

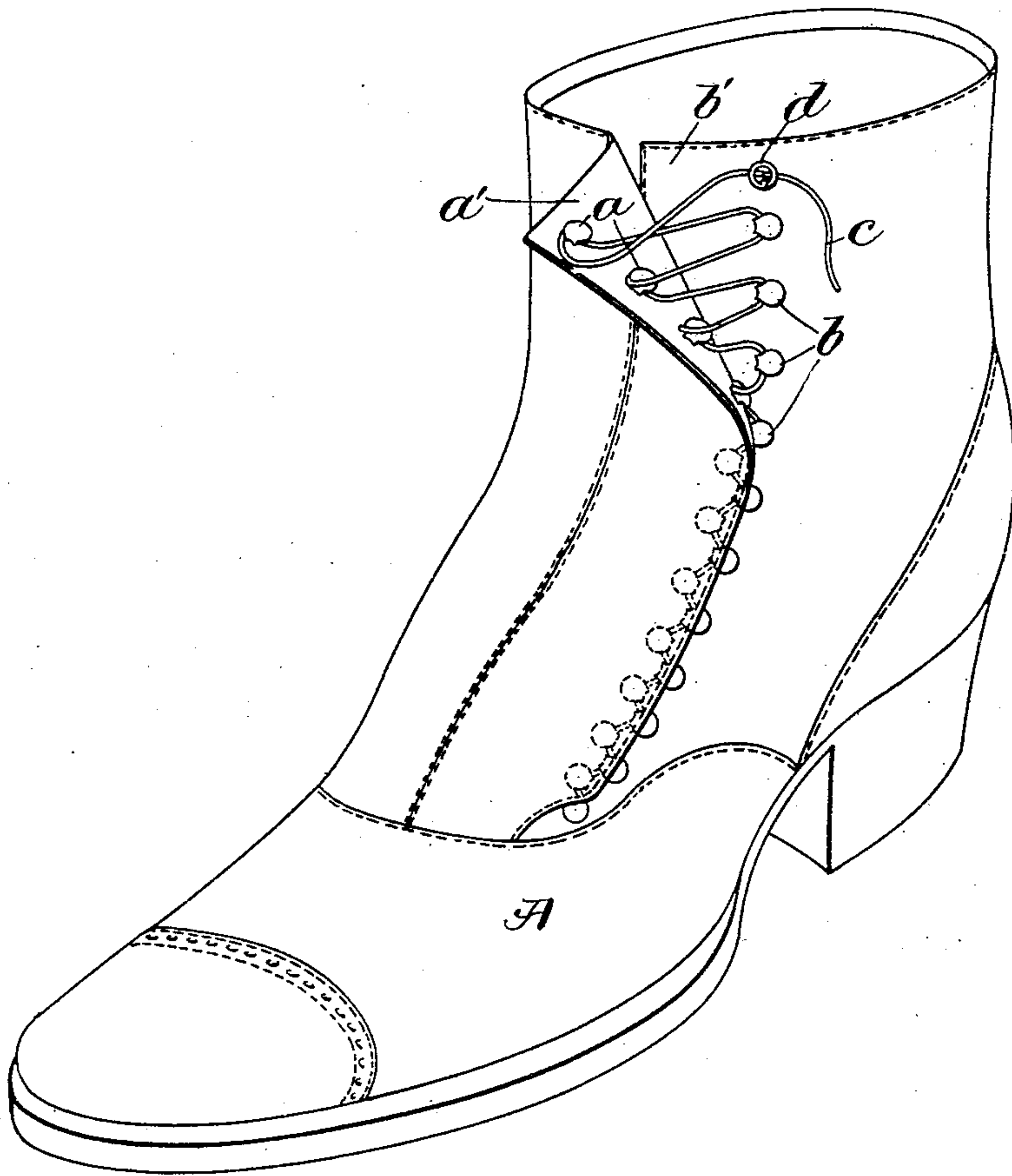
No. 711,058.

Patented Oct. 14, 1902.

A. F. LITTLEFIELD.  
BOOT OR SHOE.

(Application filed June 17, 1899.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AUGUSTINE F. LITTLEFIELD, OF LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS.

## BOOT OR SHOE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 711,058, dated October 14, 1902.

Application filed June 17, 1899. Serial No. 720,895. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, AUGUSTINE F. LITTLEFIELD, of Lynn, in the county of Essex and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improved Boot or Shoe, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing.

My invention is a lace boot or shoe in which turning back the outer flap disengages the lacing from lacing-hooks on the inner surface of the outer flap and in which both sets of devices for holding the lacing are between the two flaps, so that these devices are shielded by the flaps when the shoe is laced, or, in other words, my invention is a boot or shoe with lacing-flaps one overlapping the other, with a set of lacing-hooks on the inner surface of the outer or overlapping flap cooperating with a set of lace-holding devices on the outer surface of the inner or overlapped flap, so that both sets of lace-holding devices will be between the flaps when the shoe is laced, and yet can be unlaced with great ease and quickness by simply releasing the free end of the lacing and turning the outer flap back, when the lacing will of itself slip out of the hooks on the inner surface of the outer flap, for by turning the outer flap back those hooks are reversed, as will be clear from the drawing—that is, the mouths of the hooks on the inner surface of the outer flap open toward the lace-holding devices on the outer surface of the inner flap when the outer flap is turned back instead of opening the opposite way, as they do when the shoe is laced.

In the drawing illustrating my invention, A represents a shoe having a slit or opening in the upper similar to that provided in ordinary button-shoes, with one edge overlapping the other in the well-known manner.

The main feature of my invention is the two sets of lacing-hooks *a* and *b*, located be-

tween and secured to the flaps *a'* *b'*, one set of hooks *a* being secured to the under side of the outer flap *a'* and the other set of hooks *b* being secured to the upper face of the inner flap *b'*, the hooks of one set being opposed to the hooks of the other set. The lower end of the lacing-cord *c* is secured on the lowermost hook of one of the sets or else secured in any suitable manner to the shoe at or near the bottom of the slit, and after the cord *c* is interlaced in the two sets of hooks the upper end thereof is carried from the uppermost hook to a lace-holder *d*, of any well-known and suitable construction, which engages the lace and prevents the same from slipping through the hooks. The hooks *a* and *b* of both sets may be of any of the well-known forms, riveted or otherwise secured to their respective flaps. Preferably each hook of one set occupies a position on its flap which brings it between two hooks on the other flap, so that when the flaps are closed the hooks of one set are staggered with relation to the hooks of the other set.

What I claim as my invention is—

In a boot or shoe the combination of two flaps, one of which overlaps the other; a set of lace-holding devices secured to the outer surface of the inner flap; a set of lacing-hooks so secured to the under surface of the outer flap that they open away from the edge of the outer flap and away from the lace-holding devices when the shoe is laced but when the outer flap is turned back they open toward the lace-holding devices; and a lacing adapted to be connected with and disconnected from the lacing-hooks, substantially as described.

AUGUSTINE F. LITTLEFIELD.

Witnesses:

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