W. F. Ware,

Shoe Fastener.

No. 107,572. Patented Sep. 20. 1870.

Fig. 1.

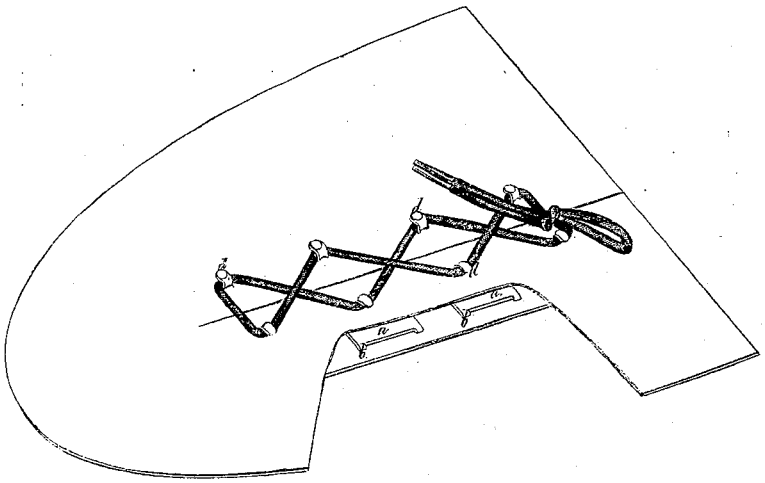


Fig. 2.

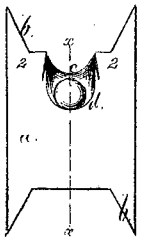


Fig. 3.

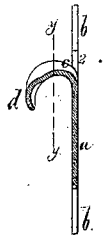
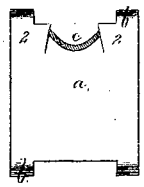


Fig. 4.



Witnesses,

Chas. H. Smith

Geo. D. Walker.

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WILLIAM POWELL WARE, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

Letters Patent No. 107,572, *dated September* 20, 1870; *antedated September* 5, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN SHOE-FASTENINGS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM POWELL WARE, of the city and State of New York, have invented an Improved Fastening for Shoes; and the following is hereby declared to be a correct description thereof.

Eyelets are usually provided for the string or shoe-lace to be threaded through, in shoes that are laced up, but hooks have been employed for the lace to be passed under, as it is led from one hook to the next.

In those cases where hooks have been used, they have been made of sheet metal, the hook projecting from a plate that is fastened upon the surface of the leather, but the metal plate is unsightly and liable to become detached, or the hook bent.

In other instances, a wire hook has passed through a hole in the leather, the base of the hook being fastened beneath the leather. In this last case the hook has been liable to draw up through the leather, and project unduly, or else the base of the hook has acted as a wedge to enlarge the hole through which the hook passes.

My present invention relates to an improved plate and hook, formed of sheet metal, as hereafter described, so that greater strength is given to the hook, and a round bearing is produced, that prevents the lace or string being injured, and the end of the hook is made convex, so as to have the appearance of a button, and thus prevent the hook catching in other portions of the garments, or wearing the edges of the pantaloons by contact with the same.

The metal plate or base of the hook is attached by clinched points to the back of the leather of the shoe, or to a counter, so as to be out of sight, but form a very strong base for the hook, and one that cannot draw up through the perforation in the leather for the hook, because said plate projects in the form of wings at both sides of the hook, where it is bent up from the plate.

In the drawing—

Figure 1 is a perspective view, representing a portion of a shoe with my improved hooks applied thereto;

Figure 2 is a plan;

Figure 3 is a section at the line *x x*; and

Figure 4 is a sectional plan at the line *y y*.

These figures, except fig. 1, are of an enlarged size.

The hook is made of sheet metal, the base *a* having spurs or penetrating points *b b*.

The hook portion is turned up in a compound curved form, the throat at *c* being curved over toward the button end *d*, and curved backward, so as to form a round surface for the lace, as seen in fig. 4.

The base of the hook is to be cut wider than the upper part of the throat, so as to be of the proper shape to give the required strength, and the end or top portion of the hook is shown as convex, so as to resemble a button in appearance, and lessen wear upon any portions of the garment that may come into contact with said hooks, but this end might be of any desired shape.

The spurs *b* are to be turned up, if the plate *a* is to be attached to the back of the leather of the shoe, but if the plate is to be connected to a strip or counter, the spurs are to be turned back, so as to pass through said counter and be clinched, and this counter is to be attached to the shoe by sewing.

It is to be understood that the hook is to be passed through a perforation in the leather, and that the plate *a*, extending beyond the hook in the form of wings, 2 2, prevents the base of the hook being drawn partially through the opening in the leather, by any strain on the hook, from motion of the hook or otherwise, and said wings give an increased bearing-surface, to prevent the back of the hook pressing upon the foot.

The counter might be applied upon the surface of the shoe, the plate *a* being beneath it. The counter may be made with a double row of said hooks attached in place, and then the counter applied to the shoe and sewn thereto, previous to the counter being cut open longitudinally.

My improved hook for shoe-laces is strong, easily applied, durable, ornamental to the shoe, and the lacing easily and rapidly performed, and not liable to slip out of the hooks.

The shape of the hook is such that the lace draws closely down upon the surface of the leather, and, in consequence of the wings or extensions of the plate *a* around the hook, there is no opportunity for the hook to be drawn up through the leather, or for the leather to be pressed down, so as to expose the hook unduly, and the strain of the lace upon the hook does not distort the leather of the shoe.

I claim as my invention—

1. The wings 2 2 of the plate *a*, extending beyond the hook, so as to prevent the base of the hook being drawn into the hole in the leather, through which the hook passes, as set forth.

2. The hook *c d*, spurs *b*, and wings 2, made of a plate of metal, and forming a shoe-fastening, substantially as set forth.

Signed this 28th day of January, A. D. 1870.

W. POWELL WARE.

Witnesses:

CHAS. H. SMITH,

GEO. T. PINCKNEY.