

I. N. MUDGETT.
Boots and Shoes.

No. 216,100.

Patented June 3, 1879.

Fig. 1.

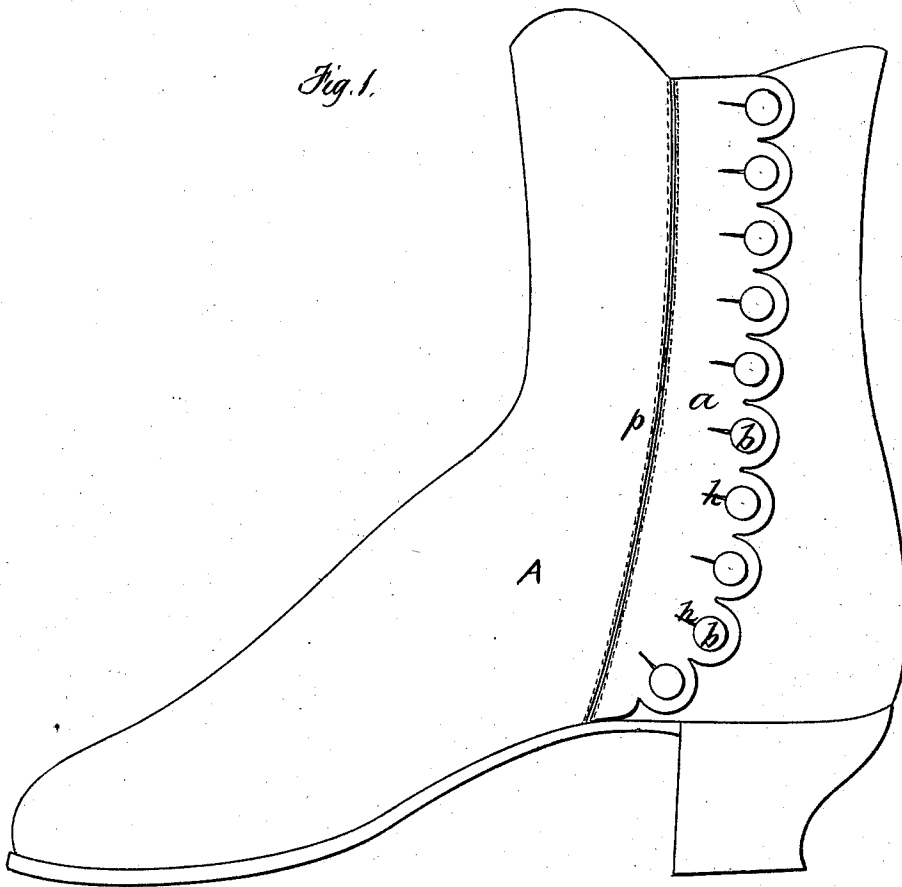
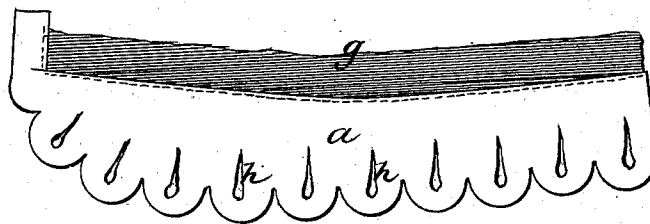


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ISAAC N. MUDGETT, OF CHELSEA, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN BOOTS AND SHOES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **216,100**, dated June 3, 1879; application filed April 12, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ISAAC N. MUDGETT, of Chelsea, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain Improvements in Boots and Shoes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to boots and shoes which are provided with side or front openings, and are secured to the foot by detachable fastenings, closing said openings, button and laced boots being types of this class.

The object of this invention is to provide certain improvements whereby the portion of the boot or shoe which is secured around the foot and ankle is rendered elastic and the strain on the fastenings is relieved.

My invention consists in providing a shoe or boot which opens from the top entirely to the sole with a strip bearing the button-holes or other means of fastening, which is permanently attached to the shoe only by means of an elastic gore.

Of the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 represents a side view of a side-button boot embodying my invention. Fig. 2 represents the fastening-strip and the elastic goring detached from the boot.

Similar letters of reference refer to like parts in all the figures.

In the drawings my invention is illustrated in connection with a side-button boot, the invention being perhaps best adapted to this form of boot.

A represents the boot, which is similar in its general construction to those already in use, excepting in certain particulars hereinafter specified. The boot has the usual side opening, extending, in the present case, from the top of the leg to the sole. One edge of this opening is composed of a strip, *a*, which I call the "fastening-strip." This is preferably of the same material as the body of the shoe, and is provided with button-holes *b* to engage buttons *b*, attached to the shoe on the opposite side of the opening; or, if desired, the strip *a* may be provided with eyelet-holes, or with studs, or any suitable means whereby it may be detachably connected to the boot at the opposite side of the opening.

The strip *a*, instead of being directly attached to the portion of the boot which is on

the same side of the opening with said strip, is attached only through the medium of an elastic goring, *g*, which is sewed at one edge to the inner side of the strip *a* and between the latter and its lining, and is sewed at its other edge to the inner side of the forward portion, *p*, of the boot adjoining the strip *a*, and constitutes the only connection between said parts.

The adjacent edges of the strip *a* and portion *p* fit snugly against each other, and the goring holds said edges in contact, so that they cover and conceal the goring excepting when they are separated by a strain on the goring.

It will be seen that by the employment of the goring I am enabled to relieve the strain or dead pull on the buttons or other fastenings of the boot which results from the movements of the foot and ankle in walking, and from other causes. Consequently the buttons or other fastenings are rendered more durable, and the boot is rendered much easier to the foot.

The goring, being concealed, does not alter the appearance of the boot, the latter being hardly distinguishable from an ordinary button-boot.

This improvement may also be applied to boots that are buttoned or laced in front, and to low shoes as well as boots, without departing from the spirit of my invention. If desired, a wider gore may be employed, which would not be concealed by the parts it connects; but as this would somewhat disfigure the shoe I prefer to conceal the gore, as described.

I claim as my invention—

In a boot or shoe having a side opening extending down to the sole, the combination, with the vamp and button-hole flap or strip, of a concealed elastic goring, whereby the vamp and button-hole strip are permanently united, all substantially as shown and described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ISAAC N. MUDGETT.

Witnesses:

ELLEN H. MUDGETT,
C. F. BROWN.