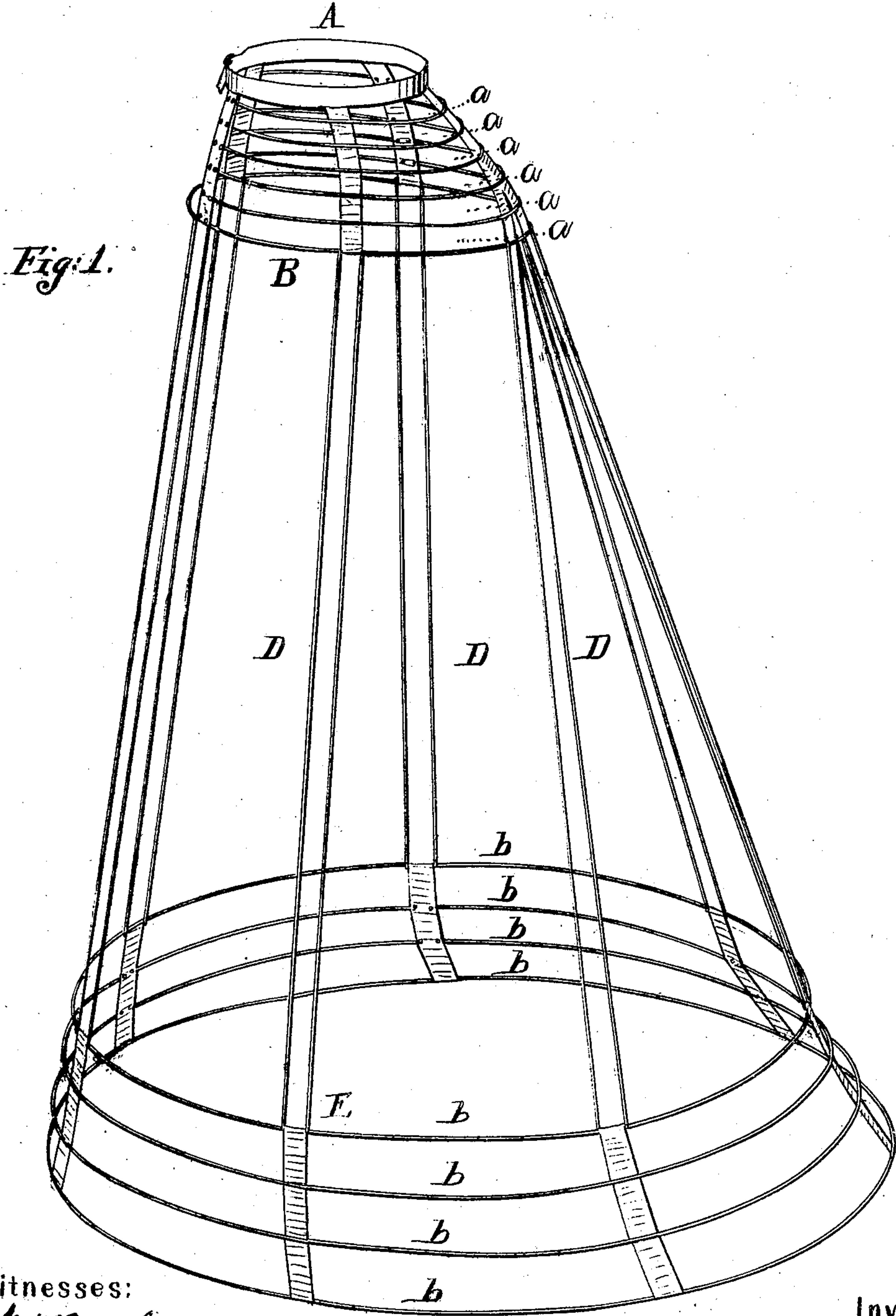


Hoop Skirt.

N^o 84149.

Patented Nov. 17. 1868.



Witnesses:

W. Beauchamp.
C. A. Pease

Inventor:

Guy F. Towers



WILLIAM H. TOWERS, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

Letters Patent No. 84,149, dated November 17, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN HOOP-SKIRTS.

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, WILLIAM H. TOWERS, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk, in the State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and improved Hoop-Skirt; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The nature of my invention consists in the substitution of steel wires or ribbons for the cords or tapes by which the hoops are ordinarily suspended, thereby allowing the number of hoops, and, consequently, the weight of the entire skirt, to be greatly lessened, to the considerable reduction of the cost of production, and the increased comfort of the wearer.

My invention consists of a hoop-skirt, in which the horizontal wires or hoops are grouped at the top and bottom thereof, and connected or suspended by vertical wires or hoops, reducing the weight of the article, and preventing its being disarranged by the wind.

The material employed in its production is the ordinary hoop-skirt wire, arranged and secured together as shown in the drawing.

The upper or bustle-portion of the skirt, from A to B, is formed by connecting together a number of horizontal wires, *a a*; and the lower or flounce-portion of the skirt is similarly formed, the number of hoops and the means of securing them together being optional.

These two portions, as thus formed, are connected together by vertical wires, which are fastened to the lower bustle-hoops and upper flounce-hoop by any well-known means.

The body, or that portion of the skirt occupied by the vertical suspending wires, is not provided with horizontal wires.

It may be remarked that in place of the tape-connection of the bustle and flounce-hoops, I may use wire.

The advantages of this construction of skirt are obvious. It forms a very light skirt, and one which readily permits a change in the form of bustle and flounce to suit the whims of fashion. Moreover, the vertical wires keep the skirt down in proper position, and prevent its disarrangement by the wind.

Having thus described my invention,

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

As a new article of manufacture, a hoop-skirt, consisting of the bustle-hoops *a a*, flounce-hoops *b b*, and suspending-wires *D D*, arranged substantially as herein described.

WM. H. TOWERS.

Witnesses:

A. P. FAIRBANKS,

E. E. DAVIS.