

L. W. McFarland.

Hoop Skirt.

Patented Jul. 3, 1866

Nº 56146

Fig: 1.

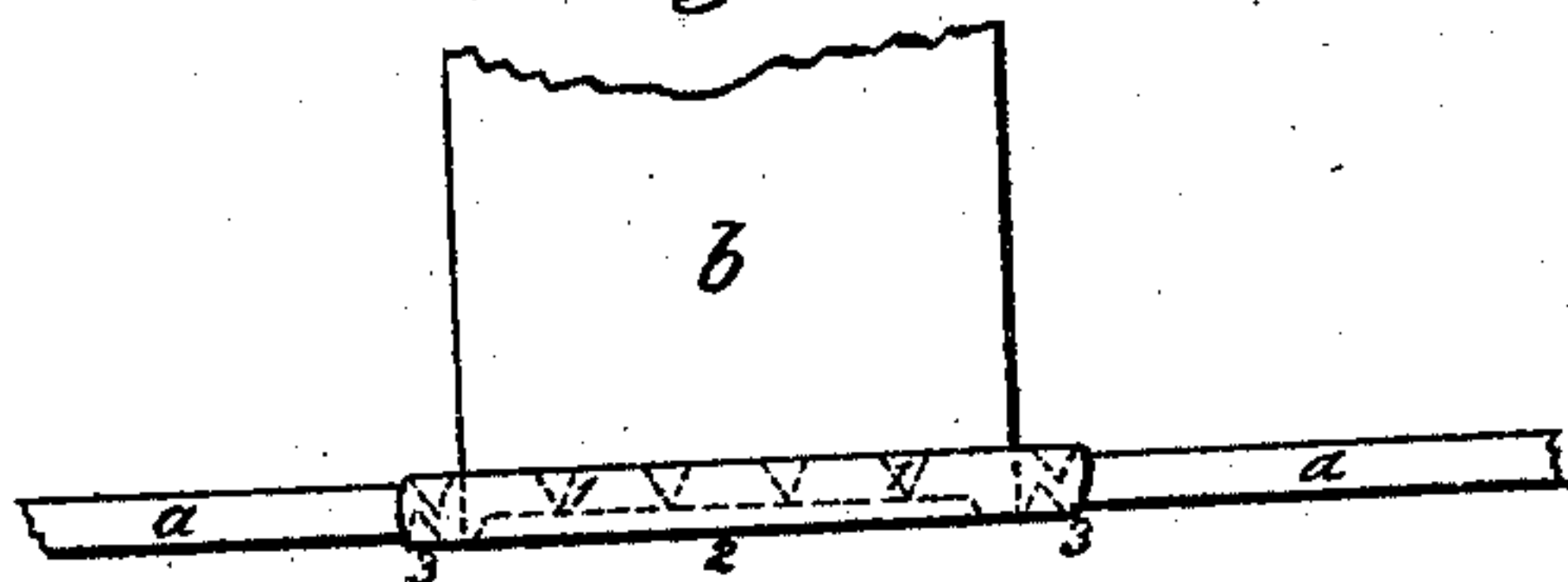


Fig: 2.

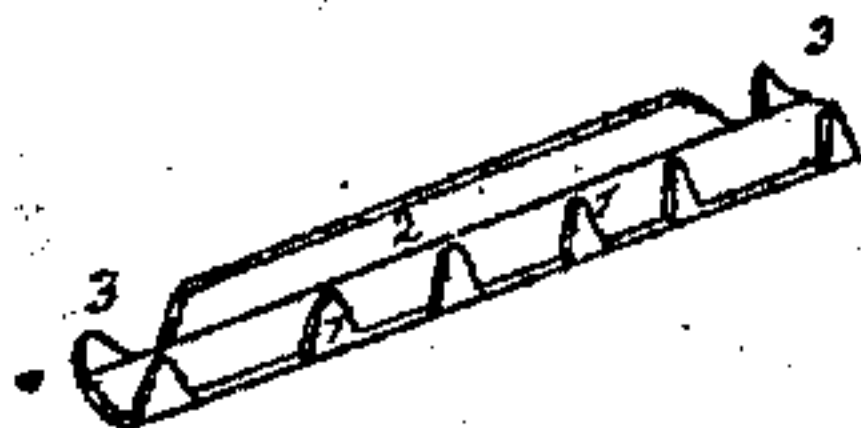
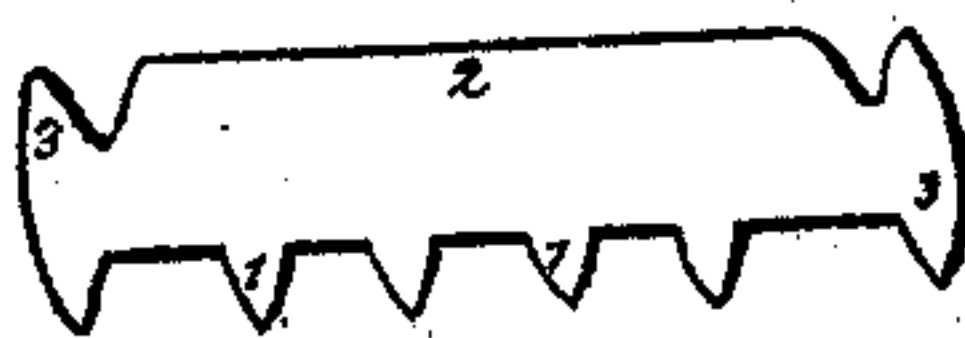


Fig: 3.



Witnesses
Chas H Smith
Geo. J. Mason

Inventor.
L. W. McFarland
per L. W. Ferrell
Atty

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

LUTHER W. McFARLAND, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO
FREDERICK S. OTIS, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN CLASPS FOR THE BOTTOM HOOPS OF SKIRTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **56,146**, dated July 3, 1866.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LUTHER W. McFARLAND, of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented, made, and applied to use a certain new and useful Improvement in Clasps for Skeleton-Skirts; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of my said invention, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making part of this specification, wherein—

Figure 1 is an elevation, showing a portion of the bottom of a skirt with the said clasps applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the clasp as ready to be applied, and Fig. 3 shows the shape of the clasp as cut out from a flat piece of metal.

Similar marks of reference denote the same parts.

In the manufacture of ladies' skeleton-skirts it has heretofore been usual to connect the vertical tapes with the hoops by means of clasps having teeth that penetrate the tapes and are clinched around the hoops. At the bottom hoop the tape is not protected from wear by these teeth, and the ends of the tapes become frayed out very quickly and detract from the appearance of the skirt when in wear. Clasps have also been made for holding the cords in the tied skirts; but they have not been formed with teeth that were adapted to penetrating the tape and holding the same.

My invention consists in a bottom clasp for uniting the ends of the tapes and the bottom hoop of the skirts, said clasp consisting of penetrating-teeth to pass through the tape at the upper side of the hoop and be clinched at the back, a straight or nearly straight lip to pass at the bottom of the hoop and be bent up

against the back of the hoop and inclose and protect the lower end of the tape, and teeth at the ends of the clasp to be turned over to the back of the hoop and more securely hold the clasp in place.

By this improvement the lower ends of the vertical tapes are protected from wear, being inclosed by the said metal clasp, and hence the fraying out and injury to such tapes by contact with the ground as a person walks are prevented.

In the drawings, *a* represents the bottom hoop of a skirt of any usual character; *b*, the vertical connecting-tapes; *c*, my improved clasp, formed with the teeth 1 1, that penetrate the tape at the upper side of the hoop *a*, and are bent down over the back of said hoop. 2 is the lip that incloses and protects the tape, being turned up at the back; and 3 3 are the end teeth that clasp over the hoop *a* for additional security.

If desired, the penetrating-teeth 1 1 might be left off and a narrow lip or flange substituted to press against the surface of the tape, or the clasp may be formed without the end teeth, 3, if desired.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The bottom clasp formed with teeth, as specified, for attaching the tape to the hoop and protecting said tape, as set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my signature this 26th day of February, A. D. 1866.

L. W. McFARLAND.

Witnesses:

GEO. D. WALKER,
CHAS. H. SMITH.