

(No Model.)

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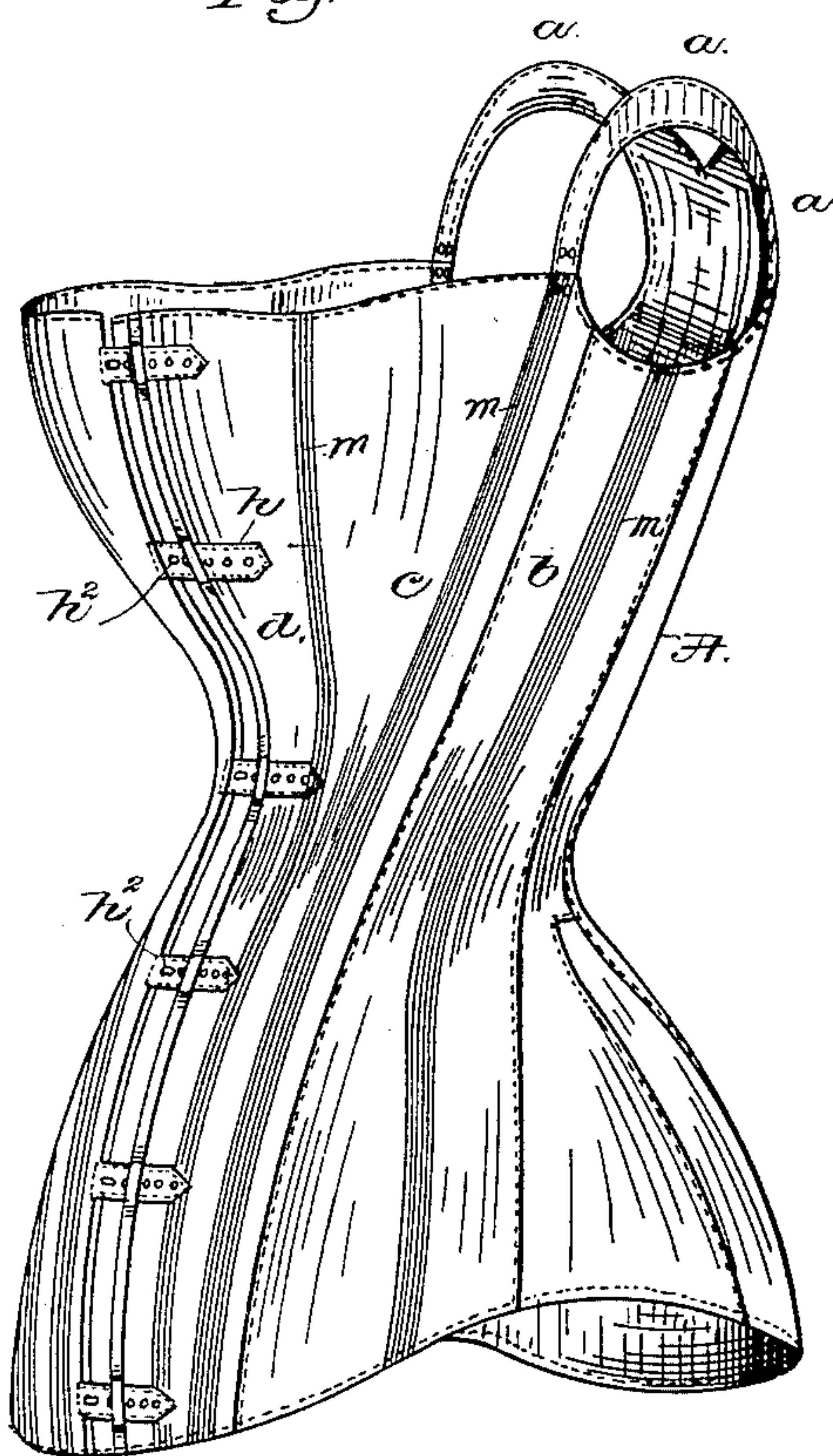
C. M. A. BARRY.

WAIST.

No. 318,681.

Patented May 26, 1885.

Fig. 1.



WITNESSES

Henry Marsh.

John F. C. Prentiss

INVENTOR

Charlotte M. A. Barry.

by Crosby & Gregory
Attys

(No Model.)

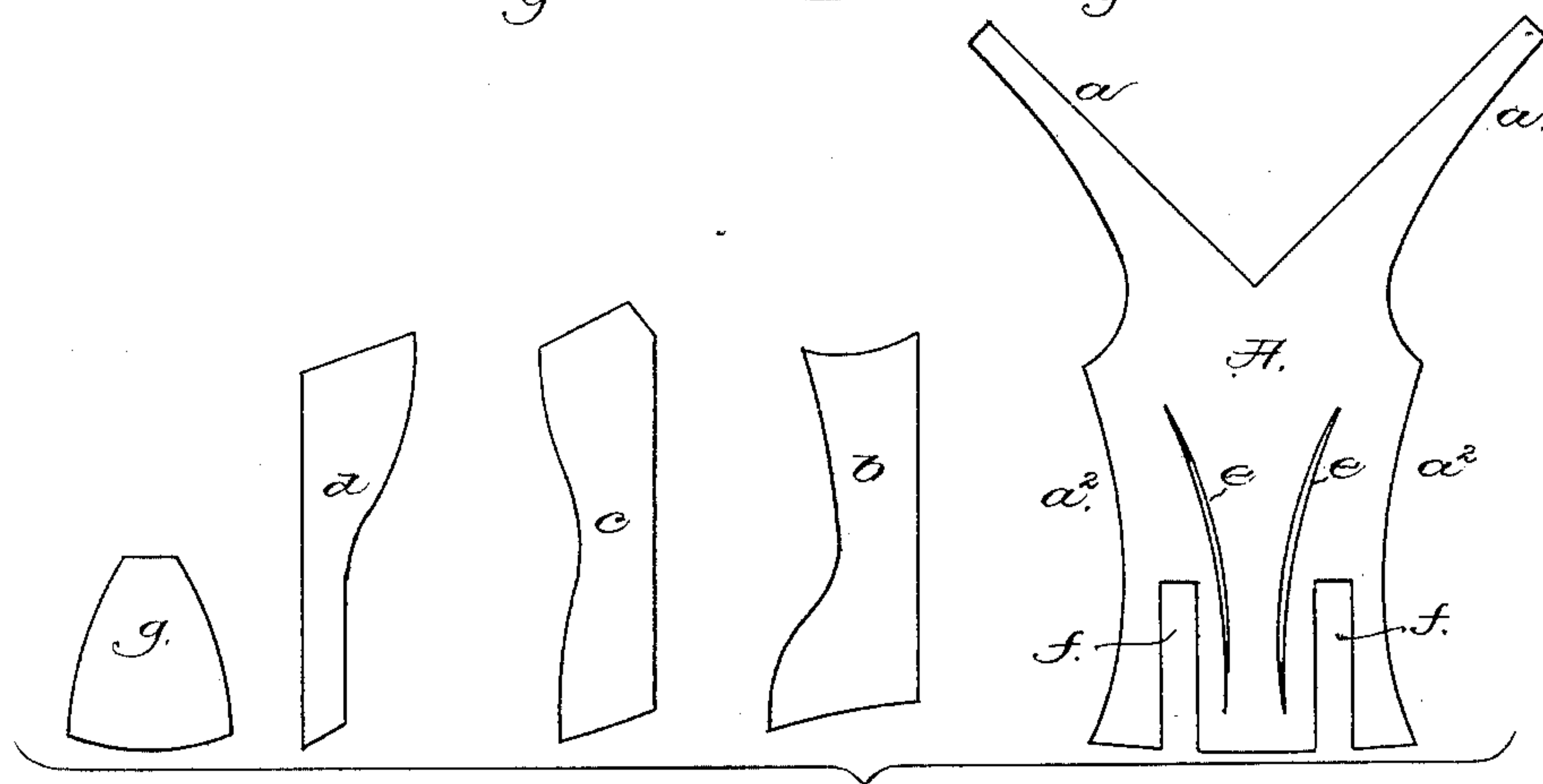
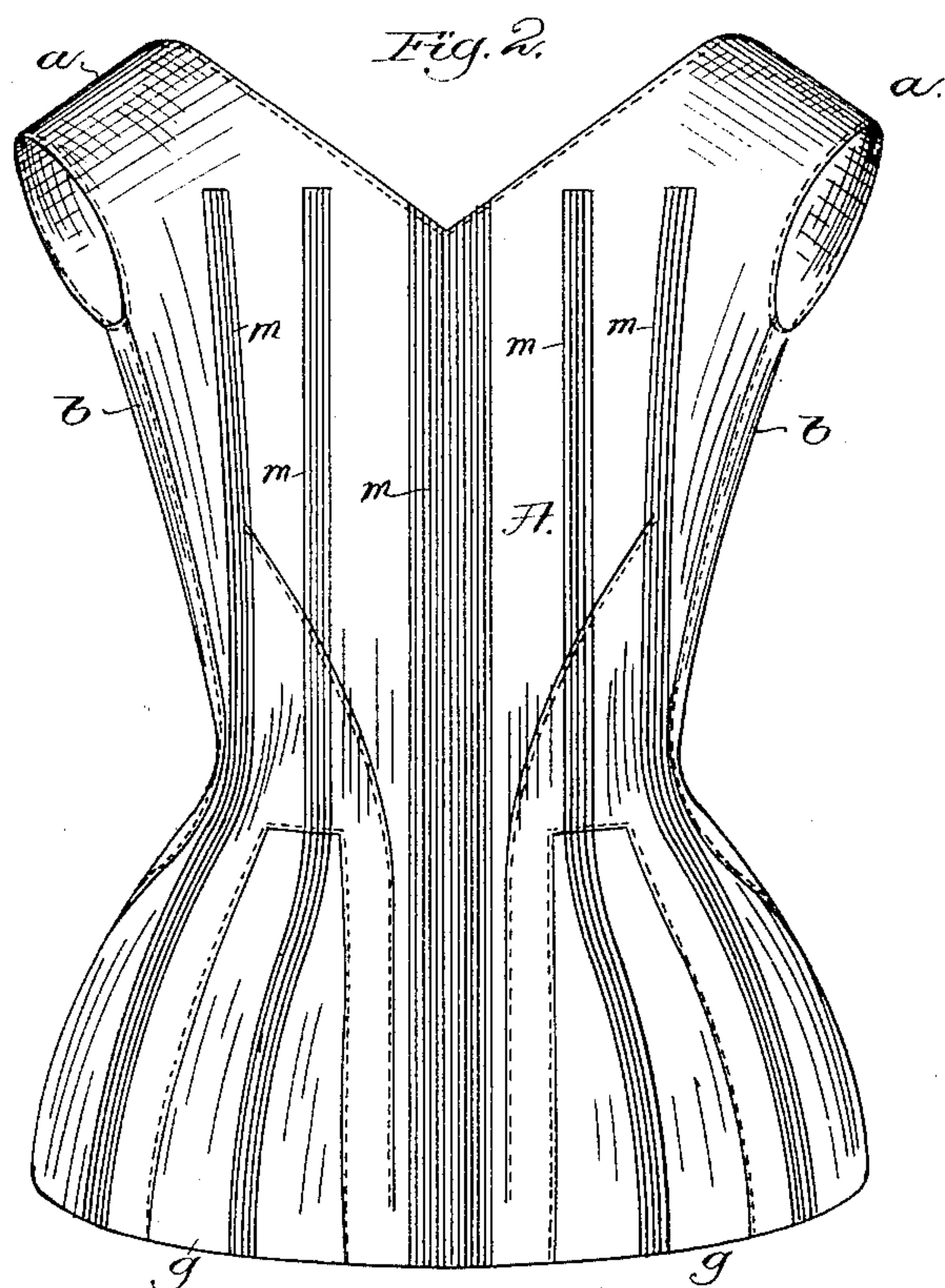
2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Henry Marsh.

John F. C. Printker

Fig. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLOTTE M. A. BARRY, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

WAIST.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 318,681, dated May 26, 1885.

Application filed April 28, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLOTTE M. ADAMS BARRY, of Boston, county of Suffolk, State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Waists or Garments for Ladies, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like letters on the drawings representing like parts.

10 Prior to my invention ladies who wished to retain elegance of figure and obtain support for the body have been obliged to wear corsets, which, besides unduly compressing the body to the discomfort of the wearer of the corset, 15 are open to the objection that they cannot be adjusted or loosened at any particular point to ease the body of compression at such points without also being adjusted or loosened above and below the point desired. Further, delicate and invalid ladies cannot wear ordinary 20 corsets such as referred to, because of undue compression of the body incident to their use.

My invention has for its object the construction of an anatomical waist for ladies, having 25 reference to the shape of the figure and its needs for support, which will take the place of corsets, and in a great measure supersede them, and yet give proper support to the body and retain elegance of figure in the wearer, the 30 said garment being adapted to be worn with ease and comfort by invalids and delicate persons who cannot bear the pressure of a corset, it giving to the figure of the wearer all the elegance of shape and support of body impart- 35 ed by a French corset, without the compression incident thereto.

The nature of my invention is fully set forth in the following description, and particularly pointed out in the claims.

40 Figure 1 shows in elevation one of my improved waists; Fig. 2, a back view thereof. Fig. 3 shows in detail the several pieces which form the sides, back, and front of my improved waist.

45 The back A and shoulder-straps a are formed in one piece. The straps a start from the center of the back and incline outwardly (see Fig. 2) and taper toward their ends, the outer or under edges of the said shoulder-straps being 50 curved, as shown, to form the arm size or opening. The shape of the straps and their

direction of divergence from the top of the back insure a neat and smooth fit on the back and shoulders of the wearer, and materially increase the support for the back and shoulders, 55 as well as providing a nicer-fitting arm-size.

As shown in Fig. 2, the sides a^2 of the back A are curved inward from the arm-sized downward until the waist-line is reached, so as to follow the conformation of the figure; but the 60 back is made wider after passing the waist-line, or is made to curve outward to provide the necessary fullness over the hips. The side pieces, b , are joined to the sides of the back, as shown, and are then connected with the 65 pieces c , which in turn are secured to the pieces d , all of suitable size and shape, to constitute the front of the waist and cause said front to fit the figure of the wearer. Bias cuts e are made in the back at each side of the center 70 line thereof, as indicated in Figs. 2 and 3, the said bias cuts extending from a point above the waist-line and near the sides of the back piece downward and inward to points near the bottom of the back piece; or, if desired, they 75 may extend entirely to the bottom line thereof, the purpose of the bias cuts being to remove some of the material and enable the garment to be fitted smoothly to the contour of the figure and give a very desirable support to the 80 back of the wearer. The edges of these bias cuts are connected in any suitable manner, as by stitching. (See dotted lines, Fig. 2.) The back is cut out or away, as at f , to leave spaces for the reception of two gore-pieces, g , which 85 are sewed therein to enlarge the garment to fit over the hips, and as said gores are such as commonly employed in like garments, they need no particular description herein.

The garment is readily joined at the front 90 about the figure of the wearer by means of eyeleted straps h , attached to one half of the waist, which engage a number of hooks, h^2 , attached to the other half of the waist, such straps affording means whereby the garment 95 may be easily and quickly adjusted at any particular point without tightening or loosening the garment on the figure at other points, which cannot be done where ordinary steels are used.

Buckles or other fastening devices may be 100 substituted for the hooks, if desired.

The ends of the shoulder-straps may be removably secured to the front of the garment, as with eyelets, as shown in Fig. 1, to provide the proper arm-sizes.

5 The garment may be stiffened with cord, hair-cloth, or with any other suitable material, although in the present instance I have shown it stiffened with cords in groups, as at *m*, extending from top to bottom of the garment, 10 and on all its sides.

The bias cuts in the back piece serve to conform the corset to the figure; but these alone will not fully accomplish this; hence auxiliaries must be provided. A lace will not do it, 15 because it cannot be drawn and stay tighter at one point than another; but if a number of fastening devices—such as I show, for example—be employed, each of which is independently adjustable, then the garment can be 20 drawn tight, for example, at the waist and let loose at the breast or abdomen.

The garment would be useless if not stiffened, and the bias cuts and independently-adjustable

fastenings of no account if the corset were not otherwise shaped through its pieces *b c d g*. 25

I claim—

1. A waist for ladies' wear, consisting of a back, *A*, the shoulder-straps *a*, bias cuts *ee* in said back, gores *g*, the pieces *b c d*, suitable stiffeners, *m*, and the independently-adjustable 30 fastening devices for the front, substantially as shown and described.

2. In a waist for ladies' wear, the back *A*, comprising the bias curvilinear cuts *ee*, having their edges united and arranged on each side 35 of the longitudinal center of the back, and beginning at points above the waist-line from near the arm-sizes and terminating at or near the bottom, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name 40 to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLOTTE M. A. BARRY.

Witnesses:

ISABELLE J. GRIDLEY,
ANNIE C. SCHENCK.