

E. Howe Jr.

Fastening for Garments &c.

Patented Nov. 25. 1851

N<sup>o</sup> 8540.

Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.



Fig. 3.

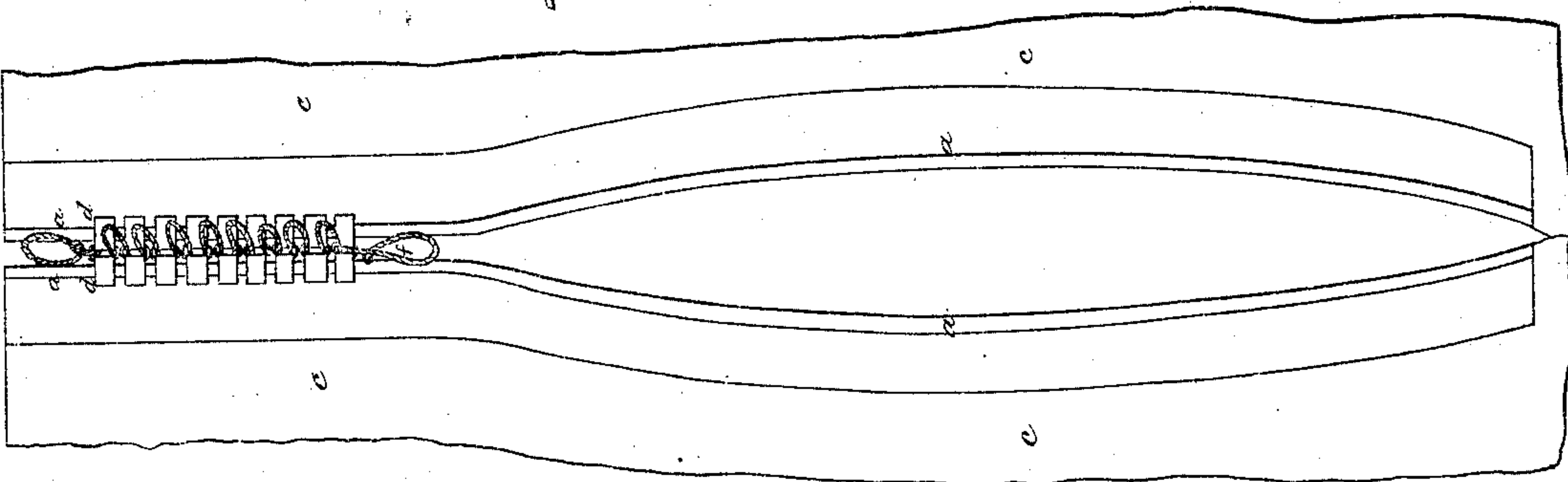


Fig. 2.

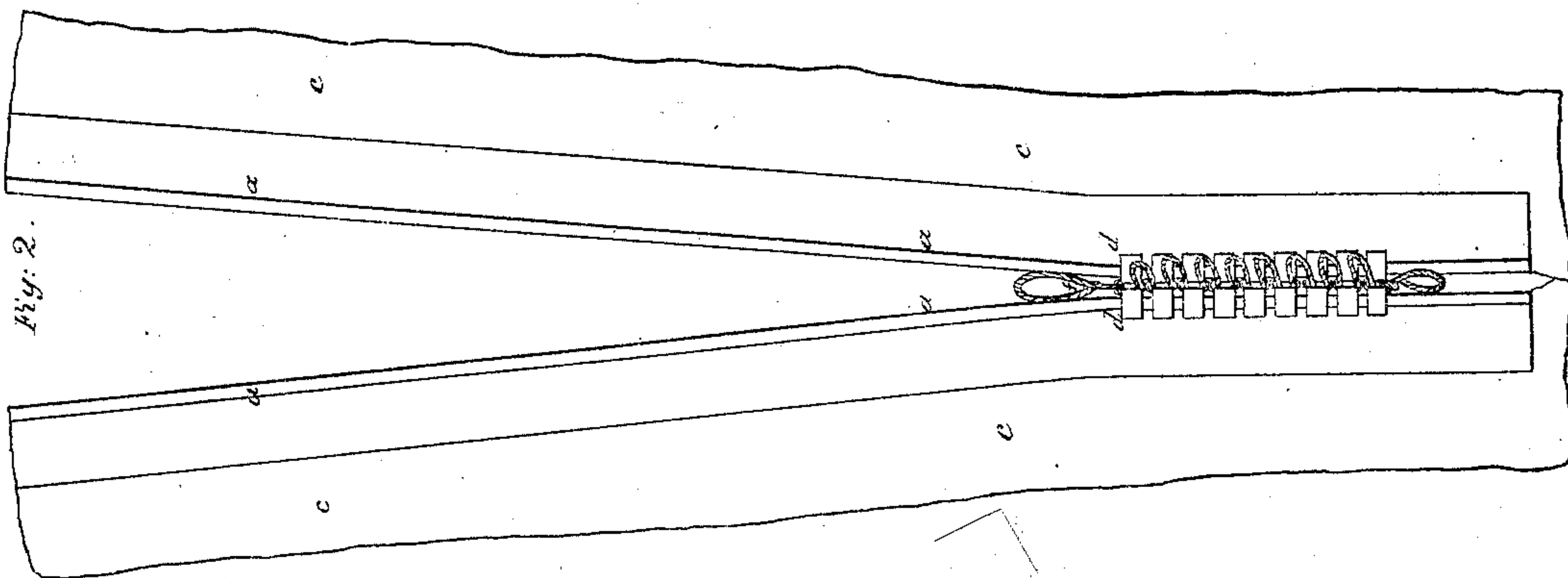
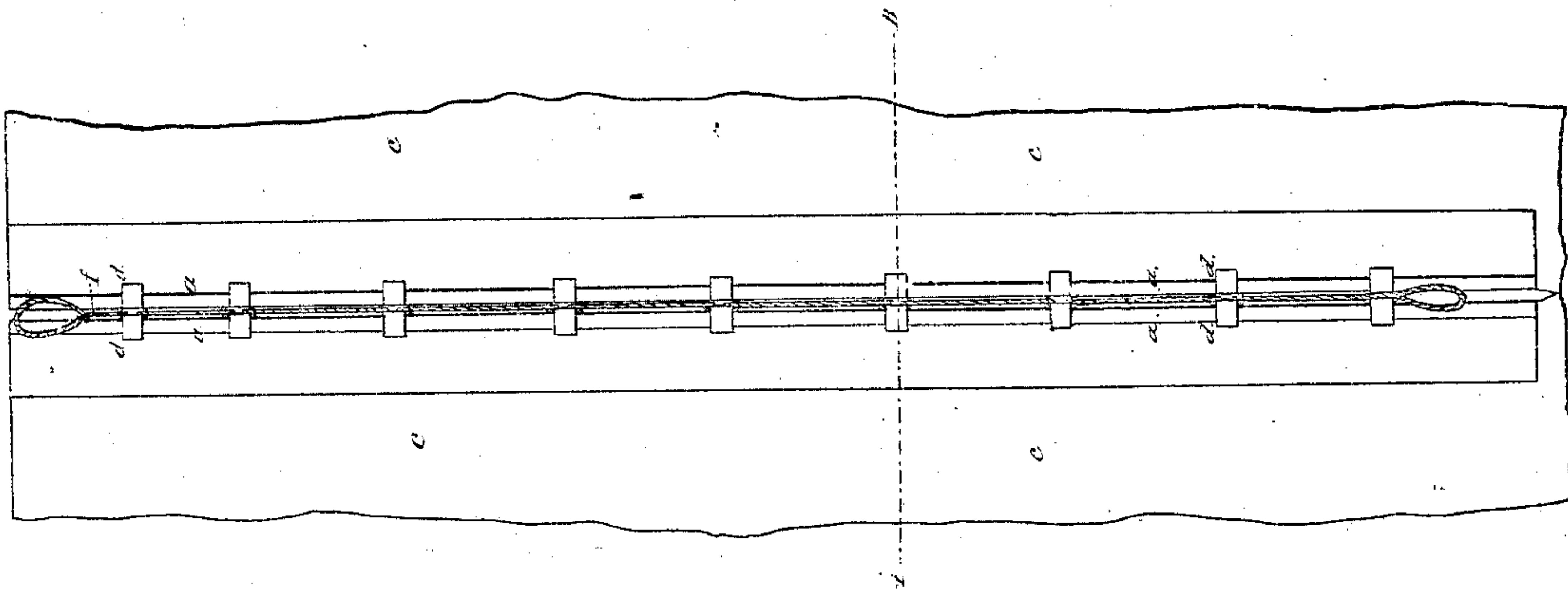


Fig. 1.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## IMPROVEMENT IN FASTENINGS FOR GARMENTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 8,540, dated November 25, 1851.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ELIAS HOWE, Jr., of Cambridge, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fastenings for Garments, Ladies' Boots, and other articles to which they may be applicable; and I do hereby declare that the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, hereinafter referred to, forms a full and exact specification of the same, wherein I have set forth the nature and principles of my said invention, by which it may be distinguished from others of a similar class, together with such parts as I claim and desire to have secured to me by Letters Patent.

The figures of the accompanying plate of drawings represent my improvements.

Figure 1 is an elevation of the two sides of a garment closed or brought together by my improved fasteners. Fig. 2 is an elevation of the same with the two sides of the garment opened from the top, while Fig. 3 is an elevation showing the garment opened from the bottom. Fig. 4 is a section taken in the plane of the line A B, Fig. 1, with the clasps, &c., covered by lapels. Fig. 5 is a section taken between the clasps, showing the cord, &c.

My invention consists of a series of clasps united by a connecting-cord, the said clasps running or sliding upon ribs formed of any suitable material.

The advantage of this manner of fastening garments, &c., consists in the ease and quickness with which they can be opened or closed, while there is no liability of their getting out of order.

*a a a a* in the drawings represent the flanged ribs, securely fastened to the sides *c c* of a garment or other fabric.

*d d* are the clasps, which are bent round the ribs *a*, as shown in Fig. 4, so as to hold the ribs together, yet sufficiently loose to allow them to slide freely over the same. The clasps on each rib are fastened together by a connecting-link *b b*, &c., and are set at short distances apart on the ribs, being connected by a cord *f f*, (shown in the several figures,) each end of which is formed into a loop. This cord is passed through the links *b b*, &c., between each set of two clasps, in a loop form, and is held in that position by a bead *g g* on the cord, (shown in Fig. 5,)

which prevents the said cord from slipping through the link *b*, thereby connecting the pairs of clasps together. It will be seen that the clasps and cord being constructed and arranged as above described, the clasps can be moved freely up and down on the flanged ribs, bringing the said clasps near together and leaving the cord between the pairs of clasps loose or in a loop form, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

In Fig. 2 the fabric or two sides of a garment are represented as open at the top, the clasps being moved down on the ribs by the loop at the top. In Fig. 3 the ribs are represented as open at the bottom, the clasps being at the top, while Fig. 1 represents the two ribs brought together or fastened.

It will be evident that there are a variety of ways in which the above arrangement can be varied; but the general principles of the invention are, it is believed, embodied in the above description. The ribs and the flanges on the same can be made of rubber cloth or of wire or strips of metal, so arranged as to be flexible. Another manner of arranging the same is to secure the clasps to the sides of the parts to be opened or closed opposite to each other in pairs, and opening and closing them by sliding the flanged rib instead of the clasps. The ribs in such case must be made double or one on each side of a narrow flange or strip of any proper material. The loop at the top end of the cord is to be passed round a button secured to the garment, while the loop at the bottom is to be used to move the slides up and down.

Having thus described my improved mode of fastening garments, &c., I shall state my claim as follows:

What I claim as my invention, and desire to have secured to me by Letters Patent, is—

1. The opening, closing, and fastening together the two sides of a garment or other article by means of the clasps and ribs operating in combination, substantially in the manner hereinabove described.

2. The method of connecting the clasps one to the other in pairs and in the series of pairs by the links, cord, and beads, substantially in the manner hereinabove set forth.

ELIAS HOWE, JR.

Witnesses:

EZRA LINCOLN,  
JOSEPH GAVETT.