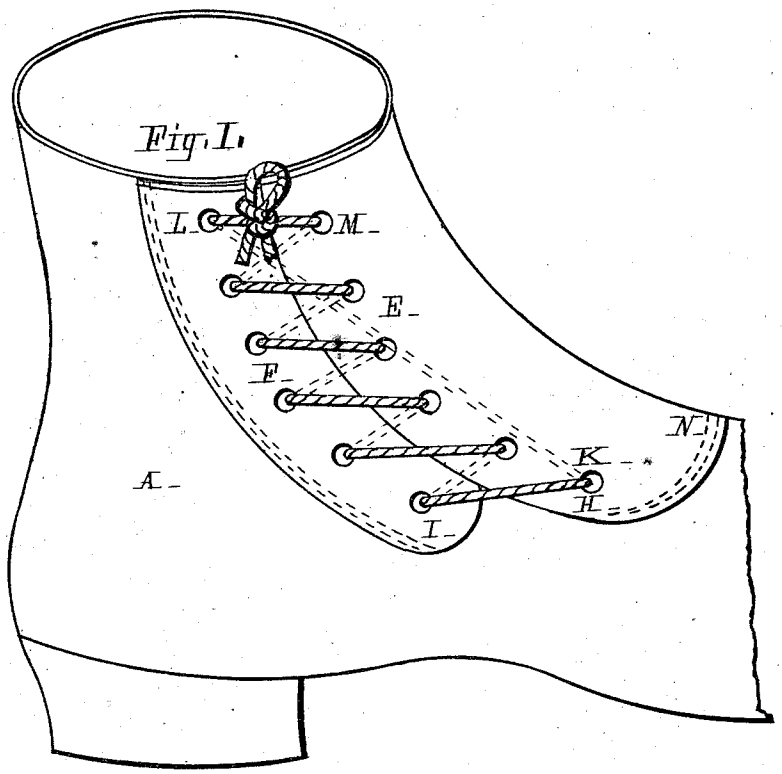
R. A. PRUETT.

Fastenings for Shoes.

No. 157,972. Patented Dec. 22, 1874.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RICHARD A. PRUETT, OF CARTHAGE, ILLINOIS.

IMPROVEMENT IN FASTENINGS FOR SHOES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **157,972**, dated December 22, 1874; application filed August 17, 1874.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RICHARD A. PRUETT, of Carthage, Hancock county, Illinois, have invented an Improvement in Shoes and Fastenings, of which the following is a specification:

This invention consists in improved fastenings for shoes, substantially as hereinafter set forth, referring to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 shows the fastenings as in use.

The shoe A opens in front. Part F is stitched to one side, and part E to the other, as shown. The part E folds over the opening in front, to meet the edge of part F, and is stitched around onto that side on a line below the lower point of front opening to point N, so as to cover the opening and its lower point, to protect and exclude dirt, &c., from them; and part F is stitched down to point I on same side. The lines of stitching on the two parts I N come to points some distance apart, to allow for the drawing up to fit different sizes and shapes of feet and ankles. Along the edges of parts E F are lines of holes for the fastening-lace. The shoe, with parts E F and the lacing, are arranged together in a peculiar way to make an elastic and adjusting fastening, and to fit all forms of foot and size of ankle. The lacing is done with a single strand put through every hole seriatim, instead of a double strand crossing into alternate holes, so as to counteract its strains and make them draw squarely across. The lacing-holes are arranged in the two parts, so that the lacing will tend to force the edges to slide along each other, to make the shoe larger or smaller around the instep and ankle, leaving the toes free and easy, and leaving the edges fitting snugly, and excluding dust and water. The line of junction of parts E F is arranged diagonally, and so curved that the lacing will draw the shoe into right form to fit the foot, large or small. The strand from bottom hole H is taken underneath on line K to top hole L, and tied to the other end of the strand from top hole M. In lacing and unlacing the shoe only one strand requires to be manipulated.

I claim—

1. The mode of lacing a shoe with one strand reaching from the top to the bottom underneath, and then passed back and forth through the holes to the top, to tie with the other end of strand, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination and arrangement of the parts E F, for side-lacing the shoe, with the lacing-holes and the lacing, to tighten and conform the shoe by being drawn, the edges of parts E F sliding along each other, substantially as set forth.

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