

C. H. Cleveland.

Suspenders.

N<sup>o</sup> 69629

Patented Oct. 8, 1867.

Fig. 2.

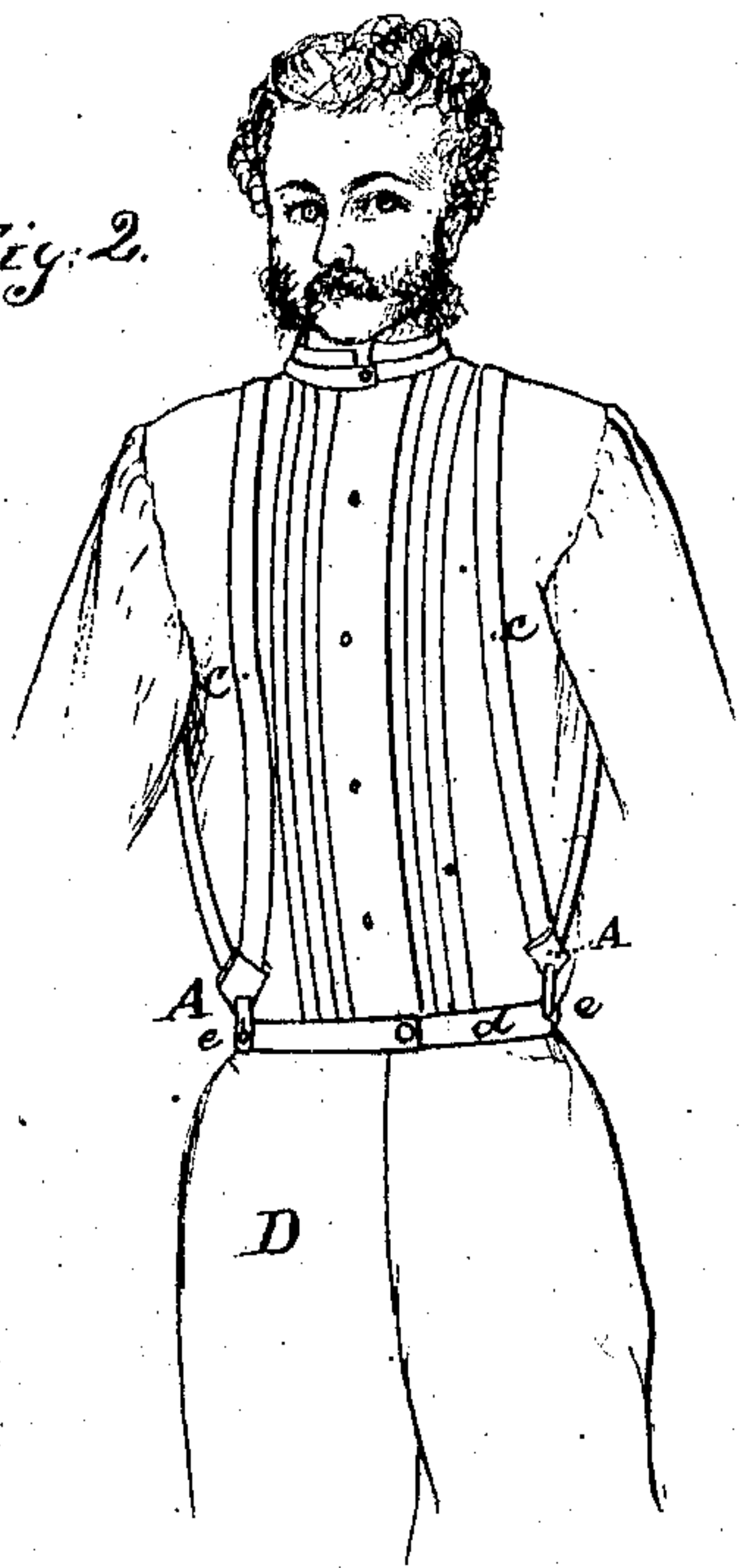


Fig. 4.



Fig. 3.

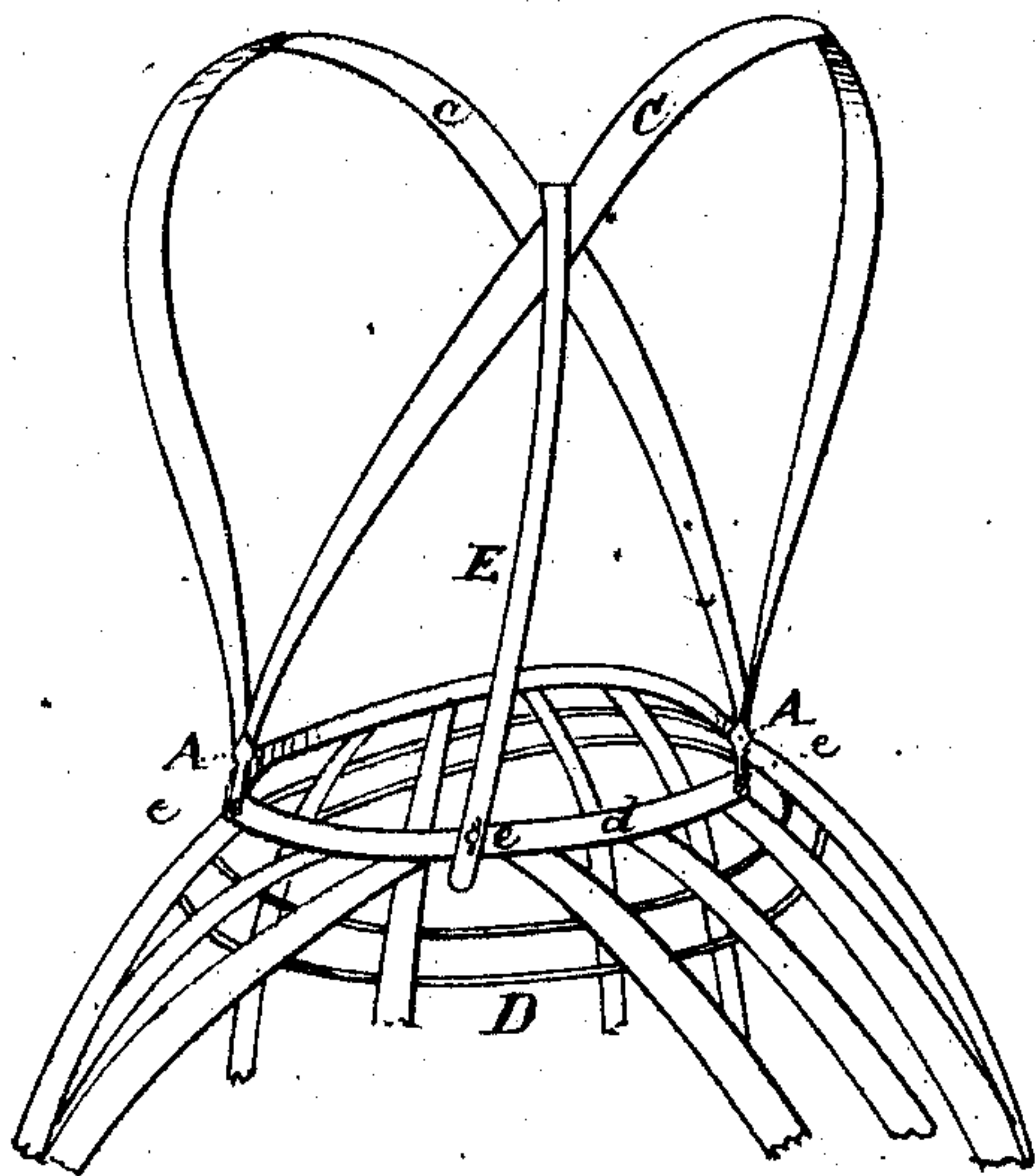
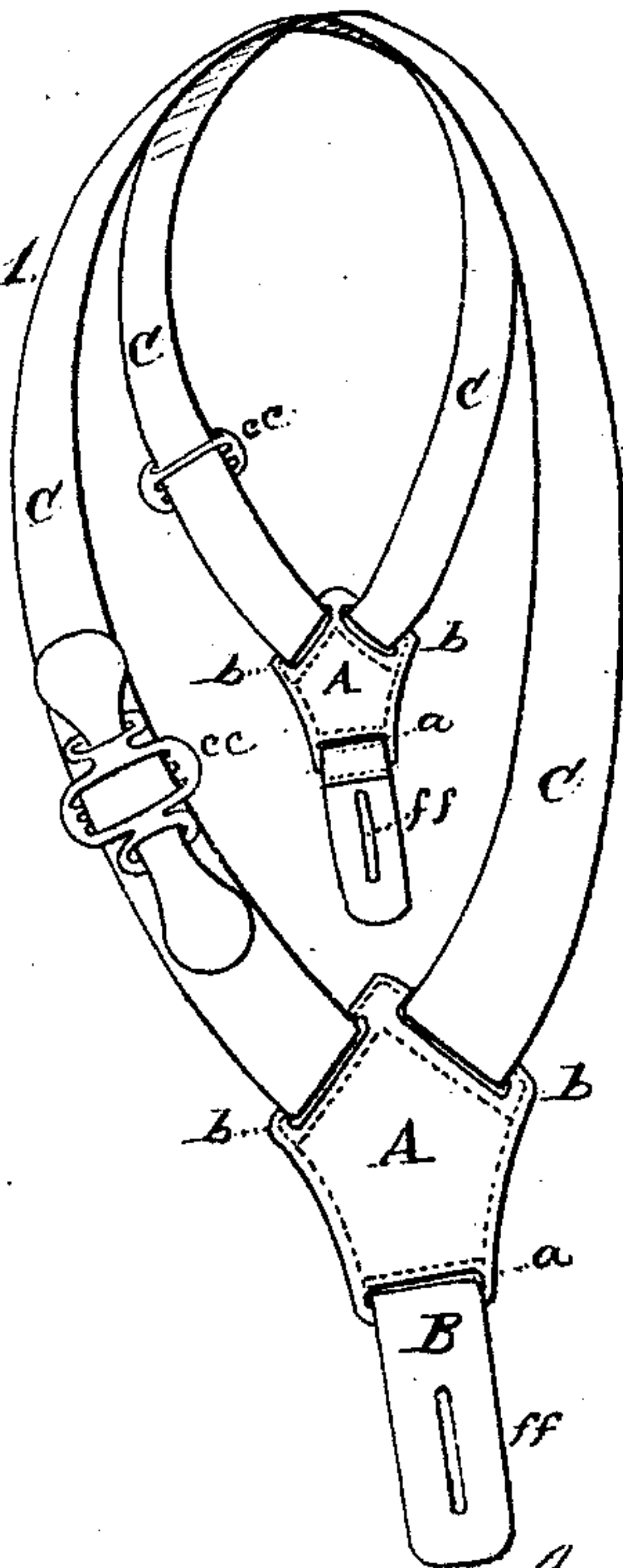


Fig. 1.



Witnesses

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# United States Patent Office

C. H. CLEVELAND, OF SELMA, ALABAMA.

Letters Patent No. 69,629, dated October 8, 1867.

## IMPROVEMENT IN SUSPENDERS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

### TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, C. H. CLEVELAND, of Selma, Dallas county, Alabama, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Combined Shoulder-Brace and Suspender; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making part of the same, in which—

Figure 1 is a side perspective view, clearly showing my entire invention.

Figure 2 shows a pair of suspenders made after my invention, and illustrates how they are applied and worn.

Figure 3 is a rear and side perspective view, illustrating my invention when intended for ladies' use.

Figure 4 shows how the above is applied and worn.

The object of my invention is to so combine shoulder-braces and suspenders by a simple and practical arrangement, that, while the pantaloons or other article of dress are securely supported, the same is done in such a manner as to throw the body forward and cause it to occupy a perpendicular position.

Another great advantage possessed by my invention is this: The shoulder-straps not only pass in the rear of the lungs, but at the same time are united together at a point in such a manner as to form a fork, said fork being sufficiently far beneath the arm-pit to render it impossible for the straps to be brought in such close contact with the cavity or under portion of the arm as to impede in any degree, no matter how slight, the freest circulation and respiration. It will be observed that my invention relieves the breast and hips from pressure entirely, and causes the same to rest solely upon and be borne by the upper portion of the shoulder-blades. The point at which I attach the suspenders to the pantaloons or other article of dress is immediately above the hips, and in the direct line which extends from the centre of the hollow under the shoulder to the foot. The shoulder-straps cross each other a short distance below the neck, and where the shoulder-blades meet.

To attain the results accomplished by my invention has long been considered a great desideratum, and many attempts have been made to secure the same, but they have all proved unsuccessful. They have either been so complicated as to render them entirely impracticable, or else constructed with bands passing across midway either the breast or back, in such manner that circulation is materially interfered with, defeating in the most important feature the object sought after and accomplished by my invention, *i. e.*, securing the lungs entirely free from all pressure.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

A A are two pieces of leather or other suitable material of lozenge, diamond, or other convenient form. In these pieces A A, I cut three openings, *a* and *b b*, the openings *b b* being nearly at right angles to each other. In the opening *a* I secure a short side strap, B, and to the openings *b b* I attach the shoulder-straps C C. These straps B and C C are constructed of elastic webbing or other suitable material. On the shoulder-straps C C, I arrange sliding buckles *c c*, one in each, by means of which I am enabled to lengthen or shorten the straps C C as occasion requires. To the band *d* of the pantaloons-D, or other article of dress that it is desired to support, I attach two buttons *e e*, or other suitable fastenings. These buttons *e e* are secured to the band *d* at such points that when the pantaloons or skirts D are adjusted to the form of the wearer the buttons *e e* will be immediately above the hips. To the buttons *e e*, I attach my combined shoulder-brace and suspender by means of the side straps B B in which are arranged button-holes *f f*.

Thus it will be observed that my entire invention consists in so arranging, in combination with two pieces of leather, A A, the shoulder-straps C C and side straps B, that the article of dress is securely and comfortably supported without the intervention of brace-straps, either in front or in the rear, or any other device whatever. The connecting of the shoulder-straps together by "brace-straps" is most objectionable, for it matters not whether they pass across the breast or back, they of necessity interfere with the circulation, and whenever they pass over the lungs, causing pressure to rest upon the same, they impede the respiration in a degree nearly as great as do the old style of suspenders, which experience has long since demonstrated that persons threatened with consumption or other lung involvement cannot safely wear. And again it will be observed that my device leaves the cavity under the arm free from all pressure. In all other contrivances of a character similar to my invention the shoulder-straps are caused to form a loop under the arm-pit, which is most objectionable.

In order to adapt my invention for ladies' wear a modification of a slight character is necessary. To the shoulder-straps C C, at the point they cross when in use, I attach by means of a loop a back strap, E. The device is then applied in the following manner: To the strap *d* of the hoop or outer skirt D, I attach three buttons, two in the manner before described, and one immediately in the rear. To the under skirts I attach suitable loops which pass over these buttons, and my invention is then applied.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The suspender or shoulder-brace composed of two single straps C C, each passing from its attaching strap at the one side over the shoulder to the attaching strap on the other side of the body, substantially as herein described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

C. H. CLEVELAND.

Witnesses:

JOHN D. BLOOR,

WM. R. SINGLETON.