

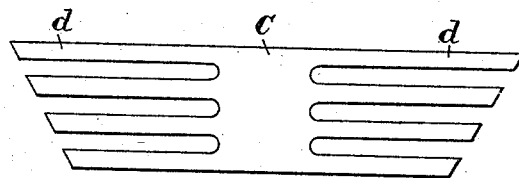
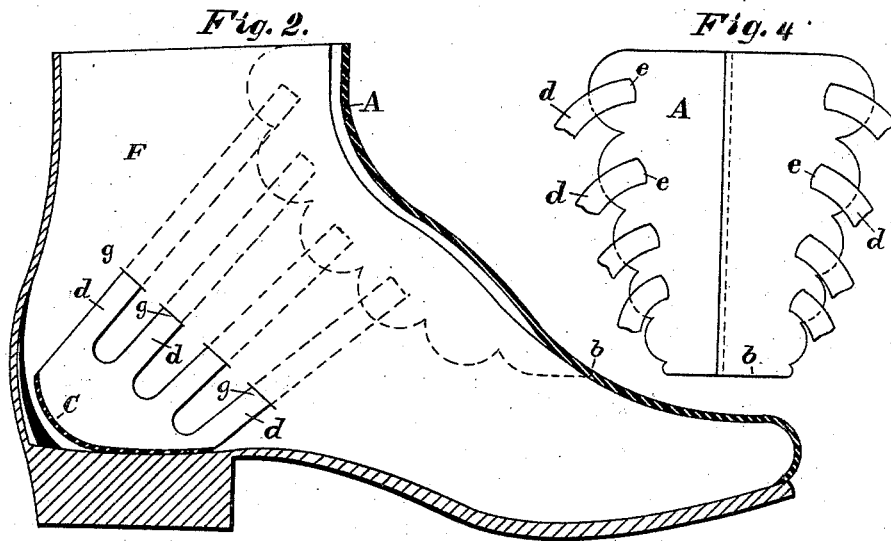
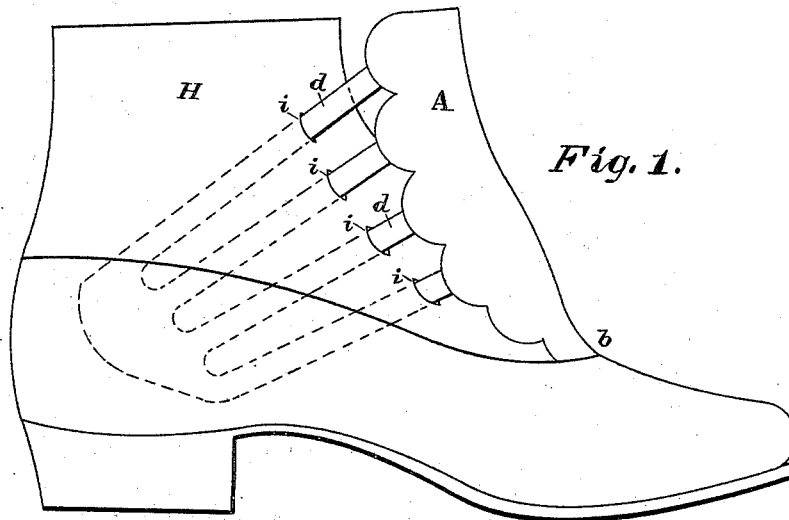
(No Model.)

C. E. BROWN.

SHOE.

No. 301,333.

Patented July 1, 1884.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CALEB E. BROWN, OF JACKSON, MICHIGAN.

SHOE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 301,333, dated July 1, 1884.

Application filed May 2, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CALEB E. BROWN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Jackson, in the county of Jackson and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a new and useful means of fastening shoes to feet, whereby usual fastenings—such as laces, straps and buckles, buttons, and similar devices—are dispensed with, and whereby the shoe is fastened to the foot simply by the operation of putting it on.

The construction of the improved shoe whereby the desired result is accomplished will be described in connection with the accompanying drawings, which illustrate what is deemed the best means of embodying the invention.

Figure 1 is a side view of a shoe having my improvement, showing the same as it appears ready to be put on the foot. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical section as it appears when on the foot. Fig. 3 is a view of the heel-piece. Fig. 4 is a view of the front instep-flap.

In the present instance the shoe shown is of that style which has a front center opening and a front instep-flap to cover said opening. It will be obvious, however, that the improvement is applicable to other styles of shoes—such, for instance, as the side-button shoes, where the flap itself attached at one side covers an opening on the other side. No special flap is necessary. I would have it understood, therefore, that my invention may be applied to various styles of shoes suited for the wear of men, women, and children. The shoe has an opening in the present instance at the front, and an instep-flap, A, covers this opening. The flap is attached to the shoe at *b*. A movable internal heel-piece, C, of leather or woven material, is designed for the heel of the wearer to set upon. Bands or straps *d* of any kind connect each side of the heel-piece with the instep-flap. If no “flap” be used, then the bands will connect with the edges of the shoe-front along the opening—that is, the bands on one side of the foot will connect with the edge of the opening which

is on the opposite side. The “opening” referred to is that slit which commences at the top edge of the shoe that in a high-cut shoe fits about the ankle and extends down either the front or side, and, as intimated, this opening may or may not have a flap to cover it. The heel-piece and bands may be integral—that is, cut from one piece of material, as shown in Fig. 3. It is obvious, however, that the bands may be of different material from the heel-piece and attached thereto. It is immaterial how the bands are attached at *e* to the instep-flap. They may be sewed, buttoned, or buckled thereto.

The shoe shown in the drawings has a lining, F, and at a point near the heel stiffening-slits *g* are made in the lining. Through each one of these slits one of the bands *d* passes, and said bands thence extend between the lining F and outer covering, H, and emerge through slits *i*, made in the outer covering near the shoe-opening. In the case of a shoe having no lining the bands *d* may simply emerge from slits or other outlets near the opening.

It will be seen that when the instep-flap is raised or lifted from the usual opening the bands *d* are drawn through the slits in the lining and outer covering, and the heel-piece C is elevated, as indicated by broken lines in Fig. 1. In this position of the heel-piece the shoe is ready to be put on the foot. When the foot is slipped into the shoe, the heel of the foot sets on the heel-piece C, and then when the heel of the foot is forced down to the sole the heel-piece, through the medium of the connecting-bands, draws the flap tight over the front opening, and thereby secures the shoe to the foot. It is therefore a self-fastening device.

Having described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

1. A shoe having a self-fastening device by which it may be secured to the foot, consisting of a movable internal heel-piece directly connected, substantially as described, with the flap at the shoe-opening, whereby when the foot forces the heel-piece down the shoe-opening will be closed, as set forth.

2. In combination with a shoe, a fastening

whereby the shoe is secured to the foot, consisting of a movable internal heel-piece, whereon the heel of the wearer is designed to set, and means, substantially as described, to connect
5 the said heel-piece with the opening flap, as set forth.

3. A shoe having slits in the outer covering, and a movable internal heel-piece having attached thereto bands which are passed loosely

through said slits and connected with the shoe- to front, as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CALEB E. BROWN.

Witnesses:

ELI A. CLEMENT,
CHAS. E. SNOW.