

(No Model.)

A. C. MATHER.

SHOE LACING AND LACE FASTENING.

No. 362,760.

Patented May 10, 1887.

Fig. 1.

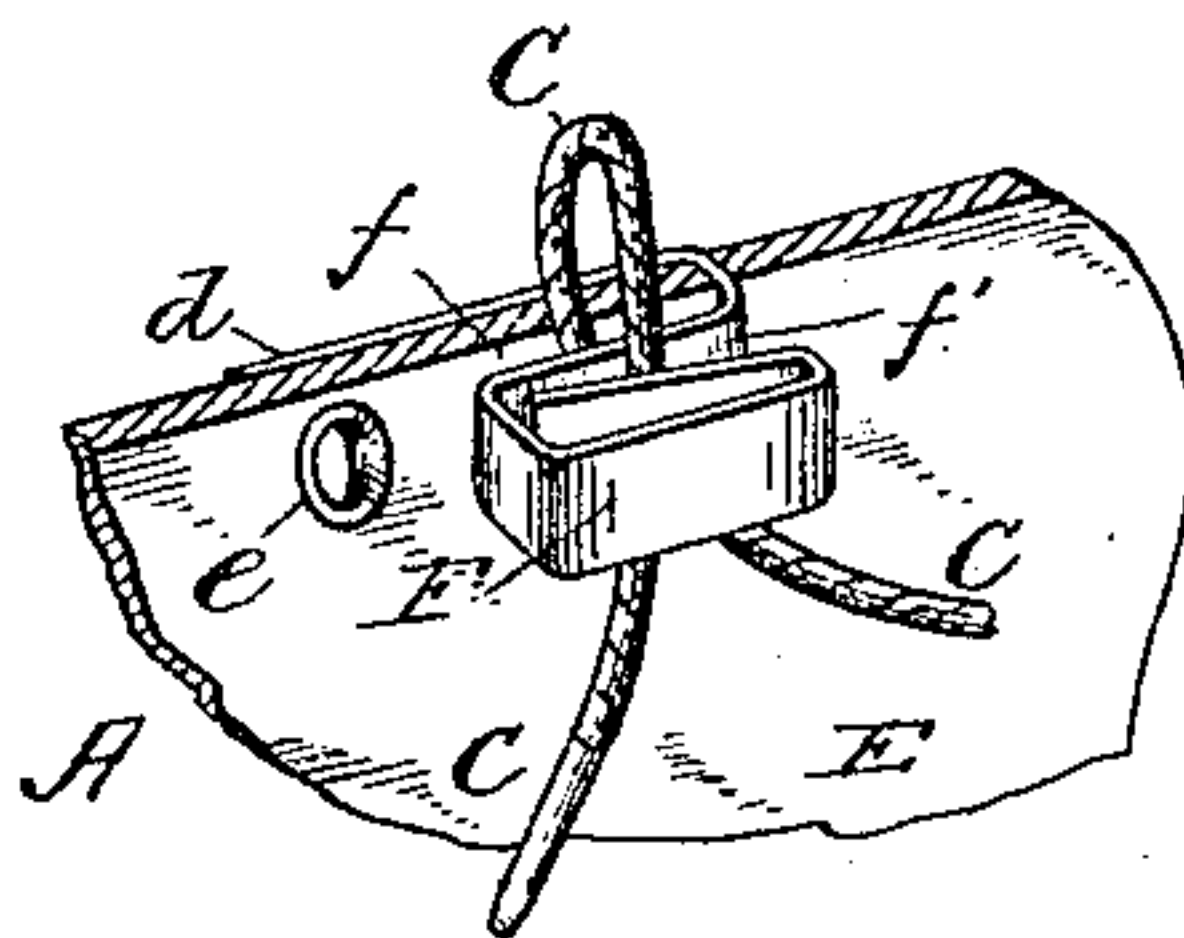
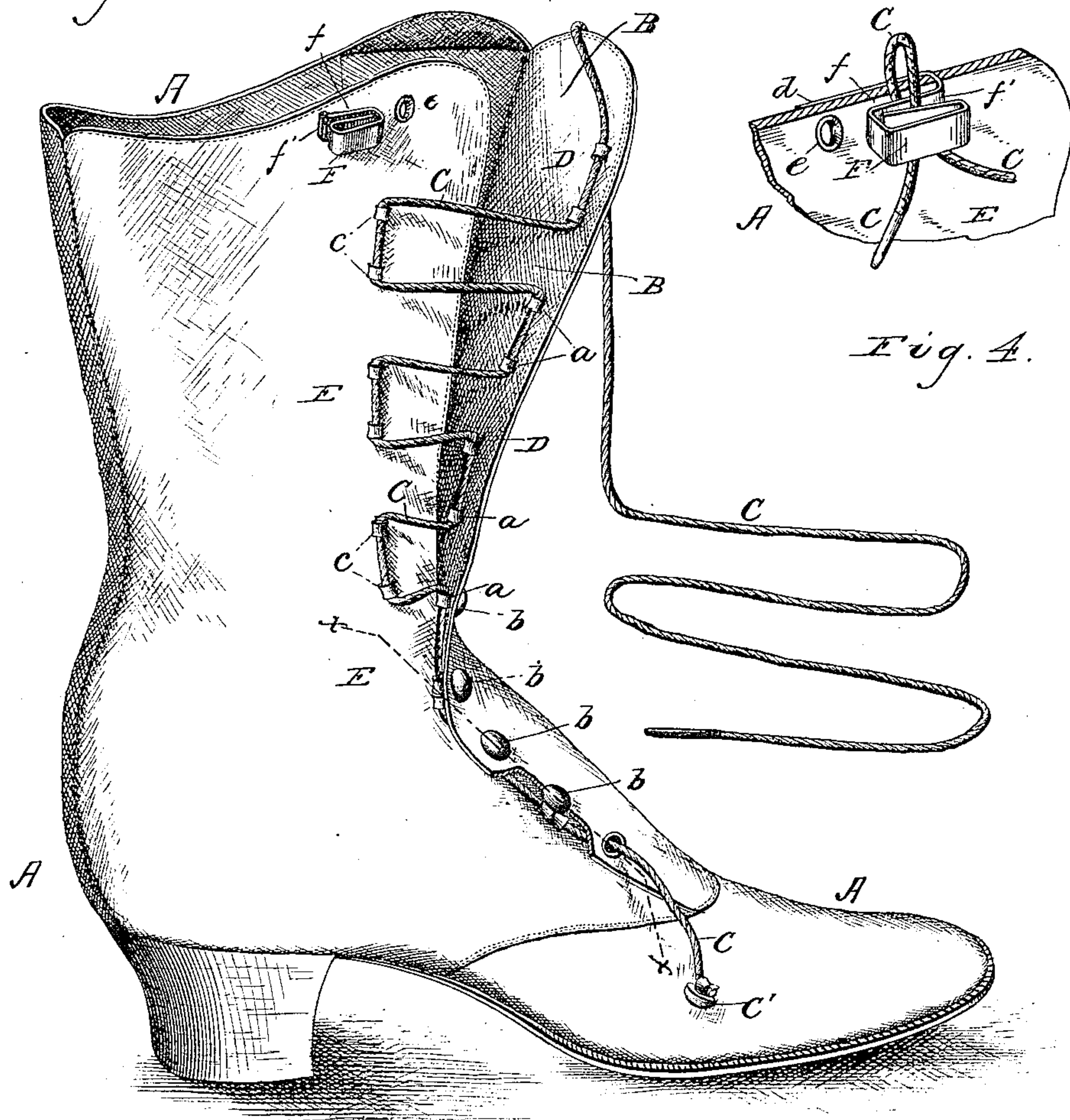


Fig. 4.

Fig. 2.

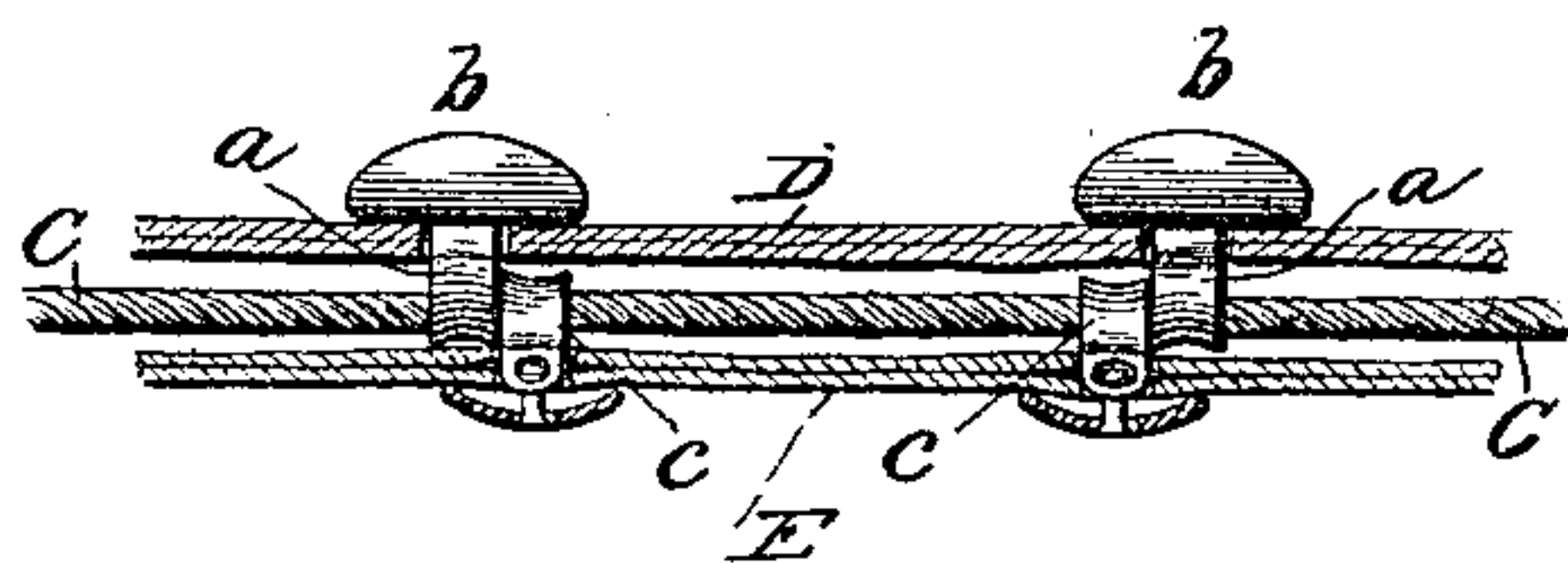


Fig. 3.

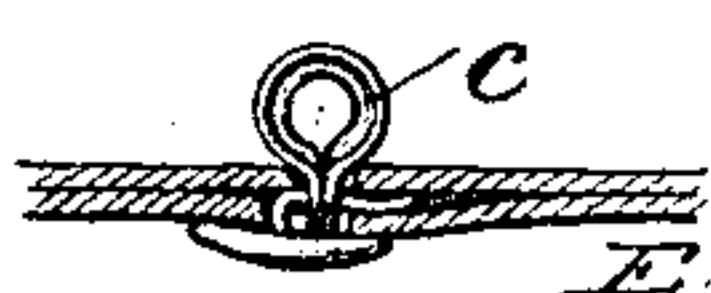
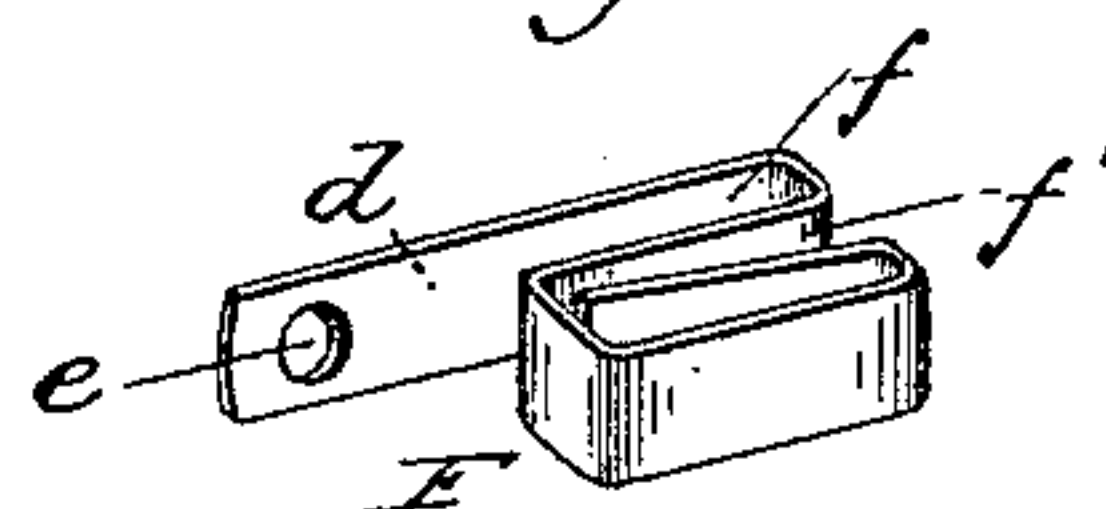


Fig. 5.



Witnesses.

Will B. Quinlan.
Henry Frankfurter.

Inventor.

Alonzo Mather

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALONZO C. MATHER, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

SHOE-LACING AND LACE-FASTENING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 362,760, dated May 10, 1887.

Application filed October 25, 1886. Serial No. 217,115. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALONZO C. MATHER, a citizen of the United States, residing in Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoe Lacings and Fastenings, of which the following, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the shoe, showing my improved lacing and fastening, and embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is an enlarged detail section on the line *x x* of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a detail of one of the eyelets. Fig. 4 is a perspective detail of the metallic fastening attached to the shoe and showing manner of fastening lacing-cord. Fig. 5 is a detail of the metallic fastening detached.

Like letters of reference indicate like parts.

The object of my invention is to provide a shoe lacing and fastening that will not need so long a cord for lacing the shoe as is generally used; also, a lacing and fastening that may be tightened or loosened on the foot of the wearer with ease and facility, and a fastening such as will prevent all accidental loosening or pulling of the lacing-cord on the foot of the wearer when the shoe is laced. This lacing and fastening is also neat, simple, and durable, and assists in making a shoe fit well to the foot of the wearer.

In the drawings, A is a lady's or man's ordinary shoe. B is the slit or opening such as is generally used in that class of shoes. C is the lacing-cord, and C' is a button or stop on one end of the cord C.

D is an overlapping flap or covering for the slit B, and having eyes *a a*. I make button-shaped heads *b b* on the eyes *a a*, as shown.

c c are eyes located along one side of the slit B on the part E of the shoe A.

F is the fastener or lacing-cord holder.

d is a lug or extension on the fastening F, and *e* is an eyelet or staple passing through the lug *d* and the part E of the shoe, thereby attaching the fastener F to the shoe.

I am aware that heretofore there have been shoe lacings or fastenings where the lacing-cord has been laced alternately across at an angle and tied at the top of the slit. The great objection to that style of lacing is that

the lacing-cord must be very long, and when the wearer of the shoe of that style wishes to take off the shoe he must loosen the lacing-cord from the top of the slit to the lower end of the said slit before he can remove the shoe from the foot, which has always been a long and tedious operation.

The operation with my improved lacing and fastening is both short and easily accomplished by the wearer. After inserting the lacing-cord C through the eyes *a a* and *c c*, in the manner indicated in Fig. 1, the wearer after inserting his foot into the shoe, has only to pull on the upper end of the lacing-cord C, when the overlapping flap D will lie partly over the part E of the shoe A. The eyes *a a* and *c c* will come together in the manner indicated in Fig. 2, thereby locking the lacing-cord C tightly and holding the overlapping flap D firmly in its place all the way up to the top of the shoe, and then the end of the lacing-cord C is attached to the fastening F in the manner shown in Fig. 4, and then the shoe is neatly and tightly laced on the foot of the wearer, and no accidental movement or movement caused by walking will make the lacing become loose or unfastened.

Should the wearer wish to remove the shoe from the foot, he has only to disengage the end of the lacing-cord C from the fastening or holder F, then grasp and pull up slightly the overlapping flap D, and then the slit B will be opened sufficiently wide to allow the shoe to be removed from the foot with ease; but should the wearer wish the slit to be opened more, or should it be necessary to have the lacing-cord to become more loose and have the slit B open wider, he has only to grasp and pull out slightly the stop or button C' on the end of the lacing-cord C and the lacing-cord will be sufficiently loosened to allow the slit B to be opened from top to bottom, all of the operation being accomplished easily and quickly.

The fastening F, I make out of one piece of metal, (as is clearly indicated in Figs. 4 and 5,) preferably steel, and bend in the manner shown, which gives spring enough to tightly grasp and hold the lacing-cord C between the openings *f* and *f'*.

I am aware that a fastener somewhat similar to mine has heretofore been used, and I do not here intend to claim the same, broadly.

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

1. A boot or shoe the quarter or closing flaps of which are provided with the lacing-eyes *a a* and *c c*, arranged upon opposite edges
10 of the same, and a fastener, *F*, all substantially as shown and described.

2. The combination, in a boot or shoe, with the quarter or lacing flaps, of the eyes *a a* and *c c*, arranged upon opposite sides of such quarter or flaps, the fastener *F*, and lacing-cord 15 having the end stop, all arranged to operate substantially as shown and described.

ALONZO C. MATHER.

Witnesses:

HENRY FRANKFURTER,
WILLIAM Y. COE.