

ELIZABETH S. WELDON.

BUSTLE OR PANNIER.

No. 173,702.

Patented Feb. 15, 1876.

Fig. 1.

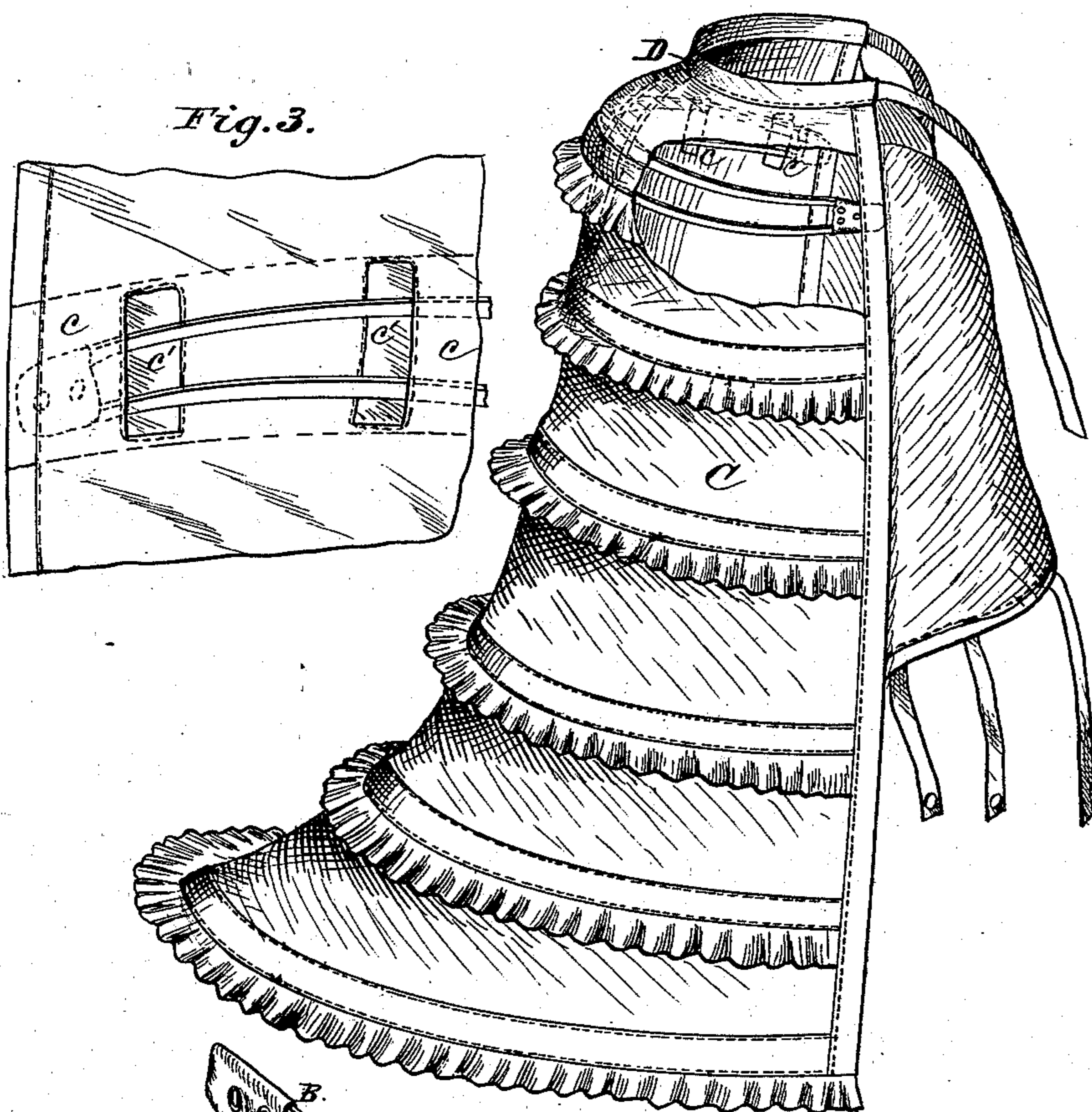


Fig. 3.

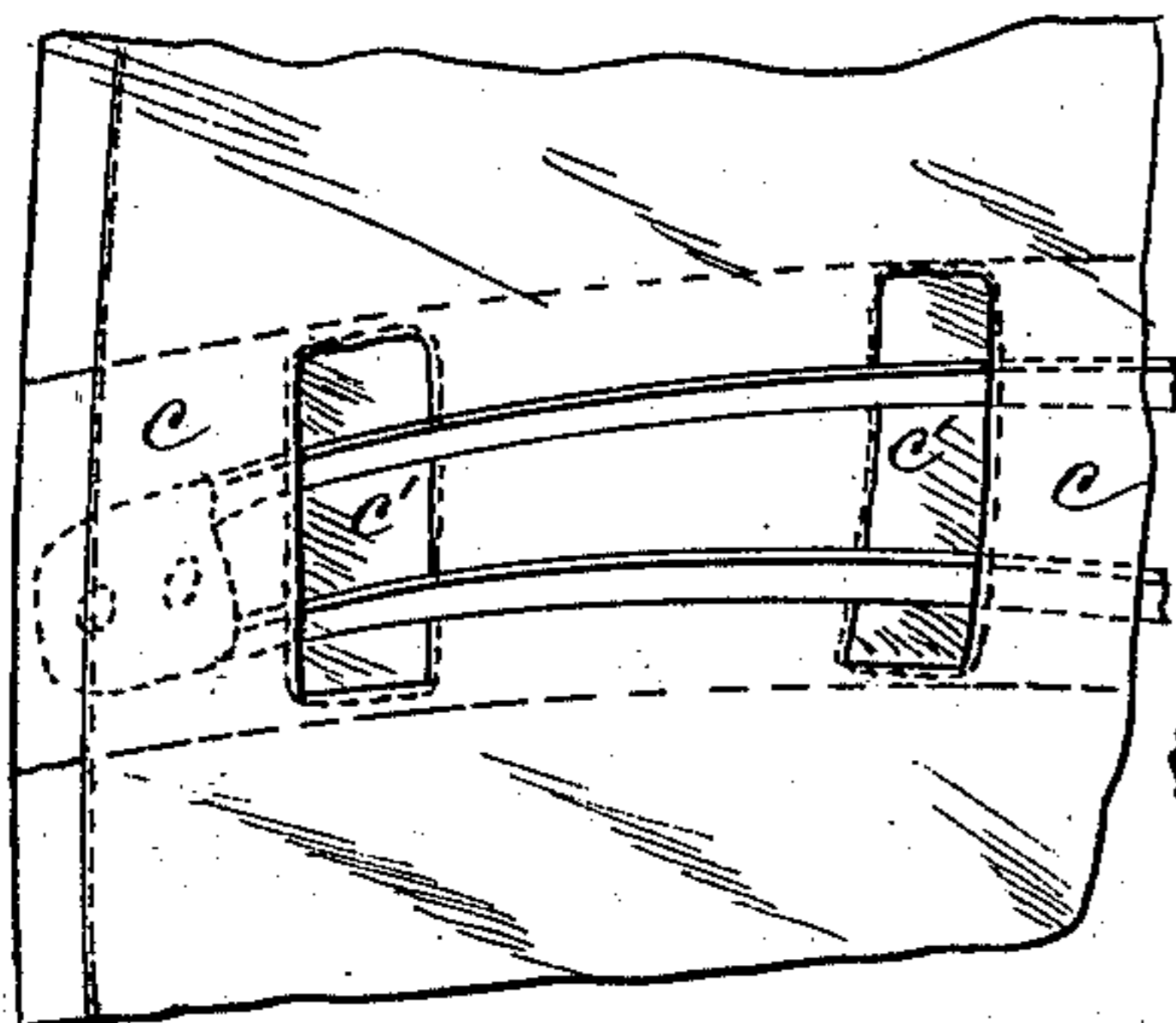
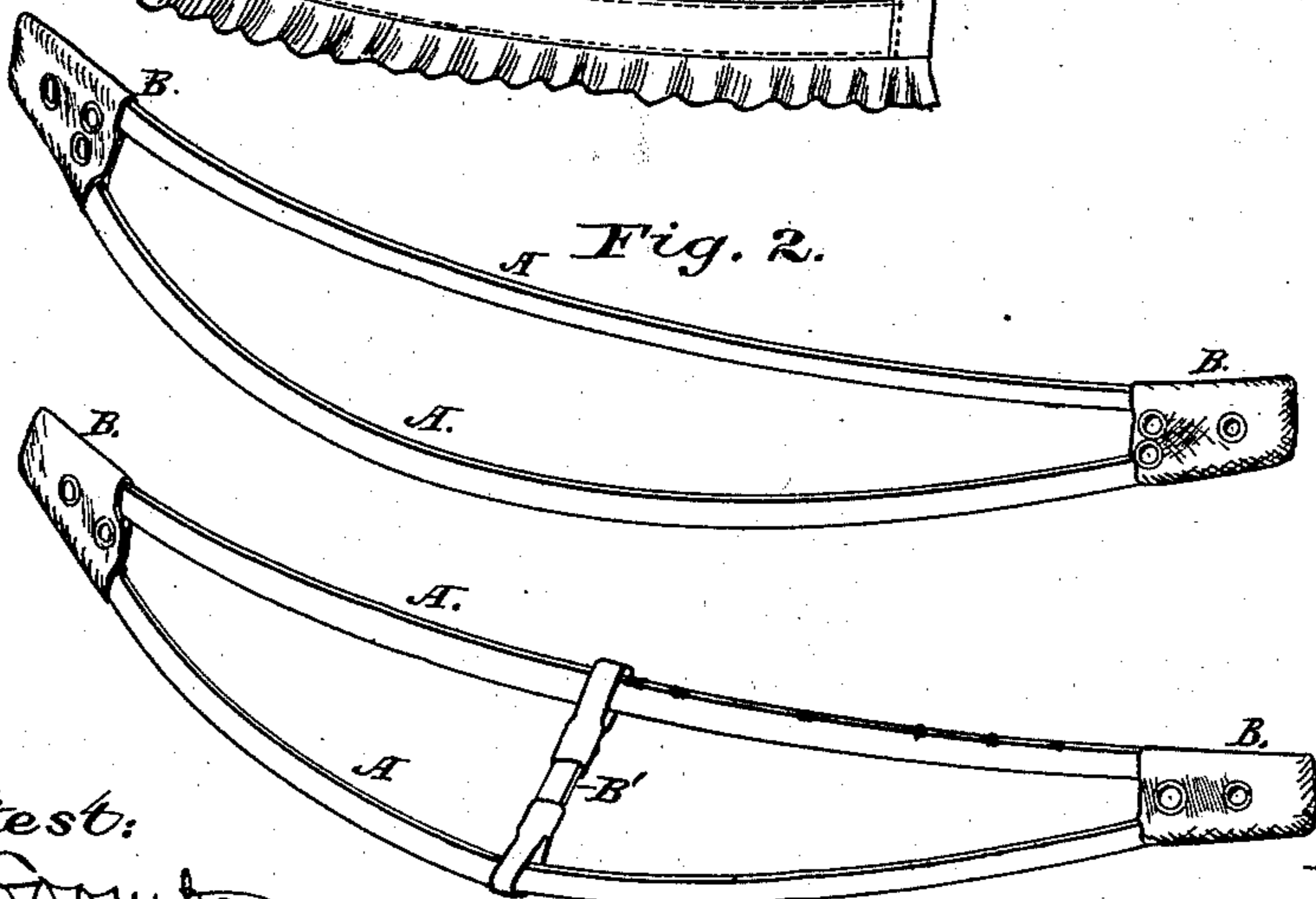


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELIZABETH S. WELDON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN BUSTLES OR PANNIERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **173,702**, dated February 15, 1876; application filed June 7, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ELIZABETH STOWELL WELDON, of New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Panniers, of which the following is a specification:

This invention relates to certain improvements in ladies' panniers, its object being to so construct the springs which are employed to distend the same that they will always tend to curve the skirt of the pannier outward from the top to the bottom, and prevent the same, when subjected to pressure, from being thrown in contact with the body of the wearer, for the purpose of preserving the shape of the pannier.

My invention consists in an improved compound stay for distending the skirt or half-skirt of the pannier, consisting of two flat or other suitably-shaped springs, of different lengths, firmly united at their ends, in any suitable manner, the difference in the lengths of the two tending to give the lower spring the proper curve to keep the compound stay properly distended, in such manner that the said compound spring will give the desired curvature to the skirt of the pannier, a series of such stays being employed at proper distances apart throughout the entire length of the skirt.

In the drawings, Figure 1 represents a perspective view of the pannier complete, and Fig. 2 modifications of the compound spring.

The letter A represents the compound spring, consisting of two flat or other suitably-shaped springs, *a a*, of different lengths, united securely at their ends, in any convenient manner. In the present instance the ends of the springs are represented as confined between folded pieces of fabric B B, clamped together by means of eyelets. The springs are of different lengths, the lower being considerably longer than the upper one, so that when united at the ends a considerable curvature will be given to the lower spring, for the purpose of similarly curving the portion of the skirt of the pannier, to which the compound spring is

applied, in an outward direction, so as to preserve the shape of said skirt, and keep it outwardly curved toward the bottom, a series of such compound springs being employed at suitable intervals throughout the entire length of the skirt, varying in number to the length of said pannier. The length of the compound stays or springs will, of course, be proportioned to the various positions at which they are placed, being smallest at the top, and gradually increasing in length to the bottom. In order to further provide for the proper distension of the compound spring or stay, a strap or connecting-piece, B', extending from one to the other of the springs *a a*, may be employed; but this is not essential.

The pannier is usually constructed in the form of a half-skirt, as represented in the drawings, which is provided with pockets at opposite sides, for the reception of the ends of the compound springs, said springs being capable of insertion and removal at pleasure, for the purpose of allowing the skirt to be washed when desired.

The letters D D represent two springs, secured to the belt of the pannier, and extending downward at the rear to the second compound spring from the top of the skirt, which serve to keep the upper part of the pannier just to the rear of the hips properly distended, so as to preserve the shape of the rear upper part of the pannier, and prevent the same from being crushed during the sitting of the wearer.

The pannier, as thus constructed with the compound springs or stays, will always be distended outwardly from the top to the bottom, owing to the increased curvature of the two springs of which the stays are composed, which causes the lower spring of each of the series of compound springs to curve properly in an outward direction, while the elasticity of the two springs *a a* will cause the compound spring to assume its proper form after compression, in order to preserve the shape of the pannier after any disarrangement which may occur in crowded assemblages, or from the sitting or reclining of the wearer.

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

As a new article of manufacture, a pannier having combined with its skirt the compound spring constructed of two flat springs of unequal lengths, confined together at their ends, adapted to the skirt, as herein shown and described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of the subscribing witnesses.

ELIZABETH STOWELL WELDON.

Witnesses:

W. H. MELICK,
W. READ.