

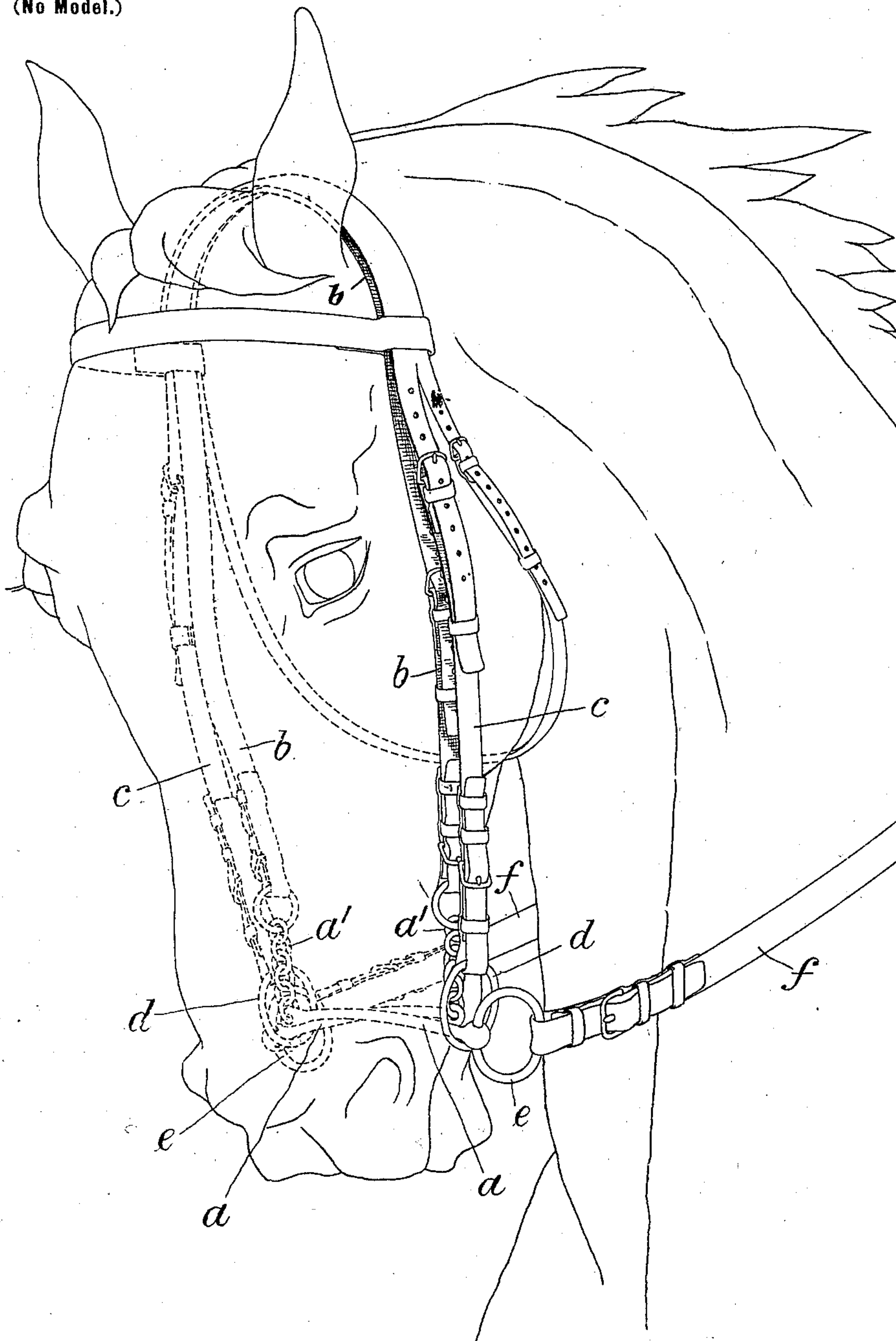
No. 621,625.

Patented Mar. 21, 1899.

S. VAN BUSKIRK.  
BRIDLE.

(Application filed July 27, 1898.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses.  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL VAN BUSKIRK, OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

## BRIDLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 621,625, dated March 21, 1899.

Application filed July 27, 1898. Serial No. 687,010. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, SAMUEL VAN BUSKIRK, horse-trainer, of 27 Yonge Park, London, N., England, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Bridles, (for which an application for patent has been filed in South Australia, dated February 10, 1898, No. 5,265; in Tasmania, dated February 15, 1898, No. 2,101; in Western Australia, dated February 25, 1898, No. 1,967; in New Zealand, dated March 15, 1898, No. 10,420, and in Great Britain, dated July 7, 1898, No. 14,982,) of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to an improved bridle, whereby the pull on the rein or reins is not converted by leverage, as in the case of the ordinary curb-bit, into severe local pressure on the jaw of the horse, but is so applied as to control the entire head of the animal and so enable the most high-spirited or vicious-tempered animal to be held under complete mastery with ease.

The invention consists, essentially, of two rigid steel bits connected, at opposite sides of the horse's mouth, each by a series of short links at one end only, to the corresponding end of a running headstall-strap, which passes over the top of the head, the reins being respectively attached to the other ends of the bits, which are held up in the mouth by passing through rings on the cheek-straps of the ordinary headstall. The pull of each rein therefore comes only upon that one of the bits and at that end thereof to which that rein is attached, the effect when one rein is pulled being felt not only by the pull of the bit on the mouth, but also as a pressure against the side of the mouth and head opposite to the rein pulled, while when both reins are pulled the two bits are caused to assume such a crosswise position relatively to each other that the horse is prevented from taking the bit between his teeth and so rendering it ineffective, the two bits then pinching the mouth inward by a pressure extending up both sides of the head.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification, wherein the bridle is represented as in use.

*a a* are two steel-bar bits, each connected by a series of links *a'* at one end, the one bit

to the one end and the other bit to the other end of a strap *b*, which passes over the top of the head behind the ears and down each side of the head, so that the bits pass across the mouth in reverse directions and transmit the pull of the reins thereon to the strap *b*, and so to the sides and top of the head.

The links *a' a'* extend about three inches, more or less, upward from each side of the mouth and may be covered with leather or a piece of rubber tubing or other soft material. The strap *b* lies beneath the ordinary headstall, without being attached thereto, except by passing freely through the loops of the brow-band. The other ends of the bits *a* pass through rings *d*, attached to the cheek-straps *c* of the ordinary headstall and terminate in rings *e*, to which the reins *f* are attached, the rings *e* being too large to pass through the rings *d*.

I claim—

1. The herein-described bridle consisting in the combination with an ordinary headstall, of two rigid metal bits attached each by links at one end only to the corresponding end of a free-running strap passing over the head, beneath the ordinary headstall and through the loops of the brow-band, the other ends of the bits passing through rings on the cheek-straps of the headstall and terminating in larger rings to which the reins are attached, substantially as specified.

2. In a bridle, the combination with the headstall, and cheek-pieces carrying a ring at their lower ends, of a free-running strap arranged to pass over the head of the animal with its ends lying against the jaws of the same, and two rigid bits each of which has one end secured to an end of the said strap, the opposite end of each bit passing loosely through the ring on the opposite cheek-piece, at which point it is provided with a ring to which the rein is adapted to be secured, substantially as specified.

3. In a bridle, the combination with the headstall, and cheek-pieces, of a strap adapted to pass loosely over the animal's head and carrying at each end a bit having one end secured thereto, the opposite end of each bit being loosely supported by the opposite cheek-piece and having means whereby a rein may be attached, substantially as set forth.

4. In a bridle, the combination with the headstall and cheek-pieces carrying a ring at their lower ends, of a strap adapted to pass freely over the animal's head contiguous to said headstall with its ends lying against the animal's jaws, a flexible connection attached to each lower end of said strap, a rigid bit attached at one end to each flexible connection and having its opposite end extending through  
5  
10 and supported by the ring on the opposite

cheek-piece, at which point it is provided with a ring adapted to receive the end of a rein, such rings being larger than the rings on the cheek-pieces as specified.

Signed by me, the said SAMUEL VAN BUSKIRK, this 12th day of July, 1898.

SAMUEL VAN BUSKIRK.

In presence of—

C. G. CLARK,

T. W. KENNARD.