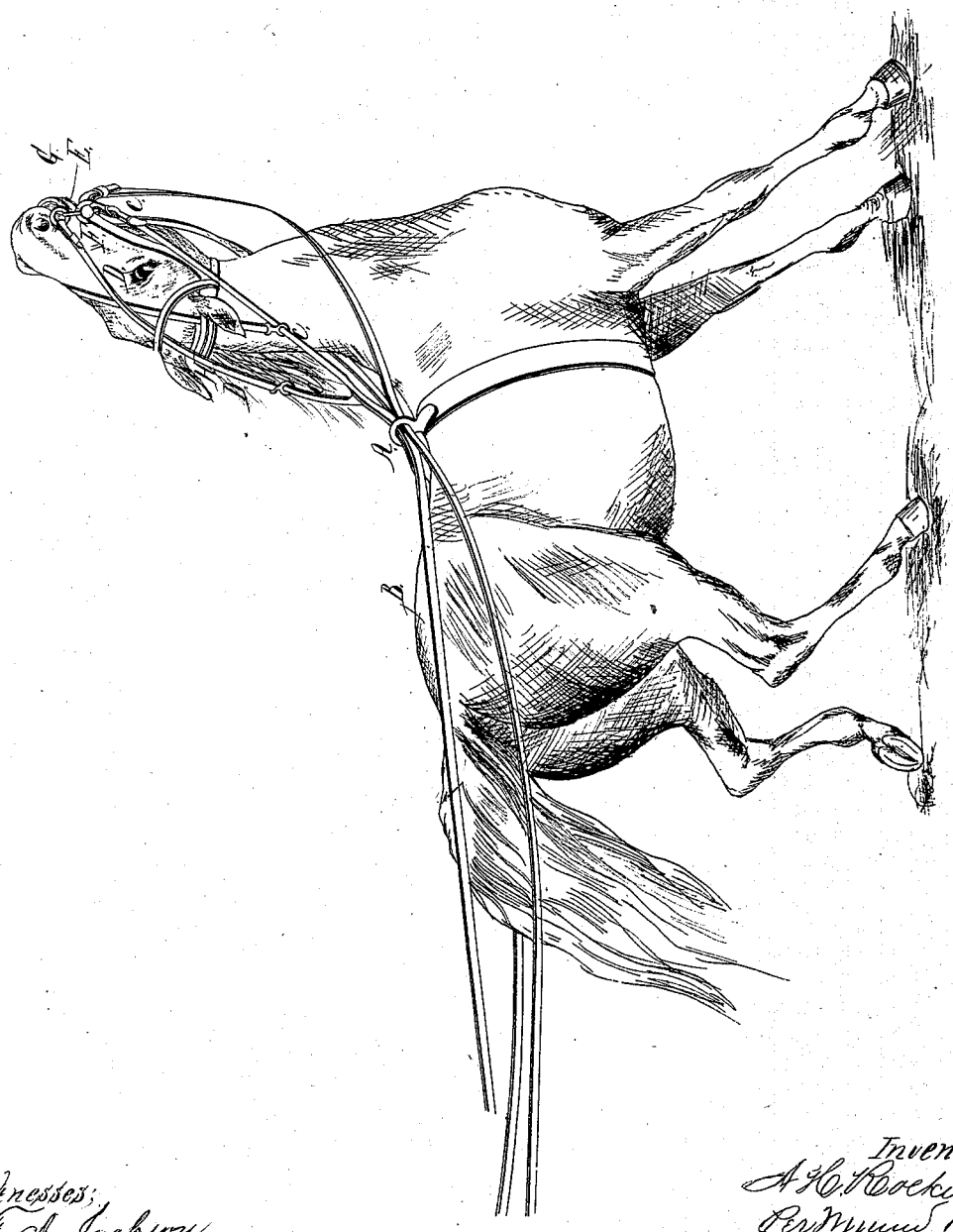
A. H. Rockwell,

Bridle,

No. 60,253, Patented Dec. 4, 1866.



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United States Patent Office.

IMPROVED SAFETY LINE FOR HARNESS.

A. H. ROCKWELL, OF HARPERSVILLE, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 60,253, *dated December* 4, 1866.

SPECIFICATION.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, A. H. ROCKWELL, of Harpersville, in the county of Broome, in the State of New York, have invented a new and improved Safety Line or Rein for Harnesses; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification.

The present invention relates to harnesses for horses more especially, and it has for its principal object to prevent both kicking and biting in double or single harnesses; my invention in the latter case being especially desirable, as it then acts as a preventive against the kicking of the horse when at a rest or stop.

I accomplish the above object by passing a single line or rein, which I denominate the "safety line," through one of the terret rings of the harness, which I prefer should be the "off" ring of the said terret rings, and securing or fastening it to the inner end of the short check-reins or straps running through the overdraw, hung to the inner rings of a double-ring-bit, to the outer rings of which the short check-reins or straps and the ordinary driving reins of the harness are hung.

With the above-described connection between the "safety line," as I term it, and the short-check and overdraw in combination with the double-ring-bit, in case the horse, to which a harness having such an arrangement of a safety strap is applied, should attempt or show the least sign or make the slightest motion to throw or kick up its hind legs, and thus to endanger the life or the limbs of the person or persons within the carriage to which such horse is harnessed, or to injure the said carriage, by simply pulling upon the said line the short-check and overdraw will be made to so act upon the horse's mouth or jaws as to cause him to throw up his head to such a height or degree as to then bring his hind legs to a position in which it would be an impossibility for him to kick; this result being accomplished without the least injury to the mouth or jaws of the horse.

In accompanying plate of drawings my improved arrangement of a "safety line" for the harnesses of horses is illustrated, the figure being a side elevation or view of a horse, showing my improvement in harnesses applied to it.

A in the drawings represents one of the terret rings of the harness, through which a line, strap, or rein, B, is passed. This strap is made of sufficient length to be conveniently grasped by the driver of the horse which is harnessed to a vehicle with a harness having my improvement to be described; C the ordinary short-check straps, which, in lieu of being hooked over the check-hook ususally employed, is made somewhat shorter, and is secured to the strap or rein B, herein above referred to, as plainly shown in the drawings, and passing through the rings of the overdraw straps D, in connection with the said overdraw straps hung to a double-ring-bit E, the one to the outside rings F, of the bit, to which the ordinary harness reins are hung, and the other to the inside and loose rings G, there being one of each of the rings F and G upon each side of the horse's mouth.

From the above description, and by an inspection of the drawings, it is plain to be understood and seen that if the line or rein B be drawn or pulled by the driver toward him, it will, acting through the short check-straps to which it is secured, and the overdraw straps of the harness upon the double-ring-bit, bring the bit and its inner rings to so bear upon the inside and outside of the mouth or jaws, as to cause the horse to immediately throw up or raise his head, in doing which, of course, he will be thrown back upon his hind legs into such a position as to render it impossible for him to kick so long as he is in that position; thus, as is obvious, producing a preventive against the kicking of a horse when in harness, that while it is simple in the construction and combination of its parts, it is effective to the highest possible degree, the operation of the bit upon the mouth or jaws of the horse, produced by the present invention, occasioning no injury to the same, from the fact that the strain on the bit by the pulling of the line, acting through the short-check and overdraw straps, does not tend to run the bit up the mouth against the inner corners or ends of the same, as is obvious without any further explanation.

Although, in the above description, I have more particularly described my improvement in connection with a single harness, it is plain to be seen that it can be as readily applied to double harnesses, and therefore I do not intend to limit myself to its use in either a single or a double harness. It may be here remarked in conclusion, that to render the safety line self-operating, as it were, it may be run from the terret ring, through a suitable loop or ring on the crupper strap of the harness, and thence down to one or the other of the shafts, or the pole of the vehicle. By this arrangement, it is plain to be seen that the least upward movement of the buttocks of the horse, caused by the act of kicking or the attempt to kick, will produce the desired pull on, the safety

line or rein B, to throw up the horse's head. And, furthermore, it may be here stated, that to retain or hold the overdraw straps down on the head of the horse, I pass them through loops H, made at suitable points in the head-stall of the harness, as plainly shown in the drawings.

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

The overdraw straps D, secured to the rings G, sliding loosely on the joint bit, the check straps C, secured to the end rings of the same bit, operating together in combination with the rein B, in the manner as and for the purpose specified.

The above specification of my invention signed by me this 22d day of August, 1866.

A. H. ROCKWELL.

Witnesses:

JAS. A. SERVICE,

ALBERT W. BROWN.

60,253