

(No Model.)

M. R. DOWLIN.  
HALTER TRIMMING.

No. 356,627.

Patented Jan. 25, 1887.

Fig. 1.

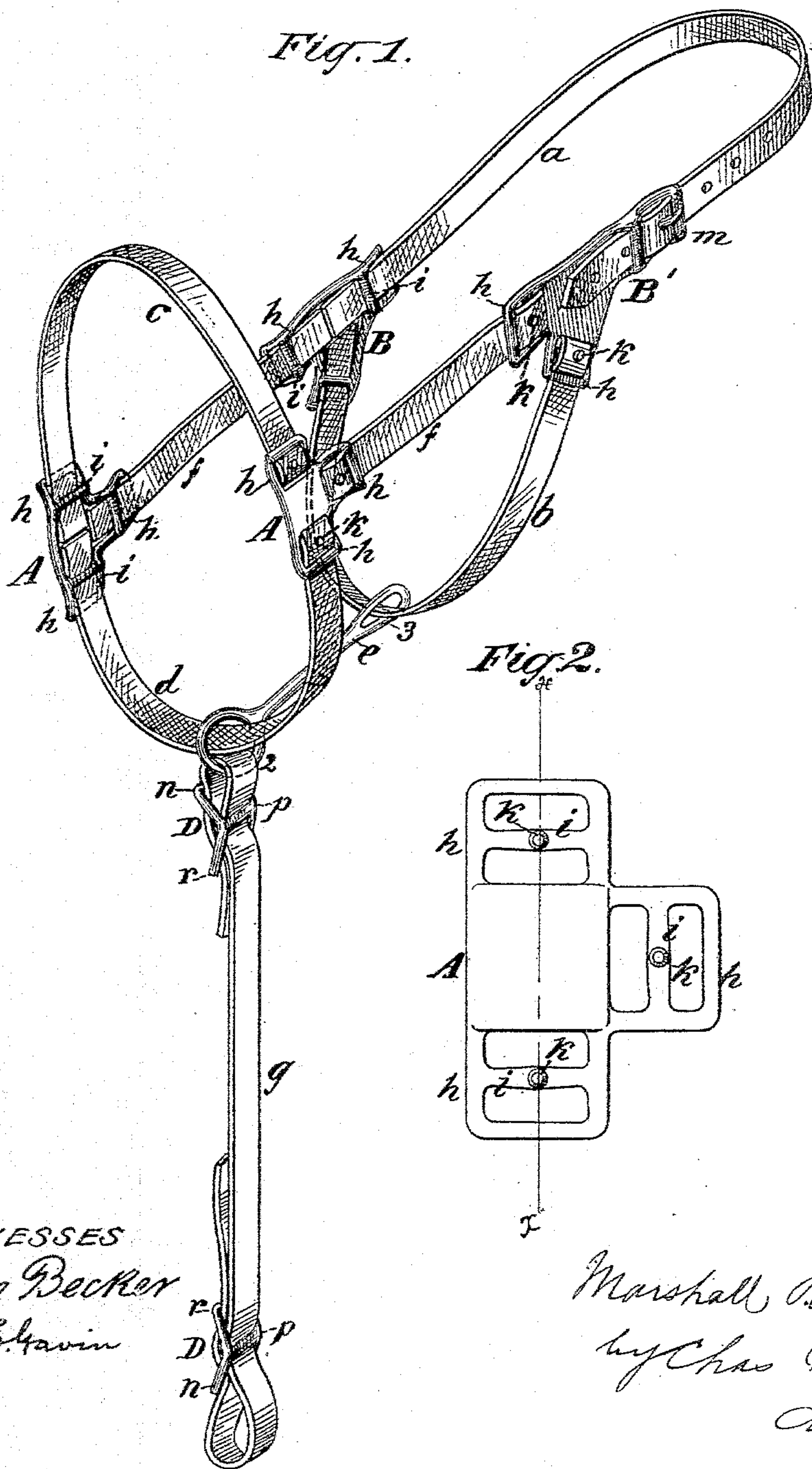


Fig. 2.

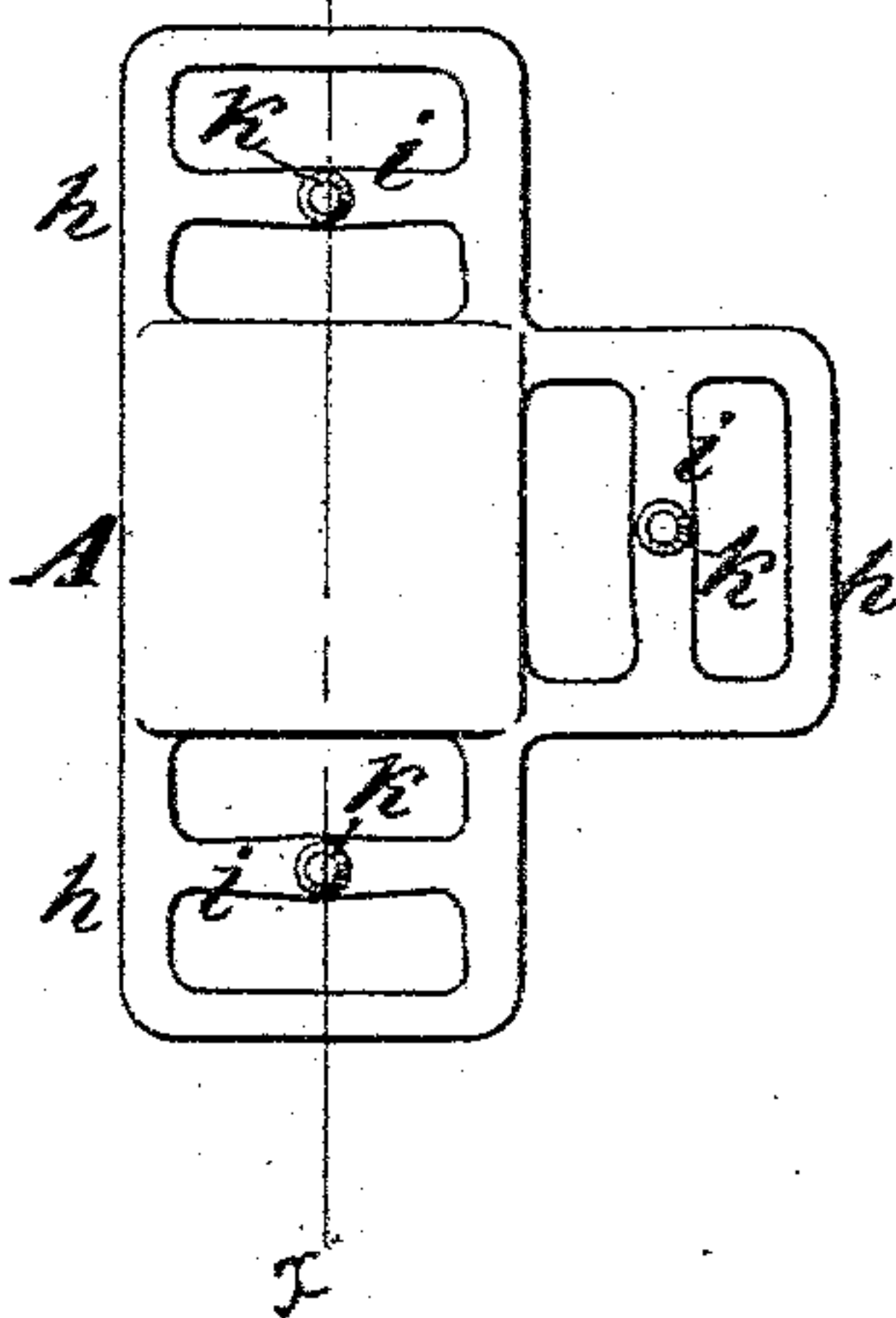
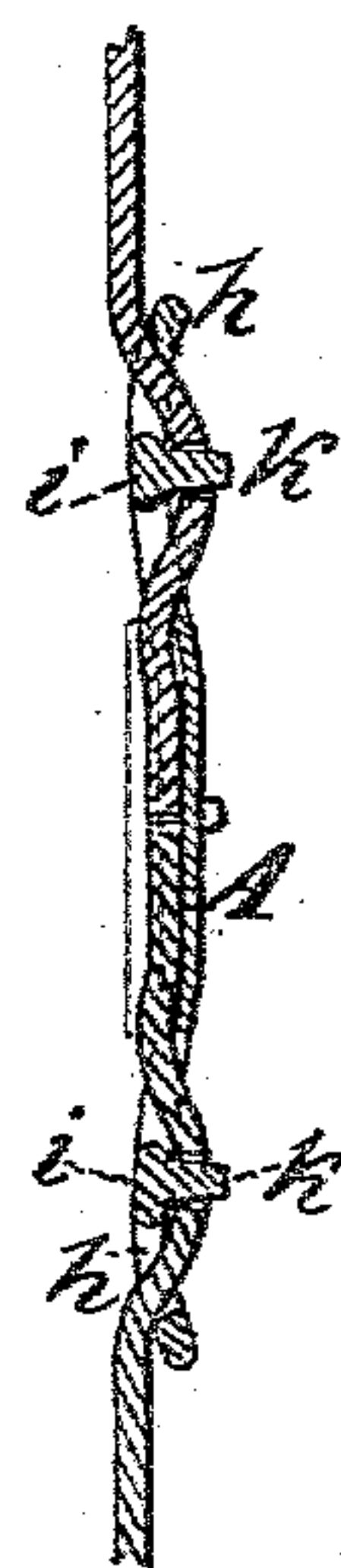


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

John Becker  
Geo. C. Gavin

INVENTOR

Marshall R. Dowlin  
by Chas M. Higgins  
Attorney



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARSHALL R. DOWLIN, OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS.

## HALTER-TRIMMING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters-Patent No. 356,627, dated January 25, 1887.

Application filed January 11, 1886. Serial No. 188,161. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MARSHALL R. DOWLIN, a citizen of the United States, residing at North Adams, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, have  
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Halters and Harness, of which the following is a specification.

My invention applies more particularly to the fitting or construction of halters, but may  
10 also be applied to other articles of harness or saddlery.

The chief object of my invention is to provide a metallic fitting which will serve to connect two or more straps at a common meeting  
15 or radiating point, and at the correct angles, without stitching or rivets, as heretofore used, and which will also allow a certain adjustment of the straps, and also to conceal the meeting ends of the straps.

20 My invention relates to that class of fittings which consist of a plate made with a series of arms radiating therefrom at the desired angles at which the straps are to be attached, said radiating arms being formed as buckles to receive the straps, either in the form of common  
25 buckles with a hinged tongue or in the form of "stud-buckles" with a fixed spur, into which buckle-arms may be looped, the perforated straps thereby fastening several radiating straps together in one central fitting at  
30 the desired angles without stitches, rivets, or other fastenings.

In my improvement I make the fitting with a blank hollowed center, from which the buckling-arms diverge, so that the ends of the straps  
35 meet under said blank center and are concealed thereby, whereas heretofore the buckling-arms have all been closely connected together without any blank center to conceal the  
40 meeting ends of the straps.

In the drawings herewith annexed, Figure 1 presents a perspective view of a halter embodying my improvements. Fig. 2 is an enlarged  
45 elevation of one of the improved connecting fittings detached from the straps. Fig. 3 is a vertical section of the same on line *xx* with the straps in place.

In Fig. 1 the general form of the halter is about the same as usual, and contains the usual  
50 straps, *a* being the head-strap; *f f*, cheek-straps; *c*, the nose-band; *d*, the chin-strap, and *b* the throat-strap. *g* is the hitching-

strap or halter-stale, and *e* the gullet-piece connecting the straps *d b*. Now, commonly the several straps are bound together at their  
55 points of intersection or convergence, and secured by stitching or rivets; but in lieu of this mode of fastening I provide the metallic fittings *A B B'* at the said points of convergence, in which the straps are received and secured  
60 in a simple manner, as will now appear. The fittings *A A* are placed at the intersection of the cheeks *f f* with the nose and chin straps *c d*, while the fittings *B B'* are situated at the convergence of the head-strap *a*, cheek-straps  
65 *f*, and throat-strap *b*. These fittings *A B B'* consist of light plates or castings having a series of looped buckling-arms, *h h*, radiating from the center in directions corresponding to the direction of the converging straps to be  
70 connected together, and each looped arm is provided with a cross-bar, *i*, having a projecting spur or tongue, *k*. The central part of the plate is imperforate or blank, as shown in  
75 Figs. 1 and 2, and hollow or concave on the under side, as seen in Fig. 3, and the slotted or looped arms *h h* are slightly curved or bowed inward, the pronged cross-bar *i k* being at the center of the bow, as seen in Fig. 3.

Now, the straps of the halter or other harness  
80 which are to be fastened together are perforated at one or more points near their fastening ends, and are then looped through the slotted arms of the fittings in the manner of a  
85 strap in a buckle, and are caught on the prongs *k*, as fully shown in Fig. 3, the inner end of the strap being received in and concealed by the hollowed center of the fitting, as seen in  
90 Fig. 3, thereby fastening the straps together in a central fitting in a very simple and secure manner, as will be readily appreciated on reference to Figs. 1 and 2. By this means it will  
95 be noted that no stitching, rivets, or other fixed fastenings are used to connect the straps, and no bindings around the meeting ends of  
100 the straps, as usual, and yet the straps are joined together in a quicker, stronger, and simpler manner, and by means which are less expensive and which improve the appearance of the harness, thus presenting important ad-

vantages.  
By perforating the straps with a series of holes at short intervals they may be adjusted in or out in the fittings like a strap in a buckle,



and thus provide for variations in the length of the parts of the halter or other harness in which the fittings are used, which is a great advantage over the fixed fastenings heretofore used, and it will be seen that the blank center of the fittings covers and conceals the meeting ends of the straps, and allows an adjustment of the straps over each other, and thereby protects the ends of the straps and prevents their curving or curling out of place.

In Fig. 1 it will be seen that the arms of the fittings A A lie at right angles, while the arms of the fittings B B lie at oblique angles to correspond with the directions of the straps to be connected, and this inclination of the arms will of course vary in each case according to the direction of the straps, as will be understood. One of the arms on the fitting B' is made with a common buckle, *m*, which is integral with the fitting, and in which the free end of the head-strap *a* is received, so that said strap may be let in or out through the buckle, to increase or decrease the length of the strap and better fit the halter to the head of the horse in the usual way, as will be understood. If desired, however, all the arms of the fittings may be formed with common hinged tongued buckles—such as *m*—instead of the stud-buckle

*h i k*, with its fixed spur *i*; but in most cases I prefer the stud-buckles *h i k*, as will be easily appreciated.

I prefer to make the fittings A B B' and the gullet-piece *e* of light malleable-iron castings tinned or enameled; but they may be stamped from sheet metal or made of any other suitable material.

As before described, the improved fittings A B B' may be applied to other articles of saddlery or harness as well as to halters, wherever they may be found suitable in the connection of straps or bands, without any departure from my invention.

What I claim is—

A halter constructed with a fitting such as A B, arranged at the meeting-points of the straps, having the radial buckling-arms *h*, with cross-bars *i* and spurs *k*, with which the straps engage, and having a blank center, from which said arms diverge, and which covers and conceals the meeting ends of the straps, substantially as shown and described.

MARSHALL R. DOWLIN.

Witnesses:

A. D. CADY,

EDSON M. HODGE.