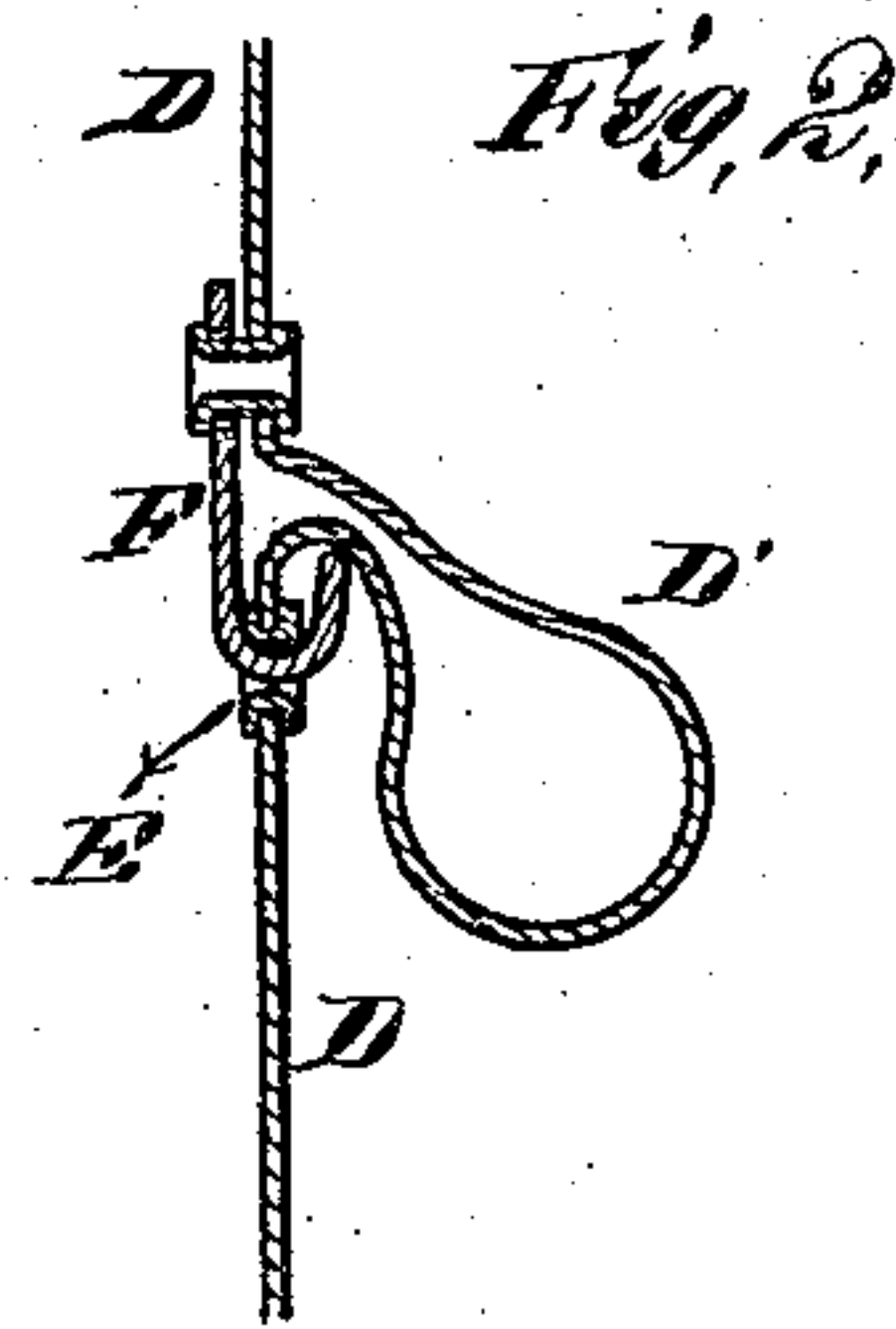
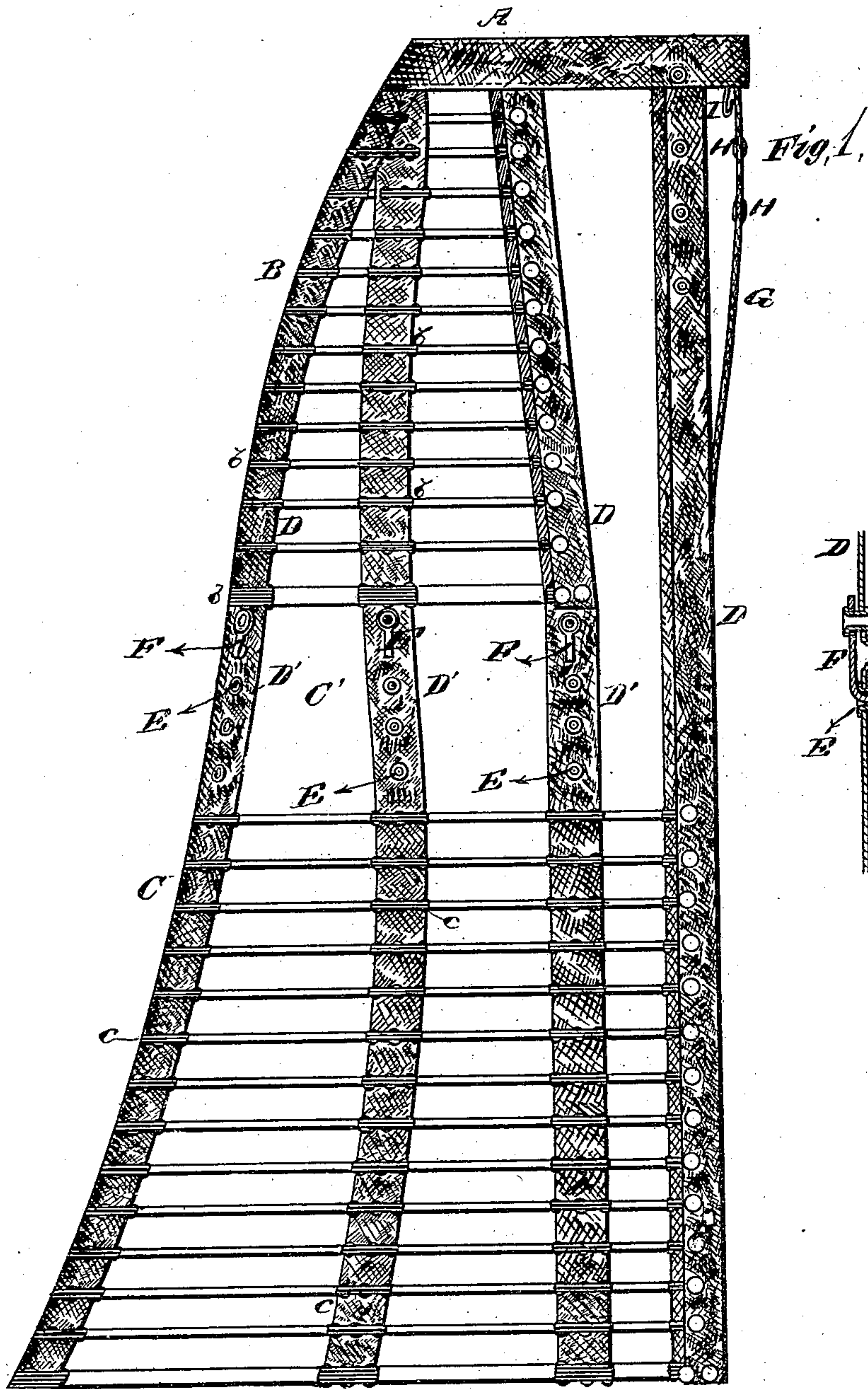


E. K. BULLOCK.

HOOP-SKIRT.

No. 187,350.

Patented Feb. 13, 1877.



WITNESSES  
O. H. Bates  
George E. Upham

INVENTOR.  
Ephraim K. Bullock  
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ATTORNEYS.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EPHRAIM K. BULLOCK, OF DETROIT, MICH., ASSIGNOR OF TWO-THIRDS HIS RIGHT TO WILLIAM J. MILLER AND JAMES M. CURTISS, OF SAME PLACE.

## IMPROVEMENT IN HOOP-SKIRTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 187,350, dated February 13, 1877; application filed December 16, 1876.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EPHRAIM K. BULLOCK, of Detroit, in the county of Wayne and State of Michigan, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Adjustable Hoop-Skirt Paniers; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a representation of a side view of my hoop skirt panier, and Fig. 2 is a detail sectional view of the looping device.

This invention relates to hoop-skirts; and it consists in certain improvements in the construction thereof, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

In the annexed drawings, A designates the waistband of my improved skirt, from which waistband are suspended a bustle, B, and a trail-support, C, by means of suspending-strips D. Said suspending-strips extend from said waistband A to the bottom of said trail-support C, uniting the above-mentioned parts, so as to form a single article, which has a slender shape, slightly curving outward at the rear near the top and at the bottom, as shown. The front of said skirt is made of flexible material, unstiffened.

The bustle B and trail-support C, above described, have between them an open space, C', across which extends the middle parts D' of said suspending-strips D. Said parts D' of said strips D are each provided with a series of perforations or eyes, E, and hooks F, whereby said trail-support C may be adjusted up toward or down from said bustle B, thus making the said skirt longer or shorter, as desired. Fig. 2 shows in sectional detail one each of said hooks and eyes engaged so as to adjust the said skirt, also a part of one of said supporting-strips D.

The flexible front of said skirt is supported by means of similar supporting-strips G G,

which are provided at their upper ends with eyes H, arranged in series, vertically. To waistband A, above each series of said eyes, is attached a hook, I, which is adapted to engage therewith, and thereby adjust the front of said skirt so as to conform to the previously-described adjustment of the rear of said skirt. All of said supporting-strips D and G are made of textile fabrics, and the adjusting hooks and eyes may be located at any convenient point of the length of said supporting-strips. The said bustle and trail-support are constructed mainly of sections of metal hoops b and c, which are attached to said supporting-strips D. On the inside of said bustle and trail-support, at each side thereof, are flaps, which are laced together in the middle, so as to cause the rear part of said skirt to set outward properly from the person of the wearer.

By the construction above described, the skirt is made adjustable without at any time separating any of the parts of which it is composed.

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

1. In a hoop-skirt, the combination of the suspended strips D, united at top and bottom by the independent sets of hoops b c, leaving an open central space between them to act as a flexible hinge, with the hooks and eyes arranged at the middle parts of said strips, substantially as described, and for the purpose set forth.

2. In a hoop-skirt, the combination of the suspended strips D, united at top and bottom by the independent sets of hoops b c, with the hooks and eyes arranged at the middle parts of said strips, and the suspended strips G, having hooks and eyes, substantially as described, and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

EPHRAIM K. BULLOCK.

Witnesses:

J. F. ACKER, Jr.,  
J. R. BROWN.