

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES S. NELSON, OF HILLSBOROUGH, ILLINOIS.

IMPROVEMENT IN SHANK AND HEEL SUPPORTS FOR BOOTS AND SHOES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **181,965**, dated September 5, 1876; application filed February 29, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES S. NELSON, of Hillsborough, Montgomery county, in the State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Adjustable Shank and Heel Supporters for Boots and Shoes, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention consists of two metallic pieces which have adjustable connection, so as to adapt the supporter for use with heels of varying heights. The lower piece is preferably formed with a bottom flange, which passes under the heel, and at top is provided with a prong, which is driven into the body of the heel in order to prevent displacement of said lower piece. The upper piece is curved so as to fit the side of the shoe, and is provided with an enlarged head, which supports the counter and prevents said counter being forced outwardly by the side pressure of the heel of the wearer.

Figure 1 is a perspective view. Fig. 2 is a transverse section. Fig. 3 shows a modification of the upper piece.

In the drawings, A is the heel, B the counter, and C the shank of the gaiter. The supporter is formed in two pieces, D E. The upper one, D, is adjustable on the part *e* of the low-

er one, and has an enlarged head, *d*, which braces the counter of the shoe and prevents its being forced outwardly by the heel of the wearer. The lower piece E of the supporter has at its upper end a prong, *e*¹, which is driven into the body of the heel, and at its lower end is provided with a bottom flange, *E*¹, which passes under the heel.

Screw-holes are formed in both pieces, D E, through which screws *e*² pass to secure the parts to the heel.

The object of the adjustment of the pieces D E upon each other is to allow the supporter to be used on shoes, &c., having heels of varying heights. The part *e*, of piece E, rests in a recess of the piece D to impart mutual support to the pieces.

The piece D may be formed with an extension, H, passing beneath the shank, as shown in Fig. 3, as in my former patent, allowed January 15, 1876, so as to support the shank as well as the heel.

I claim—

A heel-supporter, composed of pieces D and E, made adjustable upon each other, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

JAMES S. NELSON.

Witnesses:

SAMUEL KNIGHT,
ROBERT BURNS.