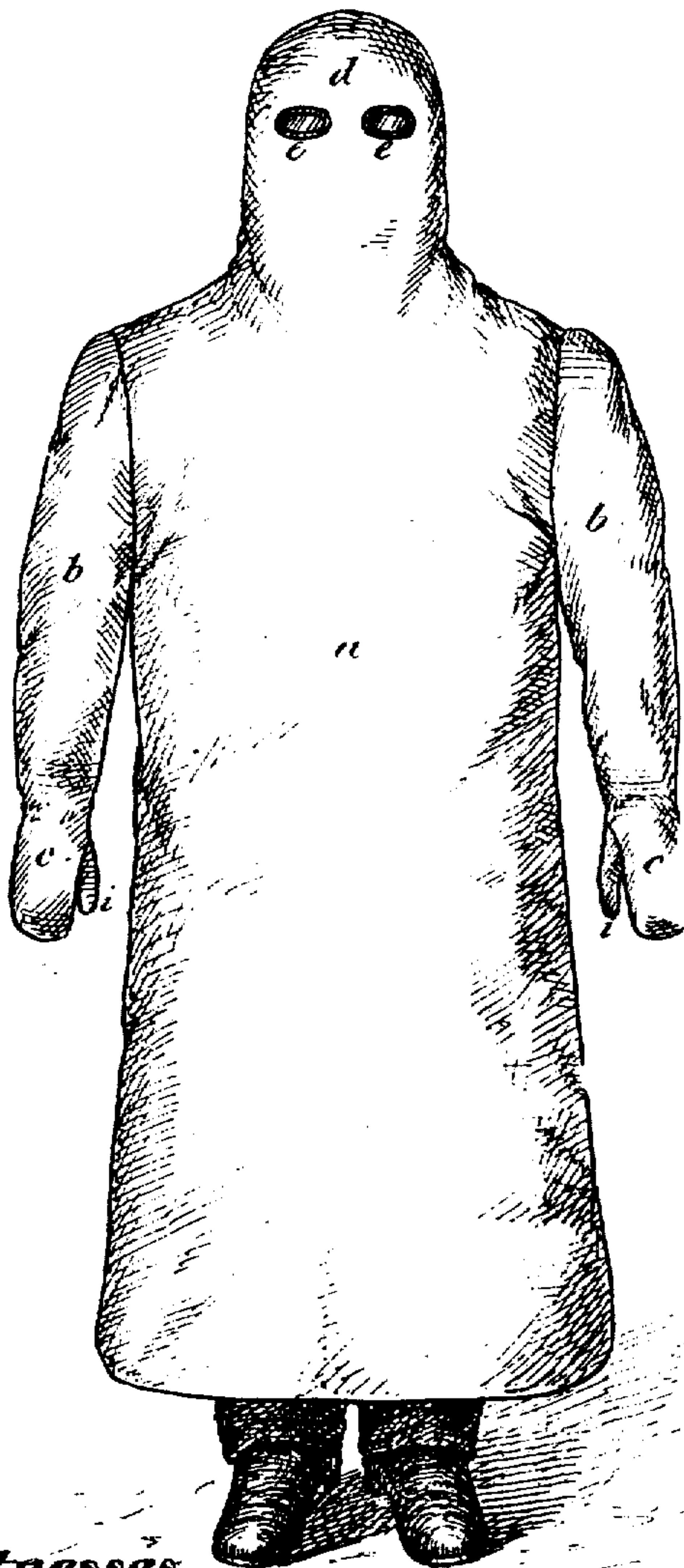


(No Model.)

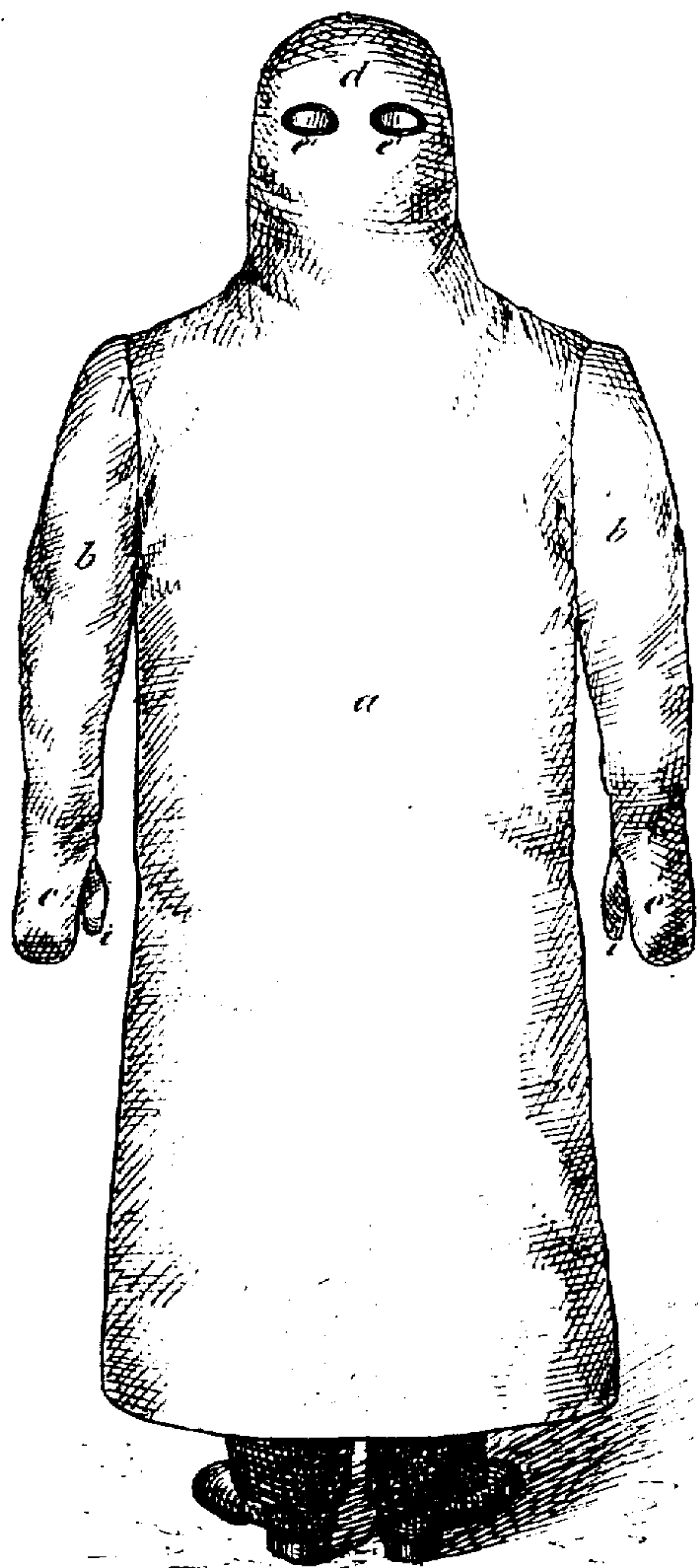
J. E. SMITH.
FIRE PROOF GARMENT.

No. 279,669.

Patented June 19, 1883.

Fig: 1.

Witnesses
Frederick Wagner
Ed L. Moran

Fig: 2.

Inventor
John E. Smith
By his Attorneys
Brann & Brown

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN E. SMITH, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

FIRE-PROOF GARMENT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 279,669, dated June 19, 1883.

Application filed March 13, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN E. SMITH, of the city and county of New York and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Fire-Proof Garments, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

The object of my invention, which I designate a "fire-escape garment," is to enable persons to escape through flame and smoke from burning buildings.

The invention consists in a loose gown-like garment of suitable length, made of some non-combustible material, or material that will stand a short exposure to flame without being ignited thereby, and having sleeves for the arms, mittens or gloves for the hands, and a cover for the head, and preferably provided with one or more eye-pieces, through which the wearer may look. The gloves or mittens, sleeves, body, head-covering, and eye-pieces are all permanently joined together, so that the only opening in the entire garment is at the bottom of the body. The sleeves are directly opposite each other, with the thumbs of the mittens pointing toward the body, and the covering for the head preferably has eye-pieces on both sides above a point midway between the sleeves, so that the garment is reversible, and may be worn with either side in front. Being thus reversible, it cannot, during haste and excitement be put on wrongly.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a front view of a man having one of my improved garments, which has two sets of eye-pieces, and is reversible. Fig. 2 is a back view, corresponding with Fig. 1.

a is the body of the garment; *b b*, the sleeves; *c c*, the mittens, with the thumbs *i i* turned or directed inward toward the body; *d*, the head-covering, and *e e* the eye-pieces on one side. Directly opposite to *e e* are other similar eye-pieces, *e' e'*. These eye-pieces may be either double, as shown, or single, of sufficient size. They may be of glass or mica and the garment of some light and flexible material not readily ignited by flame—such as asbestos cloth, thin leather, or any fabric rendered difficult of combustion by the application of some chemical—for instance, tungstate or phosphate of soda, sulphate of ammonia, or alum. Silk or woolen cloth may also be used.

The garment may be made seamless, or, if not, the different portions of which it is composed, including the eye-pieces, may be fastened together by any well-known means, such as sewing, cementing, riveting, &c. The garment, (excepting the eye-pieces,) if not of leather or skin, should be of felt or tightly-woven cloth, so that smoke will not pass through it too readily.

The wearer can breathe the air confined in the garment during the short time that it is intended to be worn.

I will mention that the position of the thumbs of the mittens toward the body is of considerable importance, as in no other position would they allow the garment to be so easily put on as well with one side before as with the other and make it so perfectly reversible.

I am aware that heretofore various dresses have been devised for protecting persons against fire, smoke, and water. Some of these are jointed at the neck or waist, or both, and have openings for respirators, breathing-tubes, or air-tubes, besides the opening through which they are put on. My invention differs from these in being in one piece, with but the one opening through which it is put on; and when it has eye-pieces on both sides and the sleeves arranged as described it can be worn with either side in front. I would remark that by omitting the sleeves my invention would still be useful and would differ from others, especially when it is provided with eye-pieces on different sides.

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

1. A fire-escape garment having sleeves with mittens and eye-pieces, all formed in one piece with the body *a*, and the complete garment having but a single opening, as specified.

2. The fire-escape garment herein described, formed or secured in a single piece, and having but a single opening, consisting of the body *a*, the sleeves *b*, having mittens *c*, with inwardly-projecting thumb-pieces *i*, and opposite sets of eye-pieces, *e*, in head portion *d*, as and for the purposes set forth.

JOHN E. SMITH.

Witnesses:

FREDK. HAYNES,
ED. L. MORAN.