

J. E. POLLARD.
Ornamented Felt Skirts.

No. 147,166.

Patented Feb. 3, 1874.

Fig 1

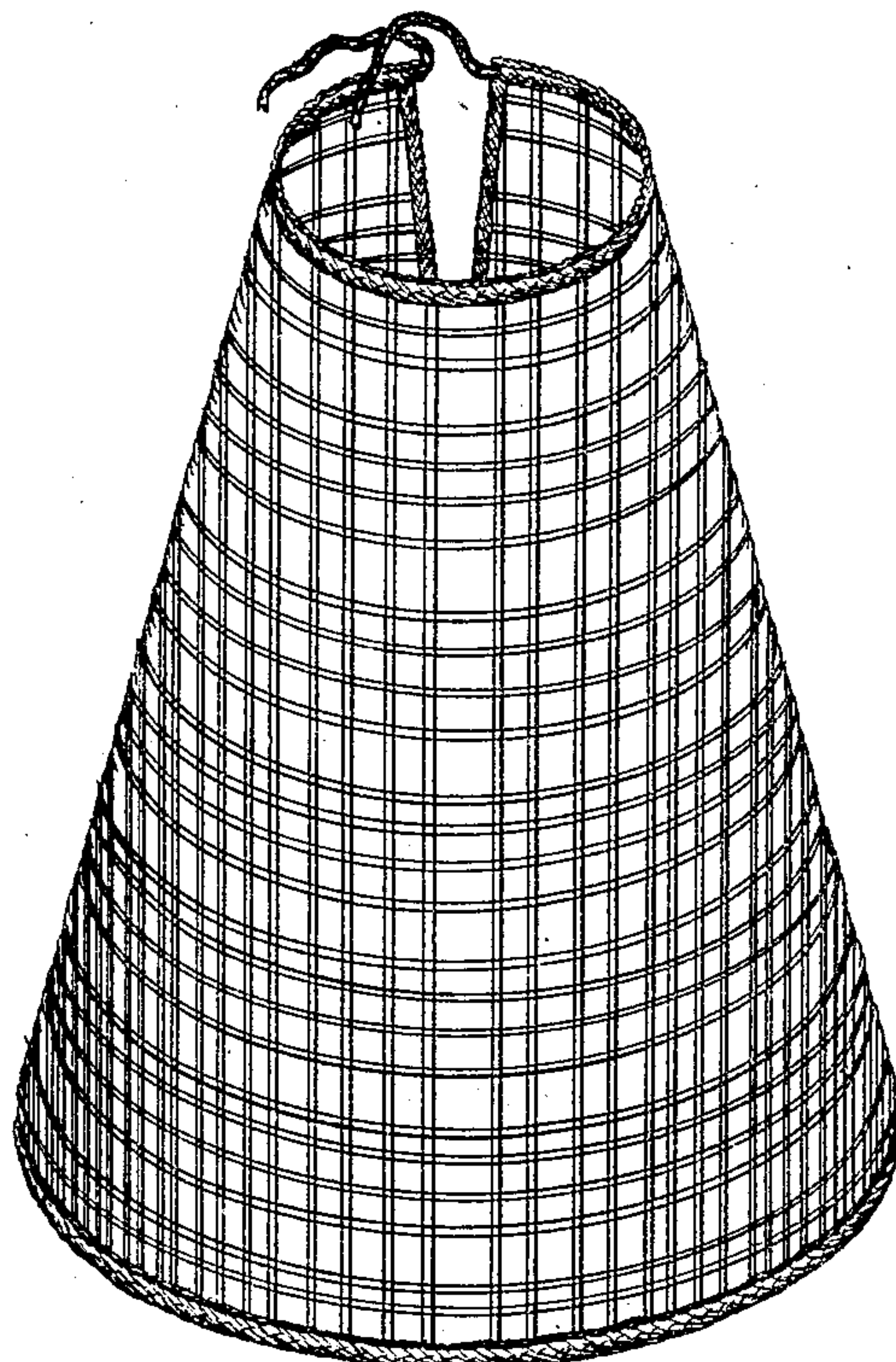
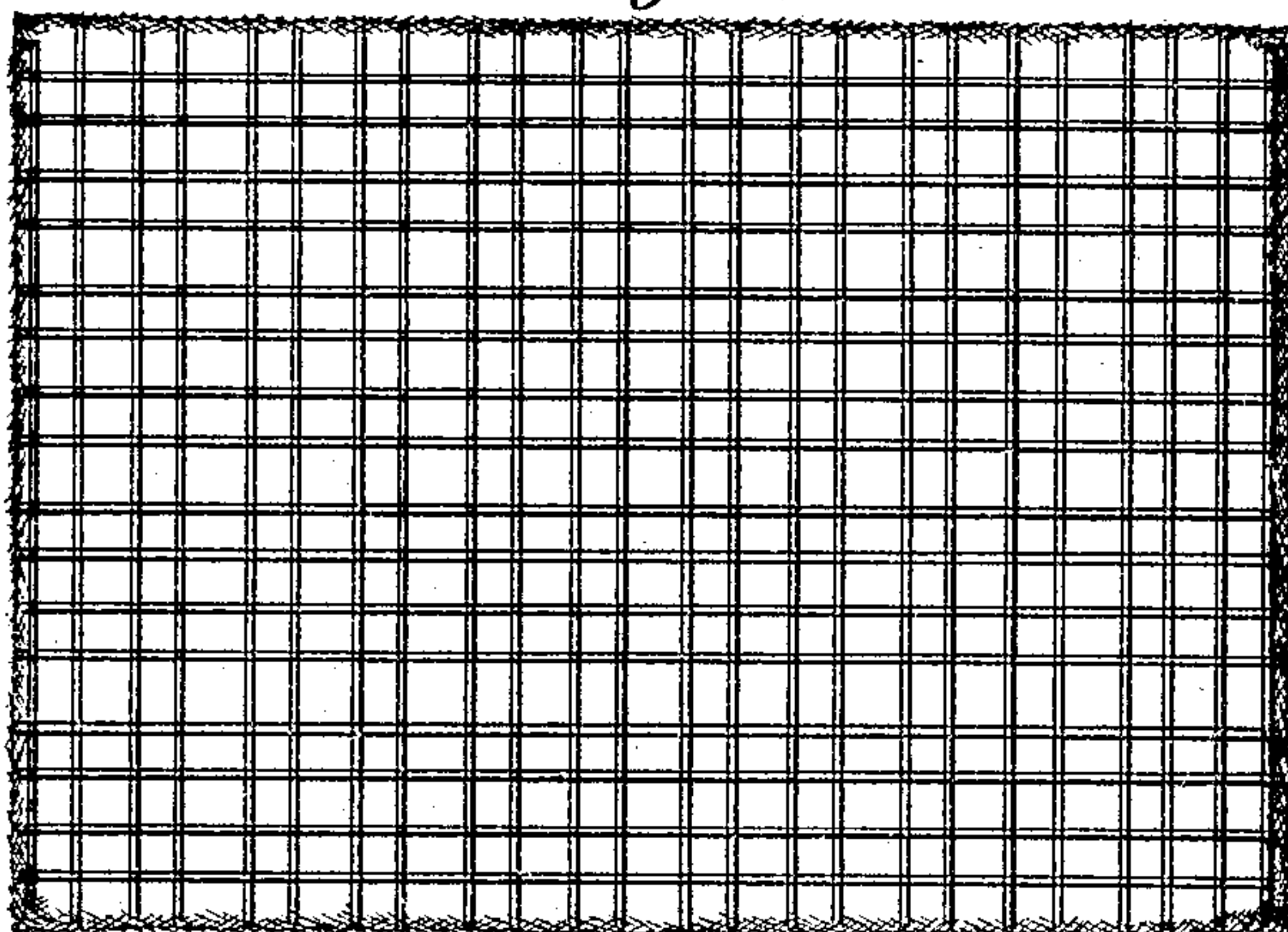


Fig 2



Witnesses.

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JAMES E. POLLARD, OF NORFOLK, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN ORNAMENTED FELT SKIRTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **147,166**, dated February 3, 1874; application filed September 10, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES E. POLLARD, of Norfolk, in the county of Norfolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Ornamenting and Finishing Ladies' Skirts; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 shows a skirt made and ornamented by this invention, and Fig. 2 a piece of felt fabric ornamented in the same manner.

Heretofore felt skirts have been ornamented and finished by cutting the skirt from felt cloth, sewing up one seam, and then putting it into an embossing-press, and embossing colors upon it. The other seam is then sewed up. This gives a figured border on the lower portion of the skirt.

My invention consists in making a figured skirt of felt cloth, so as to imitate cassimere or other expensive cloths.

In carrying out my invention, I take felt cloth, as made by any of the known methods, and dampen or moisten it, and then pass it between heated calender-rolls, one of which at least is engraved with the design to be impressed upon the surface and fixed upon the cloth. The rolls may be heated by gas, and should be of about 250° to 275° Fahrenheit, or about the temperature given to a flat-iron or goose for surfacing cloths.

The felt cloth is run through the machine at such a rate as will fix the design upon the felt. This operation also serves to compact and harden the felt, and gives a firm surface to it. The figure thus impressed and fixed upon the felt skirt or fabric may be made to imitate

check, stripe, or other ornamental figure, as desired. The ornamenting and finishing may be done in the piece, or on each skirt separately.

Instead of heated calender-rolls, heated plates may be used to produce the same result; but the heated rolls are both more economical and more effective.

When I desire to impart greater boldness and permanence to the figure, I apply a gum or sizing to the fabric before passing it through the calenders.

I am aware that woven fabrics of various kinds have been embossed by means of heated calender rolls or plates, and also that felted goods have been ornamented by printing various designs in pigment or flock colors upon them. Such process, however, I do not claim; but I am not aware that felt skirts or fabrics for making the same have ever been embossed, ornamented, and treated in the manner described by me to imitate cassimere or other expensive cloths; and, accordingly,

What I claim as my invention, and wish to secure by Letters Patent, is—

As a new article of manufacture, a skirt or skirt fabric made of felt, having its surface or surfaces impressed, embossed, and ornamented with any desired design, and made to resemble cassimere or other expensive woven cloths and fabrics, in the manner hereinbefore described, by means of heated engraved rollers, plates, or equivalent devices, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of September, 1873.

JAMES E. POLLARD.

Witnesses:

S. M. WELD,
E. F. WILDER.