

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

R. C. IRVINE.

BITTING AND DRIVING HARNESS.

No. 313,673.

Patented Mar. 10, 1885.

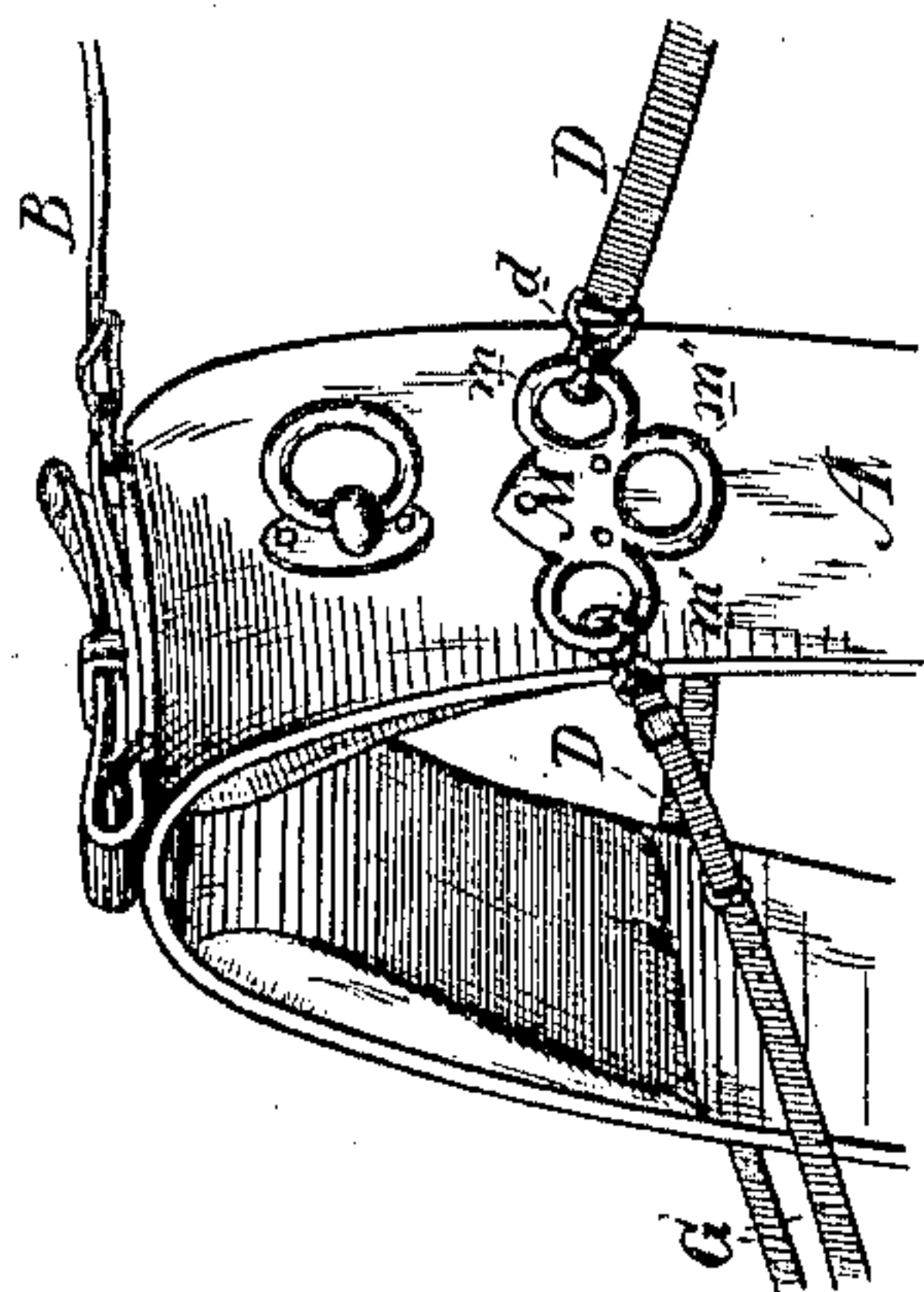


Fig. 2.

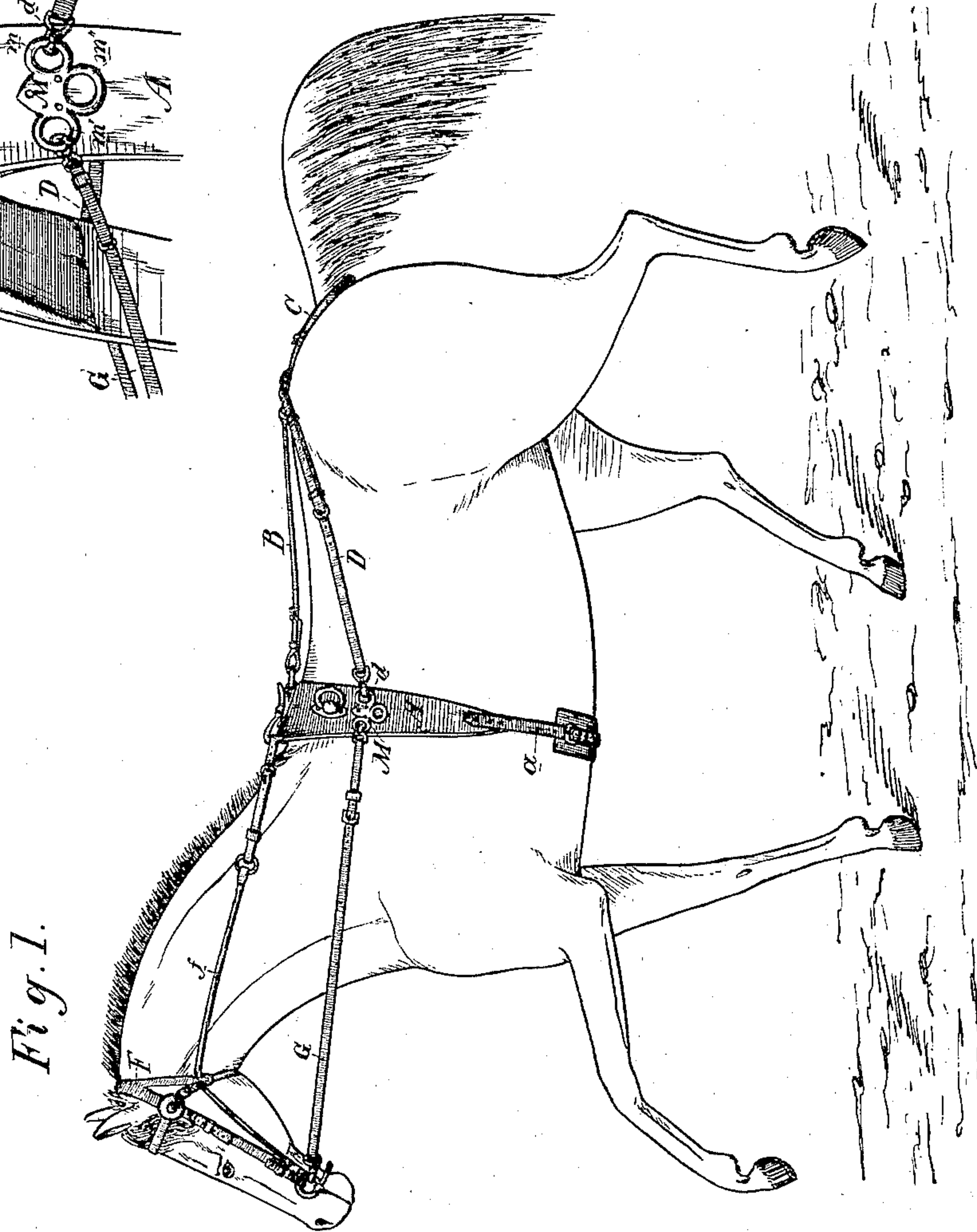


Fig. 7.

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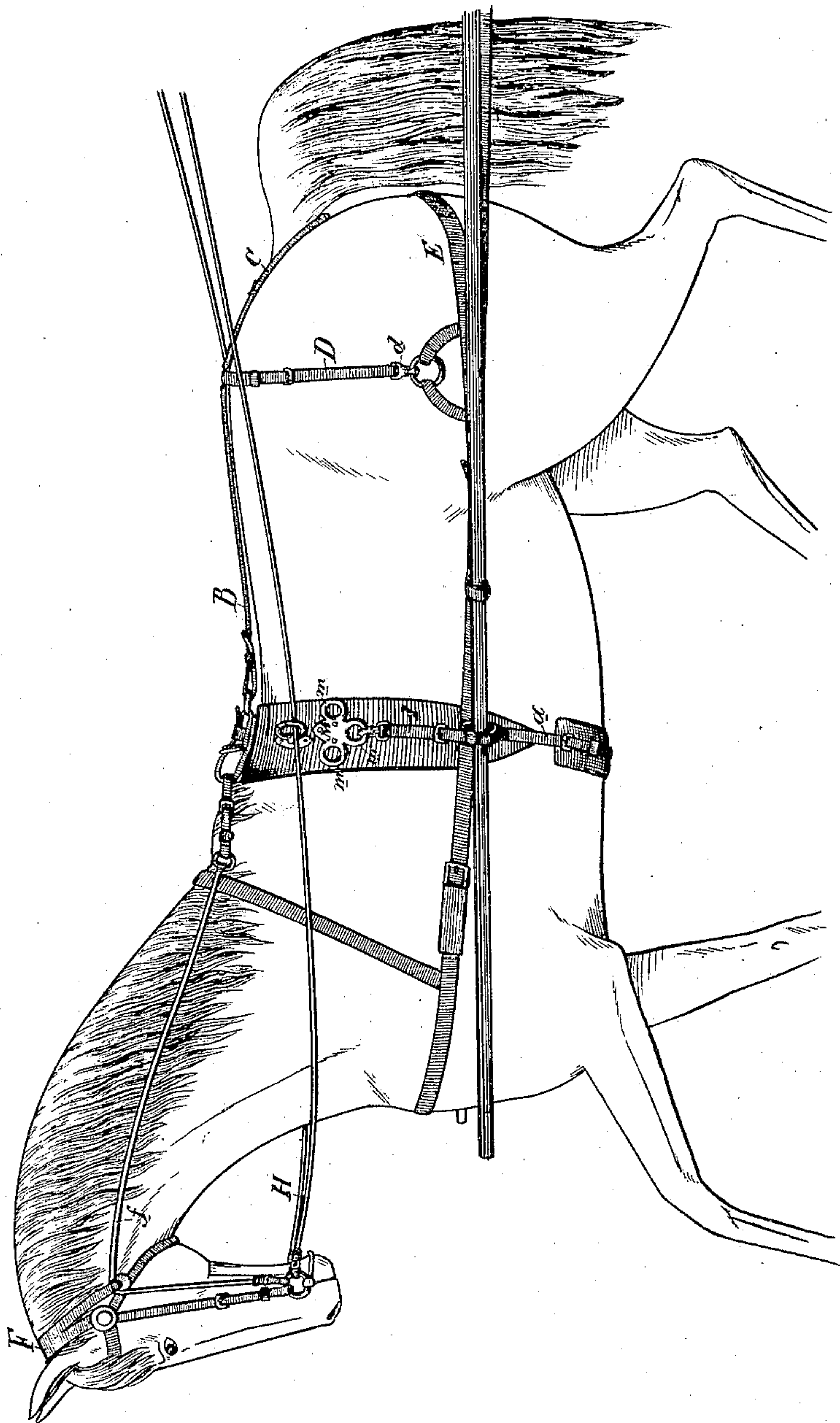
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Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RICHARD C. IRVINE, OF SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA.

BITTING AND DRIVING HARNESS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 313,673, dated March 10, 1885.

Application filed November 10, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RICHARD C. IRVINE, of the city and county of Sacramento, and State of California, have invented an Improvement in Convertible Biting and Driving Harness; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

My invention relates to the class of harness and to certain new and useful improvements therein, by which a biting-harness may readily be converted into a driving-harness, and vice versa.

My invention consists in the adaptation of the hip-straps of the driving-harness to serve as the side back-straps of the biting-harness; in a fastening on each side of the saddle adapted to engage the ends of the side back-straps and the side check-straps of the biting-harness and the shaft-bearers and tugs of the driving-harness, and in suitable fastenings upon said straps by which their various engagements are readily effected, all of which I shall hereinafter fully explain.

In teaching a colt to become accustomed to the bit, or, as it is usually termed, to become "bridle-wise," a harness known as a "bitting" harness is employed. This differs from the ordinary driving-harness in the omission of some parts and the changed construction and adaptation of others to make the harness serve the purpose intended. To illustrate this, the breeching, the shaft-bearers and tugs, and the driving-reins, which are always present in the driving-harness, are omitted in the bitting-harness, the object being not to put the colt to work but to teach him to become accustomed to the bit. The bitting-harness is usually a separate and distinct harness from the driving-harness, and they cannot be used interchangeably.

It is the object of my invention to provide, by means of a proper construction, arrangement, and adaptation of parts, a harness which can readily be converted from one to the other kind and answer effectively for either.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a view showing the harness when converted into a biting-harness and applied to a colt. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the upper portion of the saddle. Fig. 3 is a view showing the application of the driving-harness.

A is the usual saddle, secured by the belly-band *a*. B is the turn-back strap, and C the crupper. Secured to the rear portion of the turn-back strap are the straps D, which in the biting-harness serve as side back-straps, Fig. 1, and in the driving-harness, Fig. 3, serve as the usual hip-straps. In the latter harness they are secured to and support the breeching E by means of any suitable snap-hook, *d*, buckle, or other fastening, though I prefer a snap-hook as being the most easily and quickly adjusted.

In the biting-harness, the breeching being omitted, the straps are readily disengaged from it, and are then carried forward and snapped into a loop, *m*, on the side of the saddle below the rein-ring, as shown in Fig. 2. As will be seen by this figure, the loop *m* forms one of three loops of a plate or casting, M, riveted to the saddle. The opposite loop is designated by *m'*, and the lower central one by *m*². I do not, however, confine myself to the plate M as a means for attaching the various straps, for other forms of fastenings may be used; but I prefer the three-looped plate for its simplicity and effectiveness.

The bridle F may be any suitable bridle either for driving or breaking, as either will answer the purpose of the other to an extent sufficient to warrant its use. The check rein or strap *f* of the bridle is hooked to the saddle, as usual.

G, Fig. 1, are the side check-straps, provided with snap-hooks, the forward ends being snapped into the rings of the bit, and their rear ends being snapped into the loop *m'* of the plate M.

When used as a driving-harness, the side check-straps, G, are easily removed and omitted, as they are not needed, the driving-reins H, Fig. 3, being substituted and properly directed.

The shaft-bearers and tugs I, Fig. 3, of the driving-harness, and which are absent in the biting-harness, are provided with snap-hooks and engage or are otherwise secured to the lower loop, *m*², of plate M.

In order to convert the driving-harness (shown in Fig. 3) into the biting-harness of Fig. 1, I first unhook the hip-straps D from the breeching (which is dispensed with) and carry

the said straps forward and hook them to loop *m*, forming the side back-straps, D, of Fig. 1. I then unhook and dispense with the shaft-bearers and tugs I, dispense with the usual breast-strap and traces and reins, and put on the side check-straps, G, securing them to the bit-rings and loops *m'*, as shown. In this manner but one set of harness is required to answer both purposes, and the conversion from one to the other may be easily and quickly made.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is--

1. In a convertible biting and driving harness, the straps D, in combination with the plate M, whereby said straps are adapted to be used for either hip-straps or side straps, substantially as herein described.

2. In a convertible biting and driving harness, the side back-straps, D, of the biting-harness secured to the turn-back strap and to the saddle, adapted to be employed for the hip-straps of a driving-harness, substantially as herein described.

3. In a convertible biting and driving harness, the straps D, secured by one end to the turn-back strap, and provided with means whereby it is adapted to be secured by their other ends to either the saddle or the breeching, substantially as and for the purpose herein described.

4. In a convertible biting and driving harness, the hip-straps D of the driving-harness, in combination with the saddle provided with

a suitable connecting device to engage said straps when freed of the breeching, whereby they form the side back-straps of the biting-harness, substantially as herein described.

5. In a convertible biting and driving harness, the hip-straps D of the driving-harness, having suitable fastenings by which they are attached to the breeching, in combination with the saddle A, having a loop or ring, *m*, upon each side, whereby the hip-straps, when freed from the breeching, may engage the saddle to form the side back-straps of the biting-harness, substantially as herein described.

6. In a convertible biting and driving harness, the combination of the saddle A, provided with the three-looped plates M, one on each side, the straps D, provided with snap-hooks, and adapted to engage the breeching or the rear loop of the plates M, and forming, according to their engagement, the hip-straps of a driving-harness or the side back-straps of a biting-harness, the side check-straps, G, provided with snap-hooks engaging the bit-rings and the forward loop of the plates M, and the shaft-bearers and tugs I, provided with snap-hooks engaging the lower loops of said plates, substantially as herein described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

RICHARD C. IRVINE.

Witnesses:

C. D. COLE,
LEE D. CRAIG.