

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

G. VALIANT.
SHOE FASTENING.

No. 355,955.

Patented Jan. 11, 1887.

Fig. 1.



WITNESSES:

James Hutchinson.
Henry C. Hazard.

INVENTOR:

George Valiant
by Pringle and Russell
his attorneys

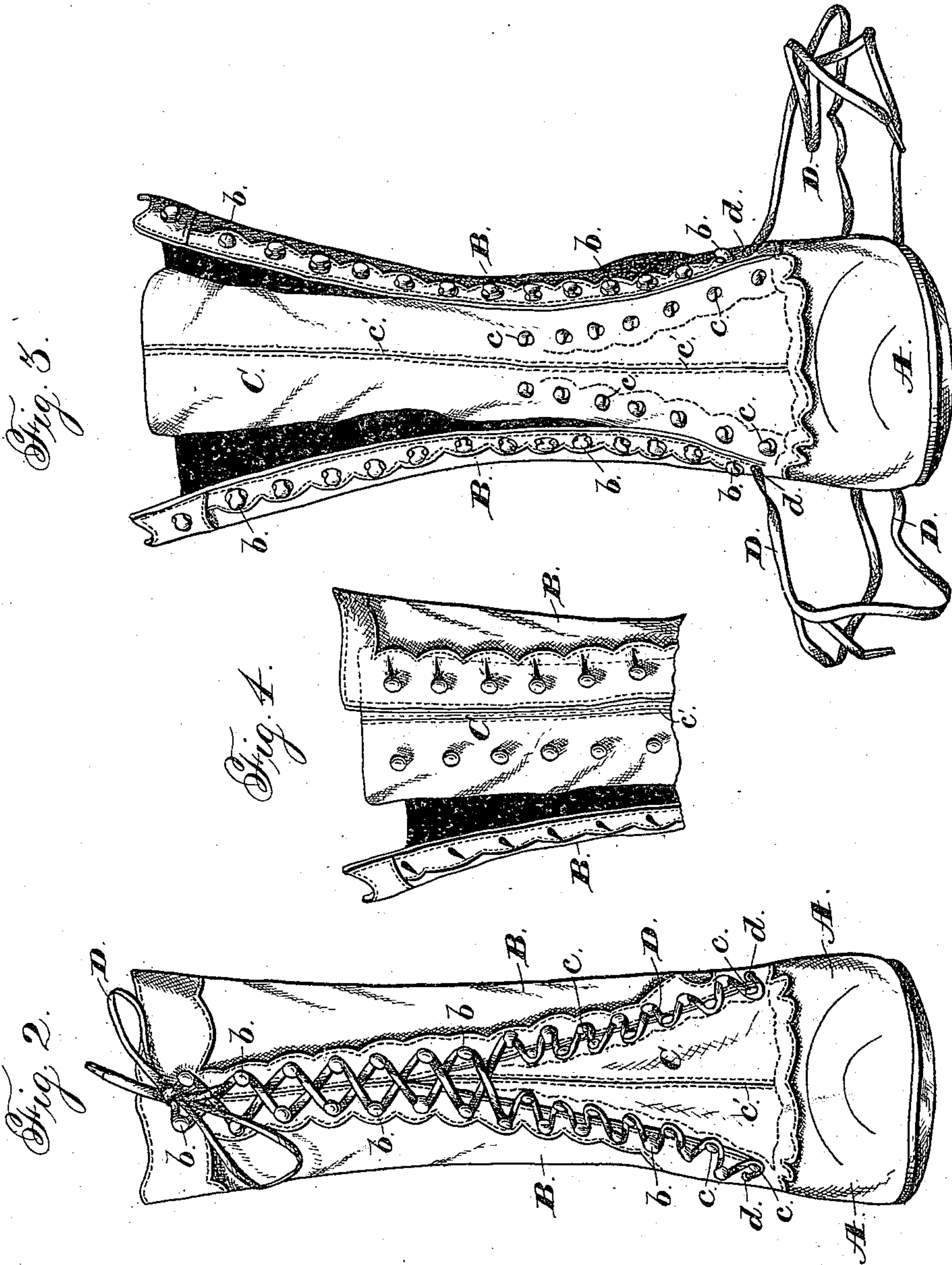
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE VALIANT, OF TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA.

SHOE-FASTENING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 355,955, dated January 11, 1887.

Application filed April 1, 1886. Serial No. 197,462. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE VALIANT, of Toronto, in the county of York, and in the Province of Ontario, Canada, have invented

5 certain new and useful Improvement in Boots and Shoes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

10 Figure 1 shows a view of my improved shoe in side elevation; Fig. 2, a view of the same, in front elevation, laced up; Fig. 3, a similar view of the shoe unlaced, and Fig. 4 a detail view of a portion of a button-boot made in accord-

15 ance with my invention.

Letters of like name and kind refer to like parts in each of the figures.

The object of my invention is to provide an improvement in shoes or boots; and to this end

20 my invention consists in the shoe and in the parts thereof, constructed, arranged, and combined, as hereinafter specified.

In button-shoes as heretofore made and in the market, if the shoe does not fit over the in-

25 step and across the front of the foot and ankle and the buttons are moved either forward or back to make it fit, the front seam is thrown out of line or to one side or the other of the central line up the instep, and the shoe is conse-

30 quently made unsymmetrical and often unsightly.

In lace-shoes as heretofore made, where it is not permanently fastened to the edges of the quarter, the tongue, not being attached at all

35 to either edge of the quarter, or being attached only to one edge thereof, is apt to work or get out of place, so as to show the stocking of the wearer at one side of the space between the two quarter edges in an unsightly manner.

40 When such lace-shoes do not fit the foot of the wearer properly across the instep, the edges of the quarter have to either be brought so closely together as to make the front of the shoe, when laced up, quite stiff and uncomfortable, or are

45 so wide apart that the tongue cannot properly and surely close the entire space between them and cover the stocking. To avoid these objec-

50 tions to the shoes or boots as heretofore made, I have invented the shoe, as shown in the drawings, and set forth in the specification hereinafter, which can be nicely adjusted or fitted to

the foot of the wearer without throwing the central front seam out of line or its proper position, and when laced up tight will still be flexible and easy across the instep and front

55 of the foot and ankle.

In the drawings, in which I show a laced shoe embodying or made in accordance with my invention, A designates the vamp of the shoe, B the quarter of the same, and C the

60 tongue, attached at its lower end to the vamp and extending upward between the edges of the quarter. Instead of having the edges of the quarter close together at their lower ends, as in lace-shoes as heretofore made, I so cut the

65 quarter that its edges at their lower portions are quite wide apart. The tongue C, being made correspondingly broad, is so situated that as the quarter edges are drawn together they will overlap it at each side. Along each of

70 the quarter edges I fasten a series of lacing-hooks, *b b*, of any desired kind and way or manner of fastening. On the front of the tongue I also fasten the two series of corresponding lacing-hooks, *c c*, near the opposite

75 sides of the tongue. Such series of hooks extend from the lower and outer corners of the tongue upward, converging toward each other to correspond with the convergence of the quarter edges when they are drawn together

80 by lacing the shoe. With this construction the edges of the boot-quarter are never drawn together over the instep, but the portion of the tongue between them covers such part of the foot, leaving the shoe there quite flexible and

85 easy.

I prefer to make the tongue with the central seam, *c'*, extending up its entire length, but do not limit myself to such construction.

The converging rows or series of lacing-

90 hooks *c c* are not continued up, so as to meet at their upper ends, but are stopped at such a point that there is some space between them and the seam *c'* on each side.

The lacing-string D is preferably made in

95 one piece and passed through the eyelet-holes *d d* below the lower lacing-hooks in the series *b b* on the quarter edges. In lacing up the shoe the portions of this lacing-string on opposite sides of the shoe are, as shown best in Fig.

100 2, passed inward around the lowest lacing-hooks, *c c*, on the tongue, then outward around

the lowest hooks in the series on the quarter edges, and so on in and out around hooks *c* and *b* until the ends of the series of hooks on the tongue have been reached. The lace ends are then carried across each other and around alternate hooks in the series on the quarter edges in the usual way where lacing-hooks are used on boots or shoes.

My shoe or boot as constructed is flexible and easy on the foot and is readily adjustable as to girt across the instep and ankle. However the shoe is adjusted or changed in girt, the seam down the middle of the tongue will always be kept central and straight. The tongue-piece is always kept in place and fills the space between the quarter edges, so as to conceal and cover effectually the foot and stocking in front.

Instead of the lacing-hooks I contemplate using eyelets, or a combination of hooks and eyelets, as desired.

To make a button-boot in accordance with my invention, buttons may be put on the tongue-piece and corresponding button-holes be made along the quarter edges, as shown in Fig. 4. With a button-boot so constructed the girt or size across the instep and ankle can be adjusted as desired by setting forward or back the rows of buttons on each side of the tongue-piece. The seam along the tongue-piece will then not be pulled to one side or out of line, as where the buttons in boots as heretofore made are set forward or back, and the boot, however adjusted, remains symmetrical in front.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. In a boot or shoe, in combination with the tongue-piece and the quarter edges, lacing-hooks on the tongue on opposite sides of its middle line and on the quarter edges, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In a boot or shoe, in combination with the vamp and the quarter cut in front, substantially as described, to leave considerable space between its edges across the instep, the tongue-piece fastened to the vamp and extending up between the edges of the quarter, the series of lacing-hooks along such edges, and the corresponding series of hooks at or near the sides of the tongue-piece, substantially as and for the purpose described.

3. In a boot or shoe, in combination with the vamp and the quarter having its opposite forward or inner edges cut, substantially as described, to leave a space across the instep between their lower portions when the shoe is laced or fastened, the tongue-piece attached to the shoe only at its lower end, and the corresponding fastening devices along the edges of the quarter and on each side of the tongue, substantially as and for the purpose described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of February, A. D. 1886.

GEORGE VALIANT.

Witnesses:

CHAS. GOODYEAR, Jr.,
ELMER P. HOWE.