

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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IMPROVEMENT IN THILL-COUPINGS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 128,808, dated July 9, 1872.

Specification describing a new and useful Improvement in Thill-Coupling, invented by JOHN H. MORGAN, of Lebanon, in the county of Boone and State of Indiana.

Figure 1 is a top view of a pair of thills and a part of an axle to which my improved coupling has been applied. Fig. 2 is a detail sectional view of the same taken through the line *xx*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view of one of the couplings, showing its construction.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

My invention has for its object to furnish an improved coupling for thills or shafts, tongues, &c., simple in construction, convenient in use, and reliable in operation, and which shall be so constructed that, while coupling the thills or tongue securely, it may be easily and quickly uncoupled; and it consists in the hook, in combination with the thill-iron, bolt, and slotted lugs of the coupling, as hereinafter more fully described.

A represents a pair of thills, which are connected by a cross-bar, B, in the ordinary manner. C is the wooden part and D is the iron part of the axle. E is the clip, which passes around the axle C D, and the arms of which pass through the yoke F and are secured by nuts screwed upon their lower ends. The forward end of the yoke F projects, and is slotted to form lugs G. The lugs G have inclined slots *g'* formed in them, extending downward and forward from their upper edges to receive the bolt H attached to the eyes formed upon the rear ends of the branches of the thill-irons

I. The forward parts of the thill-irons are secured to the rear ends of the thills A. The rear parts of the thill-irons I are branched to receive the lugs G between them. By this construction the bolt H can be readily passed into and out of the inclined slots *g'*. J is a hook, the forward end of which is pivoted to and between the forward ends of the lugs G. In the hook J, extending upward from its lower edge, is formed a slot or hook *j'*, made upon the arc of a circle having its center at the pivot of said hook, and which is made in such a position that when the hook J is shut down between the lugs G the slot or hook *j'* may pass around the bolt H in the bottom of the slots *g'* of the lugs G. By this construction the slotted hook J *j'*, when turned down, securely locks the bolt H in the inclined slots of the lugs G, so that it cannot be raised out of said slots until some power outside of the coupling raises the hook J *j'*, and thus releases the said bolt, the construction of the parts being such that no jarring or motion of the thills can release the said bolt.

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

As an article of manufacture, a thill-coupling composed of the yoke F, having slotted lugs G G, the bifurcated thill-iron I, the bolt H, and the slotted independent hook J *j'*, all arranged as described.

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Witnesses:

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