

C. W. Russell.

Bonnets.

N<sup>o</sup> 25218

Patented Aug. 23, 1859.

Fig. 2.

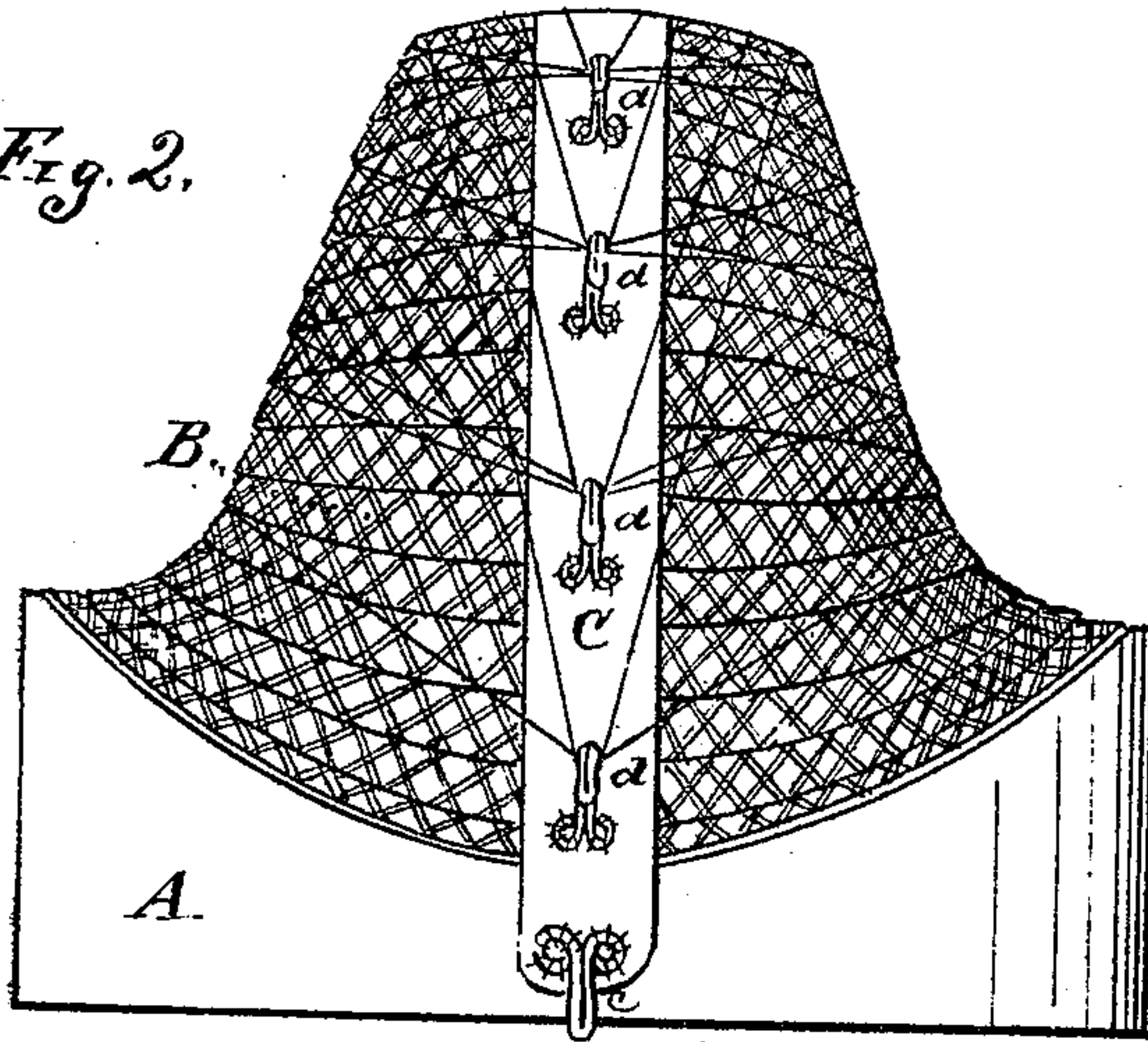


Fig. 1.

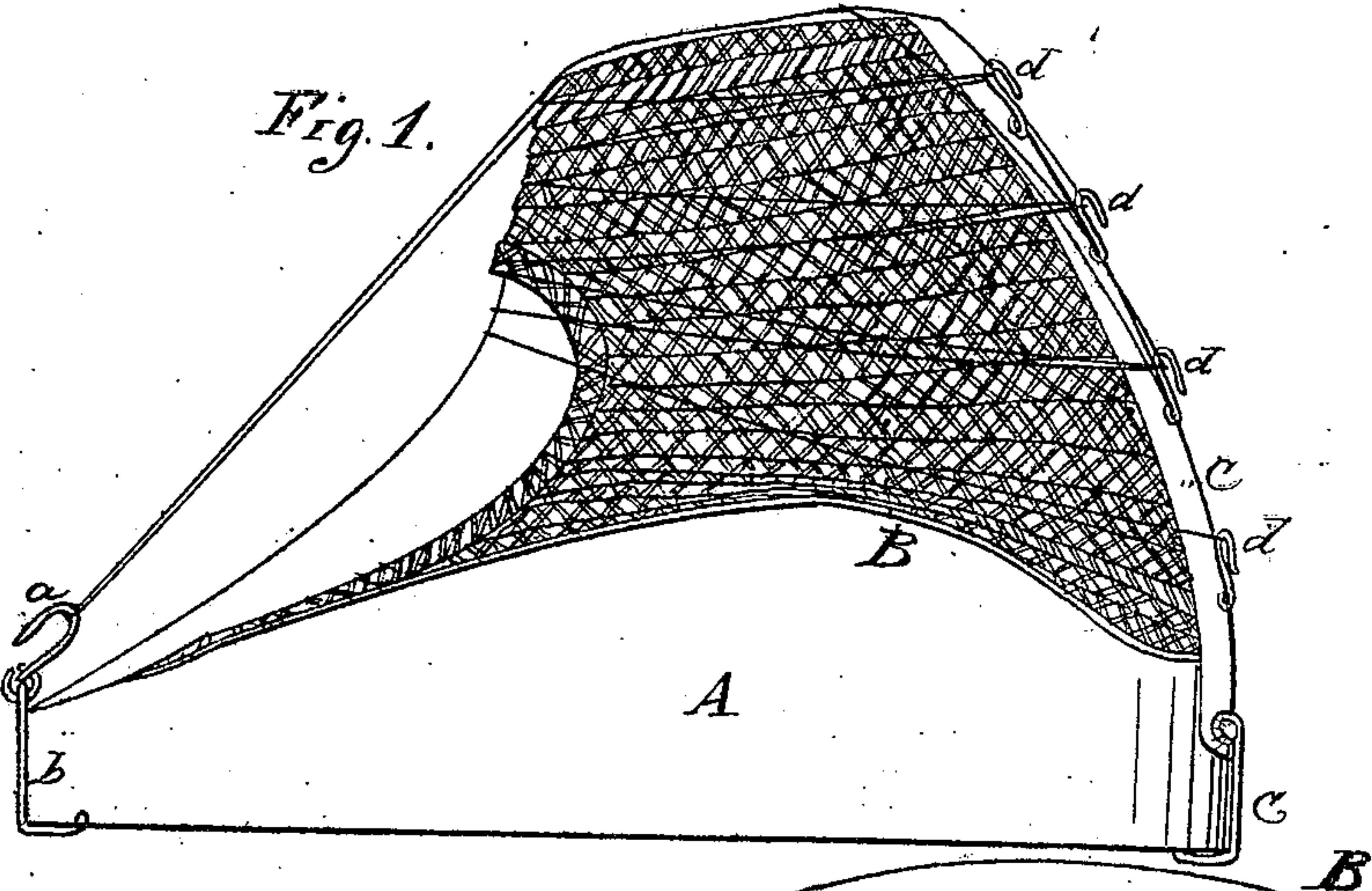
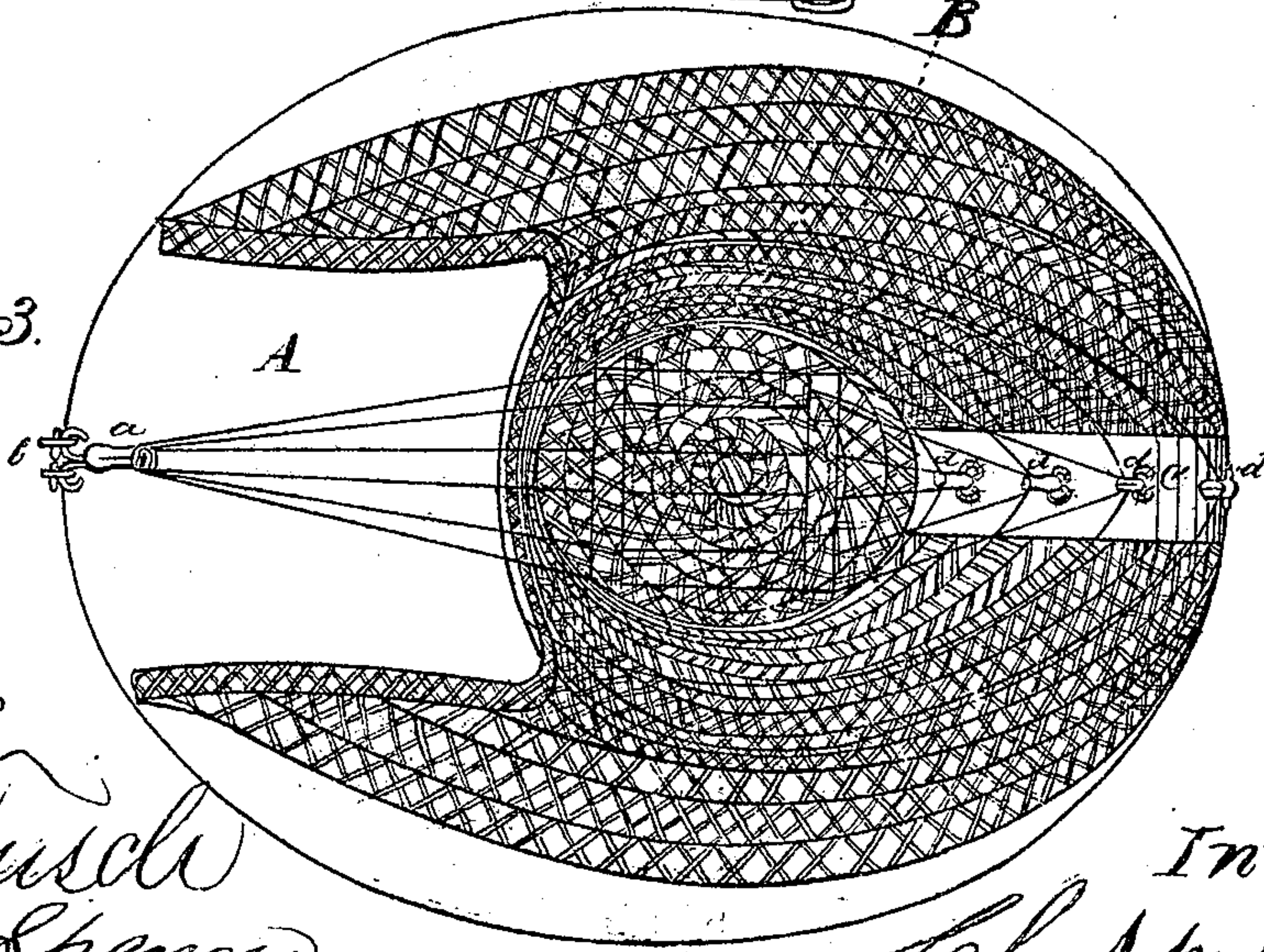


Fig. 3.



Witnesses

Jm Tusch  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## METHOD OF SHAPING BONNETS.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 25,218, dated August 23, 1859.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, C. W. RUSSELL, of Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and Improved Method of Shaping Bonnets, &c.; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1, is a side elevation of my invention. Fig. 2, is a front elevation of ditto, and Fig. 3, is a plan or top view of the same.

Similar letters of reference in the three views indicate corresponding parts.

The usual method to form or shape bonnets, hats, etc., of an old pattern according to the new fashion is to place the same on the block of the new shape in order to ascertain what alterations are necessary. The bonnet or hat is pressed by the hands close to the block and those parts that do not fit are separated by scissors or a knife and temporarily secured by pins, till the bonnet or hat assumes the shape of the new block. It is now taken off and resewed.

The object of my invention is to do this work not only quick, but also very perfect in all cases; and my invention consists in pressing and retaining the bonnets on the block by means of a cord which is wound several times and in different directions over the crown and body of the bonnet and which is retained in its position by a hook on the back part of the block and by a series of hooks attached to a strip of cloth which is drawn over the front part of the bonnet, so that each part of the latter is forced up tightly to and retained on the block, where it is left to dry until it assumes permanently the new shape.

To enable those skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe it.

A represents a block on which a bonnet or hat is to be shaped. On the back part of this block there is a hook *a*, which may be permanently attached or which may be secured to another hook *b*, that hooks over the lower edge of the block as clearly shown

in Fig. 1. I prefer this latter method of attaching the hook *a*, as it can be used in this case for different blocks. A hook *c*, similar to the hook *b*, hooks over the front edge of the block, and secured to this hook is a strip *C*, of cloth or any other flexible material which extends from the bottom up over the front of the block to its top as clearly represented in Fig. 2. This strip is furnished with a series of hooks *a*, which are fastened to the same at convenient distances.

The bonnet *B*, is placed over the block and the strip *C*, is drawn up over its front side as clearly represented in the drawings. A cord is now secured to the upper one of the hooks *d*, on the strip and it (the cord) is drawn over the center of the crown and down to the hook *a*. By straining this cord with one hand those parts of the bonnet immediately under the cord and under the strip are kept close up to the block. The tip of the bonnet is now pressed flat down on the top of the block with the other hand and the cord is wound over the hooks *d*, and over the hook *a*, as clearly represented in Fig. 3, those parts of the cord which pass over the tip being kept at small distances apart so that the whole tip is kept down on the top of the block.

In the same manner the body of the bonnet is pressed up to the block with one hand while the other hand winds the cord around it and the hooks *d*, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, until the whole bonnet is forced close up to the block. It is now left to dry and after this the cord is taken off, when the bonnet retains its new shape so that it can be pressed and ironed in the usual manner.

Where the material of which the bonnets or hats are made is very stiff and if the same differs considerably from that of the block, it is necessary to place small sticks across the tip, as clearly represented in Fig. 3, in red outline, in order to keep the same close down on the top of the block, while the other part of the bonnet is brought to its proper shape. By the aid of this method all sorts of bonnets or hats from the stiffest "Leghorn" down to the softest

"Panama," may be shaped with little labor and in a much more perfect manner than it can be done by the aid of pins or needles.

What I claim as new and desire to secure  
5 by Letters Patent, is,

The within described method of shaping bonnets, etc., by means of a cord or its equivalent which is wound over the several

parts of the bonnet and which is retained in its position by hooks *a* and *d*, or their 10 equivalents, substantially as herein specified.

CHAS. W. RUSSELL.

Witnesses:

R. S. SPENCER,  
WM. TUSCH.