J. M. FREEMAN.
Saddle-Stirrups.

No. 208,972. Patented Oct. 15, 1878.

Fig. 1.

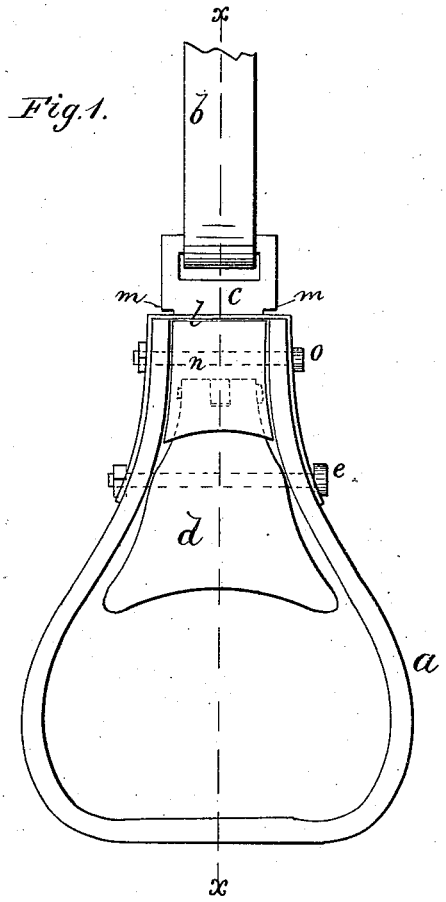
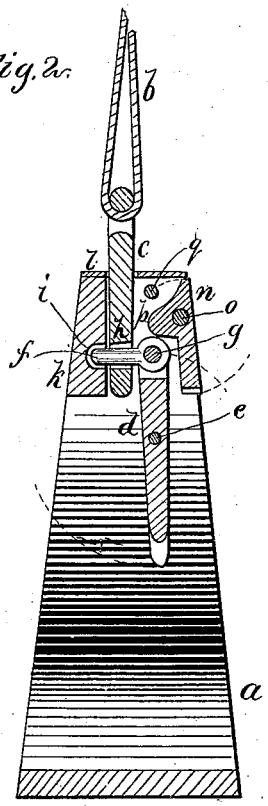


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES:
Henry N. Miller
C. Sedgwick

INVENTOR:
J. M. Freeman
BY Munn & Co
ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN M. FREEMAN, OF PARKERSBURG, INDIANA.

IMPROVEMENT IN SADDLE-STIRRUPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **208,972**, dated October 15, 1878; application filed August 17, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN M. FREEMAN, of Parkersburg, in the county of Montgomery and State of Indiana, have invented a new and Improved Saddle-Stirrup, of which the following is a specification:

The invention will first be described in connection with the drawing and then pointed out in the claim.

My invention consists in connecting the loop of the stirrup-strap to the stirrup by a pin on one end of a swinging plate, which plate is pivoted at the inside of the stirrup in such position that it will be moved by the foot of the rider when the foot is bent, as it would be in case of accident; also, in a swinging guard, that retains the parts in proper position for relocking when the plate is returned to place.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a front view of my improved stirrup, and Fig. 2 is a vertical section at the line *x x*.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

a is the stirrup, which may be of any desired form or style, and made of wood or metal.

b is the stirrup-strap, that connects with the saddle, (not shown,) and *c* is the loop that connects the strap *b* and stirrup *a*, as next described.

d is a plate that is pivoted in the upper part of stirrup *a* on a screw-bolt, *e*, that passes through the sides of the stirrup and transversely through plate *d*. There is space enough between the lower end of plate *d* and the bottom of the stirrup to prevent displacement of plate *d* under ordinary circumstances. The upper end of plate *d* carries a bolt, *f*, that is held in a slot in *d* by a cross-pin, *g*, that passes through an eye on the end of bolt *f*. This bolt *f* extends through a hole, *h*, in loop *c* and into a recess, *i*, in head-piece *k* of the stirrup, and in that position the loop *c* is firmly held. The loop *c* extends vertically through a slot provided in the cap-piece *l* of the stirrup, and is held from being pushed in too far by its shoulders *m*.

n is the guard-piece that is pivoted between the sides of the stirrup by a bolt, *o*, and is provided with a projection, *p*, at the inner side, that extends above the eye of bolt *f*.

In case of accident whereby the rider is thrown and his foot caught in the stirrup *a*, the pressure upon the lower end of plate *d* swings that end in the direction shown by dotted lines, and consequently throws the bolt *f* out of the recess *i* and hole *h* in loop *c*, and the stirrup *a* comes loose. This movement of plate *d* also swings out the guard *n*, so that its projection *p* holds the bolt *f* in its proper position for relocking the parts when the plate *d* is turned back to its normal position. The extent of motion of plate *d* and guard *n* is limited by a cross-pin, *q*, against which the upper end of guard *n* bears when the stirrup is unlocked.

By tightening the nut on screw-bolt *o* to cause more or less friction of the stirrup against head *n*, the parts will be held in position as tightly as desired.

I am aware that it is not new to connect a stirrup with the saddle-strap by a loop and hook, the latter attached to and unhooked by a toe-guard extending out in front of the stirrup; but

What I claim as new and of my invention is—

In a stirrup, the combination of the plate *d*, pivoted at *e*, the eyebolt *g*, pin *f*, and perforated saddle-strap link *c* with stirrup *a*, having the recess *i* on one side, and the opposite guard, *n*, having projection *p*, as shown and described.

JOHN MURRAY FREEMAN.

Witnesses:

BENTON JAMES,

JAMES H. CLEAVELAND.