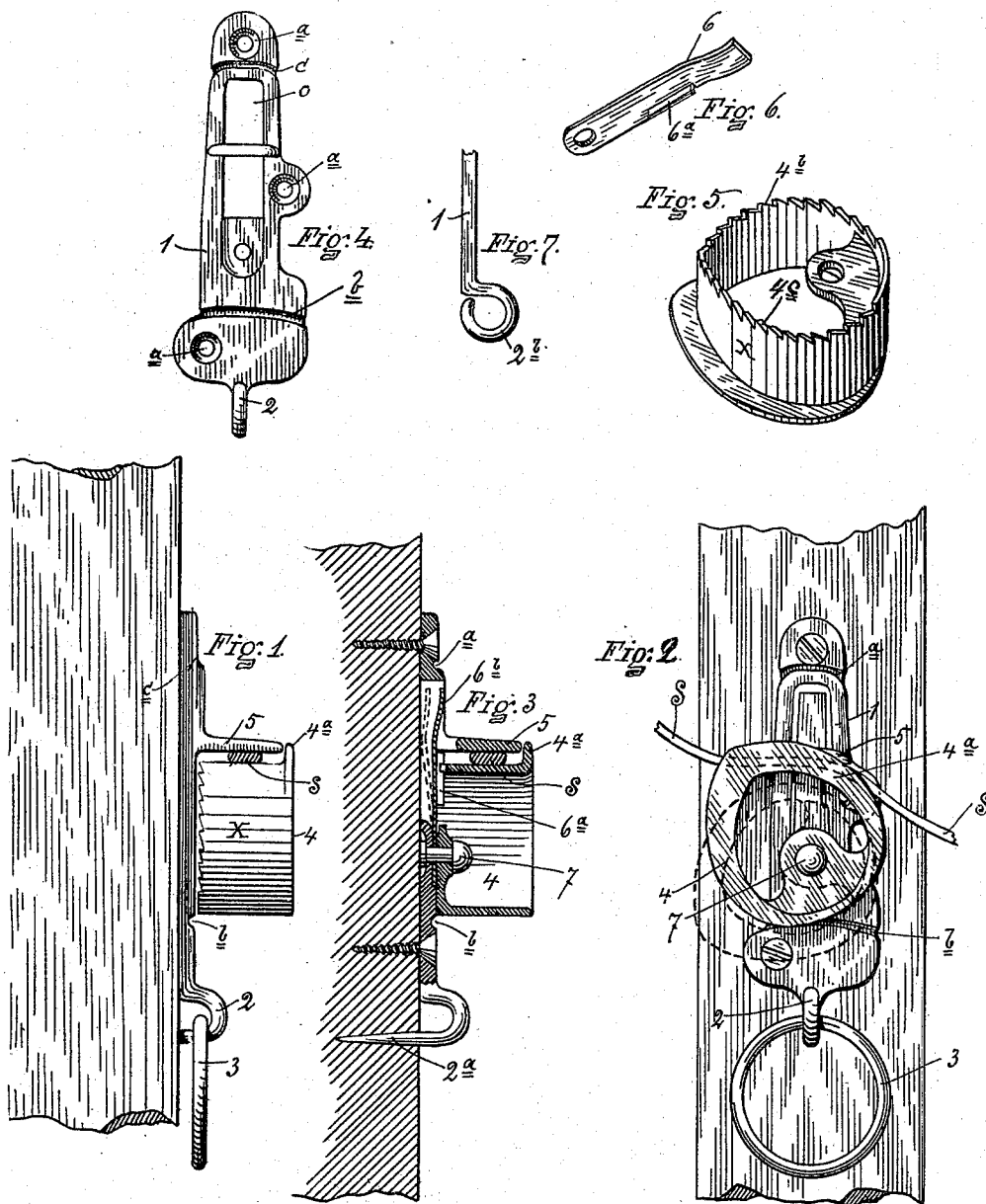


(No Model.)

J. CUNNINGHAM.
HITCHING DEVICE.

No. 534,784.

Patented Feb. 26, 1895.



WITNESSES.

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JAMES CUNNINGHAM, OF CANASTOTA, NEW YORK.

HITCHING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 534,784, dated February 26, 1895.

Application filed September 19, 1894. Serial No. 523,475. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES CUNNINGHAM, of Canastota, in the county of Madison and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hitching Devices; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and numerals of reference marked thereon, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in hitching devices.

In the drawings, which accompany and form a part of this specification, and in which similar letters and figures of reference refer to corresponding parts in the several views, Figure 1 shows a face view of my hitching device. Fig. 2 shows a side or edge view. Fig. 3 shows a vertical central section. Fig. 4 shows the base part of the device in detail. Fig. 5 shows a cam lock in detail. Fig. 6 shows details of a spring catch for securing the cam lock. Fig. 7 shows a modified form of construction of the base or body.

Referring to the reference letters and numerals in a more specific description of the device, 1 indicates the body or base, which is of suitable shape for the purpose, and which is provided with openings as *a, a* for the reception of screws to secure it on a post or other support. The lower end of the body is provided with an eye 2 for securing a ring 3, and the eye may be formed with an integral brad, as shown at 2^a, to be driven into the post or support, or closed into a regular eye, as shown at 2^b in Fig. 7. The body is also preferably provided with curved recesses or grooves *b* and *c* extending across the face at either end and adapted to receive a wire for binding the device on to a post, thereby securing it with greater certainty than by depending on the screws alone. Pivotaly mounted on the body by means of a rivet 7 is a double faced cam 4 adapted to act against or in opposition to the shoulder 5 on the body. The double cam locking device is provided with a rim or edge 4^a which swings by or passes the outer end of the shoulder 5. The under side or edge of the cam is provided with

two sets of ratchet teeth 4^b and 4^c; the teeth from either side inclining toward the point of the cam which extends farthest eccentrically from the pivotal point. These teeth are adapted to be engaged by the teeth 6^a of the spring catch 6; the tooth being suitably elongated to adapt it to engage with the teeth in any of the positions of adjustment of the cam lock; the tooth being arranged eccentrically with the pivotal point. The spring catch 6 is mounted or secured on the rivet 7 between the cam lock and the base and the free end 6^b thereof extends in the opening *o* of the base in suitable position to be pressed by the thumb or finger to disengage the catch and release the cam lock, at the same time that it is protected by the wall of the base from all sides except the top.

The device furnishes a ready means for securing a rope or strap, *S* preferably the halter or tie-strap, of a horse, the strap being inserted between the shoulder 5 of the device and the cam lock while the cam is turned into the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1, when the cam is turned by hand so as to bind the strap or rope firmly between the shoulder 5 and the face of the cam. The rim 4^a of the cam prevents the strap or rope from being pulled out at the side or over the end of the shoulder 5. When the strap is secured by turning the cam, the cam is locked by the catch 6 with the tooth 6^a thereof engaging in one or the other of the sets of ratchet teeth 4^b or 4^c. In placing the strap or rope in the hitching device, the free end is placed to the side from which the cam is turned and the end of the rope or strap that is to receive the draw, if any, is in the direction in which the cam is turned. Any draw or pull on the strap, after being placed in the hitching device, will tend to secure the device more firmly by turning the cam to bind more tightly against the shoulder 5. The face *x* of the cam may be suitably roughened if desired. The ring 3 is provided simply as a tie-ring for persons who might not be familiar with or desirous of using the working parts of the hitching device for the purpose for which it is intended.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination in a hitching device of a body having a fixed shoulder, an eccentric-

5 cally mounted cam having its face located opposite the shoulder, and ratchet teeth on its inner edge, of a spring catch secured in the body and adapted to engage in the ratchet
15 teeth and secure the cam, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination in a hitching device of a body having a fixed shoulder, a cam eccentrically pivoted on the body with its face operating in opposition to the shoulder, two sets
10 of ratchet teeth on the edge of the cam and a spring catch adapted to engage the ratchet teeth and secure the cam, substantially as set forth.

15 3. The combination in a hitching device of a body 1 having a fixed shoulder 5, a cam 4

eccentrically pivoted on the body with its face operating in opposition to the shoulder 5 and provided with a rim 4^a on its outer edge, sets of ratchet teeth 4^b and 4^c on its inner edge, of 20 a catch 6 secured to the body and having its movable end received within a recess in the body and also having an elongated tooth 6^a adapted to engage with either set of ratchet teeth and secure the cam, substantially as set 25 forth.

In witness whereof I have affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JAMES CUNNINGHAM.

Witnesses:

PETER P. SMITH,

GEO. A. GAYMONDS.