(12) **United States Patent**
Beale

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(54) **CARRIAGES, DISENGAGING HORSES FROM**

(76) Inventor: **Robert Beale**

Robert Beale

The schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same containing a description of the said Robert Beale's invention of his improvement in Carriages, by which the horses may be instantly disengaged when running away, or whenever required, to be detached from the carriage quickly, called the safety carriage.

Be it known, that I Robert Beale of the City of Washington in the District of Columbia, have made an improvement in Carriages, by which the horses may be instantly disengaged when running away, or whenever required, to be detached from the carriage quickly called the safety carriage, which is described as follows

The swingletree is attached to the cross bar by an iron fixture called a jointed clasp formed thus [illegible], the lower part marked A resting against the back of the cross bar. This jointed clasp is held up against the under side of the cross bar by an iron shaped hinged clasp formed thus [illegible] turning on a joint or hinge screwed to the under side of the cross bar. To the end of the hinged clasp is attached an iron rod or bolt, B, with an eye at D end. This rod or bolt passes thro an opening in the cross bar (as) has an iron spring key inserted thro the eye resting on the upper side of the bar which secures the jointed clasp from dropping. The rod may be fixed permanently to the cross bar projecting far enough below it to pass thro a slot or mortice in the end of the hinged clasp, with a spring key inserted through the end of the rod or bolt to prevent the hinged clasp falling. To the end of the spring key is attached a cord which leads inside of the carriage where it hangs handy. Should the horse take fright and become unmanageable then the cord is to be pulled suddenly which will draw the spring key from the eye of the rod or bolt, let fall the hinge clasp, and with it the jointed clasp attached to the swingle tree, and will disengage the horse from the carriage. The traces are open in front thus [illegible], to allow the breeches to slip off freely. The breeches is made from a single strap of leather, with rings sewed to the ends to hook over the traces.

The shoulder or hinge clasp may have its end turned up at right angles and formed like a catch or hook, and recovered by a spring fastened to the side of the cross bar; the cord being attached to the end of the spring. The shoulder may instead be held up in a groove instead of a mortice but the before

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described are sufficient to show the principle of my invention.

When it is desired to retain the swingletree and let the horse go off with the traces only then a hinged clasp must be put on each end of the swingletree with the jointed clasps secured to the ends of the traces, and the cords attached to the spring keys run through pulleys and are joined to the single cord which leads inside of the carriage.-

In the two horse carriage the shutters or hinged clasps are hung on the under side of the whipple-tree, and the chords attached to the spring-keys run along on the top of the whipple tree in a straight line; then pass around a pulley and are joined to the single chord which leads inside or outside of the carriage. The pulleys are to cause the cords to run freely and to draw the spring keys or pins from the eyes of the rods or bolts in a straight line — An iron tube with a flange on one end is fastened to the end of the pole. Over this is put a thimble having a ring on each side to which the breast straps are attached. This thimble slips off the end of the pole when the horses are disengaged. The mode of detaching the horses from the two horse carriage is similar to that described for a single horse carriage.-

In a four horse carriage the leaders are disengaged from the pole in the same manner by a jointed clasp, hinge clasp springkey and cord, as described for a two horse carriage.

The jointed clasp may be held up against the cross bar by a pin inserted through the jointed clasp into the hind part of the cross bar - to which pin the chord is attached.

The jointed clasp may also be secured by a spring fastened on the hind part of the cross bar, the cord being attached to the end of the spring.

Springs or friction levers are secured to the carriage and brought in contact with the hub in order to decrease the motion of the carriage when the horses are liberated, or before they are liberated.

This invention may be applied to field artillery, and which will enable the men to limber or unlimber the gun in less than half a minute.

It may be applied to carriages and waggons of every description. to

Sloughs, harrows, and all kinds of agricultural implements drawn by horses, when required to be taken in haste from the carriage to feed &c.

A forked piece of iron is suspended over the hound and front axle-tree to prevent its turning on the body bolt.

What I claim as my invention, and which I wish to secure by Letter Patent, is the before described apparatus for suddenly disengaging horses from Carriages &c.

For a further illustration of my invention, I refer to the Model & and Drawings of the same deposited in the Patent Office.

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name at the City of Washington, this tenth day of May, 1832.

Witnesses
William Wheat
William Wallis

Robert Beale

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