(No Model.)

T. U. WALTER.

SHOE FASTENING.

No. 521,686. Patented June 19, 1894.

Fig. 1.

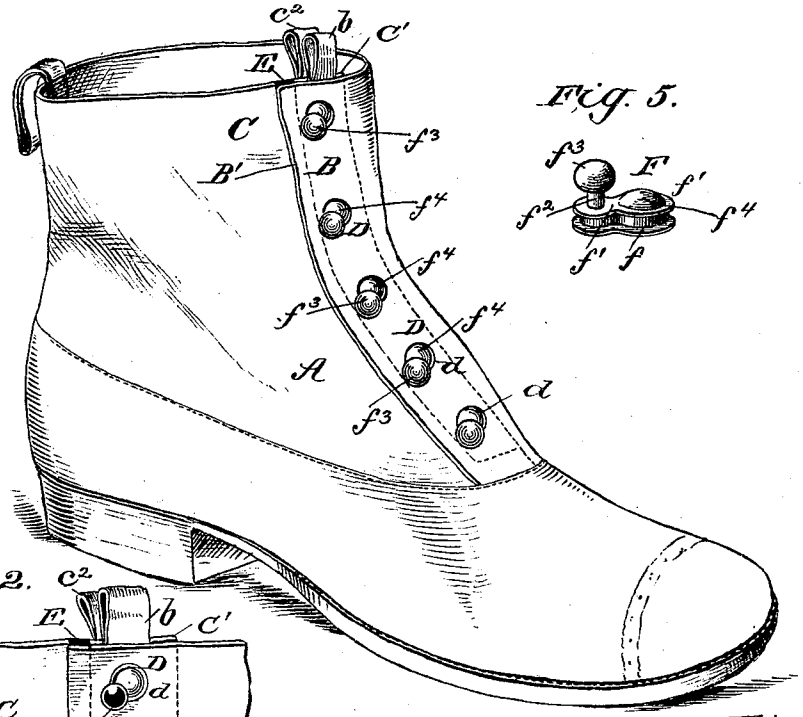


Fig. 5.

Fig. 2.

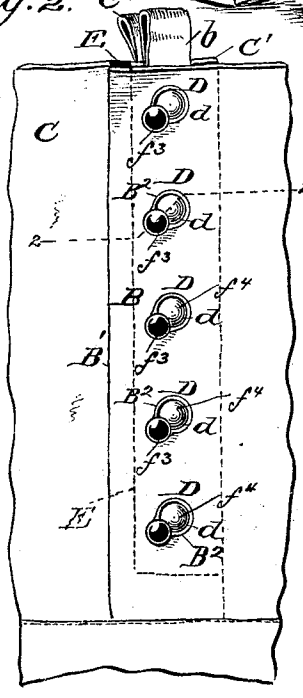


Fig. 3.

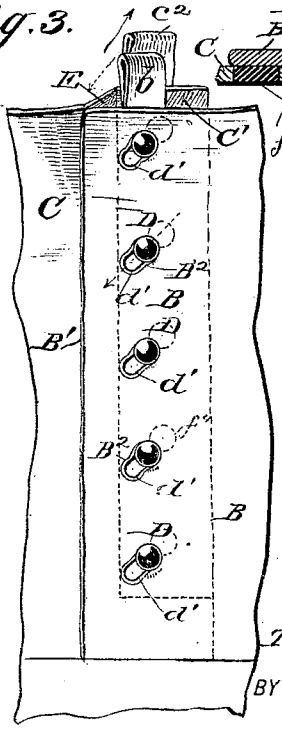
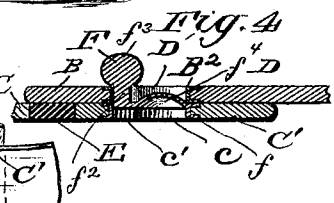


Fig. 4.



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SHOE-FASTENING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 521,686, dated June 19, 1894.

Application filed December 2, 1893. Serial No. 492,602. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS U. WALTER, residing at Huntington, in the county of Cabell and State of West Virginia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoe-Fasteners, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates more particularly to that class of shoe fastening devices in which the fasteners are adapted to be all engaged with, or disengaged from the securing eyelets or flap, by a single movement of the fastener holding flap portion of the shoe, and it has primarily for its object to provide a shoe fastening of this character, of a very simple and inexpensive nature, which can be quickly and easily manipulated and which will effectually serve for its intended purpose.

It has also for its object to provide a fastener of this kind, which, when adjusted to its securing or interlaced position, will not become accidentally disconnected.

With other minor objects in view which will hereinafter appear, my invention consists of the novel and peculiarly constructed fastener hereinafter set out in the specification and particularly pointed out in the appended claims, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a shoe with my improvements applied. Fig. 2 is a plan view of a portion of the shoe with the flaps shown connected or interlaced. Fig. 3 is a similar view of a portion of the shoe, showing the fastener holding flap drawn up to bring the fastener button heads in position to engage the eyelet portions. Fig. 4 is a transverse section on the line 2—2, and Fig. 5 is a perspective view of one of the fasteners detached.

In the accompanying drawings A, indicates a shoe of the kind in which the flaps overlap, B indicates the upper, and C, the lower flap, the upper flap being connected to and formed with the body of the shoe in the usual manner. The flap B has a series of apertures D, which consist each of a circular or inlet portion, d, and a radial slot or keeper portion, d', projected downwardly and outwardly in the direction of the edge B′, and such openings have metallic eyelet members B^3, as clearly shown in Fig. 4. The lower flap comprises the body portion proper C connected to the shoe body in the usual manner, an independent or button carrying member C′ and an intermediate gusset or elastic member E which connects the portions C and C′.

By referring more particularly to Figs. 2 and 3 of the drawings it will be observed the gusset piece E is formed of a narrow longitudinal portion which is connected with the adjacent edges of the portions C C′ and an angular portion somewhat wider than the longitudinal portion, which is secured to the lower edge of the portion C′ and the shoe body as shown. The portion C′ has a series of apertures c formed with radial slots or extensions c' which, when the said portion and the upper flap are in their normal position are adapted to register with the apertures D in the said upper flap. Within the apertures c are secured buttons or fasteners F, one of which is shown in detail in Fig. 5, and consists of a base portion f, in outline of a shape similar to the apertures c, and such buttons have extensions f' formed with shanks f^2 terminating in heads f^3, their base portions being struck up to form convex or shoulder portions f^4, which when the parts are in their laced or connected position, fit the eyelets D and serve as lock portions to prevent the parts becoming accidentally separated.

By the arrangement and combination of parts shown and described, it will be readily seen, that after the shoe is drawn on the foot, by pulling on tongue b with one hand to hold the upper flap stiff, and on the tongue c^2 with the other hand, the lower flap C′, owing to its peculiar elastic connection with the body of the shoe, will be pulled diagonally upward, and inward, until the heads f^3 are brought under the main portions of apertures D, and when in such position the expansion of the foot will force such heads up through the apertures D, by then releasing the pull on the lower flap portion c' it will be drawn back to its normal position, and in so doing draw the shanks f^2 into the elongations d' of the apertures D, and the projecting convex like portions into the circular or body portion of such

apertures, such parts being held fixedly in a connected position by the expansion of the foot.

When it is desired to remove the shoe it is only necessary to pull on the tongue c^2, and draw flap C up until the heads f^3, register with inlet portions d of apertures D. When in this position the upper flap will be forced up by the foot expansion and become disengaged from the lower flap.

While I prefer for simplicity and inexpensiveness to connect the lower flap to the shoe body by an elastic member, it is obvious that it may be connected therewith by other means for giving it a diagonal inward movement when pulled upon at its upper end, without departing from the broad idea of my invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. As an improvement in shoe fasteners, the combination with the shoe body having an upper flap secured thereto, having button holes formed each with an inlet and a downwardly and outwardly projected keeper portion, a button holding flap, a yielding member, connected with the flap and with the shoe body, arranged substantially as shown, whereby when pulled upon such flap will move diagonally outward and upward, said flap member having buttons having head portions adapted to register with the inlet portions of the button holes in the upper flap when such lower flap is pulled upward as set forth.

2. As an improvement in shoe fasteners, the combination with the shoe body having a button hole flap, its button holes having diagonally downward extending keeper portions, of a movable button holding flap having rigid projecting button like portions, and an elastic connecting member secured to the lower and inner end of such button flap and to the shoe body, all substantially as shown and described.

3. As an improvement in shoe fasteners, the combination of a button hole flap having holes formed with keeper like portions, a button holding flap, an elastic connection between the lower and inner end of such flap and the shoe body and button or fastening members arranged diagonally on the flap, and provided with restraining portions adapted to seat in the body portions of the button holes when the parts are in their connected positions, all substantially as and for the purposes described.

4. The combination with the upper flap B, having button holes formed with an eyelet portion d and a keeper portion d' and the shoe body proper of the flap C, the elastic connection E, the diagonally disposed fasteners secured thereon, said fasteners having shanks f^2, head portions f^3, and convex portions f' all arranged substantially as and for the purposes described.

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