

E. L. WALES.

Devices for Pulling on Boots.

No. 146,559.

Patented Jan. 20, 1874.

Fig. 1.

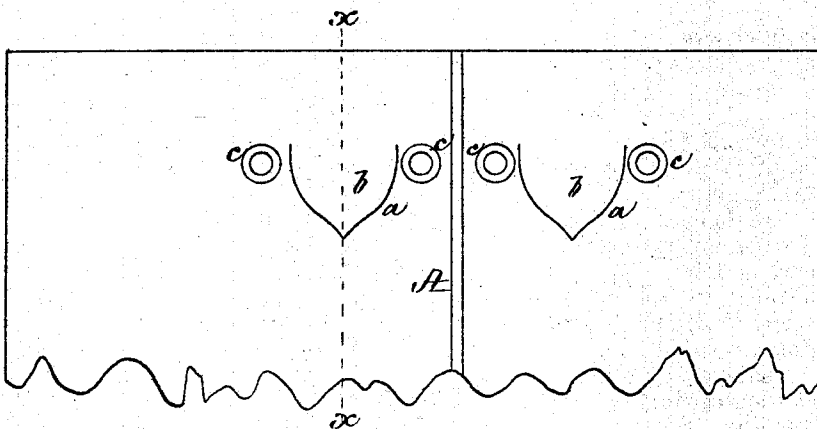


Fig. 2.

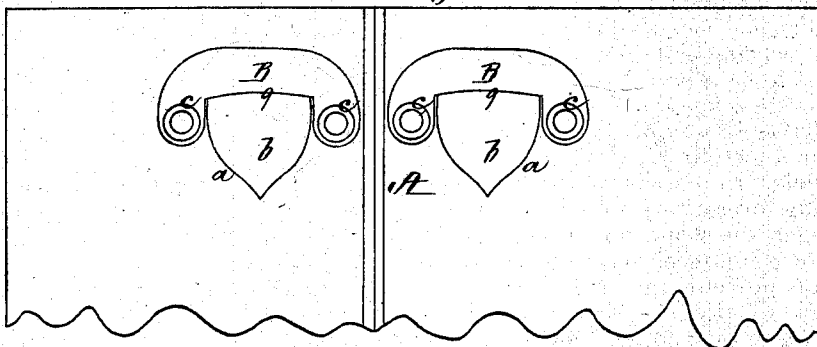


Fig. 3.

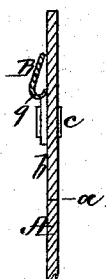


Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.

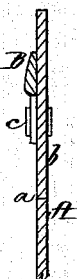
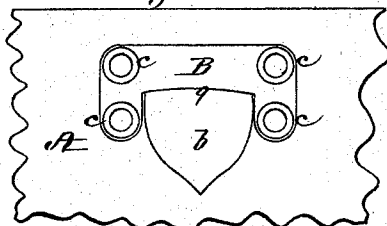


Fig. 6.



Witnesses:
John M. Curry
G. Strong

Inventor:
Elisha L. Wales.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

ELISHA L. WALES, OF SOUTH FRAMINGHAM, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND
JAMES H. COOPER, OF NORTH BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN DEVICES FOR PULLING ON BOOTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **146,559**, dated January 20, 1874; application filed
October 2, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ELISHA L. WALES, of South Framingham, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improved Device for Pulling on Boots and Shoes, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the upper portion of a boot-leg having my improved device applied thereto. Fig. 2 is an elevation representing the inner side of the same. Fig. 3 is a section on the line *xx* of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a section showing the position of the flap when the boot is being pulled on. Figs. 5 and 6 modifications to be referred to.

The object of this invention is to provide a cheap and reliable substitute for boot-straps; and consists in a metallic plate or bar secured by rivets, eyelets, or otherwise to the boot-leg over an opening formed therein for the insertion of the finger, the strain produced in pulling on the boot being received by the plate or bar, which thus prevents the leather from being torn or drawn out of shape; and in so cutting the opening in the boot-leg that a flap or piece of leather will be left, which can be interposed or turned up between the lower edge of the metallic plate or bar and the finger, thus protecting the latter during the operation of drawing on the boot, the flap, if desired, being left of such size and shape as to entirely fill the opening in the boot-leg, thus giving the boot a neater and more finished appearance when exposed for sale than if the aperture were left entirely open.

To enable others skilled in the art to understand and use my invention, I will proceed to describe the manner in which I have carried it out.

In the said drawings, A represents the upper portion of a boot-leg, near the top of which on each side are two apertures, *a*, one on each side of the seam. These apertures, through which the fingers are to be inserted to pull on the boot, are formed by cutting through the leather in such a manner as to leave a piece or flap, *b*, which completely fills the aperture *a* when the finger is removed therefrom. On the

inner side of the boot-leg, immediately over each opening *a*, is secured, by means of eyelets *c*, a metallic plate or bar, B, and this plate may be held by two eyelets, as seen in Fig. 2, or by four, as seen in Fig. 6; or the plate may be secured to the boot-leg by rivets or otherwise, if preferred. Each plate B is turned up at 9, so as to leave a thick rounded edge for the finger to pull against when introduced through the opening *a*, and these plates effectually prevent the leather from being torn around the openings, over which they are placed or drawn out of shape in pulling on the boot. If the metal of which the plate B is formed is of sufficient thickness it need not be turned up, the lower edge being merely rounded, as seen in Fig. 5.

When the finger is introduced through the opening *a*, the flap or piece *b* is turned up thereby, as seen in Fig. 4, so that it is interposed between the edge of the plate B and the finger, which is thus prevented from coming into direct contact therewith, and being hurt thereby in pulling on the boot.

If desired, the flap-piece may be of sufficient size only to allow of its being turned up to protect the finger from being hurt by the edge of the plate. I prefer, however, to employ it as shown, as it gives the boot-leg a more finished appearance, in addition to the advantage of protecting the finger in drawing on the boot.

Instead of two openings, *a*, one on each side of the seam, a single aperture only on each side of the boot-leg may be used, if preferred.

The above-described device is simple and reliable, the metallic plates B being strong and durable, while they can be furnished at less cost than the cheapest boot-straps.

I claim—

The opening *a* with its flap *b*, in combination with the metallic plate or bar B secured over the opening, substantially as and for the purpose described.

Witness my hand this 27th day of September, A. D. 1873.

ELISHA L. WALES.

In presence of—

JOHN M. CURRY,
GEO. STRONG.