

(No Model.)

M. J. O'LEARY.

BRIDLE BIT.

No. 274,648.

Patented Mar. 27, 1883.

Fig. 1.

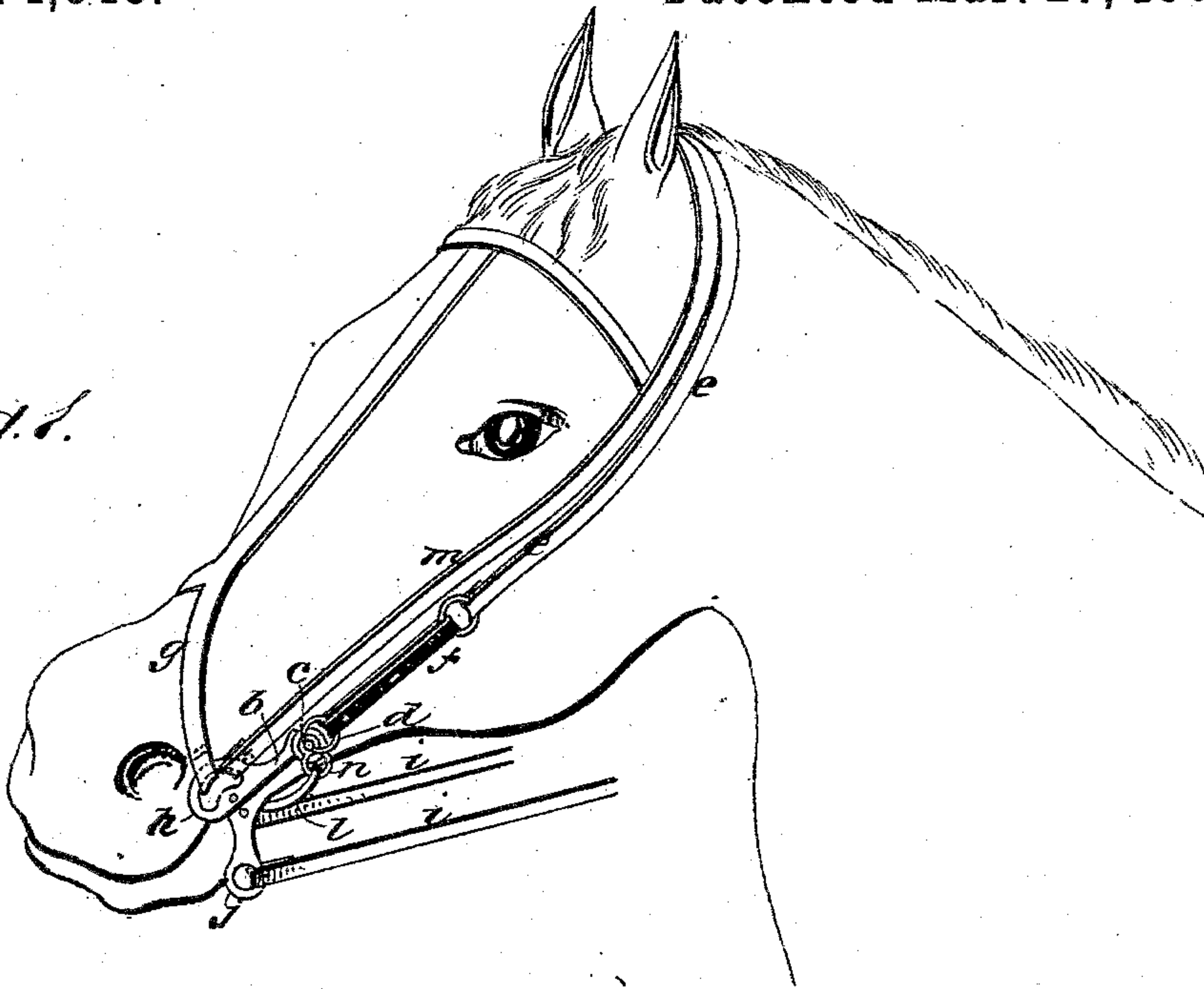
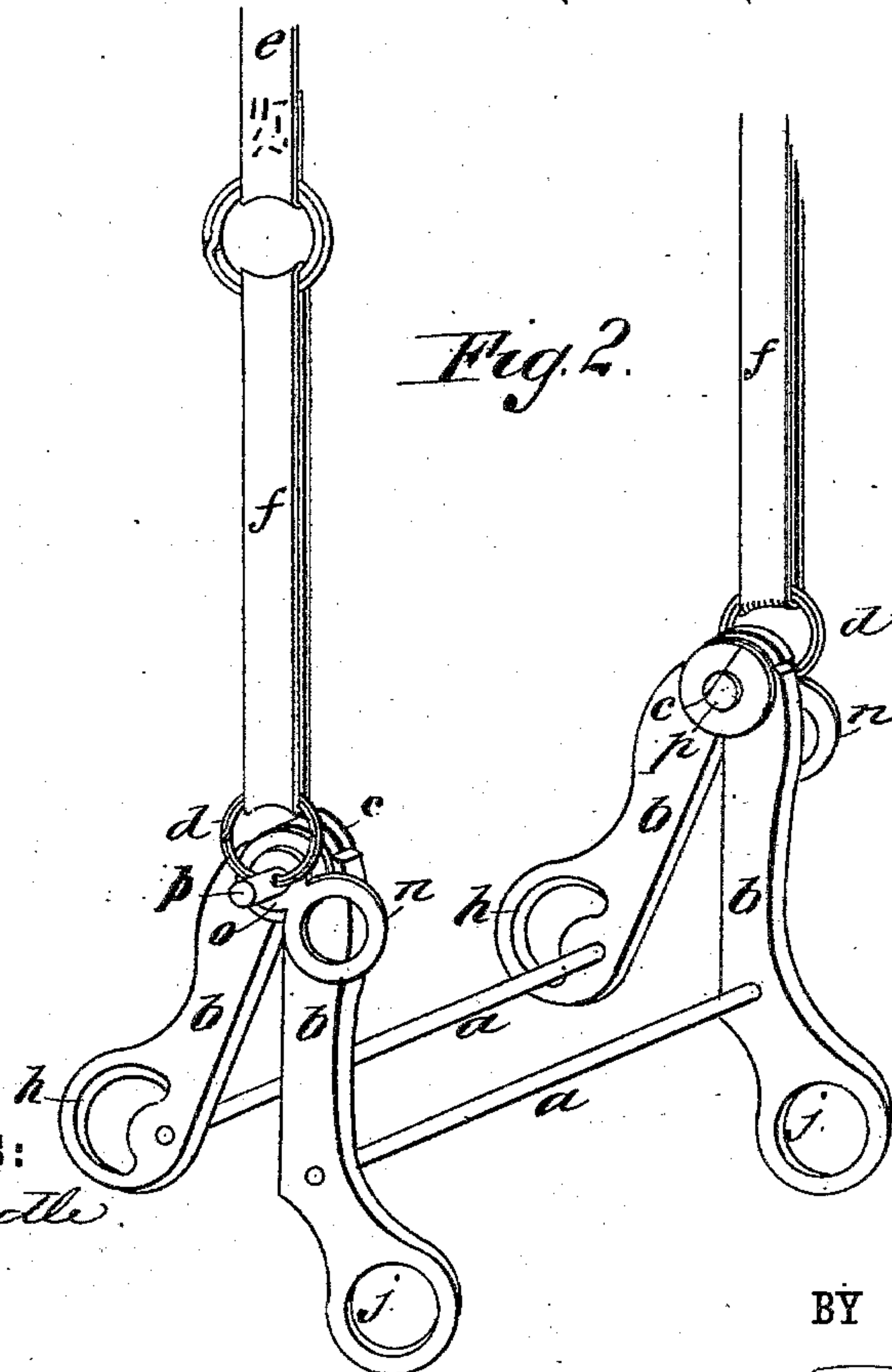


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES:

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BRIDLE-BIT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 274,648, dated March 27, 1883.

Application filed January 10, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MICHAEL J. O'LEARY, of Springville, in the county of Ventura and State of California, have invented a new and Improved Bridle-Bit, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention consists of a bit made in two parts and held together by springs, to operate as one bit when the horse is in a gentle mood, but which separate and operate as a double bit to open the mouth and gag the horse in a manner calculated to have a powerful effect in checking him up, as hereinafter fully described.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in both the figures.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bridle with my improved bit applied to a horse, and Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the bit detached.

The bit consists of the two parallel rods *a*, respectively connected to the metal bars *b*, which range up along the cheeks of the horse when the bit is in the mouth, and are pivoted together at *c*, where rings *d* are attached for connection of the bit to the headstall *e*, which I propose to do by means of rubber or other springs, *f*. The nose-strap *g* is connected by rings *h* to hold one of the parts *a* of the bit against the upper jaw, and the reins *i* are connected to rings *j* of the other pair of bars to pull the other part *a* against the lower jaw for opening the mouth. The springs *f* hold the two parts of the bit together with sufficient power to resist the pull of the reins when the horse drives gently, but which will expand when the reins are pulled with the force necessary to use when the animal becomes restive, the joints *c* then swinging downward on rings *n* as pivots and allowing the bit to open.

The bit is closed by the contraction of springs *f* when the stress on the reins slackens. These springs *f* are designed to have the requisite power to keep the bit closed for ordinary driving, and only allow it to open when the horse becomes restive.

The ordinary check-straps, *m*, may be connected to the rings *h* in the ordinary way, and check-reins may be employed, if required. The bit may be used with driving or riding reins.

l represents a curb-strap attached to curb-rings *n*, attached by an eye, *o*, to the pivots *p*, on which they are fastened by lap-rings *d*, to which the headstall is connected. If it is desired to drive with a common straight bit, the reins may be connected to the curb-rings *h*, so that the bit-sections *b* shall always remain closed.

Having thus fully described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. The combination, with a bridle, of a bit consisting of two rods, *a*, each connected to bars *b*, and the bars of each rod pivoted together at *c*, substantially as described.

2. The jointed bars *b*, having rods *a*, and being connected to the headstall *e*, nose-strap *g*, and reins *i*, substantially as described.

3. The combination of springs *f* with the jointed bars *b* and rods *a*, said jointed bars being connected to the bridle, and having the reins connected to them, substantially as described.

4. The combination of the springs *f* with the headstall *e* and the bit, consisting of jointed bars *b* and rods *a*, substantially as described.

MICHAEL JOSEPH O'LEARY.

Witnesses:

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GEO. B. CRANDALL.