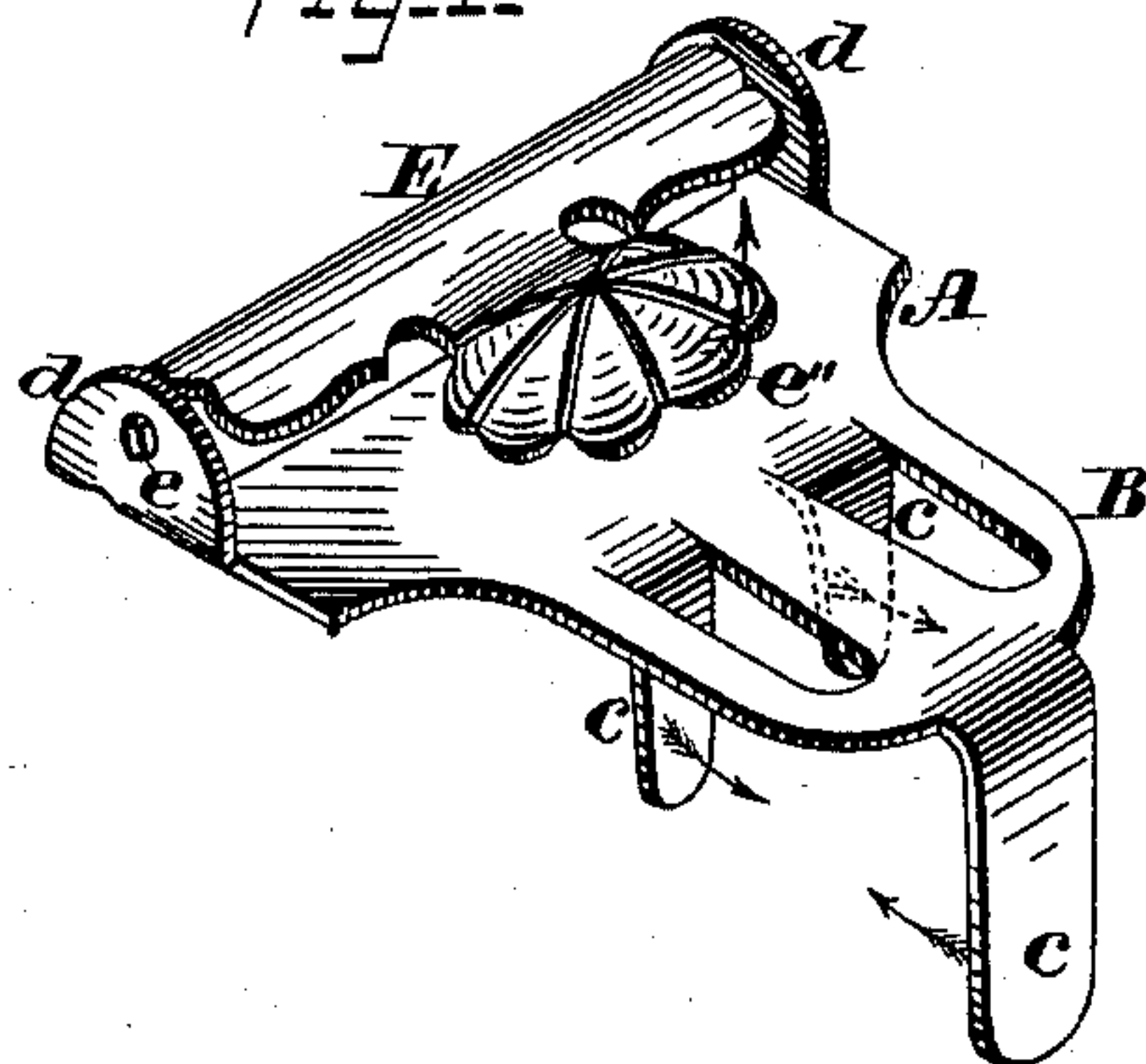


Fig. 2.

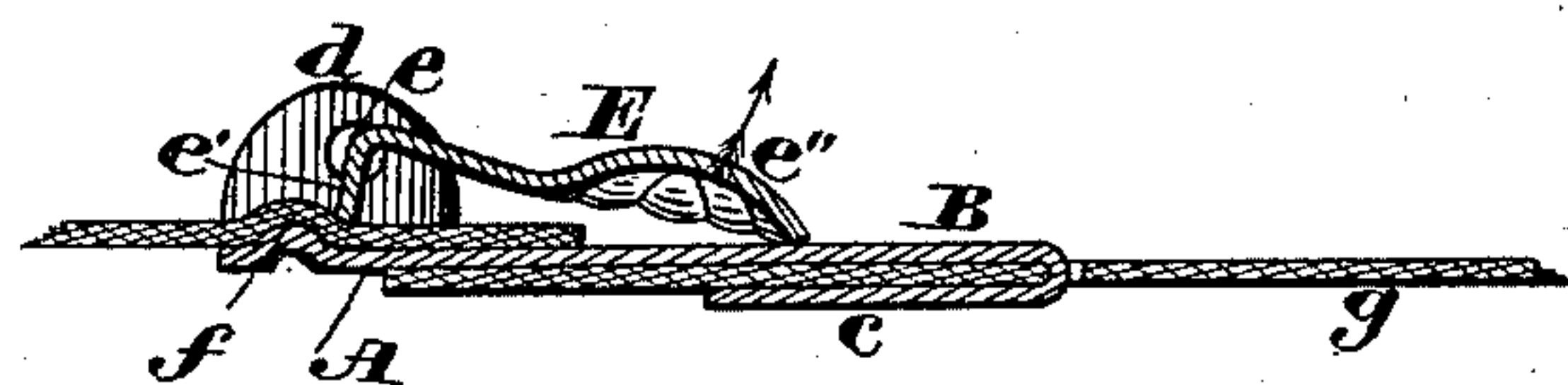
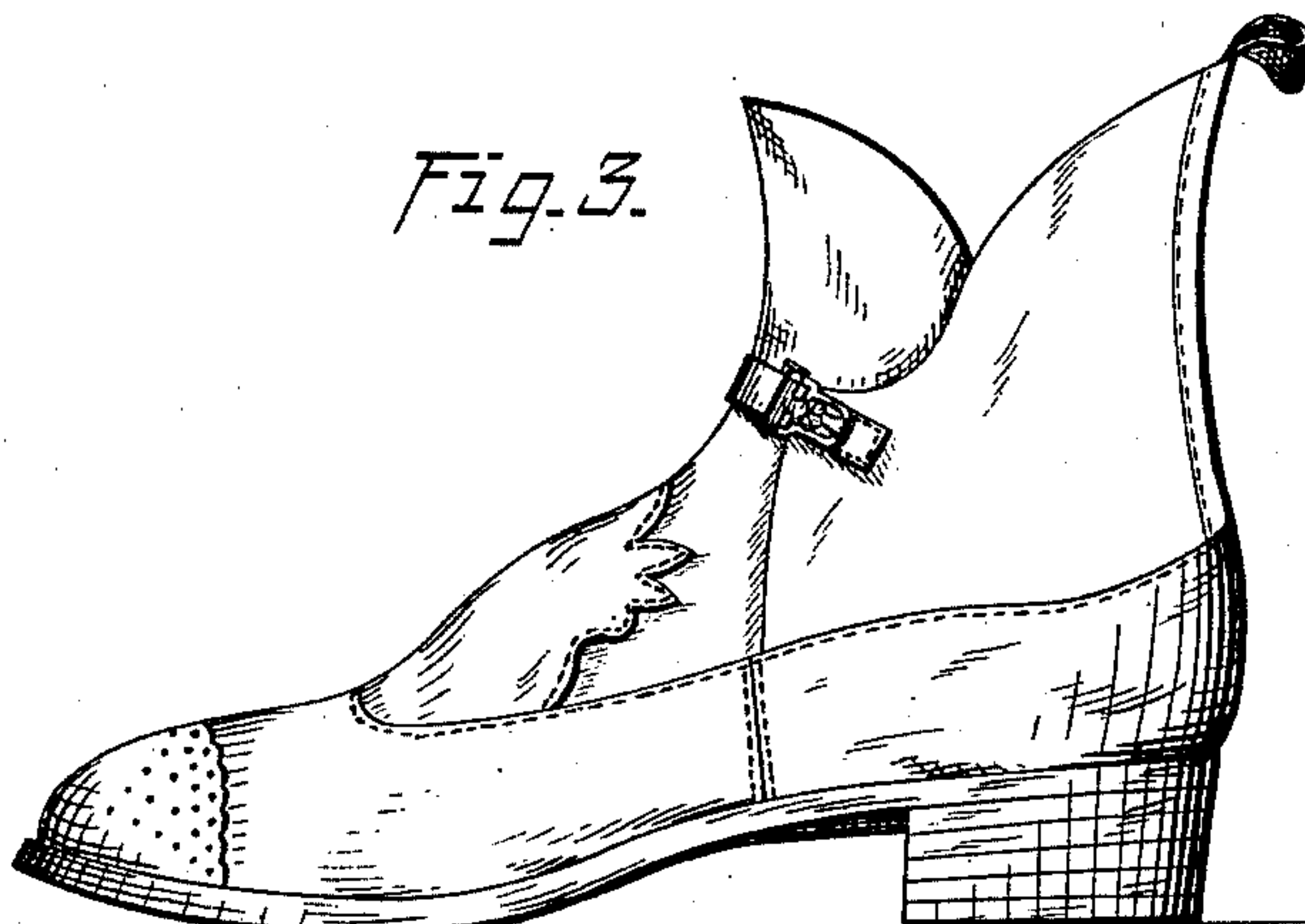


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES=

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J. A. Rutherford

INVENTOR.

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by James L. Norris.  
Att'y.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILBUR F. OSBORNE, OF ANSONIA, CONN., ASSIGNOR TO CHARLES A. VINAL,  
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## IMPROVEMENT IN SHOE-FASTENINGS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **222,725**, dated December 16, 1879; application filed  
October 25, 1879.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILBUR F. OSBORNE, of Ansonia, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoe-Fastenings, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improvement in the fastening devices for that class of shoes the opposite flaps of which are drawn toward each other and held by straps.

Its object is to provide a firm and readily-operated fastening which can engage an adjusting-strap at any part of its length without respect to any predetermined points of engagement, such as holes, as in old styles of buckles, and to protect the foot of the wearer from pressure incident to the operation of the fastening.

Prior to this my present invention it has been customary in the manufacture of buckles to provide the plate which connects the buckle with the strap of the shoe with a series of eyelets or prongs, which in some instances are struck up from said plate or are supplied with staples, rivets, or eyelets, as separate connecting devices, but which in either condition are passed through openings in the strap, or through the plate and strap, and then eyeleted, riveted, clinched, or bent upon the strap, the result being a good and practical means of attaching the buckle with the strap, and which said means, as aforesaid, being well known, will be used in the organization of my improved shoe-fastener.

To complete the organization of my improved fastener, I employ a prominent and important feature that is present in Letters Patent of the United States granted me July 29, 1879, No. 217,953, said feature consisting of a lever pivoted in or upon ears projecting from the plate of a suspender-buckle frame, said plate being provided with a transverse struck-up ridge or bead, under which said ridge or bead the clamping-edge of the pivoted lever extends, so as to securely fasten in position a suspender-strap when interposed between said lever and plate. These parts being well known, it is designed by this present invention to employ said well-known means of connecting

the attaching-plate to the strap and the principle of confining the strap between the pivoted lever and ridged or beaded plate in one structure, whereby is produced a cheap, practical, and durable shoe-fastener.

My present invention consists in a fastener for shoes composed of a broad base-plate having a rear extension provided with means for its attachment to a strap, and with a transverse bead or ridge at its front edge, and a clamping bent-lever plate fulcrumed near the said front edge of the base-plate, and having its short arm terminating slightly above and to the rear of said bead or ridge. The broad base-plate affords an abutment for the strap and lever, and prevents the shoe-flap from being indented in such manner as to be painful to the foot, while the clamping-lever and ridge or bead permit the adjusting-strap to be secured at any desired point, as will be hereinafter particularly described and explained.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved fastening. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal central section of the same and straps. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a shoe provided with my improved fastening.

The letter A designates the base of the fastening, and B an extension of the same, provided with prongs *c*, by which it may be secured to a stop, *g*, as in Figs. 2 and 3. This extension may, however, be secured to the strap in any known manner.

The letter *d* indicates ears arranged on opposite sides of the base A at its front portion, and provided with bearings for receiving the journals or pivots *e* of a lever-plate, E, the short arm *e'* of which stands at about a right angle to its long arm *e''*. When this long arm lies against the base A the edge of the short arm stands slightly above and to the rear of a straight ridge or bead, *f*, projecting from the upper surface of the base A along its front margin, the distance between said bead and the edge of the arm being somewhat less than the normal thickness of the adjusting-strap which is to be engaged with the fastening, said strap being shown at *g*. When the strap is passed, as shown, between the



bead *f* and the edge of the lever, and said edge forced down upon the strap, the latter will be firmly clamped and prevented from slipping, and it will be seen that any part of the strap may be so clamped and the adjustment varied to any desired extent, in contradistinction to the old method of adjustment by tongue-buckles and perforated straps, the variation of the adjustment of which is governed by the distance between the perforations, and when the tongue of the buckle is in one perforation the strap may be drawn too tight, while the engagement of said tongue in the next inner hole may render it too loose. The securing of the adjusting-strap being attended by pressure upon the entire fastening, as well as upon the lever-plate, I have made the base *A* of such dimensions as to underlie the entire lever-plate, and with a broad flat under surface, which prevents it from being forced into the shoe-flap in such manner as to give pain to the wearer either while the strap is being clamped or afterward.

I do not wish to be understood as claiming, broadly, a sheet-metal buckle-frame having its upper portion formed of a continuous plate bent at the ends to form ears, and provided with a transverse struck-up ridge or bead, a lever being pivoted to the said ears, and hav-

ing its clamping-edge adapted to extend under said ridge or bead, as claimed in the Letters Patent issued to me July 29, 1879, and numbered 217,953.

My present invention is a shoe-fastening composed of a broad base-plate, which affords an abutment for the strap and lever, and prevents the shoe-flap from being indented in such manner as to be painful to the foot, and said solid base-plate is formed integral with a solid rearward extension, serving as a means of attachment to a strap.

What I claim is—

An improved fastening for shoes, &c., consisting of the base-plate having an extension, and provided with the transverse ridge or bead and the pivoted lever, said base-plate adapted to be connected or secured in position by suitable means, all constructed and operating substantially as herein shown and set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of the subscribing witnesses.

WILBUR F. OSBORNE.

Witnesses:

FRANKLIN BURTON,  
ADOLPH W. KING.