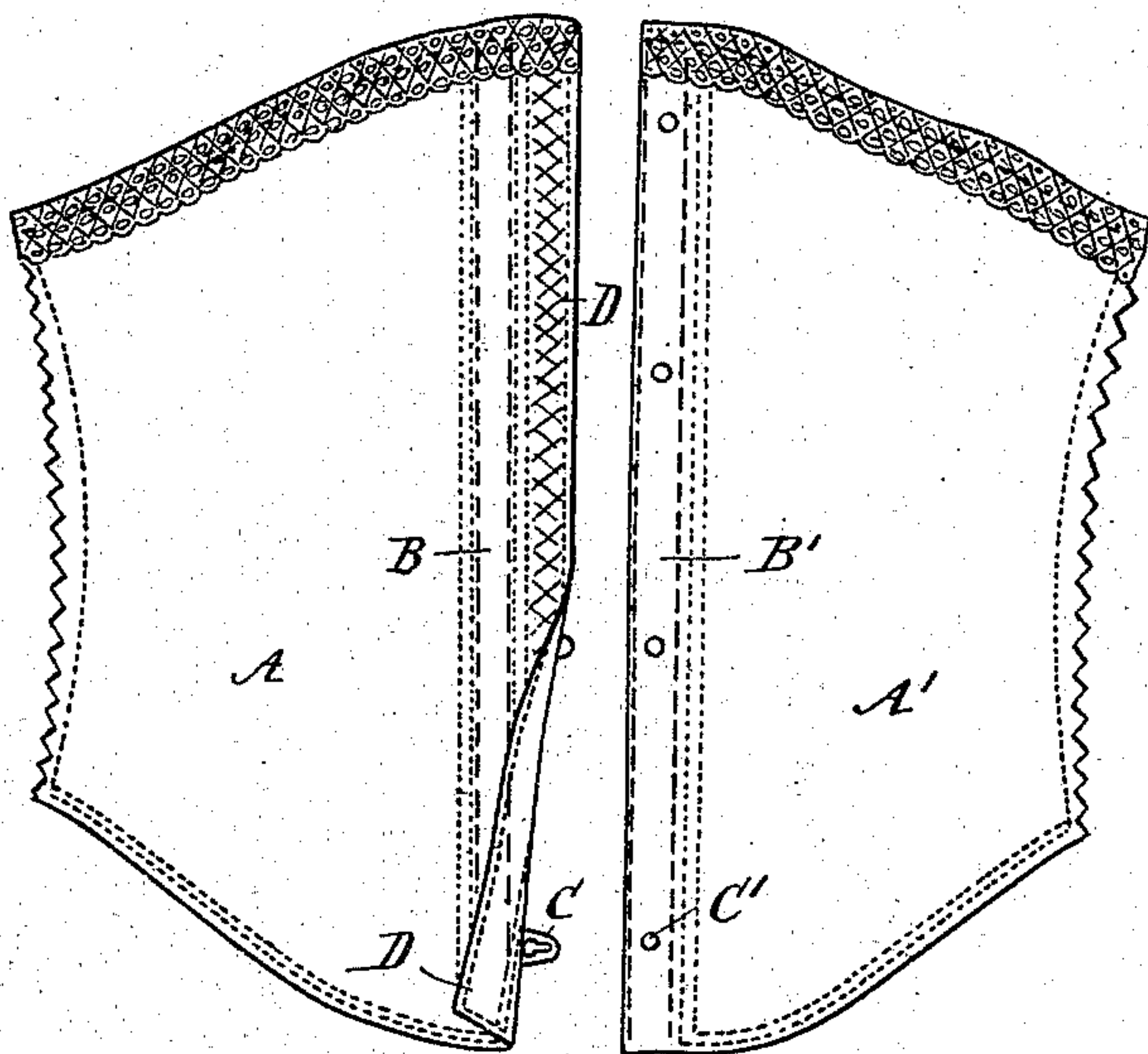


(No Model.)

E. WHAPLES.  
ATTACHMENT FOR DRESSES.

No. 293,387.

Patented Feb. 12, 1884.



Attest:

A. Barthel  
E. Scully

Inventor:

Ella Whaples  
by her Atty. Thos. S. Maguire



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELLA WHAPLES, OF JACKSON, MICHIGAN, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO  
LEWIS SHANNON, OF SAME PLACE.

## ATTACHMENT FOR DRESSES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 293,387, dated February 12, 1884.

Application filed August 8, 1883. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ELLA WHAPLES, of Jackson, in the county of Jackson and State of Michigan, have invented new and useful  
5 Improvements in Attachments for Dresses; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.

10 This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in attachments for dress or bodice fronts, by means of which the strain is entirely taken off, when properly adjusted, from the buttons and button-holes with which  
15 the two parts of the dress-front are secured, which will prevent the lower end of the bodice from curling upward when the wearer of the dress is sitting, which will readily assist in getting a good fit to the garment, and prevent  
20 the necessity in warm weather of wearing a corset.

In order to secure a good smooth fit of a dress, the bodice is made so as to set smoothly over the person, and, especially when thin  
25 stuffs are used, a great strain is brought upon the buttons and button-holes, or upon the hooks and eyes when the latter are used to connect the two parts of the front of the dress.

The object of my invention is to provide a  
30 pair of stays to be used as attachments, sewed to the inner side of each of the parts forming the front of the dress, and provided with means for securing the same together, so that the strain will be exerted upon the attach-  
35 ments rather than upon the dress itself. This attachment I make in two parts, the edges that are designed to be coupled together being provided with regular corset steels or busks, provided with the usual means of securing the  
40 fronts of corsets together, so that the putting in of whalebones into the front portion of the dress is avoided, as well as their continued breaking, while the lower end of the bodice is prevented from curling when the wearer is sit-  
45 ting or stooping, the lower end of the busks

or steels keeping the parts in their proper position.

In the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, and in which the two parts of my attachment are shown discon- 50 nected, but ready to be connected, A A' represent the two parts formed of two thicknesses of fabric, stitched together, and provided near their adjoining edges with pockets, into which are inserted the busk-steels B and B', with their 55 ordinary means of fastening, C and C', as shown. Preferably the part A, the busk-steel of which is provided with the loops, is provided with an overhanging flap, D, which, when the two parts are hooked together, will overlap the 60 busk-steel upon the adjoining part. From the inner edge of each of these parts the tops are given a gradual descent toward the outer edges, so as to bring the front of the attachment when in place above the line of the armpits of the 65 wearer, and the lower ends are cut in the same form, to admit of the device being attached, if desired, to the shorter seams in the dress under or a little in front of the armpits. In operation these attachments at their outer edges 70 are sewed into the seams, one upon each part of the dress-front, and when properly adjusted with the dress upon the wearer the busk-steels are hooked together, inclosing the person a little more closely than the dress-front at this 75 point, which is now ready to be buttoned, entirely relieved of any strain upon it.

It will be seen that my attachments are equally serviceable with under-waists or garments, as well as with outside dresses. 80

What I claim as my invention is—

An attachment to dress-fronts, consisting of the parts A A', provided with the busk-steels B B', and adapted to be used substantially as and for the purposes described.

ELLA WHAPLES.

Witnesses:

E. SCULLY,  
H. S. SPRAGUE.