

B. Johnson.

Bustle.

N^o 22124

Patented Nov. 23, 1858

Fig. 1.

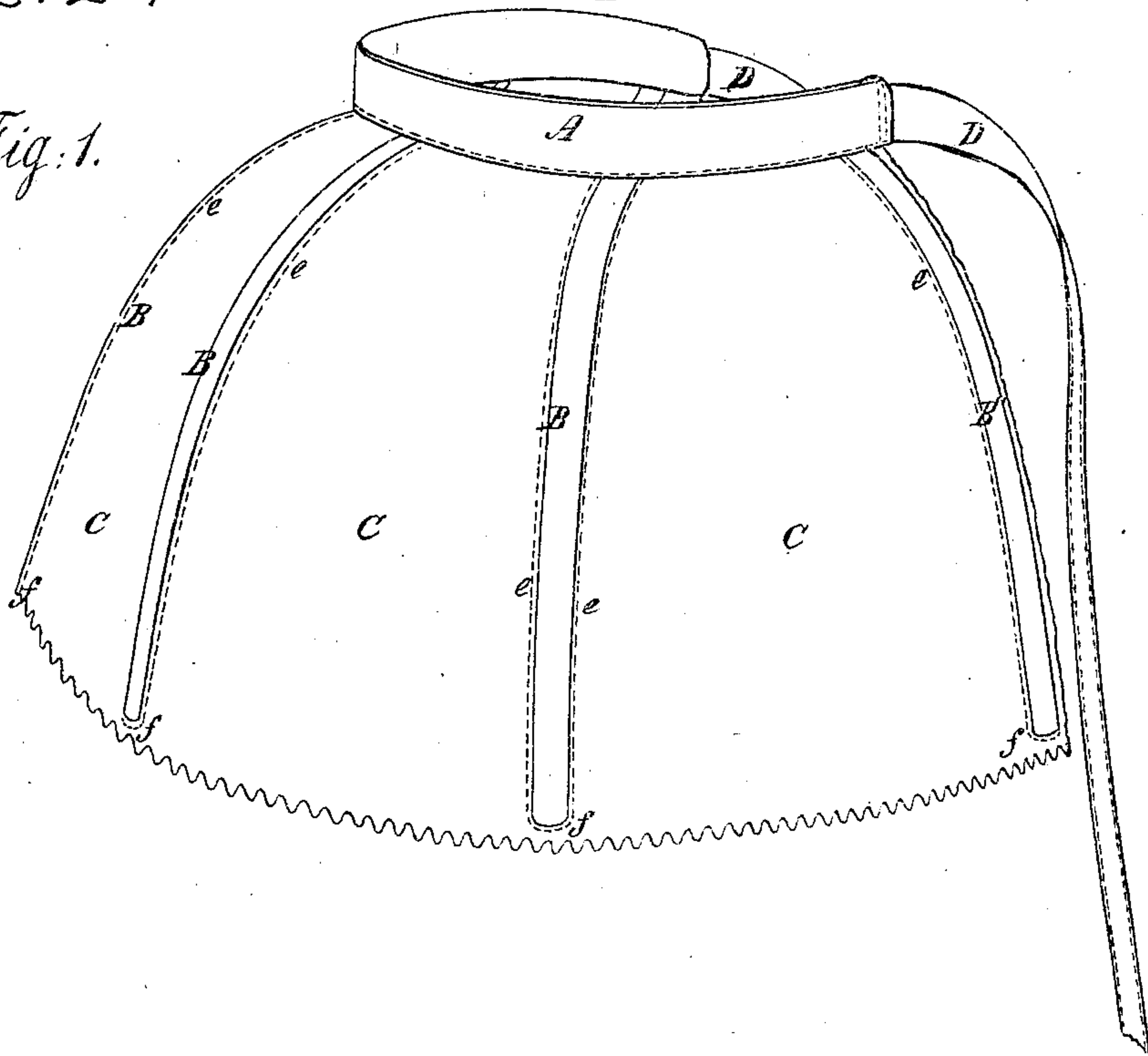
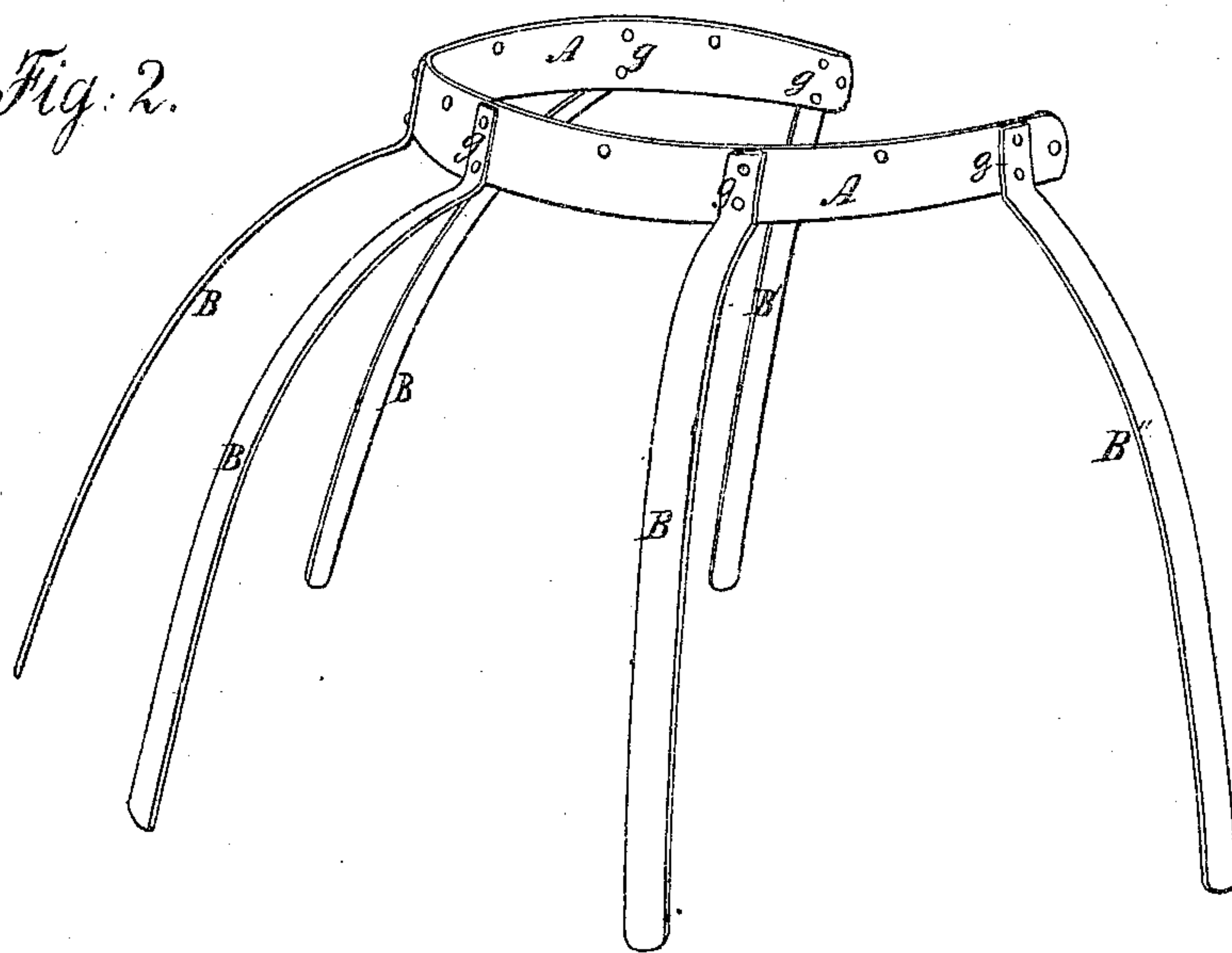


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.

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TOURNURE.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 22,124, dated November 23, 1858.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN JOHNSON, of the city of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and Improved Tournure for Ladies' Dresses; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1, is a perspective view of it, as completed for application to the person; and Fig. 2, a like view of the frame of the same without its covering—like letters in both figures indicating the same parts.

My invention has for its object the producing, and more durably maintaining than heretofore, that graceful fullness of contour desired in ladies' skirts around the back and hips, and consists in the construction and arrangement of a series of curved, elastic strips or springs of steel, fixed permanently, by their upper ends only, to a metallic band so as to cause them to project outwardly therefrom and be held thereby around, over and clear of the subjacent parts of the under petticoats and person, in such a manner that the whole of the said projecting parts of the springs, more especially of the back ones, shall be left entirely free to be moved, elastically and separately, in vertical planes, radial to the center of the curve of said band, when the tournure is applied and secured around the person's waist—the said springs being also webbed or connected laterally, either by thin, light, textile fabric, or by strips of tape, so as to produce with the said springs so attached to said band, a foundation or projecting, elastic support of the form and extent required to produce the fullness of contour desired about the upper back-part and sides of ladies' dress-skirts, which shall not lose its necessary elasticity, nor be liable to become, either displaced, broken, or permanently distorted as heretofore, by the external force or compression to which such articles are usually subjected when worn in crowded assemblies or traveling vehicles; nor be subject to the ungraceful motions occasioned, in most of the bishops and bustles worn, by the necessary alternate motions of the gluteal muscles in walking.

In the drawings A, represents the metallic

waist-band; B—B', B'', the curved, elastic strips or springs of steel; C, C, the webbing which is connected laterally to the said springs; and D, D, the tie-strings whereby the tournure is to be secured around the waist when worn for the purpose specified.

The band (A) consists of a strip of sheet brass, iron, or zinc, which is cut and bent so as to adapt it, to be fitted around the back and sides of the waist.

The elastic strips or springs (B, B', B'') consist of several thinly-rolled strips of steel, bent into the curved forms required for the purpose, spring-tempered, and fixed by their upper ends only, to the band (A) by means of rivets *g, g*, or otherwise, and at about 2½ inches apart from center to center, so as to project around outwardly therefrom in the curved directions in which the dress-skirts are desired to be supported or held out in fullness about the back and hips—the said projecting portions of the springs (B—B'), especially of those about the back, being formed and attached to the band (A) so as to project therefrom freely and entirely out of contact with the subjacent parts of the under petticoats, so as to be entirely free to be moved, elastically, in vertical planes radial to the center of the curve of the said band (A), toward and from the under garments and person of the wearer of the tournure, when the said springs are subjected to, or released from any sufficient external force. The general form, arrangement, and mode of combination of the springs (B, B', B'') with the band (A), are substantially shown in Fig. 2.

The webbing (C, C) I usually make of two layers (an upper and an under one) of thin, glazed muslin, or other similar, textile fabric, and fit it over the upper and under sides of the series of springs (B, B', B'') by sewing the two layers together at each edge, *e, e*, as well as around the ends *f, f*, of the said springs, so that the said webbing (C, C) shall connect with the springs laterally, and thus produce with them, an elastic projection or foundation not liable to break, nor to become displaced or permanently distorted by external force or compression and which shall hold out the upper parts of the dress-skirts in the desired fullness, around the back and hips, before described. The combination of this webbing with the springs and band, is distinctly

shown in Fig. 1; but it is manifest that if the springs (B, B', B'') be covered separately (like one's fingers with a glove), and several strips of tape be secured to the said coverings so as to extend from one spring to the other, an open webbing will be produced which will answer the same purpose.

The band (A) has secured against its inner side and under edge (to make it fit easy, or without chafing), one or more thicknesses of flannel or other like soft material, which, with the said band, is afterward covered smoothly with glazed muslin, or other suitable material, and sewed to the webbing or covering of the said springs.

The tie-strings (D, D,) may consist of tape, and are attached around or to the ends of the band (A), so as to extend loosely for tying—substantially as shown in Fig. 1.

I usually make the band (A) about from $\frac{3}{4}$ to one inch in width, and of such a length as will bring its ends around within two or three inches of each other in front of the person wearing the tournure; and stiff enough to support the springs in the free, radial positions previously described. The springs for such a band, I usually make of number 24 sheet steel, cut, about from a half to seven-eighths of an inch wide at their upper ends, and from a quarter to half an inch wide at their lower ends, and tapering regularly from one end to the other—the widest springs (B—B) being used for the back part, because, as these require to have a fuller or larger curve than either the front springs (B—B''), or those at the hips, they have to be made somewhat larger, and, therefore, wider; the usual length, however, of the springs (B, B', B'') for a common sized person, may be about from five to eight or ten inches, according to their positions on the band and the fullness required—or of such length as may serve for the purposes described, without causing their extreme lower ends to interfere with a free and easy sitting posture of the wearer.

The tournure just described is applied around the waist, from the back over the hips, and secured by tying the strings (D, D,) together in front, in the usual manner—the elastic foundation, consisting of the springs and webbing before specified, projecting outwardly around from the band (A) in such a manner as to leave a clear and unobstructed space around between its under side and the subadjacent petticoats or under garments of the wearer, as before described.

The dress-skirts which are to be held out thereby in the fullness of contour required, are now applied over the tournure and secured around the waist in the usual manner when the said projecting elastic foundation will operate as described in producing and more durably maintaining the fullness of contour desired. The principal defect pe-

culiar to all the devices heretofore used, which depend upon hoops or sections of hoops for producing and maintaining the specified fullness of contour in ladies' dresses, whether the said devices are made adjustable by cords or otherwise is, that when pressed in on one side they must be permitted either to bulge out ridiculously on the other, or become permanently distorted, if not broken, as often happens in crowded assemblies and traveling vehicles. Another objection peculiar to all those bustles, bishops &c., heretofore used, which require to rest upon the subadjacent parts of the under petticoats and person for their support is, that the alternate motions of the gluteal muscles in walking, produce an alternate rising and falling of those parts of the bustle or bishop which rest upon them, and consequently communicate the same ridiculous motion to those parts of the dress which rest thereon. These are objections to which my tournure is not liable, because, while it possesses all the lightness and coolness necessary in such articles—especially in hot weather—the whole projecting parts of the springs (B—B) being left perfectly free and unobstructed beneath, or so as to be capable of being moved elastically without obstruction or hindrance of any kind, in vertical planes radial to the center of the curve of the band (A) as before described, it is manifest that the foundation produced thereby in connection with the webbing, will admit, in consequence of such elasticity and freeness from obstruction, of being readily pressed in at any one part without causing an outward bulging at any other part of it whatever; and that the whole foundation, as well as any part of it, will admit of being readily compressed into close contact against the under garments or person of the wearer, as occasion may require, without in the least impairing the elasticity and efficiency which it possesses, and which is indispensable in a tournure: and it is also manifest, that as the said foundation or support for the dress is held, by the band (A), entirely out of contact or free from the under petticoats about the back and hips of the wearer, the motions of the gluteal muscles cannot produce the objectionable rising and falling movements before referred to, in those parts of the skirts which are above them. My tournure is therefore much more durable and effective for the purpose required, and also more agreeable to the wearer, than either of the other devices referred to.

I am aware that a metallic band, flared out at its lower edge, has been adapted to the waist and suspended from the shoulders simply for the purpose of hanging all the skirts of the undergarments upon it so that their weight shall be transferred from the hips to the shoulders; and that metallic ribs, or fibrous webbing, have been used be-

fore, for the purpose of connecting segmental and other springs so as to cause them to rest, in vertical planes upon the undergarments and person—as elastic supports for the dress skirts,—as in G. V. and E. A. Pierce's bishop; and also that a textile webbing has been used before, for the purpose of connecting together laterally, conically formed, elastic frames or spiral springs, so as to cause them to rest, side by side, longitudinally against the under petticoats and person, as in C. I. Houghten's bustle: therefore I do not claim springs or elastic strips resting either directly or indirectly upon the undergarments and person for supporting the skirts of the dress; neither do I claim a metallic waist-band, nor connecting springs together laterally by means of a webbing of

any kind, in the construction of a tournure for ladies' dresses; but

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

A curved, elastic projection or support, consisting of the springs (B, B', B'') and webbing (C, C) or their equivalents, when the said springs are constructed, arranged and fixed to a waist band (A) so as to be held out thereby free from the undergarments and person as described, that they may operate, in connection with the webbing, substantially in the manner described, and for the purposes specified.

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Witnesses:

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