W. B. MELONEY.

Thill Coupling.

No. 111,556. Patented Feb. 7, 1871.

Fig. 1.

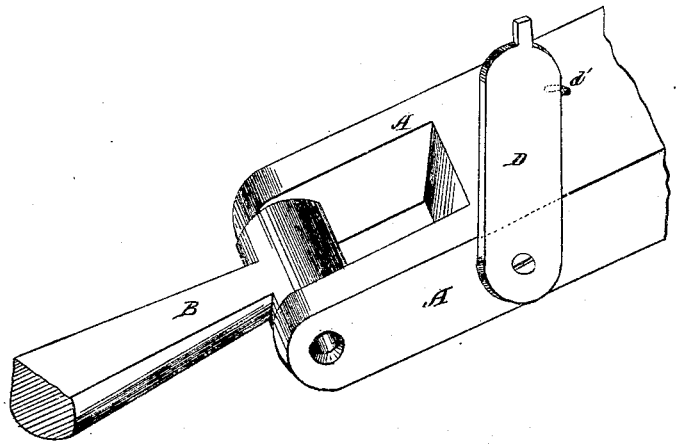

Fig. 2.

Witnesses:

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United States Patent Office.

WILLIAM B. MELONEY, OF SMYRNA, DELAWARE.

Letters Patent No. 111,556, dated February 7, 1871.

IMPROVEMENT IN THILL-COUPLINGS.

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 B. MELONEY, M. D., of Smyrna, in the county of Kent and State of Delaware, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Thill-Coupling; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved thill-coupling.

Figure 2 is a side view of the coupling-bolt.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The object of this invention is to provide a more simple and efficient device for securing the bolt of a thill-coupling in place; and

It consists in the construction of parts as specified in the claim.

A represents the jaws of the clip, between which is placed the eye of the thill-iron B.

C is the bolt which connects and pivots the thill-iron B to the jaws A. The bolt C is made without screw-threads, and with a round beveled head, *c'*, as shown in fig. 2. The outer end of the hole in the jaws A, through which the bolt C passes, is countersunk to receive the head *c'* of the bolt C, so that the outer surface of said head may be flush with the outer side of the said jaw A.

D is a button, one end of which is pivoted to the outer side of the jaw in which the countersink is formed, in such a position that, when the said button is turned down into a horizontal position, its other or free end may cover the countersunk head of the bolt C, and when the said button is turned up into or toward a vertical position the bolt C may be conveniently inserted and removed.

Upon the forward part of the upper edge of the button D is formed, or to it is attached, a small projection, *d'*, which overlaps the upper edge of the jaw A, to which the said button is pivoted, to prevent the said button from dropping down too far. The button D is kept in place, locking the bolt C by its own weight, and by the friction between it and the side of the jaw A, to which it is pivoted, which friction will be increased by any rust that may form upon the jaw A or button D.

If greater security be required a leather key may be passed through a hole formed in the lower part of the button D, below the lower edge of the jaw A, but for ordinary purposes this will not be required.

I am aware it is not new to provide pivoted buttons for holding thill-iron pintles in their sockets, and I do not claim such device, broadly.

Having thus described my invention,

I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The pivoted button D, when provided with the projection or stop *d'*, and arranged to secure the detachable bolt C *c'* in place, in connection with the thill-iron B and jaws A of the clip, as shown and described.

WM. B. MELONEY, M. D.

Witnesses:

BENJ. A. HAZELL,

JOS. L. BECKETT.