

R. L. FRASER.
Fastenings for Reins.

No. 129,808.

Patented July 23, 1872.

FIG. II.

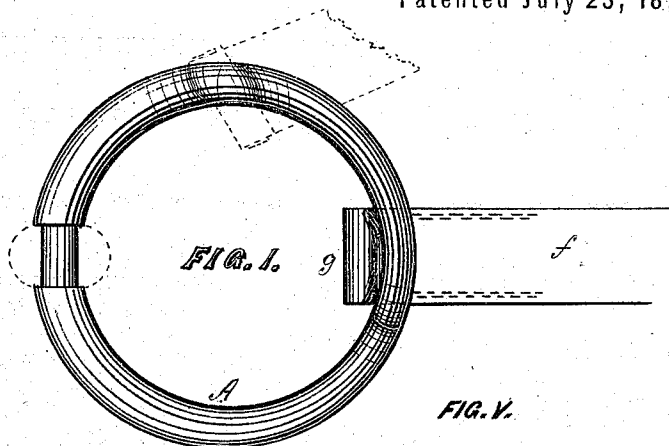
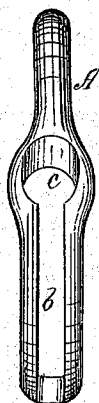


FIG. V.

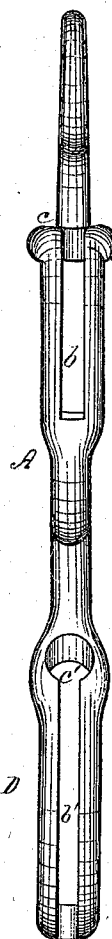
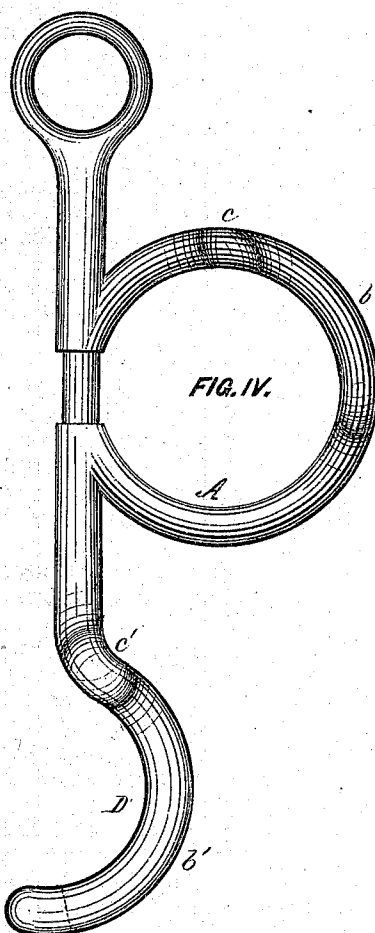


FIG. III.



WITNESSES.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RALPH L. FRASER, OF WESTERVILLE, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN FASTENINGS FOR REINS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 129,808, dated July 23, 1872.

SPECIFICATION.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RALPH L. FRASER, of Westernville, in the county of Oneida and State of New York, have invented an Improved Fastening for Reins and other parts of Harness, or other purpose, of which the following is a specification.

It is the object of my invention to furnish a substitute for the buckle and billet and snap-hook usually employed for the purpose, and provide a fastening device which is capable of being more readily connected, is equally strong and durable, and incapable of accidental disconnection; and it consists in forming a metallic bridle or other harness, ring, or bar, (as in the lever bridle-bit,) or the equivalent of such part, with a longitudinal slot having an enlarged head or opening, and in combination therewith providing the rein or other strap to be connected with a button, knob, or other enlargement at its connecting-end of such size and shape that it will pass through the enlarged head, but cannot pass the slot at any other point.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 is a side view of a bridle bit, ring, and end portion of a rein-strap in accordance with my fastening device. Fig. 2 is an edge view of the ring, showing the open-headed slot. Fig. 3 is an edge view of the connecting-end of the rein-strap; Fig. 4, a side view of a lever or gag bit, having the open headed slot both in the ring and in the lever portion or bar. Fig. 5 is an edge view of the same.

In carrying my invention into practice the bridle-ring A is split longitudinally and parallel with its plane for a length equal to one-quarter of its circumference or thereabout. The slit is then expanded laterally to form a slot, *b*, Figs. 2 and 5, of sufficient width to receive the rein-strap, and its upper extremity is enlarged laterally to a size greater than the width of the slot, as shown at *c*. The form of this enlarged open head may be circular, or of other shape to suit the taste or convenience, and the ring may be made of wrought or malleable cast-iron or other metal. The bridle-end of the rein or other strap *f*, which is to be connected with the ring, is formed with an enlargement, preferably made by doubling around a small bit of leather, *e*, or other substance, and stitching the end to the

strap, thus securing it, and forming a cylindrical head or button, *g*, of such size as to pass easily through the open head of the slot, when the weight of the strap causes it to fall to the bottom of the slot, securely connecting the two parts together. When applied to lever or gag bits the slot *b c* is duplicated in the lever-end of the bar *b' c'*, that part being preferably made of segmental shape, as at D. To disconnect them the rein must be drawn forward and the enlarged end *g* guided through the open head, as shown in dotted lines, Fig. 1—an operation which must be directed by intelligence, and cannot occur accidentally, thus rendering the fastening perfectly reliable, while it is fastened and unfastened with greater facility than the buckle, the expense of which and the billet it saves, is much more durable, does not catch in the martingale-rings or other parts of the harness, and is equally strong, the amount of metal being the same as in the common ring, only differently disposed. Its form and simplicity are more conducive to beauty, while in fine harness it possesses the important advantage of not exposing the plated portions of the bit to wear from the friction of the strap or snap-hook on the external surface of the ring or bar.

It is obvious that a metallic connecting device admitting of a great variety of form might be used in connection with the rein to engage with the slotted ring and form a reliable fastening, and therefore I do not confine myself to the described mode of forming the connecting portion of the rein-strap, though I prefer it for its simplicity, cheapness, and entire adaptation to the purposes of the invention.

I claim as my invention—

A mode of fastening straps to rings or their equivalent in harness, consisting of the slotted ring A and an enlarged head, knob, or button, *g*, upon a strap, substantially as set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

RALPH L. FRASER.

Witnesses:

Z. HILL,
A. B. SWAN.