

*T. Wallace,
Corset.*

No. 40,298.

Patented Oct. 13, 1863.

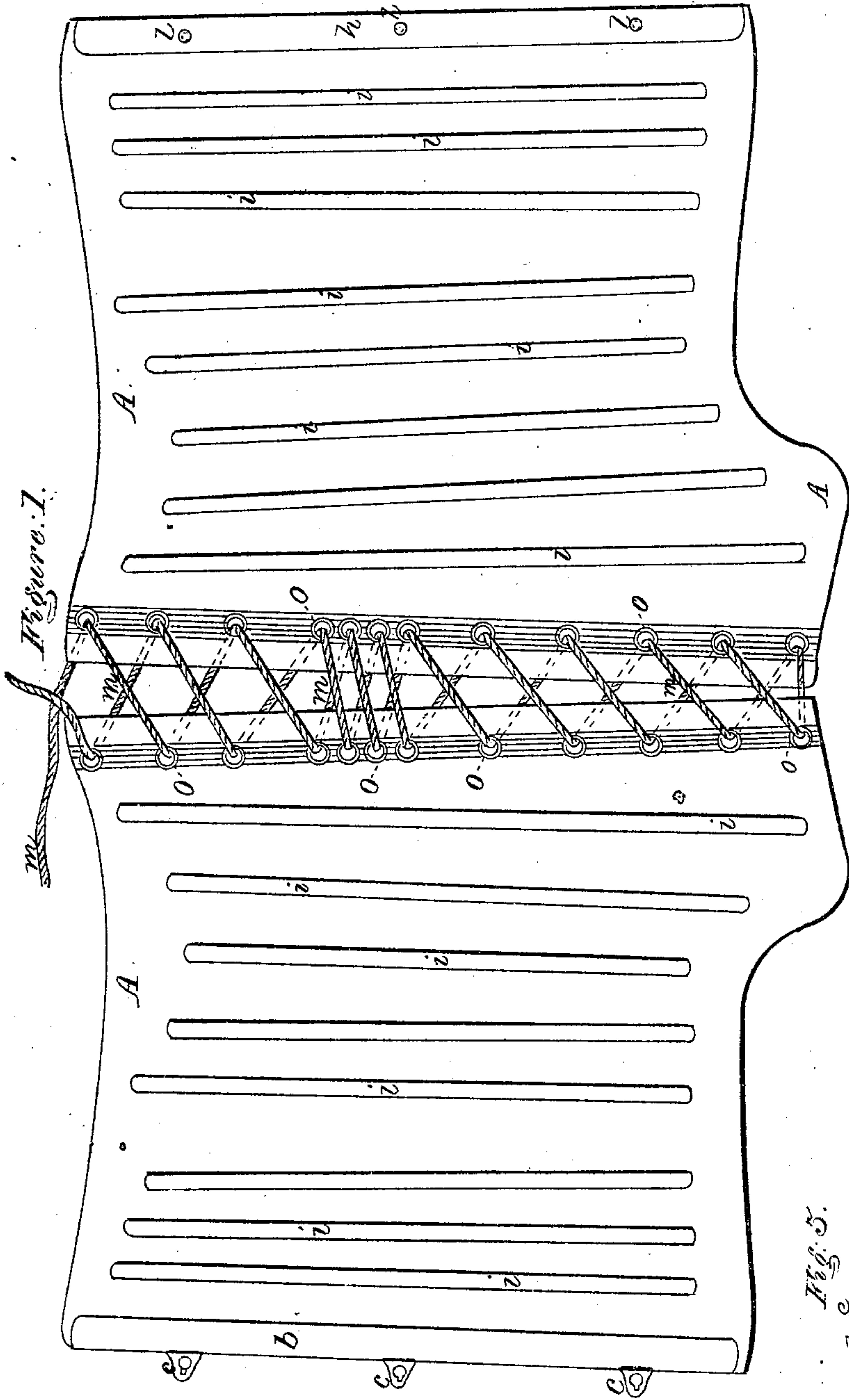


Fig. 5.



Fig. 2.

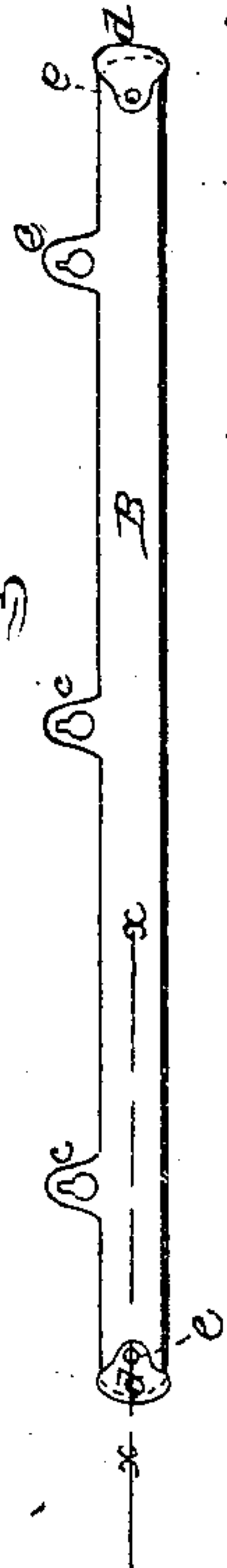


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

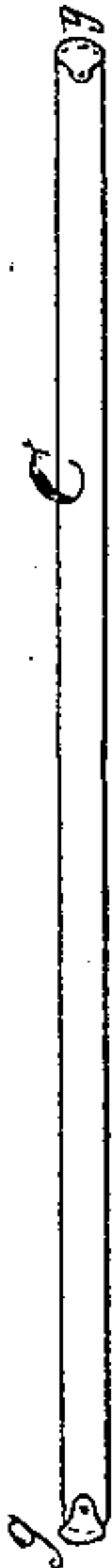


Fig. 6.



*Attest
Silvestre Barlow*

T. Wallace Jr.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS WALLACE, JR., OF ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT.

IMPROVEMENT IN CORSET-BUSKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 40,298, dated October 13, 1863.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS WALLACE, JR., of Ansonia, of the county of New Haven, in the State of Connecticut, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Corset-Busks; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this application.

My invention relates to a novel method of forming or preparing the busks or metallic springs and strips employed in the making or forming of corsets, and has for its object to prevent the ends of the metallic strips from cutting or forcing through the fibrous material, between two thicknesses of which they are confined; and to these ends my said invention consists in the formation of said busks with their ends enlarged and so shaped as to render them less liable to cut or wear through the cloth or fibrous material of which the corset is made, as will be hereinafter more fully explained.

To enable those skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe the construction and operation of my improvement, referring by letters to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation of a pair of corsets opened or spread out flat. Fig. 2 is an elevation of one of the edge strips of metal made according to my invention. Fig. 3 is a section at *xx*, Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a view of one of the smaller busks or stays. Fig. 5 is a partial elevation of strip seen at Fig. 2, but showing another modification of the device, or means of preventing the ends from cutting through the cloth of the corset. Fig. 6 is a section at the line *yy*, Fig. 5.

In the several figures the same part is everywhere indicated by the same letter of reference.

A is the corset, formed in any of the known patterns. I have shown it as in two parts, which are clasped or hooked together in front (of the body of the wearer) and laced together behind.

The two parts of the corset are formed, as seen at Fig. 1, with pockets between the two thicknesses of material A, in which are placed steel strips, and also with pockets *b h*, in which are placed other strips of steel, one of which

strips is formed with buttons *l* projecting from its side, and the other with lugs or ears *c* projecting from its edge, the ears *c* being formed with holes to receive and retain the buttons *l* in the manner well known to those skilled in the art of making corsets; the other adjacent edges of the two portions being held or fastened together in the usual way by means of a cord, *m*, passed through eyelets *o*, set in the material A of the corset.

i i, &c., are numerous pockets formed between the two thicknesses of material, in which are arranged the small busks or stays C (see Fig. 4) in the usual way.

Previous to my invention it has been customary in the manufacture of corsets to make all the "steels" or metallic busks or strips with their ends the same thickness as the other portion of the strip. These metallic strips have to be made very thin, and it has been shown by experience that the ends of these thin strips will, even if finished smoothly, soon wear or cut through cloth of which the corset is formed. I have overcome this objection to or disadvantage in that kind of corsets in which steels or metallic strips are employed by enlarging and rounding the edges of the ends of the metallic strips.

At Figs. 2 and 3 I have shown one of my improved corset-strips, which, it will be seen, has its ends enlarged by means of a cap, *d*, which may be secured by a rivet, *e*, or otherwise. It will be seen that by the use of the cap *d*, as shown, an end to the strip B, which is rounded off in every direction, and which is much thicker than the stock of the strip B, and it will be understood that by having the end of piece B thus enlarged by the cap-piece *d* an end is presented which is not only capable of being made perfectly rounded to prevent the existence of any cutting edges or angles, but which is also, from its increased or greater thickness, incapable of punching through the material A of the corset, or injuring or rubbing uncomfortably against the body of the wearer.

In lieu of a cap-piece, *d*, secured to the end of the strips, as shown at Figs. 2, 3, and 4, a clip or curved piece of wire may be sprung onto the end of the strip, as clearly shown at Figs. 5 and 6, the piece of wire *f* being formed with a longitudinal groove, and so shaped

otherwise as to clasp onto the end of the piece B, as shown; or, instead of a piece clasped or fastened to the end of the strip, the latter may have its ends enlarged by plating them with successive thicknesses of metal, or in any other manner.

My invention does not relate to any particular device or means for enlarging the ends of the metallic strips, and I therefore propose to use any means which I may deem expedient in practicing my invention.

Having fully explained my invention so that those skilled can make and use it, what I

claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The employment in corsets of metallic strips which have their ends enlarged, for the purposes substantially as herein set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 15th day of June, 1863.

THOS. WALLACE, JR. [L.S]

In presence of:

A. J. HINE,

SYLVESTER BARBOUR.