

(No Model.)

W. M. FISHER.

SPLIT RING.

No. 295,158.

Patented Mar. 18, 1884.

Fig. 1.

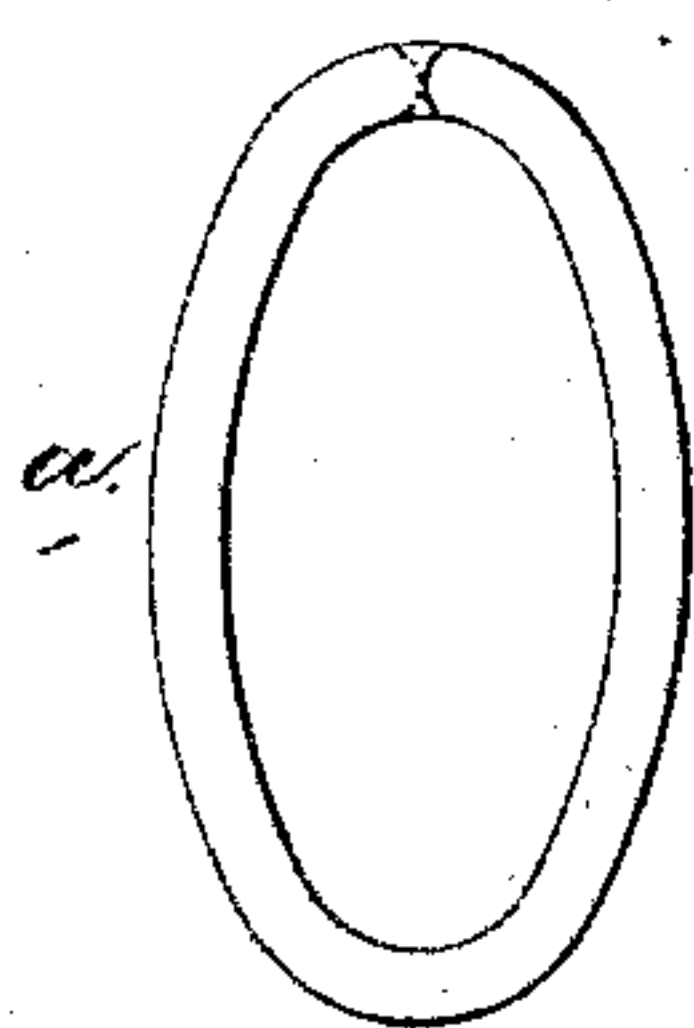


Fig. 2.

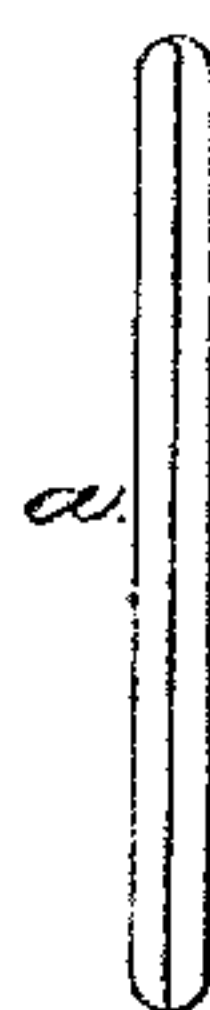


Fig. 3.

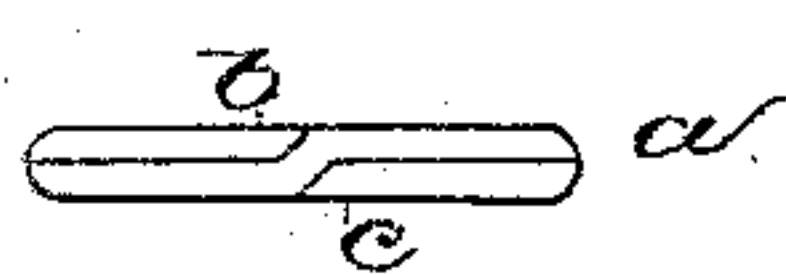


Fig. 5.

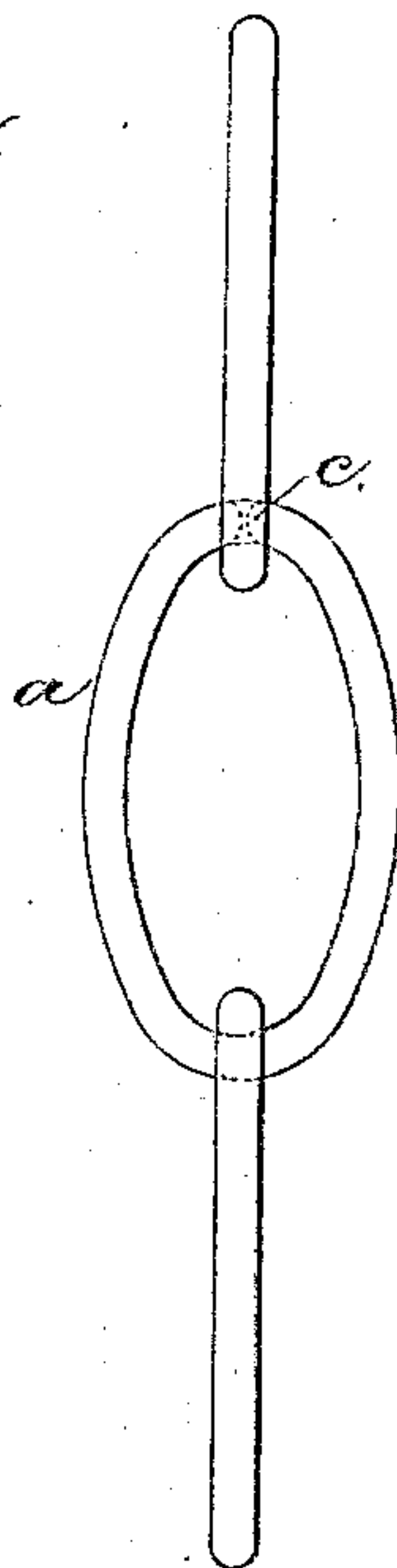
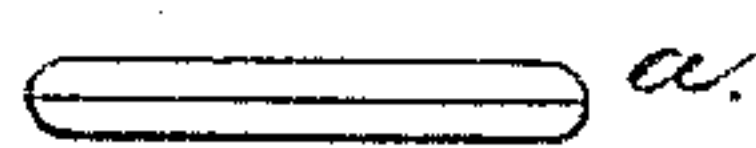


Fig. 4.



Witnesses.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM M. FISHER, OF ATTLEBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS.

SPLIT RING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 295,158, dated March 18, 1884.

Application filed December 17, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM M. FISHER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Attleborough, in the county of Bristol and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Split Rings, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like letters on the drawings representing like parts.

This invention has for its object the production of a novel split ring—a ring in which the ends cannot possibly fall in position to engage the clothing or so project as to be caught.

Split rings, such as heretofore made, are round or as truly circular as possible, and in use that part of the ring where the ends terminate may, by the rotation of the ring, fall in any position, and such point, as the ring is used as a link of a chain, shifts from point to point as the ring is rotated. Split rings are very commonly strained or expanded by the engagement with them of another ring or loop to a greater extent than they can bear, and thereafter are unable to resume their original closed condition, and in such condition the ends of the rings become horns or prongs, ever ready to catch into other objects—such as clothing, &c.—which is very objectionable. To obviate this difficulty and produce a ring which, should it be expanded too much, would not leave its ends exposed, and at the same time make a split ring which may be employed in a chain having elongated links, and be less noticeable, I have produced a split ring which in shape is oval, and which has its ends at the end of the ring, so that said ends are always shielded by the link which engages it, and it is in such novel split ring, as an improved article of manufacture, that my invention consists.

Figure 1 represents one of my improved rings in side elevation; Fig. 2, an edge view; Fig. 3, a top view of Fig. 1; Fig. 4, a bottom view of Fig. 1, and Fig. 5 represents one of my improved rings connected in a chain to show how its ends are always covered by the link engaged by it.

My improved split ring *a* will be made from wire in a die in the usual manner; but the die will be made oval, instead of round, and the wire will be so placed in the die that the ends thereof will always overlap at the end of the

die, thus always leaving the ends *b c* of the split ring fall at the end or most contracted or narrowest part of the ring, in order that the said ends of the ring, if unduly expanded, will always be shielded by the ring connected with split ring, as shown in Fig. 5.

It is very desirable that when in use a split ring should have, as much as possible, the appearance of a solid ring. When the ends *b c* are shielded, as stated, my improved split ring fulfills this condition as nearly as possible. Besides, there being more surface in contact when my split ring engages a link than in the case of a round split ring, the said engaged link tends to press or bind the ends of my improved split ring together when said ends have been thrown apart by the engaged link.

It has long been desirable to use a split ring in the manufacture of expensive Masonic and other badges; but for the reason that round split rings are not adapted for such use, mainly on account of their shape, manufacturers have heretofore been compelled to employ soldered oval jump-rings. Beneficial results follow the use of an oval split ring in which its ends are not in the line of its major axis; yet while I consider such a ring as coming within the scope of my invention, I prefer that the ends of my improved ring be located as shown and described, so as to bring about the best results.

I am aware that chain-links or jump-rings have been made oval; but I am not aware that a split ring has ever been of other shape than circular.

I claim—

1. As an improved article of manufacture, an oval-shaped split ring, as and for the purposes set forth.

2. As an improved article of manufacture, the herein-described oval split ring having its free ends terminating on opposite sides at one end of the ring, all substantially as shown, and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM M. FISHER.

Witnesses:

JAS. F. F. CLEARY,
HENRY HARPER.