

F. L. HASKELL.

Improvement in Bridle-Bits for Horses.

No. 130,994.

Patented Sep. 3, 1872.

Fig. 1.

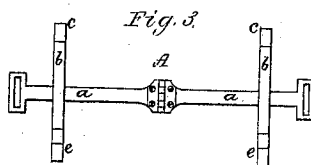
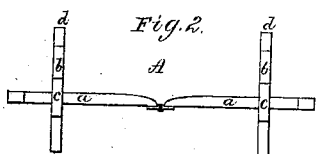
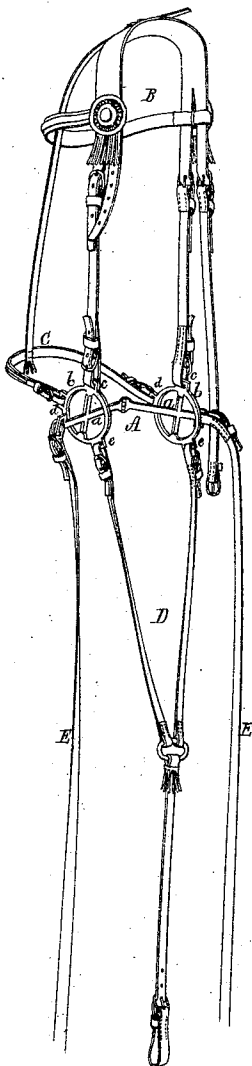
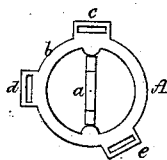


Fig. 4.



Witnesses.

S. W. Piper
L. N. Moller.

Franklin L. Haskell.

by his attorney
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANKLIN L. HASKELL, OF LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN BRIDLES AND BITS FOR HORSES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 130,994, dated September 3, 1872.

To all persons to whom these presents may come:

Be it known that I, FRANKLIN L. HASKELL, of Leominster, of the county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Harness for Horses; and do hereby declare the same to be fully described in the following specification and represented in the accompanying drawing making part thereof, of which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a harness headstall and martingale provided with my invention. Fig. 2 is a top view; Fig. 3, a rear elevation; and Fig. 4, an end view of the toggle-check hereinafter described.

The object of my invention is to dispense with a bit as usually employed in the mouth of a horse for guiding and checking him.

Serious injury occasionally results to a horse from the bit, laceration or abrasion of the gums or jaw being a common occurrence; besides, in very cold weather the mouth is liable to be more or less frozen, and thereby rendered sore by the bit.

In carrying out my invention I combine with the headstall a nose-piece or loop to extend around the nose of the animal, and I also combine with such loop or nose-piece and the headstall and driving-rein, or with all such and a standing martingale, what I term the toggle-check.

In the drawing, the said toggle-check is shown at A. It consists of two levers, *a a*, and two "cheek-pieces," *b b*, the two levers being hinged together at their inner ends and extended through and pivoted, respectively, to the cheek-pieces, each cheek-piece being made or provided with eyes *c d* or *c d e*, arranged as shown. Each lever at its outer end is also provided with such an eye for reception of the driving-rein E.

The toggle-check A is applied to the headstall B in the same manner as a common bit is usually connected with it, the nose-piece or loop C being buckled into and extended from the cheek-pieces of the toggle-check, in manner as shown. Furthermore, the standing martingale D is also buckled to the said cheek-

pieces. The inner arms of the two levers or toggles are to go just in rear of and embrace the lower lip and jaw of the horse, but without going into his mouth as a bit does when in use. On the driving-rein E being pulled back the toggle-levers and the nose-loop will be drawn simultaneously closely up to the nose and lower jaw of the animal, so as to compress the lower part of his head between such loop and the toggles, whereby he may be checked to much better advantage than he can by a bit in his mouth, the discomfort occasioned him by the bit being completely avoided. The martingale serves to keep the toggle-check from rising too high upon the head, and generally speaking would be necessary to the check; but in some cases it may be dispensed with, particularly with such horses as are not likely to throw up or out the head while being driven, or those which do not require a martingale to keep the head down.

I have found by experience the above-described invention to be very effectual in driving and checking a horse and to be very much more comfortable to him than an ordinary bridle-bit.

I claim as my invention—

1. The toggle-check A, substantially as and for use as described.
2. Also, the combination of the nose-loop C and the toggle-check A with the headstall B.
3. Also, the combination of the nose-piece or loop C, the headstall B, the toggle-check A, and the driving-rein E.
4. Also, the combination of the nose-loop C, the headstall B, the toggle-check A, and the standing martingale D.
5. Also, the combination of the nose-loop C, the headstall B, the toggle-check A, the driving-rein E, and the standing martingale D, all being arranged substantially as and for use with a horse, substantially in manner as described.

FRANKLIN L. HASKELL.

Witnesses:

R. H. EDDY,
J. R. SNOW.