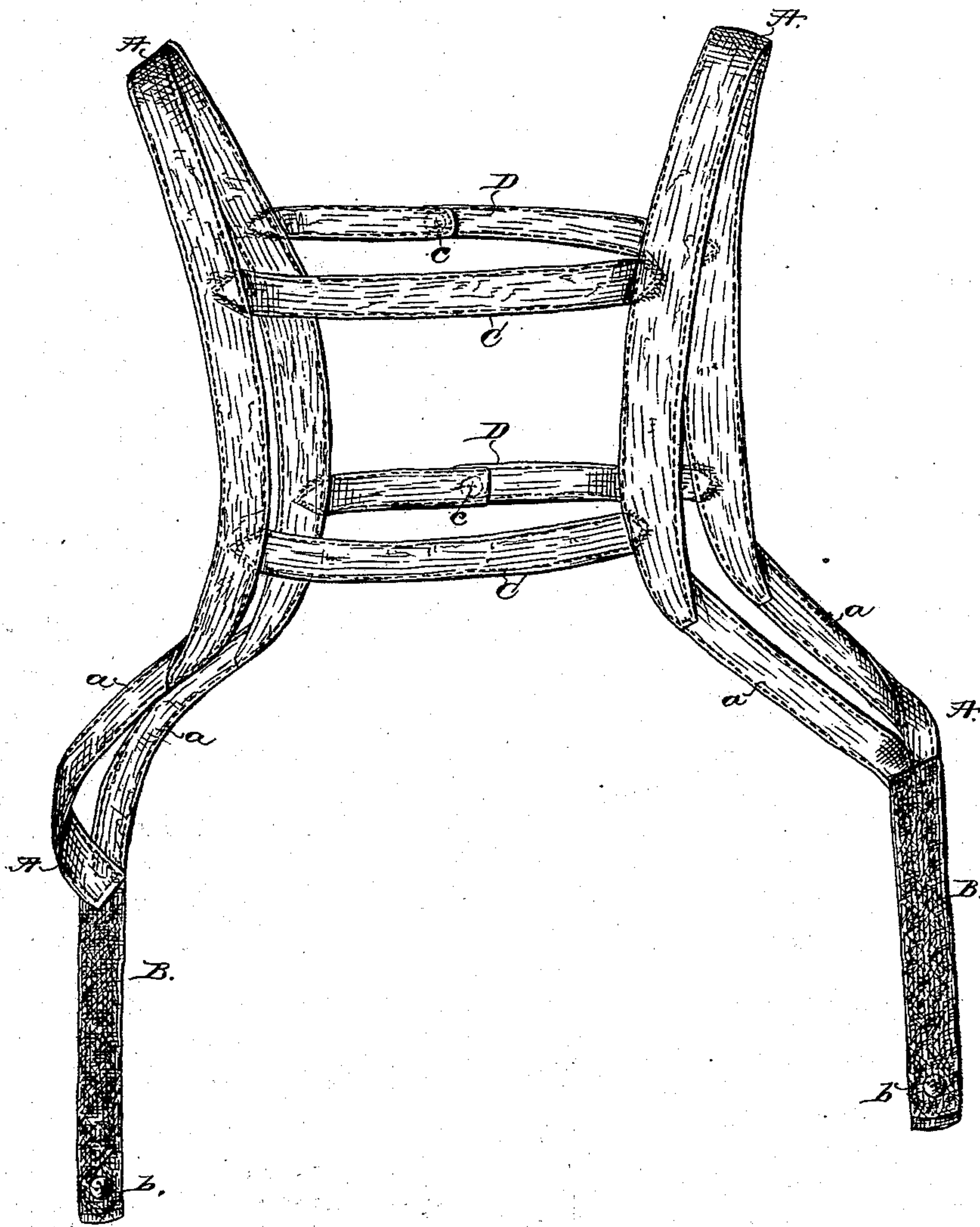


H. F. BOWMAN.  
Child's Stocking Suspender.

No. 232,671.

Patented Sept. 28, 1880.



WITNESSES:

*John F. C. Prunkert*  
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INVENTOR:

*H. F. Bowman*  
BY *Wm. C. Prunkert*  
ATTORNEYS.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRIET F. BOWMAN, OF MATTOON, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO HERSELF AND FRANK KERN, OF SAME PLACE.

## CHILD'S STOCKING-SUSPENDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 232,671, dated September 28, 1880.

Application filed February 28, 1880.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HARRIET F. BOWMAN, of Mattoon, in the county of Coles and State of Illinois, have invented a new and Improved Child's Stocking-Suspender; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which the figure is a front view.

My invention is designed to avoid the necessity for the use of garters for holding up children's stockings, the bad effect of an impeded circulation, cold feet, and other incidental evils being already recognized as due, to a large extent, to the use of tight garters, which, as the child grows, constantly become tighter.

The invention consists in two endless straps passing over the shoulders and having an outward curve at the bottom, so as to leave the hips unimpeded, in combination with an elastic strap at the bottom of each endless strap, which elastic strap is buttoned to the stocking, together with two pairs of cross-straps for connecting the endless straps in front and behind the body of the child, to keep the endless straps from slipping off the shoulders, one set of cross-straps being separable and connected by buttons and button-holes, to permit the suspenders to be easily applied or removed, as hereinafter described.

In the drawing, A A represent two endless straps, which are designed to go over the shoulders and hang down by the hips of the child. These straps have inserted pieces *a a*, fastened obliquely to the lower portion of the main straps, which pieces give the lower portion of the straps an outward curve or fullness, which prevents the binding of the straps against the hip.

To the lower end of each piece *a* is stitched an elastic strap, B, carrying a button, *b*, which is buttoned into a button-hole in the stocking.

Just below the arms the main straps A A are connected by two front cross-straps, C C, and two back straps, D D, which hold the main suspending-straps A A from slipping off the shoulders.

In order to permit the suspenders to be easily applied or removed, the front or back cross-straps, C and D, may be made separable by buttons and button-holes, as seen at *c c*.

In defining my invention more clearly with respect to that which has preceded it, I would state that I am aware of the combined stocking-supporter and skeleton waist shown in Patent No. 106,885. The distinctive feature of my invention, however, rests in the peculiar construction of the comparatively-inelastic strap, A A, as made with a fullness below the cross-straps by an outward curve, in connection with the inelastic pieces *a*, inserted bias, the merit of which is that instead of drawing against the body in a straight line it gives, when the strain is on it, a curve or swell which does not encumber or bind the growing child about the hips or bend of the body, but permits free and unconfined action to the child in its numerous postures.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim is—

The inelastic endless straps A A, formed of the main sections for the shoulders, curved outwardly below the cross-straps, and the inelastic pieces *a a*, inserted bias, forming together an outward lateral curve or fullness over the hips, in combination with the elastic straps B, and the cross-straps C and D, substantially as described.

HARRIET F. BOWMAN.

Witnesses:

WM. A. STEELE,  
FRANK KERN.