

C. I. BUSH.  
FASTENING FOR SADDLE GIRTHS.

(Application filed Apr. 15, 1901.)

(No Model.)

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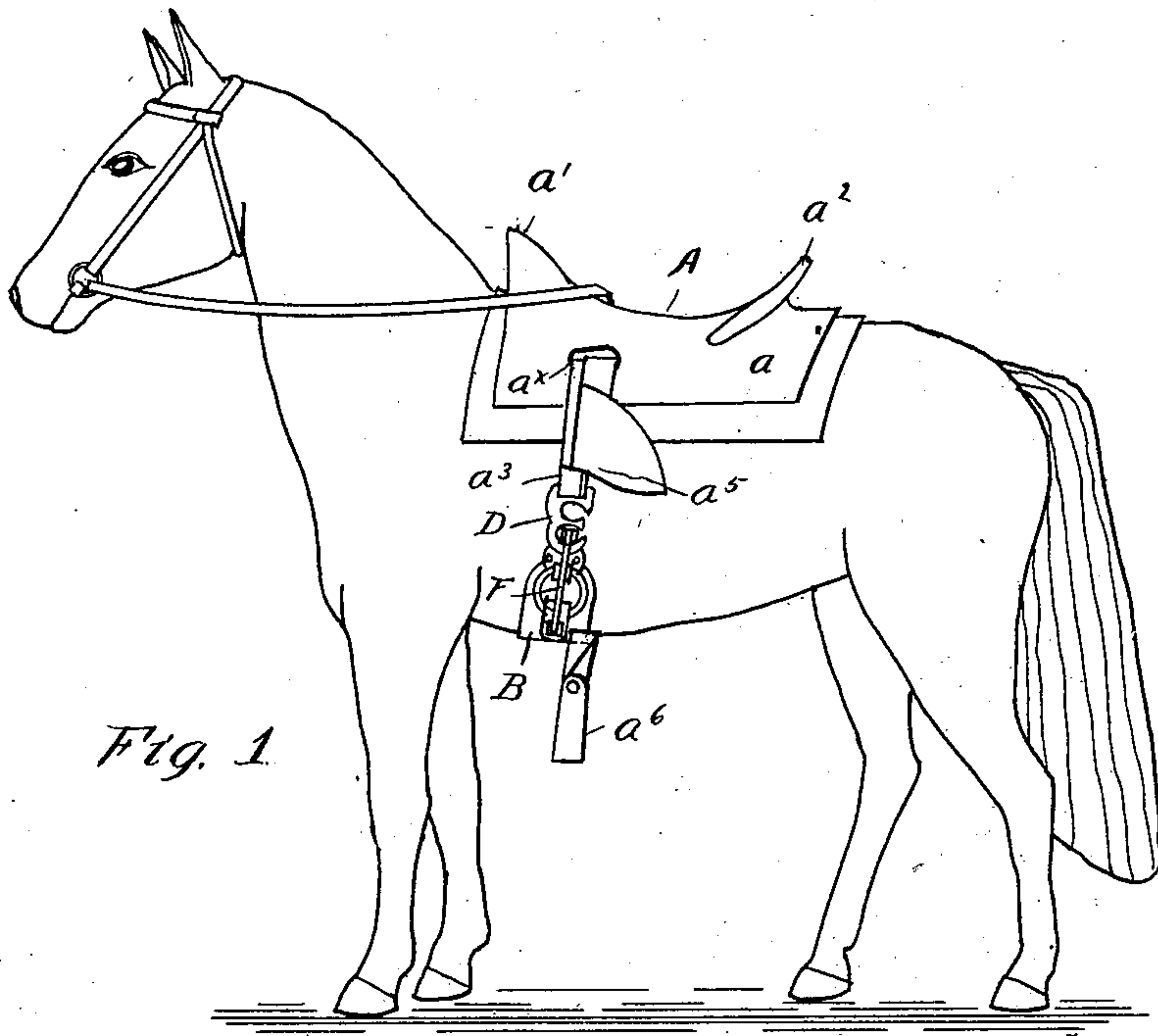


Fig. 1

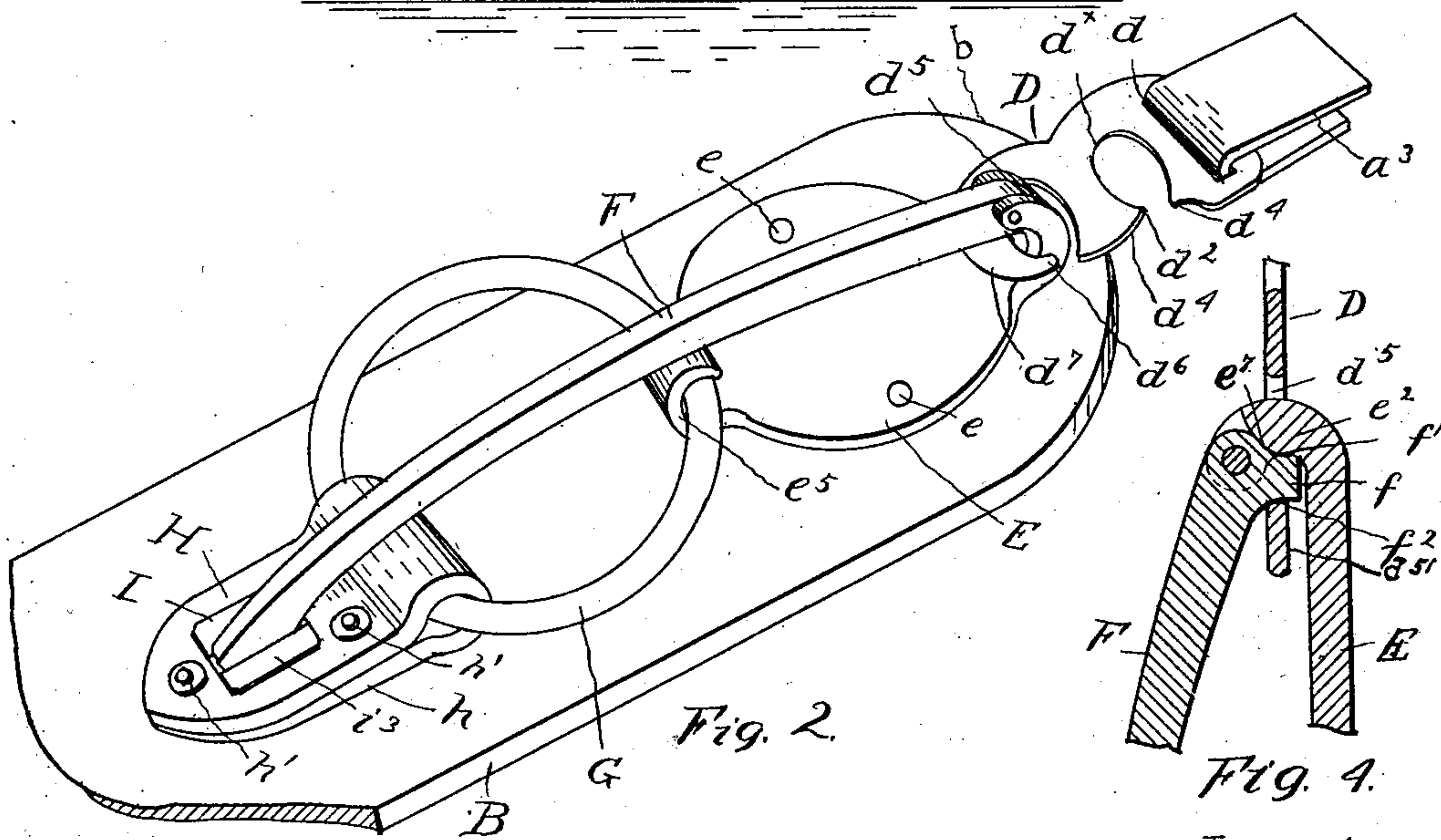


Fig. 2

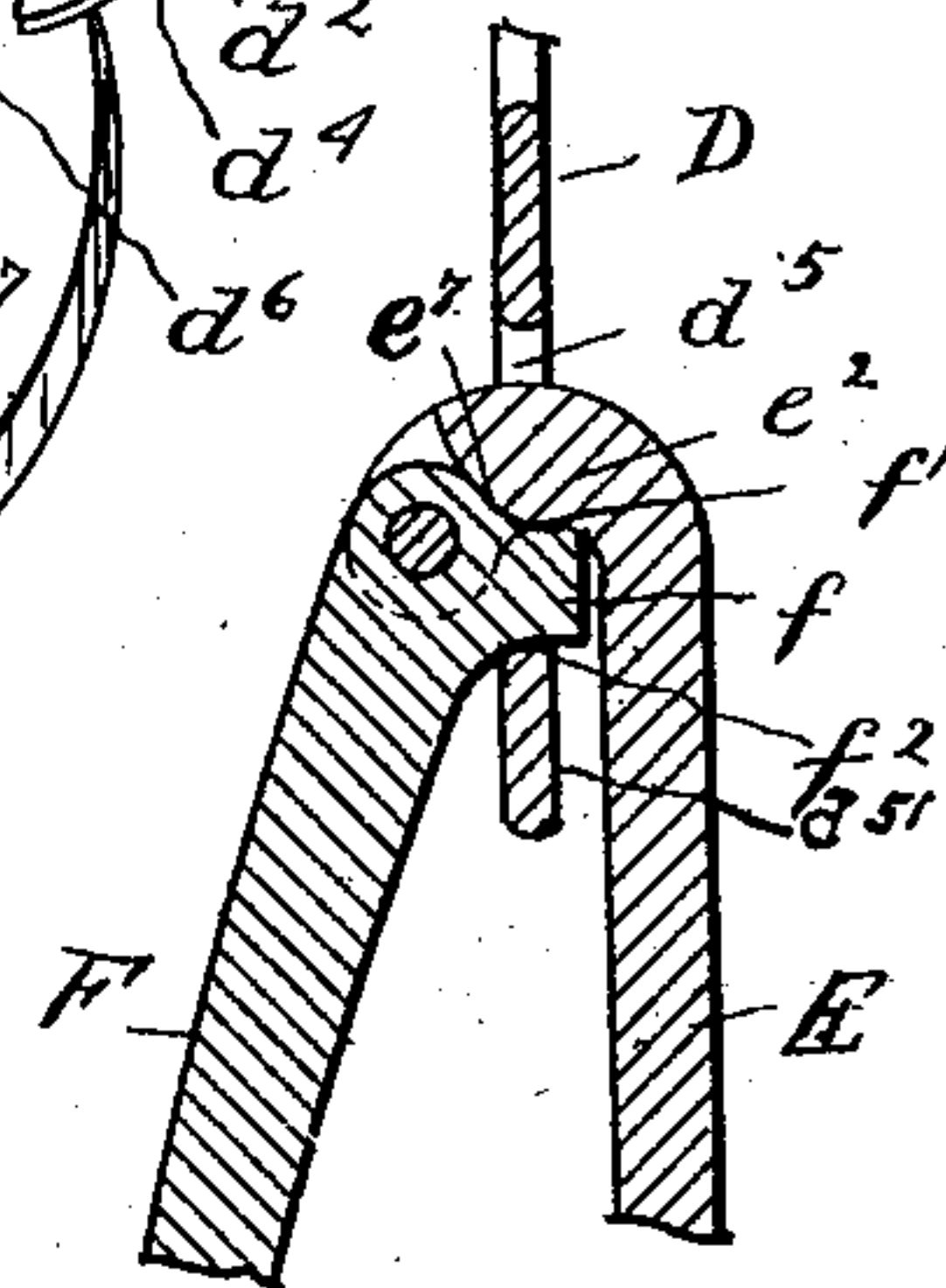


Fig. 4

Witnesses

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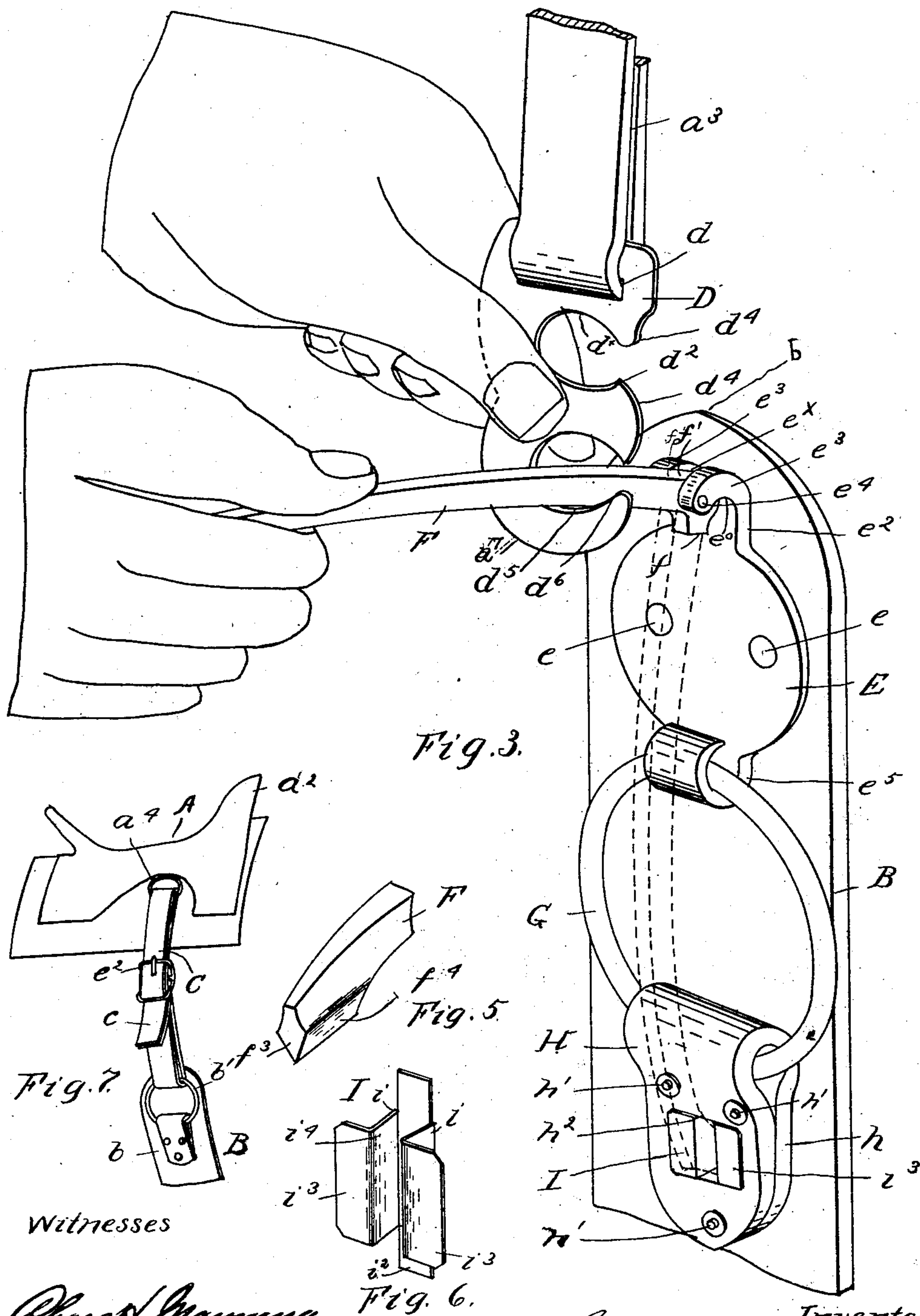
Inventor

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Witnesses  
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Richard Manning Att'y.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TO FRANK H. CROCKER, OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI.

## FASTENING FOR SADDLE-GIRTHS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 701,836, dated June 10, 1902.

Application filed April 15, 1901. Serial No. 55,927. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CORYDON I. BUSH, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Kansas City, in the county of Jackson and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fastenings for Saddle-Girths; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification.

The object of my invention is a device for fastening the ends of a saddle-girth and billet or other parts of a harness together expeditiously; and it consists in the novel construction and combination of parts, such as will be first fully described, and specifically pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a view of the invention shown connected with the free end of the saddle-girth and billet, the saddle being shown in position upon the back of a riding-horse. Fig. 2 is a view in perspective, showing the free end of the saddle-girth and a portion of the billet secured to the body of the saddle, showing the invention applied thereto. Fig. 3 is a view in perspective, showing the free end of the girth or band and the billet; also showing the novel fastening devices in a position in which the parts are connected with the hands in readiness to apply the power to operate the lever and simultaneously press upon the keeper. Fig. 4 is a detail vertical sectional view taken through the lower end of the keeper and the upper pivoted end of the lever and supporting-plate, showing the shoulder on the lever and the bearing therefor on the projection from the supporting-plate. Fig. 5 is a detail view of the lower or free end of the lever. Fig. 6 is a detail view of the socket-plate for retaining the free end of the lever. Fig. 7 is a view of the opposite side of the saddle to that seen in Fig. 1, showing the adjustably-secured end of the girth.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

Referring to the drawings, A represents an ordinary riding-saddle, of which  $a$  represents

the saddle body or tree,  $a'$  the pommel, and  $a^2$  the cantle of the saddle.

$a^3$  is the saddle-girth billet on the saddle for a single girth, which is formed in a loop and the two ends secured to the outer side of the saddle-body, to which the free end of the girth is ordinarily secured by the ring  $a^x$ , the ends so secured being slightly forward of a position intermediate the pommel and cantle of the saddle. Upon the other side of the saddle, secured to the saddle-body, is a link  $a^4$ .

B represents the girth or band, with one end  $b$  of which is connected a ring  $b'$ . Through ring  $b'$  extends one end  $c$  of an adjusting-strap C, which end also passes through the link  $a^4$  on the saddle-body. Upon the other end of strap C is a buckle  $c^2$ , through which buckle passes the end  $c$  of said strap.

D represents the keeper for securing the billet and girth, which consists of a flat plate of suitable length, in the upper end of which is a transverse slot  $d$ , through which is passed the looped portion of the billet  $a^3$ . A short distance below the slot  $d$  in plate D is a transverse opening  $d'$ , the upper and lower sides of which opening are in oppositely-curved lines. In one longitudinal edge of the plate D is a narrow opening  $d^2$ , which communicates with the opening  $d'$ , the sides of which opening are curved inwardly in a slight degree from the said edge of the plate, as at  $d^4$ . In the plate D, a short distance below the opening  $d'$ , is a separate opening  $d^5$  of the same dimensions as the opening  $d'$  and having the opening  $d^6$  communicating therewith and extending in the same longitudinal edge of plate D as the opening  $d^2$ , the sides of which opening  $d^6$  are also curved inwardly, as described of the opening  $d^2$ . The lower end of plate D is preferably in a single outwardly-curved line, as seen at  $d^7$ .

Upon the outer side and free end  $b'$  of the girth or band B is secured by the rivets  $e e$  the lever-supporting flat plate E, which, as shown, is nearly circular in form and upon the outer end of which plate is an extension  $e^2$ , narrow in width and approximate to the extremity of the free end of girth B. Said extension is bent upwardly and thence extended forwardly in a curved line and upon which extension are the outwardly and down-



wardly extended lugs  $e^3$   $e^3$ , upon the under surface of which lugs are the recesses  $e^6$ . Between the lugs  $e^3$   $e^3$  is a notch  $e^x$ . Upon the under surface of the curved portion of the extension  $e^2$  in rear of the notch  $e^x$  the said surface is curved outwardly, forming the projection  $e^7$ , as seen in Fig. 4.

F represents the locking-lever, which consists of a bar of considerable length and extending from one end to the other in an outwardly-curved line. One end of said lever extends between the lugs  $e^3$   $e^3$  in the notch  $e^x$  between the said lugs and is secured to said lugs by the pivot  $e^4$ , which extends through said lugs and the said end of the lever. On the inner side of the pivoted end of lever F is a shoulder  $f$ , which consists of a short portion of said lever, bent nearly at right angles and extending beneath the projection  $e^7$  of the extension  $e^2$  of the plate E. The upper surface of said shoulder is curved inwardly in a slight degree, as at  $f'$ , to meet and obtain a close bearing upon the projection  $e^7$  of plate E when the lever F is in a locked position. The lower surface of the shoulder  $f$  extends at an oblique angle to the inner side of the lever F and is curved inwardly near the said lever, as at  $f^2$ .

At the other end of plate E from that having the extension  $e^2$  is an extension  $e^5$ , which is bent upwardly and over upon itself, forming a loop, in which loop is a ring G. With the ring G is connected the novel securing device for the free end of lever F, which consists of a short strap  $h$ , looped over the ring G and the two ends placed upon the girth B and the rivets  $h'$   $h'$  passed through said girth and the said ends of the strap  $h$ . In the strap  $h$  and passing through each portion is a longitudinal opening  $h^2$ , narrow in width. In the opening  $h^2$  is inserted a yielding or spring socket-plate I, which consists of a single plate the width of which is nearly equal to the length of the opening  $h^2$  in the strap  $h$ . The intermediate portion of the plate which forms the bottom of the socket is about equal to the width of the opening  $h^2$  and extends to the bottom of said socket  $h^2$ , the yielding sides  $i$   $i$  of which socket-plate extend to the outer surface of the strap  $h$  and the ends  $i^3$   $i^3$  of which plate are bent outwardly at right angles to the sides  $i$   $i$  and upon the outer surface of strap  $h$ , thus forming a socket-plate the entrance  $i^4$  to which is made narrow by inclining the upper portions of the sides  $i$   $i$  of the socket-plate I in a slight degree toward each. In the bottom of the socket-plate I is a narrow strap of metal  $i^2$ , the ends of which extend past the bottom of the socket-plate and upon the under surface of the portion of strap  $h$  adjacent to the girth B, thus preventing the socket-plate I from being removed from the opening  $h^2$ .

Upon the under side of the free end of the lever F is a lug  $f^3$ , which extends nearly the length of the opening  $h^2$  in the strap  $h$ , the sides or ribs  $f^4$  of which lug are inclined down-

wardly and inwardly and extend within the entrance  $i^4$  of the socket-plate I and nearly to the bottom of said socket or so far as to permit the ribs  $f^4$  to press apart the sides of the socket-plate and extend beneath the line of the bent portions  $i^3$  of said socket-plate.

In operation and when the saddle A has been placed upon the back of the horse the girth B at the end  $b$  is secured by the adjusting-strap C in such a position that the girth will pass upon the under side of the body of the animal and its free end provided with the lever-supporting plate E, extended upwardly upon the side of the animal in the direction of the plate D on the billet  $a^3$  and to a position in which the opening  $d^5$  in the lower end of plate D will be above the pivoted end of the lever F. In this position the plate D is seized by the left hand, as shown in Fig. 3, and held a short distance outwardly from the side of the animal, the right hand seizing the free end of lever F and extending said end as far upwardly as is necessary, thus supporting the free end of the girth. The lever F is then moved laterally within the opening  $d^5$  in plate D to a position upon the under side of said opening, in which position a downward pressure is given the free end of lever F by the right hand obtaining a powerful leverage and forcing the lug  $f^3$  into the socket-plate  $f$ , and at the same time the left hand pushes the plate D beneath the lugs  $e^3$   $e^3$  into the dotted position shown, and the engaging portion  $d^5$  of the plate D is in a position near the outer end of shoulder  $f$ , while the recess  $f'$  in the upper surface of the shoulder is close in position to the extensions  $e^7$  of the plate E, and the lever is secured from accidental removal, and the strain upon the girth draws the free end of the lever F closer to the girth, the engagement of the upper surface of the shoulder with the extension  $e^7$  releasing the strain on the pivot  $e^4$ . When the girth is required to be released from the billet, the free end of the lever is drawn from the socket-plate and the parts are instantly detached. Should the tightening of the girth be insufficient by the employment of the lower opening in the keeper D, the lever is inserted in the opening above.

My invention enables the expeditious fastening of the saddle-girth, and is therefore of great value to the military service, where economy of time is of great consideration.

The lever F may be operated by left-handed persons by merely reversing the position of the keeper.

Such modifications may be employed as are within the scope of the invention.

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

1. A fastening comprising a base-plate, and an extension of said base-plate at one end thereof, and outwardly and downwardly extended lugs upon said extension having recesses in their under surfaces, and a notch



intermediate said lugs, a downwardly-curved  
projection of the under surface of said exten-  
sion of the base-plate in rear of said notch,  
an operating-lever, and an extension of said  
5 lever at an angle thereto and inwardly be-  
tween said lugs, having a curved depression  
in the upper surface bearing upon the down-  
wardly-curved projection of the extension of  
said base-plate, and a keeper-plate having an  
10 opening for the operating-lever extending be-  
neath said lugs and engaging with the said  
extension of the operating-lever.

2. In fastenings for saddle-girths, &c., an

extended lever, a lug upon the free end of  
said lever, and ribs on said lug, a strap hav- 15  
ing a socket, a reinforcing-plate in said socket  
having spring sides bent upon the upper sur-  
face of said strap, and a bottom to said plate  
extending beyond the plane of the lower sur-  
face of the strap, and a securing-strip upon 20  
the bottom of said plate engaging with the  
lower surface of said strap.

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Witnesses:

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