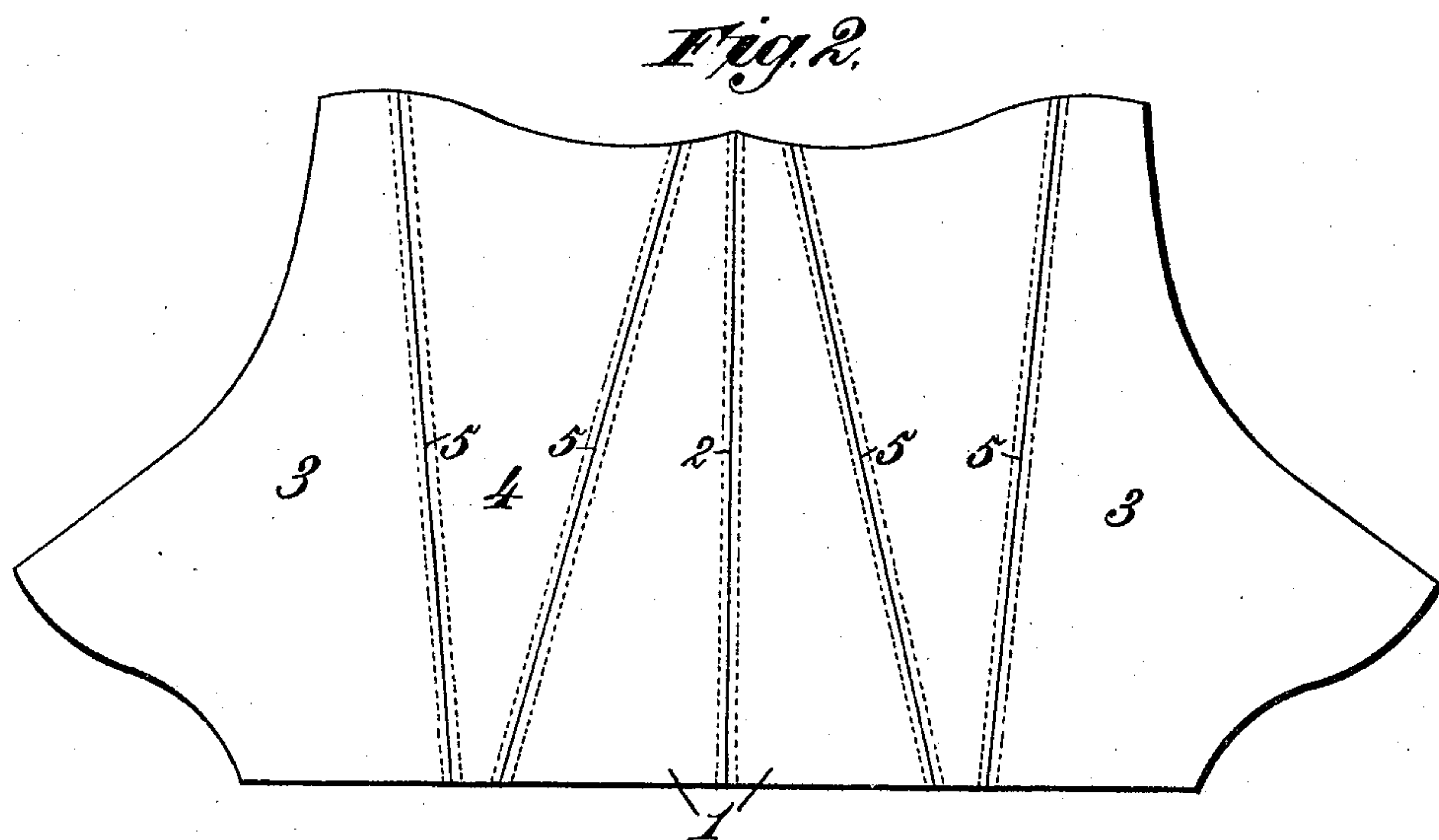
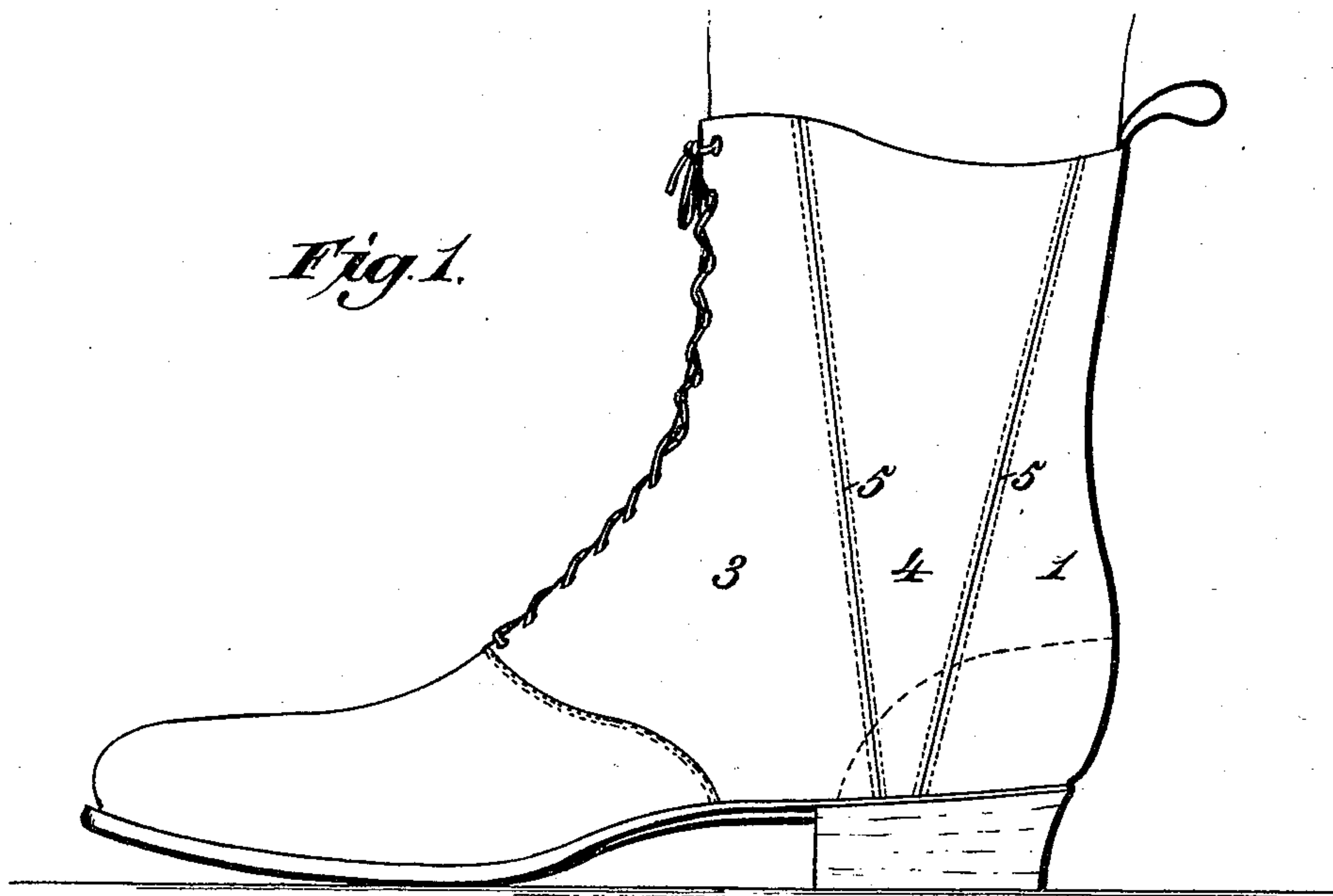


(No Model.)

G. P. HERNDON.  
SHOE.

No. 485,543.

Patented Nov. 1, 1892.



*Witnesses:*  
*Robert G. Smith*  
*William Gaskin*

*Inventor:*  
*George P. Herndon.*  
*By*  
*Amos L. Norris.*  
*Atty.*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE P. HERNDON, OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.

## SHOE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 485,543, dated November 1, 1892.

Application filed May 28, 1892. Serial No. 434,751. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE P. HERNDON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Birmingham, in the county of Jefferson and State of Alabama, have invented new and useful Improvements in Boot or Shoe Uppers, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to the manufacture of boots and shoes, and has for its principal object to provide an upper so constructed as to furnish an ankle-brace composed of leather or other flexible but non-elastic material and which shall yet be of sufficient rigidity to afford an adequate support to the ankle without exerting such pressure as to retard the circulation.

Another purpose of the invention is to so arrange the said brace as to strengthen the counter at its narrowest and weakest portions; and a further object of the invention is the utilization of such fragments of stock as would be otherwise of comparatively-small value or wholly useless in the manufacture of shoes.

To the accomplishment of these results my invention consists in a boot or shoe having its quarter composed of a front piece, a heel-piece, and an intermediate approximately-V-shaped ankle portion or brace of the same or similar material as that of said front and heel pieces and preferably joined therewith by downwardly-converging seams, one or both of which may be extended, together with the lower portion of said ankle-brace, across the narrow front portion of the counter, thereby forming a combined ankle and counter brace or supporter. By this mode of constructing a boot or shoe upper I am not only able to effect a large saving of material in utilizing small pieces of leather or other stock that might otherwise be wasted, but I also provide a firm and comfortable bracing support for the ankle and at the same time strengthen the counter at the points where it is most apt to give way or turn outward.

The invention is illustrated in the annexed drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation of a shoe provided with my improved upper. Fig. 2 is a plan of a shoe-upper constructed according to my invention.

Referring to the drawings, the numeral 1 designates the heel-piece of the quarter, which

may, if desired, be formed in two pieces of the general form shown in Fig. 2, connected by a heel-seam 2 and suitably crimped; or, if preferred, the heel-seam 2 may be omitted and the heel-piece 1 be formed in a single piece.

The numeral 3 designates the separate front pieces of the quarter, which may be suitably formed to meet the requirements of a laced or button shoe.

In my improved boot or shoe quarter the heel-piece 1 and separate front pieces 3 are connected by an interposed ankle-bracing portion 4, which is approximately V-shaped and composed of leather or other flexible but non-elastic material.

According to the preferred construction, as illustrated in the drawings, the upper portion of the ankle brace or support is the wider, and its sides are gradually tapered inward and downward to its lower end. The side edges of this ankle-brace 4 are firmly connected to the front pieces and heel piece or pieces by preferably converging seams 5, one or both of which may be extended, together with the lower portion of the brace 4, across the front narrow portions of the counter, (indicated by the dotted line 6 in Fig. 1.) The ankle-brace 4 may be made of more than one thickness, if desired, or it may be constructed of heavier leather than that composing the quarters. I have found, however, that very good results are obtained by making the entire upper from the same stock, as the seams 5, that connect the brace 4 to the front and heel pieces, will impart such rigidity as to form a very efficient brace even when light stock is used.

It will be apparent that the upper portion of the bracing-piece 4 is adapted to afford a firm support to the ankle of the person wearing the shoe and that where the lower portion of said bracing-piece crosses the outside of the front narrow portion of the counter it will securely brace and strengthen the latter at its weakest points. In a shoe of this construction the bracing-piece 4, while providing a firm support for the ankle, does not bind the ankle tightly at any time, and consequently will not retard the circulation, as is likely to be the case with elastic-gored shoes. While the leather-bracing piece or ankle-support 4 is sufficiently flexible or yielding to afford a comfortable and easy fit, it will never give or



stretch, as an elastic gore does after more or less wear. On the contrary, in a shoe constructed according to my invention the leather is closely held against the ankle at all times, 5 especially in walking, when support is most needed. My invention is applicable to ladies' high-top button boots, as well as other button or laced shoes, and will give more support to the ankle than can be obtained from an elastic-gored or Congress shoe, besides affording 10 a more perfect fit.

What I claim as my invention is—

A boot or shoe having its quarters each composed of a front piece, a heel-piece, and an in-

termediate approximately-V-shaped ankle 15 brace or support consisting of leather or other flexible but somewhat-rigid non-elastic material inserted between the said front piece and heel-piece of each quarter, the said parts secured together substantially as described, 20 and for the purposes specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

GEORGE P. HERNDON. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

J. HARRIS AUBIN,

FRANCIS B. PATTEN.