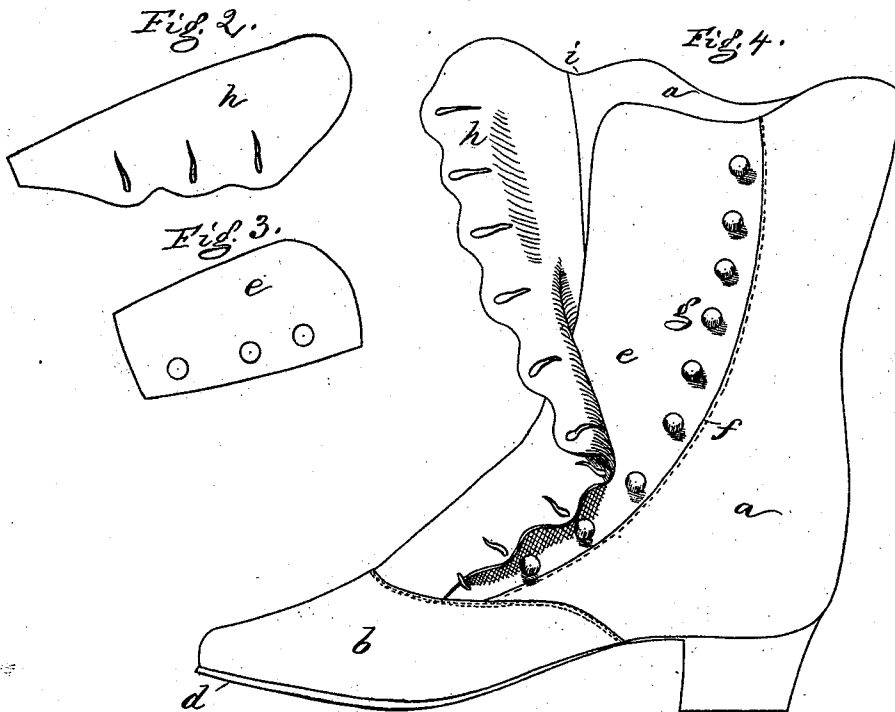


BOOTS AND SHOES.

Patented Feb. 1, 1876.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSIAH C. BENNETT AND GEORGE E. BARNARD, OF LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN BOOTS AND SHOES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **172,957**, dated February 1, 1876; application filed September 23, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JOSIAH C. BENNETT and GEORGE E. BARNARD, of Lynn, in the county of Essex and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Ladies' Shoes, of which the following is a specification:

This invention has for its object the construction of a lady's button boot or shoe of kid or morocco, so that the buttons cannot be easily torn out, but are held firmly in place; and the invention consists in a shoe, as an article of manufacture, cut substantially as shown and described, and provided with an independent button-receiving piece of superior kid, such piece being applied to the quarter, or side, or heel-piece, and being connected with the upper portion of the vamp by stitches, the button-hole flap lapping or covering over the button-piece, or substantially so.

A great number of ladies' button-boots now made are composed of American kid or morocco, soft, but not very strong, and buttons secured to such kid easily pull through and break the kid, and destroy the appearance and usefulness of the shoe. French kid shoes are very much more expensive than the kid of American and other makes, and it is also very much stronger and tougher; and, to make a shoe which shall not be too expensive, and yet possess the softness of the American kid, and be as strong when subjected to great strain as the French kid, we add to a shoe of ordinary kid an independent button-strip or re-enforce of French kid, the buttons being secured thereto, and secured to such an applied French kid button-strip, the buttons will be held firmly.

Figure 1 represents one of our improved shoes in side view; Fig. 2, the button-hole piece; Fig. 3, the button-receiving piece, and Fig. 4 shows the invention applied to a high button-boot.

In the drawing, *a* are the counters or quarters; *b*, the vamp, connected with the quarters by a line of stitching, *c*, and *d* is the sole. The quarters and vamp may be of any cheap light American kid or soft leather strong enough and good enough in every particular for a light, easy-fitting shoe, except at

the point where the buttons are secured; and to give to the shoe strength at such point we stitch to the forward portion of the quarter a button receiving or holding piece, *e*, of strong French kid, in appearance (to a casual observer) substantially the same kind of leather as the remainder of the shoe, but really much firmer and stronger, and easily distinguishable by any one conversant with the different kinds of kid.

This button-piece is secured to the quarter by a line of stitching, *f*; and may be applied by sewing the edge of *e* to an edge of the quarter; or the quarter may, and preferably does, extend to the center of the shoe, and the independent button-piece, like that shown in Figs. 1, 3, or 4, is sewed directly down on the end of the quarter, making at that portion of the shoe a re-enforce strip to the regular kid of the quarter. The buttons *g* are secured to this button-strip *e* in any well-known way.

We shall, preferably, make the button-hole-receiving piece *h* also of French kid, securing it to the quarter by the line of stitching *i*.

A shoe constructed as above described is considered, as to wearing qualities, about equal to a French kid shoe; and such a shoe can be produced at a very much less price, and permit the use of American kid in first-class shoes, and at a price to meet the demands of the trade.

It will be noticed that the button-receiving piece is separate from the usual quarter and vamp, but is connected to each by stitches, and it is lapped or covered, or substantially so, by the button-hole piece, which is also an independent piece, attached to quarter and vamp by stitching.

We are aware that button gaiters or boots for gentlemen's wear have had the quarters and vamps made of calf-skin, and the tops made of kid, the buttons being attached to a top piece; but we are not aware that a shoe has ever before been made in which there was only quarters or counter-pieces extending about the heel, and from the sole to the vamp, a vamp, and an independent button-receiving piece of a superior quality of leather connected with the quarter and vamp.

We claim—

As a new article of manufacture, a lady's button kid boot, consisting of vamp, heel-quarters, and independent button-hole piece, and an independent button-holding piece, *e*, of substantially the form of the button-hole piece, stitched to the quarter and vamp, overlapping the vamp from its edge beyond the buttons, and stitched at *f*, all as and for the purpose described.

In testimony whereof we have signed our names to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOSIAH C. BENNETT.
GEORGE E. BARNARD.

Witnesses:

IRA B. KEITH,
FRANK McCULLOUGH.