(No Model.)

J. H. CORY.

TRACE FASTENING.

No. 377,738. Patented Feb. 14, 1888.

Fig. 1

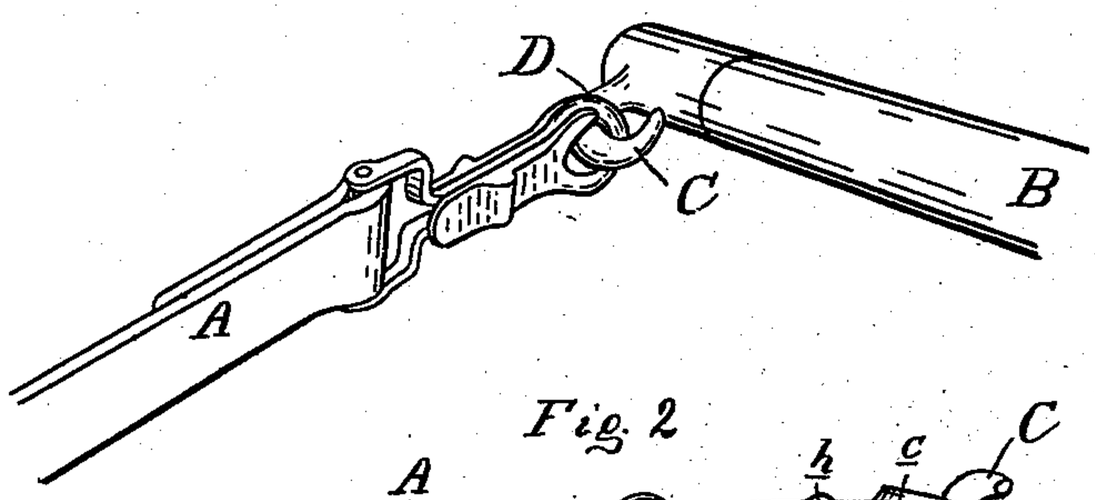


Fig. 2

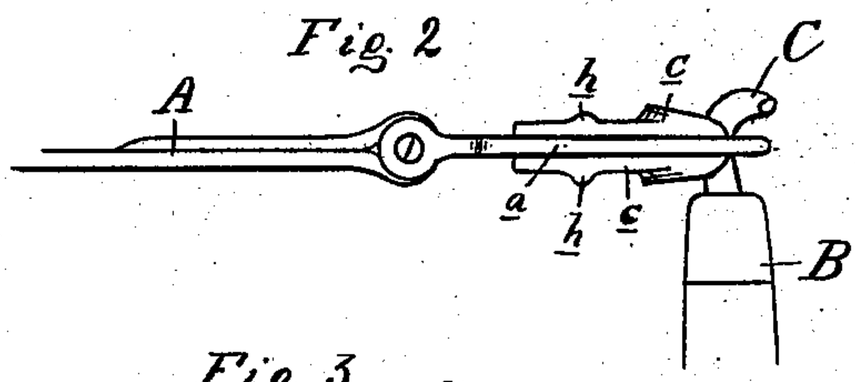


Fig. 3

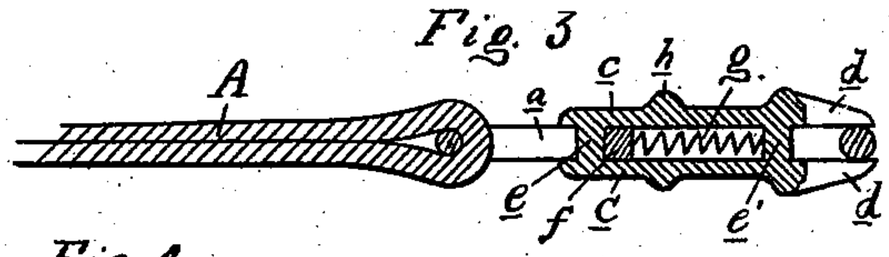


Fig. 4

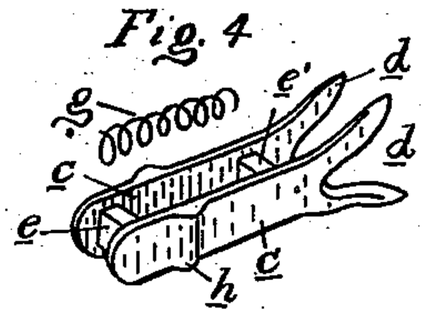


Fig. 5

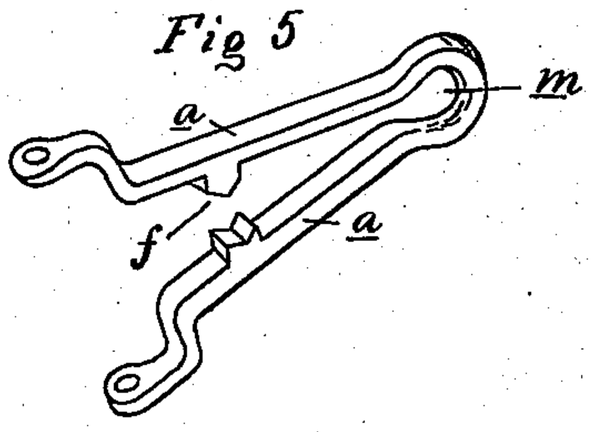
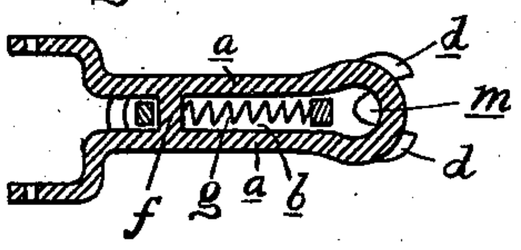


Fig. 6



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN H. CORY, OF ALLEN, MICHIGAN.

TRACE-FASTENING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 377,738, dated February 14, 1888.

Application filed October 1, 1887. Serial No. 251,163. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN H. CORY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Allen, in the county of Hillsdale and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Trace-Fastenings, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in trace-fastenings for whiffletrees; and it consists in constructing the cockeye of the trace with a safety device which prevents accidental unhooking or slipping off from the whiffletree, and which at the same time does not interfere with the easy engagement or disengagement of the trace when desired.

In the drawings which accompany this specification, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved trace-fastening in use. Fig. 2 is a plan view of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a horizontal section of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a detached perspective view of the spring-latch detached from the cockeye. Fig. 5 is a detached perspective view of the cockeye in the form it is preferably made, of malleable iron. Fig. 6 is a vertical central section through the cockeye.

A is a trace. B is the whiffletree. C is a whiffletree-hook of any known form in use for hooking on the trace, and D is the so-called "cockeye" of the trace, adapted to engage with said hook.

This cockeye forms the subject of my improvement, and it is constructed as follows: The shank *a* of the cockeye is provided with a slot, *b*, extending into the eye *m*. *c* are two plates terminating at the rear end into flaring jaws *d*, and connected together parallel to each other by means of cross-walls *e e'*, secured between them or preferably cast in one piece with the plate *c*, as shown in the drawings, all so constructed that the plates *c*, with the cross-walls *e e'*, form a latch-bolt which is slidingly engaged with the shank of the cockeye, as shown. Between the rear cross-wall, *e'*, of the latch-bolt and a stationary abutment, *f*, formed in the slot *b* of the shank, is inserted a little coil-spring, *g*, which projects the latch-bolt, and to retract the latch-bolt easily with the fingers when required ribs *h* are preferably formed on the plates *c*.

I preferably form the cockeye of malleable iron in the form shown in Fig. 5, with the stationary abutment formed partly on one leg and partly on the other leg of the shank, the legs being sufficiently spread to permit the latch-bolt and spring *g* of being readily adjusted in position. Then by pressing the two legs together the parts are secured in place without the necessity of any rivets. By forming interlocking meeting faces on the parts of the stationary abutment *f*, as shown in Fig. 5, said abutment is less liable to break off.

In practice, the parts being constructed as described, the jaws of the latch-bolt are made to project under the free action of the spring sufficiently over the eye *m* to firmly press against the hook of the whiffletree, and thereby prevent accidental disengagement.

By shoving the latch-bolt back with the fingers the trace is readily engaged with or disengaged from the hook when desired.

This improved trace-fastening or safety-cockeye is very simple and effective and may be used with any kind of hook in ordinary use; and, furthermore, it safely permits the use of hooks of a more simple description than now in use for securing the trace to the whiffletree by means of the ordinary cockeye.

What I claim as my invention is—

1. The herein-described safety-cockeye for trace-fastening, consisting of the combination of the cockeye with a spring latch-bolt sliding thereon and provided with clamping-jaws, substantially as described.

2. In a trace-fastening, the combination of the cockeye D, the slot *b* in the shank of the cockeye and provided with the abutment *f*, the sliding plates *c*, provided with the cross-walls *e e'* and jaws *d*, and the spring *g*, all arranged to operate substantially as described.

3. As an improved article of manufacture, a trace-fastening consisting of the combination of the slotted malleable-iron cockeye having its shank divided in two legs and provided with the abutment *f*, the sliding plates *c*, provided with the jaws *d* and cross-walls *e e'*, integrally formed therewith, and the spring *g*, all arranged to operate substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses, this 20th day of September, 1887.

JOHN H. CORY.

Witnesses:
B. C. ALLEN,
F. A. ROETHLISBERGER.