W. H. WARD.

Hames-Fastenings.

No. 162,980. Patented May 4, 1875.

Fig. 1.

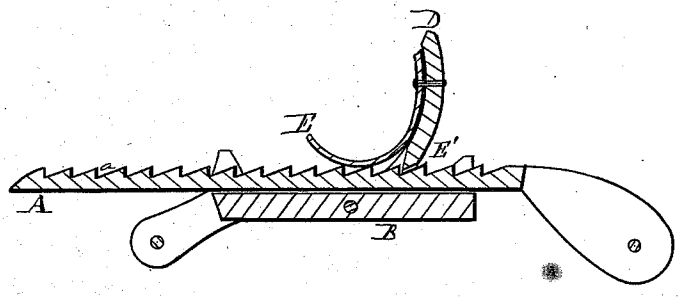
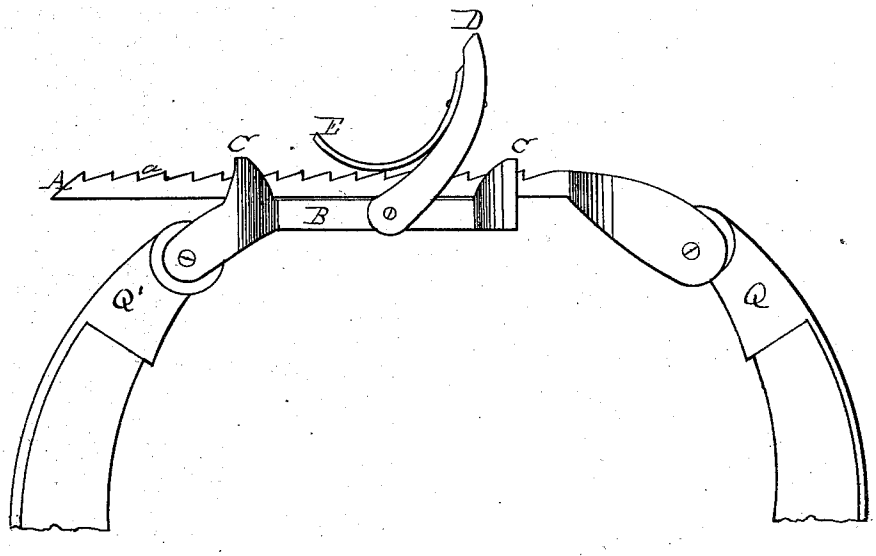


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. WARD, OF VIRGINIA, MISSOURI.

IMPROVEMENT IN HAME-FASTENINGS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **162,980**, dated May 4, 1875; application filed February 26, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. WARD, of Virginia, Missouri, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Fastenings for Traces, of which the following is a specification:

My invention relates to improvements in fastenings for hames; and consists in providing a piece toothed upon its upper surface, hinged to one of the hames, and constructed to slide between the ears and forked bar of a thumb-piece, provided with a tongue, and controlled by a spring, all attached to a second piece, which is attached to the other hame.

Figure 1 is a longitudinal central vertical section of a device embodying the elements of the invention. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of same.

A in the accompanying drawing is a bar of suitable material, toothed as shown upon its upper surface, hinged at one end to the hame O, and sliding over the upper surface of the bar B, which is hinged to the hame Q, and provided with the ears C, between which the bar A moves. The thumb-piece D is forked, one part pivoted on each side of the bar B, and is provided between the forks with the tongue E′, which engages the teeth *a*, when depressed by the action of the spring E, which is arched, secured at one end to the upper part of the thumb-piece, while its lower parts bear upon the bar A, serving to keep it in contact with the bar B, and, further, to assist the operation of the tongue E′.

To operate the device it is only necessary to force the upper part of the thumb-piece toward the hame Q, which elevates the tongue E′, and permits the adjustment of the device.

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

The bar A, provided with the teeth *a*, in combination with the bar B, provided with the ears C, forked thumb-piece D, tongue E′, and arched spring E, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing improvement in fastenings for traces as above described, I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

WILLIAM H. WARD. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

J. SCUDDER,

VAN BUREN VANDYKE.