(Model.)

B. F. WHITNEY.

Boot and Shoe.

No. 239,005. Patented March 15, 1881.

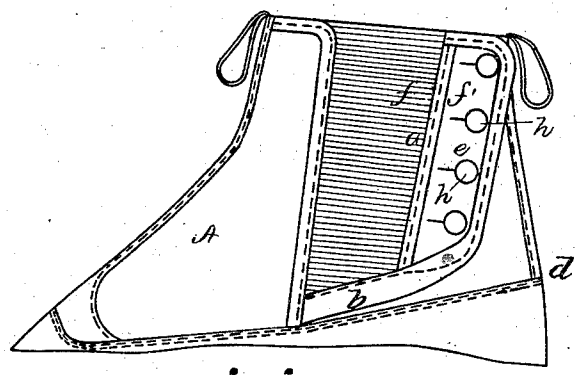


FIG. 1.

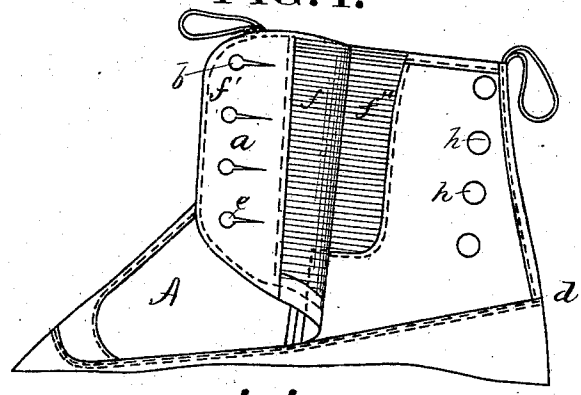


FIG. 2.

WITNESSES:

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INVENTOR:

Benjamin F. Whitney

per George E. Bird atty.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN F. WHITNEY, OF PORTLAND, MAINE.

BOOT OR SHOE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 239,005, dated March 15, 1881.

Application filed September 29, 1880. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN F. WHITNEY, of Portland, in the county of Cumberland and State of Maine, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Boots; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, that will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification.

It is the purpose of my invention to provide a boot or shoe, which, uniting the advantages of the congress and button boot, shall present none of the inconveniences or defects which are peculiar to these forms of boots.

The button shoe or boot is objectionable, as is well known, in consequence of the inconvenience experienced in buttoning and the frequent parting of the buttons from the boot, while in the ordinary congress boot the elastic gores, which when the boot is new bind the ankle and prevent ventilation, soon become loose and unsightly from frequent stretching in putting on and removing the boot.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a boot or shoe having present invention, the flap buttoned as when in use. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of same device, the flap being unbuttoned.

Heretofore in devices of this kind—that is, boots or shoes—strings have been used to tie the edges or flaps, or the flap has been buttoned down, or elastic gorings have been put into the ankle part of the shoe on each side, or such a goring has been put into one side, while a flap has been brought over the instep and fastened at the side; or, where the opening of the shoe comes in front, a piece of elastic has been put up and down on each side, and the button-flap has been attached to the forward part by a narrow elastic connection or hinge. In such and like ways have attempts been made, more or less successfully, to provide means for securely and easily fastening the boot or shoe upon the foot, and to render its removal, when desired, comparatively easy; but not any of them have presented a means that can be regarded anywhere near a perfect desideratum. The strings afford too tedious a method of fastening, too often they untie easily, and they wear out too quickly. The buttons, while giving a stylish finish, are hard to operate, and are constantly coming off. The elastic goring at first binds and pinches the ankle, and after a while becomes too loose, and then frays. The one-sided goring and flap over the instep fail to equalize the strain, and makes a bind over the instep in a close-fitting shoe, and can only be easily worn in a shoe larger than the wearer's proper size. The above elastics, whether two or one, in a nice fit fail to afford proper ventilation to the foot, while the button-flap, hinged to the front by a narrow elastic, is secured thereto so fragilely as to be in constant need of repair, at the same time the elastic is so scant as not to be of any considerable value as an elastic.

My aim in the present invention has been to overcome all the objections above stated, and I present in it a device that can be easily and cheaply made, handled without any trouble, and will be durable and always keep its shape; and the novelty consists in a boot or shoe provided with elastic gorings at each side, one fixed to the top and the other to a flap, which can be buttoned near the back to and upon the top, all as will now be more fully set out and explained.

In the accompanying drawings, A denotes any ordinary boot or shoe top, and *a* a flap, consisting of an elastic part, *f*, and a leather part or edge, *f'*. In this edge part are button-holes *e*, one or more, adapted to be used on the buttons *h* near the rear of the boot or shoe. Around the edge of the leather part *f'*, and at the bottom of the elastic *f*, is secured the leather or cloth binding *b*, to re-enforce and strengthen the flap, as well as aid in uniting it to the front part of the boot or shoe. This flap is so made and applied that the elastic will come just midway between the front and rear of the boot or shoe. When the flap is buttoned down it will thus exactly match the elastic *f''* fixed in the opposite side of the shoe or boot. A shoe or boot thus made can be very easily put on or taken off, the buttons are placed where there is no strain to cause them to be too easily worn off, the elastic will not bind the foot too tight, nor will the wear on them be so great as to cause them to lose their shape and firmness. The flap, fitting easily at the rear edge, will allow sufficient opportunity for the escape of moisture or admission of air, and thus afford

all proper ventilation to the foot. It is obvious that a buckle can be used, instead of button-holes and buttons, to secure the flaps.

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

1. In a boot or shoe, a fastening-flap made partially of a wide elastic portion, and provided with a button-holed edge, and a re-enforced or strengthening border and connecting-strip, substantially as set forth.

2. The boot or shoe A, as described, having in the middle of one side of the ankle the elastic *f''*, and on the opposite side the flap *a*, provided with a button-holed edge, *f'*, and an elastic, *f*, while its rear and lower edge is strengthened by the strip *b*, which also aids in connecting it to the fore part of the shoe, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 25th day of September, 1880.

BENJ. F. WHITNEY.

Witnesses:

GEO. E. BIRD,

CHARLES H. CLARK.