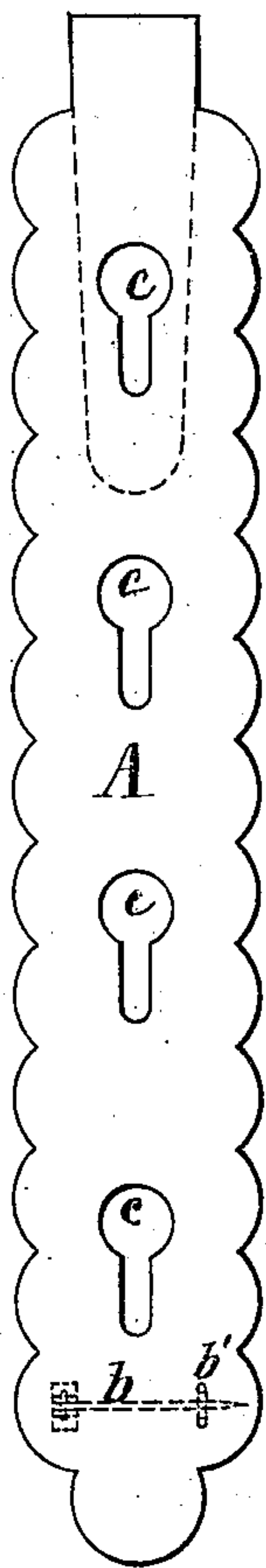


W. W. TOWSON.  
SKIRT-SUPPORTER.

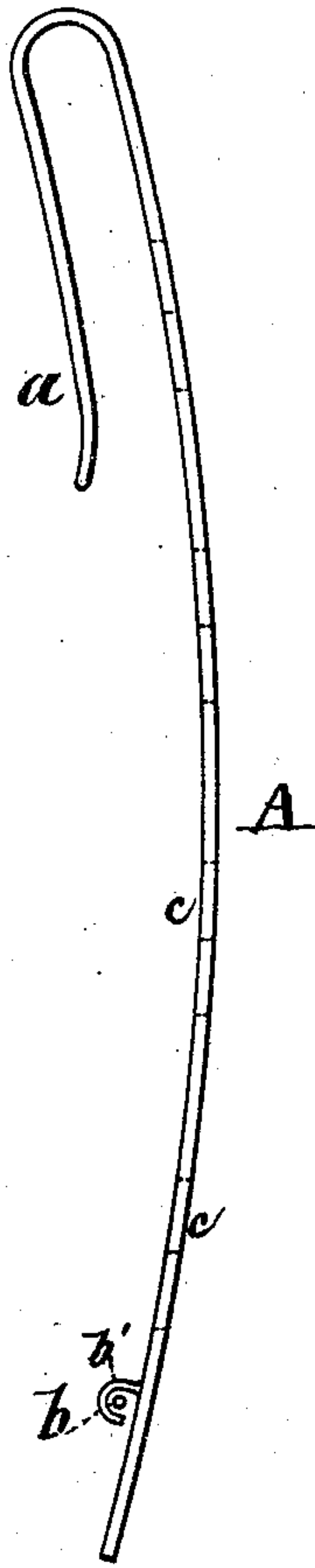
No. 189,154.

Patented April 3, 1877.

—FIG. I—



—FIG. II—



—WITNESSES—

H. A. Daniels,  
Chas. Munger.

—INVENTOR—

William W. Towson  
by A. H. W. Howard  
Atty.

W. W. TOWSON.  
SKIRT-SUPPORTER.

No. 189,154.

Patented April 3, 1877.

*Fig. 3.*



—WITNESSES.—

*H. A. Daniel,*  
*Theo. Munger.*

—INVENTOR.—

*William W. Towson,*  
*by W. H. M. J. Howard,*  
*att'y*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM W. TOWSON, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

## IMPROVEMENT IN SKIRT-SUPPORTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 189,154, dated April 3, 1877; application filed October 19, 1876.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM W. TOWSON, of the city of Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, have invented certain Improvements in Skirt-Supporters, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming a part hereof.

This invention is more particularly adaptable as a supporter for the skirts of walking or visiting dresses, the length of which renders it necessary that the wearer should hold up with one hand a portion of the skirt to prevent its resting and dragging on the ground in walking; but the invention may be applied to house-dresses, and when so used is found to be a convenient device for house-keepers in following out the daily routine of their duties.

The invention consists in a metallic or other plate, provided with a hook or attachment for securing it at, near, or to the dress-waistband or belt encircling the waist, and also provided with an eye or eyes, or equivalent means, for receiving a button or other connecting device attached to the bottom or other part of the skirt or dress.

In the further description of my invention which follows, reference is made to the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a front view of the invention; Fig. 2, a side view of the same, and Fig. 3 a representation of the mode of applying and using the said invention.

Similar letters of reference indicate similar parts of the invention in the different views.

A is a plate of metal, vulcanized rubber, or other suitable material, its upper end being bent into a hook, *a*, which is caused to hook over the waistband of the skirt, or the belt encircling the waist, when such is worn, the plate A being preferably curved to conform to the hip of the wearer. A pin, *b*, may be hinged to the lower part of the rear of the plate A, if desired, which pin penetrates the dress, and enters a loop, *b'*, on the plate A, after the manner of a shawl or other similar pin. Experience has, however, shown that

the lower pin-fastening is not needed. The plate A is provided at one or more points with an eye or eyes, *c*, the upper portion of the eye being, preferably, of circular formation, and the lower rectangular, in shape similar to an ordinary key-hole. The eye or eyes are used in connection with a button or buttons placed at one or more points at or near the bottom of the skirt, basque, or overskirt; one of which buttons, chosen as the most applicable for the existing occasion, is slipped into one of the eyes *c*, that one being selected which is at the desired height from the ground. Instead of eyes and buttons on the plate A and dress, respectively, any other suitable co-operating devices may be used, provided that a secure and convenient attachment of the dress to the plate be accomplished. The plate A, if the eyes be used, and where the lower pin attachment is not employed, can be stamped at one operation out of sheet metal, and is, in consequence, cheaply manufactured. When ornamented in any optional way, or shaped to suit taste or prevailing fashion, this invention is made very attractive in appearance, which greatly adds to its popularity. The metal can be nickel or silver plated, gold-washed, bronzed, or otherwise rendered pleasing to the eye. For mourning dresses or subdued colors, the device, if desired, can be rendered invisible by making it of rubber, or covering the metal with leather or other dark material.

I claim as my invention, and wish to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

A skirt or dress supporter consisting of the plate A, having a waistband hook or attachment, and provided with one or more eyes or holders, *c*, for receiving the looping-up buttons or devices of the skirt or dress, substantially as herein specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereto subscribed my name, in the city of Baltimore, this 14th day of October, A. D. 1876.

WILLIAM W. TOWSON.

Witnesses:

N. F. BURKE,  
THOS. MURDOCH.