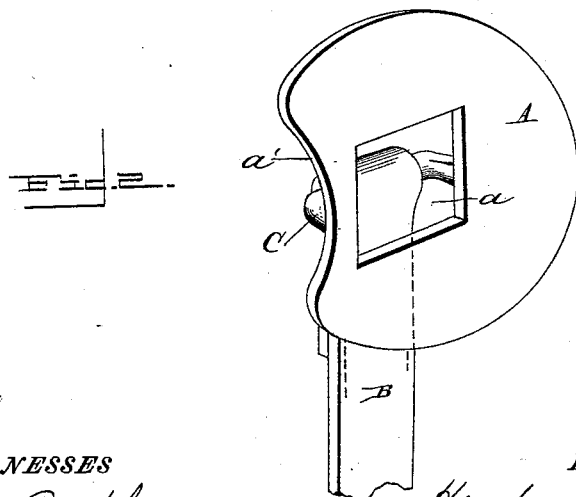
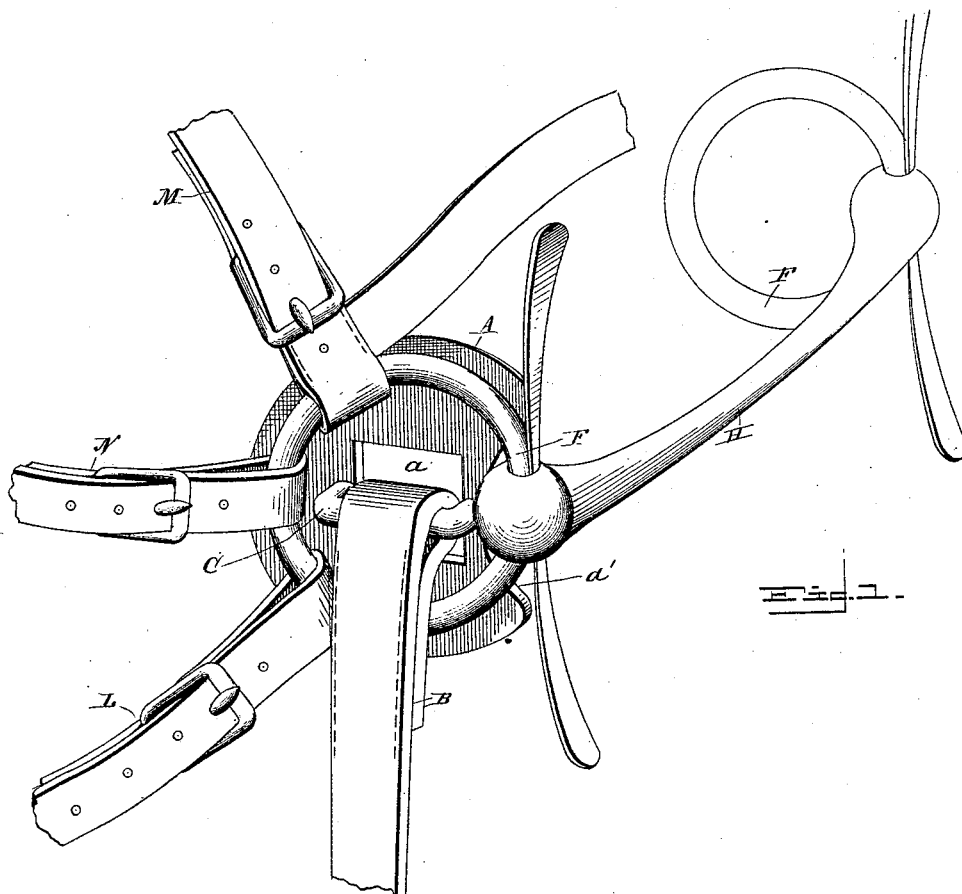


(No Model.)

H. DE V. PRATT, Jr.
HITCHING STRAP ATTACHMENT.

No. 420,958.

Patented Feb. 11, 1890.



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARDEN DEV. PRATT, JR., OF ELMIRA, NEW YORK.

HITCHING-STRAP ATTACHMENT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 420,958, dated February 11, 1890.

Application filed December 7, 1889. Serial No. 332,889. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARDEN DEV. PRATT, Jr., a citizen of the United States, residing at Elmira, in the county of Chemung and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hitching-Straps; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention consists in the improved hitching-strap and its mode of attachment to the bridle, hereinafter to be described and claimed.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the bit, bit-ring, and portion of the bridle, together with my improved strap and its fastening in position. Fig. 2 is a detailed view of the strap and fastening.

Throughout the drawings like reference letters refer to like parts.

In the present method of attaching hitching-straps to the bridle of a horse there are few devices which combine the necessary qualities of strength, simplicity, and readiness of attachment. The ordinary snap-hook is weak and difficult to handle in cold weather when the driver's hands are protected by thick gloves. Moreover, this, in common with other modes of attachment, acts only upon one portion of the bit-ring, and when the horse jerks his head to one side the strain is apt to break the said ring or twist it from the bit.

In my invention the hitching-strap B is permanently attached to the circular plate A by means of a staple C or in some other suitable manner. This circular plate A is of a size slightly larger in diameter than the bit-ring F, and has a portion of its circumference cut away, leaving a space a' , so that when the strap B is passed through the ring F and the plate A is brought up against said ring the end of the bit-bar H will come opposite the cut-away portion a' and will not displace the plate A from its position, which it tends to assume concentric with the ring F.

In the preferred form of my invention the central portion of the plate A is cut away, leaving a rectangular opening a . This is not necessary, but is desirable as rendering the plate A lighter without in any way detracting from its strength.

In Fig. 1, M is the head-strap, N the check-rein, and L the driving-rein, all attached to the bridle-ring F; and it will be seen that my improved fastening in no way interferes with these other attachments to the bit-ring, nor does it bring any degree of strain upon any of them.

The advantages of my invention are obvious. The attachment can be made readily by inserting the end of the strap through the bit-ring and pulling it through until the plate A comes to a bearing against the ring. It slips into place between the ring and the side of the horse's head, and presents a smooth surface to the skin of the animal, all danger of chafing being avoided. Whenever any strain is put upon the strap it is evenly divided over the entire ring F and the same enabled to resist that strain to its best advantage, and will not be broken or twisted, as is frequently the case when the hitching-strap is attached to only one portion of the circumference of said ring. There are no springs or catches to get out of order and no nicety of manipulation required.

Having therefore described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to protect by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, with the bit-ring of a bridle, of a circular plate, which is of a slightly-greater diameter than said ring, and which has a portion of its circumference cut away, a staple in said plate, which is adapted to pass through said ring, and a hitching-strap attached to said staple, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with the bit-ring of a bridle, of a circular plate, which is of a slightly-greater diameter than said ring, and which has a portion of its circumference cut away, and a hitching-strap attached to said plate and passed through said ring, substantially as described.

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

HARDEN DEV. PRATT, JR.

Witnesses:

CHARLES W. STUART,
H. HOLLIS MILLS.