

(No Model.)

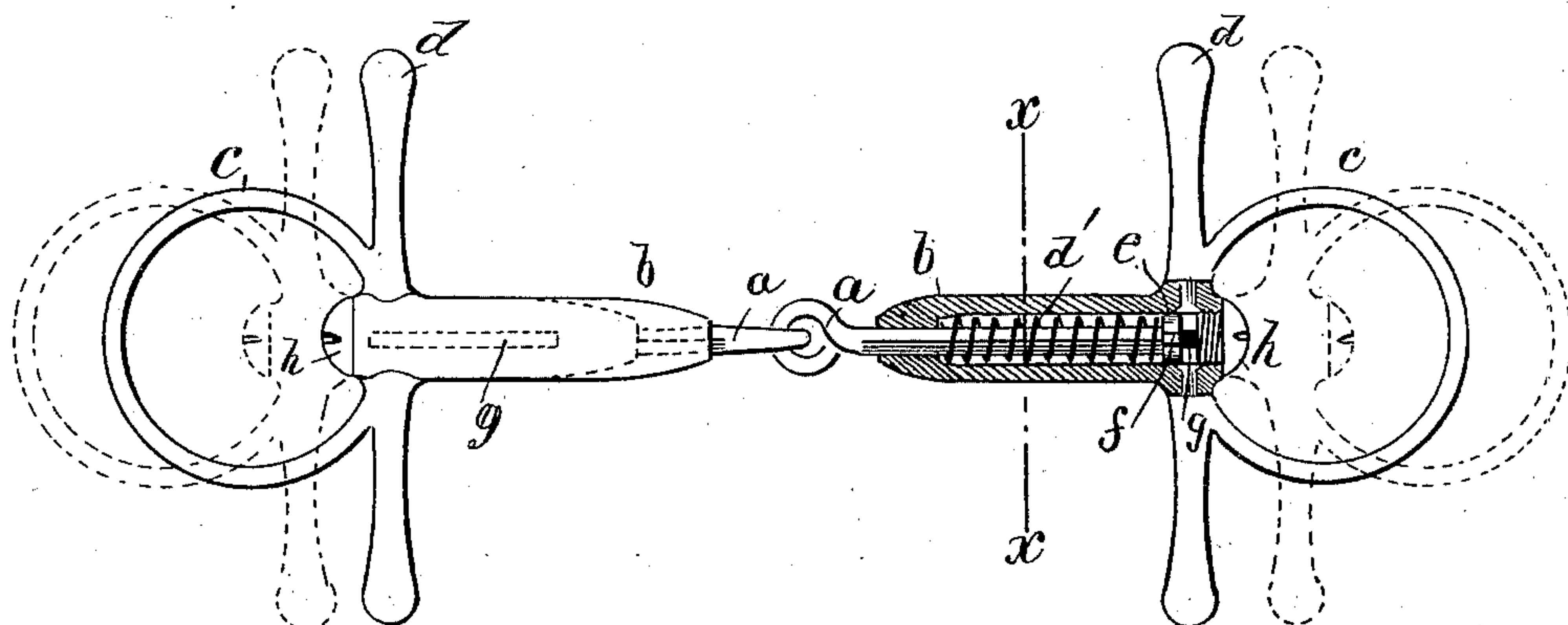
J. A. MANNING.

BRIDLE BIT.

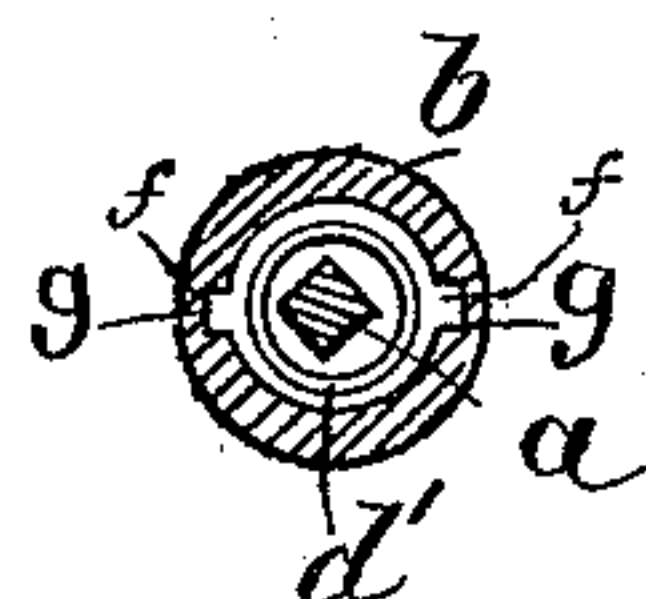
No. 368,776.

Patented Aug. 23, 1887.

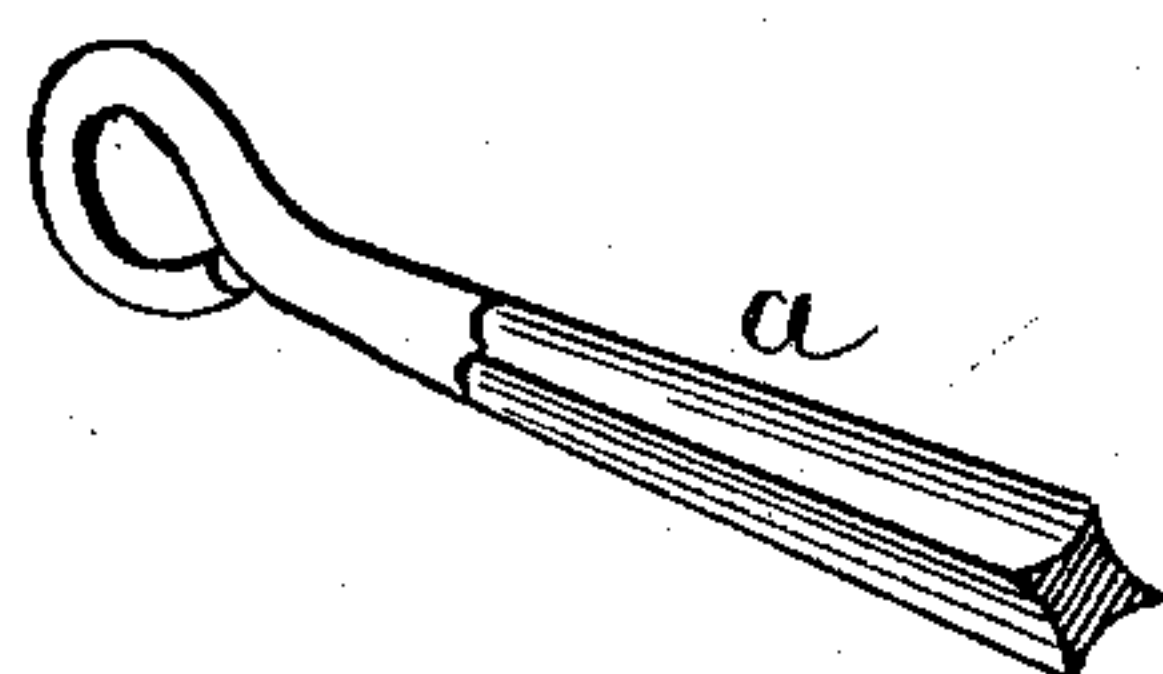
*Fig. 1.*



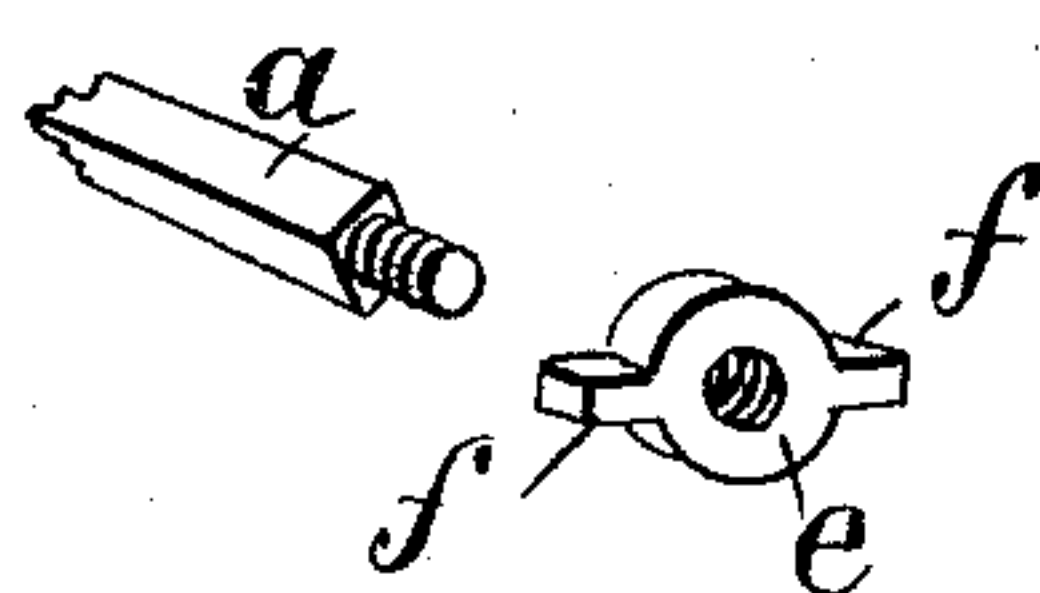
*Fig. 2.*



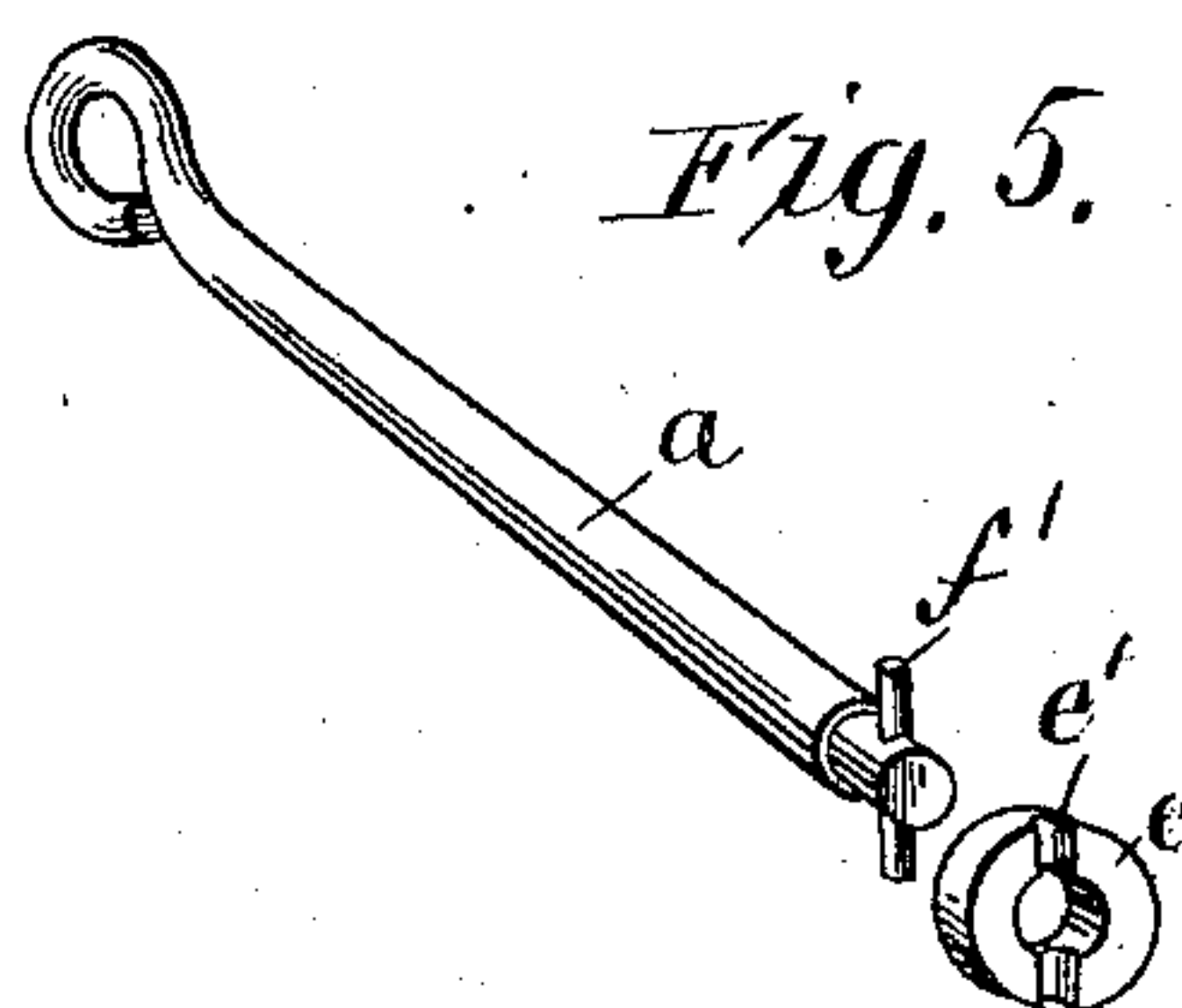
*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 4.*



*Fig. 5.*



WITNESSES:

*J. D. Fairfield*  
*C. Sedgwick*

INVENTOR:

*J. A. Manning*  
BY *Munn & Co*  
ATTORNEYS.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES A. MANNING, OF DANVILLE, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-FOURTH TO EUGENE M. WILHITE, OF HENDRICKS COUNTY, INDIANA.

## BRIDLE-BIT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 368,776, dated August 23, 1887.

Application filed May 20, 1887. Serial No. 238,836. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES A. MANNING, of Danville, in the county of Hendricks and State of Indiana, have invented a new and Improved  
5 Bridle-Bit, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The object of the invention is to provide a  
10 bridle-bit which can be instantly converted from a bit for gentle or easy driving to a severe bit for curbing frightened or vicious horses.

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

Figure 1 is a view, partly in section, of a snaffle-bit embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is an enlarged cross-section on the line  $x x$ , Fig. 1; and Figs. 3 and 4 are detail views. Fig.  
20 5 is a detail view showing a modified form of mouth-bar and the manner of securing the head thereon.

The invention will first be described in connection with the drawings, and then pointed  
25 out in the claims.

The mouth-bars  $a a$  of the bit are preferably made of angular cross-section, either rectangular, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, or with the concaved sides, as in Fig. 3; or they may be  
30 made round, as in Fig. 5. The bars  $a a$  are jointed in the middle, as in the ordinary snaffle-bit, and on the same are fitted loosely the sleeves  $b b$ , that surround the said bars from the outer end to a point near the jointed inner end. The sleeves  $b b$  are secured to or  
35 formed integral with the usual rein-rings,  $c c$ , and bars or guards  $d d$ .

Surrounding each bar  $a$ , within the sleeves  $b b$ , is a spiral spring,  $d'$ , the said springs at  
40 the inner ends abutting the sleeves  $b$ , and the outer ends of the springs abutting the heads  $e$  of the said bars  $a$ . The heads  $e$  of the bars  $a$  are secured to the same by being screwed thereon, and are prevented from unscrewing  
45 by the ears  $f$ , formed on the said heads and working in the longitudinal grooves  $g$ , formed in the inner surface of the sleeves  $b$ ; or the head  $e$  may be secured in place by means of a pin,  $f'$ , passing through the end of the bar  $a$   
50 and fitting in a slot,  $e'$ , in the end of the said

head, as in Fig. 5, said slot serving to receive the point of a screw-driver for unscrewing said head when the pin  $f'$  is removed. The outer ends of the sleeves  $b$  are closed by screws  
55  $h$ , which afford a ready access to the spiral springs  $d'$ , for repairing or renewing them.

With a bit constructed as above described, it will be readily seen that with the sleeves  $b$  in their normal position the bit is not at all  
60 severe on the horse; but should the animal become frightened or refractory the said sleeves are drawn outward by pulling on the reins, so that an increased leverage is obtained on the bit, and when the angular-formed mouth-  
65 bars are employed they are instantly brought into play, and as the latter form a very severe bit the horse may be quickly reduced to subjection, whereupon the sleeves  $b$  are allowed to be returned inward over the angular bars  
70  $a$ , the springs  $d'$  serving to return them to place when the reins are slackened.

It will be seen, therefore, that no cruelty need be resorted to in driving, for so long as the animal is well behaved the sleeves  $b$  are  
75 allowed to remain in their normal position, and only while the animal is in a vicious mood or when he becomes frightened is the increased leverage exerted on the bit, or the angular mouth-bar resorted to, should the latter form  
80 of bit employed.

Instead of the snaffle form of bit, a single mouth-bar may be used, the invention being  
equally adapted to both forms.

It will be understood that the details of construction may be varied without departing  
85 from the spirit of my invention.

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

1. A bit comprising a mouth-bar and spring-  
90 actuated sliding sleeves at the opposite sides of the center of said bar, and adapted to be connected to the reins, substantially as set forth.

2. A bit comprising a small mouth-bar and  
95 a larger two-part mouth-bar surrounding the smaller bar at opposite sides of its center, and provided with rein-connecting devices, and springs forcing the inner ends of the two-part  
100 bar toward each other, whereby when the ends



of the two-part bar are drawn outward the smaller inner bar will be exposed, substantially as set forth.

3. In an extensible bridle-bit, the combination, with the jointed mouth-bar, of sleeves thereon and springs surrounding the said mouth-bar within the said sleeves, substantially as shown and described.

4. The combination, in a bridle-bit, of the 10 mouth-bar having headed outer ends, spiral springs surrounding the said outer ends, and sleeves surrounding the mouth-bars and

springs and secured to the bit-rings, substantially as described.

5. The combination, in a bridle-bit, of the 15 mouth-bar *a a*, having headed ends *e*, formed with ears *f*, the sleeves *b b*, formed with grooves *g*, in which the said ears work, and the spiral springs *d*, substantially as described.

JAMES A. MANNING.

Witnesses:

J. W. DEMPSEY,  
THOMAS J. COFER.