

J. Weatherhead,

Bridle.

No. 112,398

Patented Mar. 7. 1871.

Fig. 1.

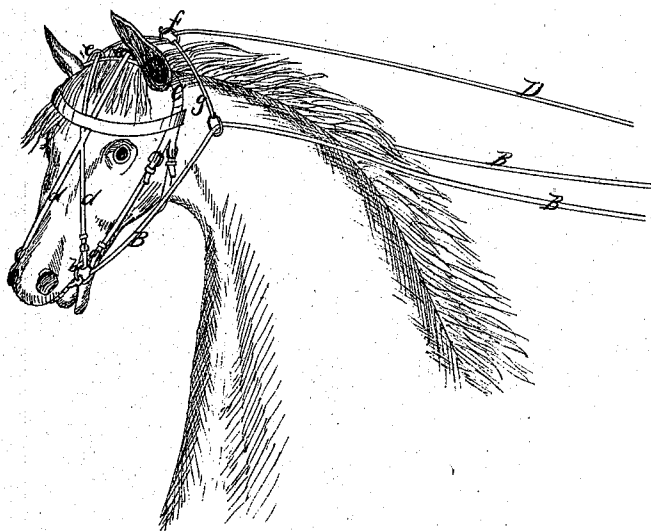
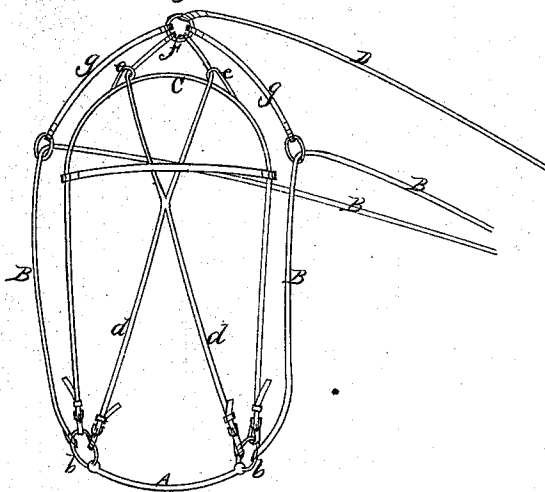


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.
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JAMES WEATHERHEAD, OF SAN JOSÉ, CALIFORNIA.

Letters Patent No. 112,398, dated March 7, 1871.

IMPROVEMENT IN SAFETY-BRIDLES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES WEATHERHEAD, of San Jose, county of Santa Clara, State of California, have invented an Improved Safety-Bridle; and I do hereby declare the following description and accompanying drawing are sufficient to enable any person skilled in the art or science to which it most nearly appertains to make and use my said invention or improvements without further invention or experiment.

My improvement in bridles relates to that class of bridles in which face-straps which are secured to the rings of the bits pass up over the head of the horse and between his ears.

In the above-named class of bridles these straps pass through loops on the crown-piece and down upon each side of the horse's neck to the ordinary bridle-reins, to which they are attached, and simply serve to keep the horse's head in an upright position while traveling.

My improvement consists in attaching the two face-straps to a ring upon the horse's head. Short straps then connect from this ring to the bridle-reins upon each side, which serve the same purpose as the side-straps above mentioned.

Besides these straps I attach a single rein to the same ring, which passes to the hands of the driver, and with which he can instantly throw the horse's head into the air by a slight pull, and prevent him from either running, kicking, or doing other damage.

In order to explain my invention so that others will understand its construction and operation, reference is had to the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification, in which—

A represents the bit of any bridle or head-stall, and *b b*, the rings to which the cheek-straps are attached.

C represents the crown-piece.

The face-straps *d d* are attached one to each of the rings *b b*, and pass up between the horse's eyes and through loops *e* on the crown-piece. At this point the two straps are attached to a ring, *f*.

Short straps *g* then connect this ring with the bridle or check-reins B, and may be extensible, if desired, by uniting each strap in the middle by a buckle, so that they may be lengthened or taken up to fit any horse.

Secured to the ring *f* is a single strap, D, which is long enough to pass to the driver, so as to be used in cases of necessity.

Should the horse at any time become unruly or endeavor to run away, a pull upon this strap D will draw the face-straps upward, and consequently draw the bit to the upper portion of his mouth so as to throw his nose into the air, in which position he is incapable of further action; but as soon as the strap or rein D is released the bit will cease to pull upward and the horse's head will be free.

If desired, the strap D can have one end secured to one of the terrets, and pass from thence forward through the ring *f*, and again back through the opposite terret along with the rein. In this case a greater leverage will be obtained to draw upon the bit.

By the use of this strap and ring I put the horse entirely under the control of the rider or driver, as upon the first indication of unruliness a pull upon the strap will effectually put the horse in a condition in which he is incapable of either kicking or running away.

Having thus described my invention,

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

In combination with the face-straps *d d* and side-straps *g*, the ring *f*, and single rein or strap D, and lines B B, substantially as and for the purpose above described.

In witness that the above-described invention is claimed by me I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

JAMES WEATHERHEAD. [L. s.]

Witnesses:

ROBERT SCOTT,
GEO. H. STRONG.