

S. H. MITCHELL.
Hand Corn-Huskers.

No. 133,659.

Patented Dec. 3, 1872.

Fig. 1.

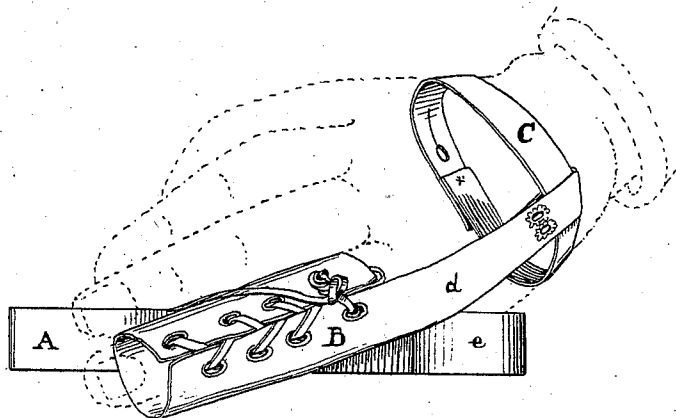
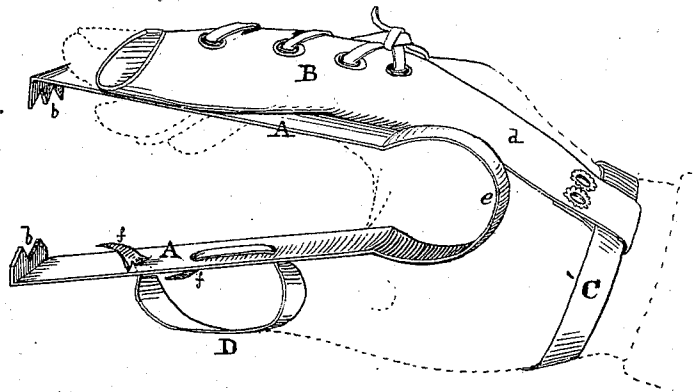


Fig. 2.

Witnesses—
Charles Comstock
Edson Romaine

Samuel H. Mitchell.
Inventor.
by Edward Thurston
Res. Atty. in Fact.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL H. MITCHELL, OF LACON, ILLINOIS.

IMPROVEMENT IN HAND CORN-HUSKERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 133,659, dated December 3, 1872.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL H. MITCHELL, of Lacon, in the county of Marshall and in the State of Illinois, have invented an Improved Corn Picker or Husker; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the annexed drawing making a part of this specification, in which like letters of reference refer to like parts, and in which—

Figure 1 represents a perspective view, showing the bearing of the inner end of the "husker" against the hand; and Fig. 2, a superficial or plan view of the husker, showing the diagonal attachment or placement of the finger-stall.

This device consists of a strip of hoop-iron bent into the shape of a short tongs, and having the ends returned for a short distance toward the opposite arm and serrated. This instrument is held between the fingers and thumb, crosswise of the husker, by attached stalls and thongs or straps for the purpose, which is one of the objects of this invention, of giving the spring end of the device a good bearing against that part of the hand between the origin of the thumb and forefinger, so that in taking hold of an ear of corn or its husk a strong twist of this implement may be given to wrench or tear off the husk more readily and with greater effect than with a mere rectilinear pull and main or sheer force, as exemplified in nearly all known hand-huskers.

A A represent the two equal arms of the husker, the best size of which may be about five to six inches in length, and about from one-half inch to three-fourths of an inch in width, and made of one piece of hoop-iron, not too thick to fatigue the hand in closing it when ready for use, bent in the middle with a fair circular curve, *e*, to get the full amount of "springiness" from the material. The arms may be brought or bent so as to remain about two inches asunder, and for greater strength may each be curved longitudinally. The ends are returned toward one another with serrated edges *b b*, so that the teeth on one side or arm pass into the spaces between the other teeth. On the lower arm, near the middle, is attached a strap, D, large enough to admit the thumb of the wearer—a good mode of attaching

the same being shown in the drawing, viz., three holes with about the distance of half an inch between each, the middle hole being at the middle of the arm. Through the hole nearest to the inner or spring end of the same is passed the end of the thumb-strap D, which is cut (like the head of an arrow) with barbs *f*, and, passing through this hole, runs along the inside of said arm into the next perforation, where the barbs cut on each side of the point of the leather prevent its return. The other end of this strap is held in a similar manner by the third hole near the end of the arm. To the upper arm is attached a finger-stall, B, which may be laced together at the top for better adjustment to the finger. This end of the stall is fastened diagonally across the arm, so that two or more fingers may press upon the same—a good form of attachment being shown in the drawing, viz., by rivets passing through the iron and that part of the stall resting upon the iron. One end of the stall B is lengthened into a strap, *d*, which is confined by a loop or similar device to a strap, C, which is fastened round the hand by a button, buckle, or other adjustable device.

The operation of this device needs little or no description; but as there are two ways of wearing and managing it, I will describe both: First, the forefinger is placed within the stall B, and the thong C secured around the hand; the thumb is placed within the strap D, and the second or the second and third fingers resting upon the end of the upper arm of the husker or upon each other, to obtain extra power, if necessary, in holding the husks within the teeth in wrenching them off by a strong pull to the right and downward accompanied by a twist of the hand. By this motion the spring-end of the husker has a strong bearing against that part of the hand between the origin of the thumb and forefinger; one of the objects obtained by the present device—*i. e.*, lengthening the tongs beyond the part of the hand mentioned. Second, the husker may also be used in the reverse way to the one above described—*i. e.*, by inserting the thumb in the stall B and the forefinger in the strap D, and retaining the spring *e* in the hollow of the palm.

What I claim as my invention is—

A corn-husker, composed of the single strip of metal, bent so as to form the spring *e*, as described, and provided with the teeth *b b*, and combined with the strap *D* and diagonally-arranged stall *B* having strap *d* and adjustable hand-strap *C*, substantially as herein set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing corn-husker I have hereunto set my hand this 23d day of September, 1872.

SAMUEL H. MITCHELL.

Witnesses:

EDSON ROMAINE,
H. W. WELLS.