Clock & Ryan,

Tug Buckle,

No. 51,425, Patented Dec. 12, 1865.

Fig. 1.

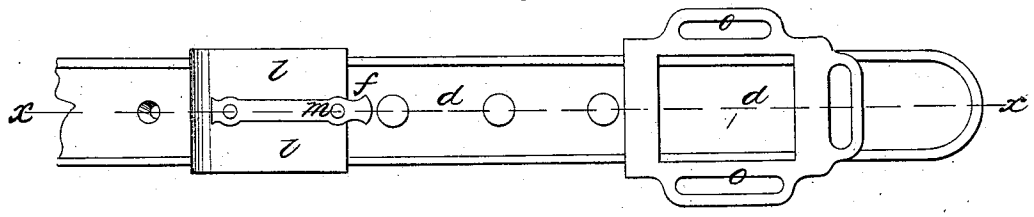
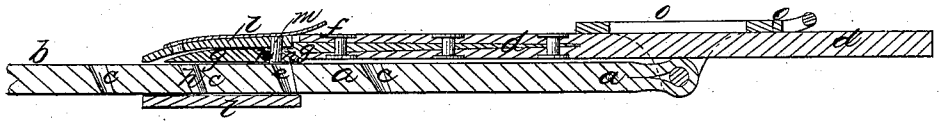


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

D. H. CLOCK AND F. D. RYAN, OF NEWVILLE, INDIANA.

IMPROVED TRACE-FASTENER.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **51,425**, dated December 12, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, D. H. CLOCK and F. D. RYAN, of Newville, in the county of De Kalb and State of Indiana, have invented a new and Improved Trace-Fastener; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable those skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

The present invention relates to a fastening for traces to the hame-tugs of harnesses, the object of which is to enable the trace to be adjusted in length at pleasure; and it consists in attaching to the end of the trace and extending in the direction of its length a flat metallic plate, having at or near its outer end and upon one of its flat surfaces or faces, a projecting prong or tongue, which is first engaged with the proper aperture of a series of apertures made in the hame-tug, according to the length of trace desired, when over said trace-plate and incasing it and the hame-tug is then slid a clasp or sleeve having a spring-tooth or prong, which, then engaging itself with an aperture in the said plate, firmly hold the same in place in connection with its prong, interlocked with the hame-tug, as described.

In accompanying plate of drawings our improved trace-fastener is illustrated, Figure 1 being a side view of the trace and its fastening; Fig. 2, a central section taken in the line of the plane *x x*, Fig. 1.

a a in the drawings represent the hame-tug, which is secured to the hame at its end *b* by any of the usual means, and has for its whole length a series of apertures, *c c*, at any desired distance apart, but not so close as to weaken the tug *d*, the trace-strap, in one end, *f*, of which is secured, by rivets or in any other proper manner, a flat metallic plate, *g*, projecting beyond its end, which plate is provided at its outer end, and upon its face or surface in contact with the hame-tug, with a prong or tongue, *h*, which is interlocked with one of the hame-apertures, according to the length of trace desired.

Over the trace-plate, and incasing it and the corresponding portion of the hame-tug, is a metallic clasp or sleeve, *l*, made of the proper shape therefor, which clasp has a spring tooth or tongue, *m*, at or near its outer end, engaging with the aperture *n* in the corresponding portion of the trace-plate.

When the spring-tooth is interlocked with the trace-plate, and its tongue, in turn, inserted in the proper aperture of the hame-tug, it is obvious that the trace will thus be firmly held in position and to the hame-tug. To loosen the trace, or, in other words, to unfasten it, pull the spring-tooth *m* from its plate, then slide the clasp back sufficiently to uncover the said plate, thus leaving it free to have its tongue disengaged from the hame-tug, when, moving the trace forward or backward upon the tug, according to the length desired, its plate-tongue is then secured as before.

O is a guide hung in the outer end of the hame-tug for the trace-strap.

We claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The fixed pronged metallic plate *g*, interlocking with hame-tug, in combination with the sliding clasp *l*, having spring-tongue *m*, arranged together and operating as and for the purpose specified.

The above specification of our invention signed by us this 25th day of September, 1865.

D. H. CLOCK.
F. D. RYAN.

Witnesses:
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