C. F. WHIPPLE.

HAME-FASTENER.

No. 188,486. Patented March 20, 1877.

Fig. 1.

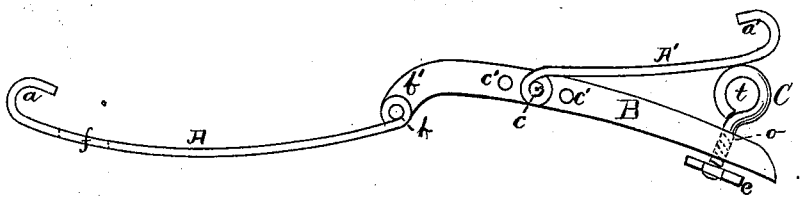


Fig. 2.

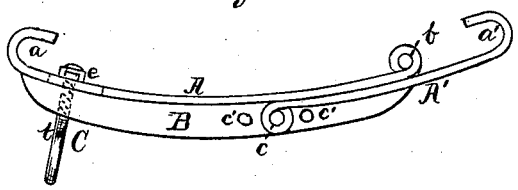
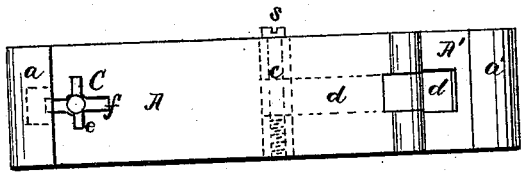


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

Henry Eichling.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CLARENCE F. WHIPPLE, OF GRAND RAPIDS, WISCONSIN.

IMPROVEMENT IN HAME-FASTENERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **188,486**, dated March 20, 1877; application filed January 25, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CLARENCE F. WHIPPLE, of Grand Rapids, Wood county, in the State of Wisconsin, have invented a new and useful Hame-Fastener, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming part hereof.

My invention relates to a device for fastening together the two ends of a harness-hame; and consists in two clip-pieces or clamps, one of which is slotted longitudinally, as hereinafter set forth, and which are connected together by a vibratory lever, which is hinged at its one end to one clamp, and is pivoted midway between its ends to the end of the other clamp, and has arranged in it a locking device, which engages in a slot in one of the clamps, all constructed and combined to operate as hereinafter particularly described.

Figure 1 is a side view of my hame-fastener, showing the clamps extended to their farthest limit. Fig. 2 is a similar view of the same, showing the clamps drawn together and locked in that position. Fig. 3 is a plan of the same, as shown in Fig. 2.

A and A′ are the two clips or clamps. These are preferably made of flat metal strips. They are formed with the hooks *a* and *a′* on their ends, respectively, as shown. The clamp A′ is made shorter than the clamp A, and it is intended that said clamp A′ shall be clinched, by its end hook *a′*, upon the end of one hame, so that it will not become detached. B is a lever. This lever connects the two clamps A and A′. The clamps A and A′ are curved somewhat longitudinally, as shown, and the lever B is similarly curved, to conform to the curve of the clamps. This curved form is given to the device in order that it may be more conveniently operated. The lever B is hinged at one end, at *b*, to the end of clamp A, and is formed with the short curved arm *b′*, which, when the lever is closed down, as shown in Fig. 2, reaches around the hinge-joint *b*, and enables the inner face of the lever to lie against the surface of the clamp A. To the lever B, midway between its ends, is pivoted the clamp A′ at *c*, as shown. The pivot is the screw *s*, and by means of the openings *c′* in the lever, which may be as many as desired, this joint is made adjustable, so that the reach of the clamps may be made greater or less. The clamp A′ is slotted at *d*, to permit the swing of the lever in extending or drawing together the clamps. Upon the free end of the lever B is arranged the locking device C, which is composed of a thumb-screw, *t*, working in a threaded opening, *o*, in the lever, and having on its end a transverse bar, *e*. This bar *e* is arranged to pass through a slotted opening, *f*, in the clamp A, as shown, when, by turning the screw *t*, until the bar *e* is brought snugly against the face of the clamp A, the lever will be locked securely in position, and the bar *e* will not shake loose, and by so doing render liable the unfastening of the hame.

Any other suitable locking device, such as a spring-catch may be employed to secure the lever in place when closed down upon the clamp A. The device I describe is desirable on account of its effectiveness and simplicity.

The operation of my device is evident. The clamp A′ being clinched upon the end of one hame, the clamps are extended, as seen in Fig. 1. The hook *a* of clamp A is then caught upon the end of the other hame, and the lever is swung up against the clamp A, thus drawing the clamps together and tightening the hames, as seen in Fig. 2. The lever is then locked to the clamp A.

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

The combination, in a hame-fastener, of the hooked clamps A and A′ and lever B, the said lever being hinged to the clamp A at *b*, and adjustably pivoted to the clamp A′ at *c*, the said clamp A′ being slotted at *d*, together with the locking device C and the slot *f*, constructed and arranged to operate as described.

CLARENCE F. WHIPPLE.

Witnesses:
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