

(No Model.)

A. TRELEASE.

BUSTLE.

No. 328,440.

Patented Oct. 13, 1885.

Fig. 1

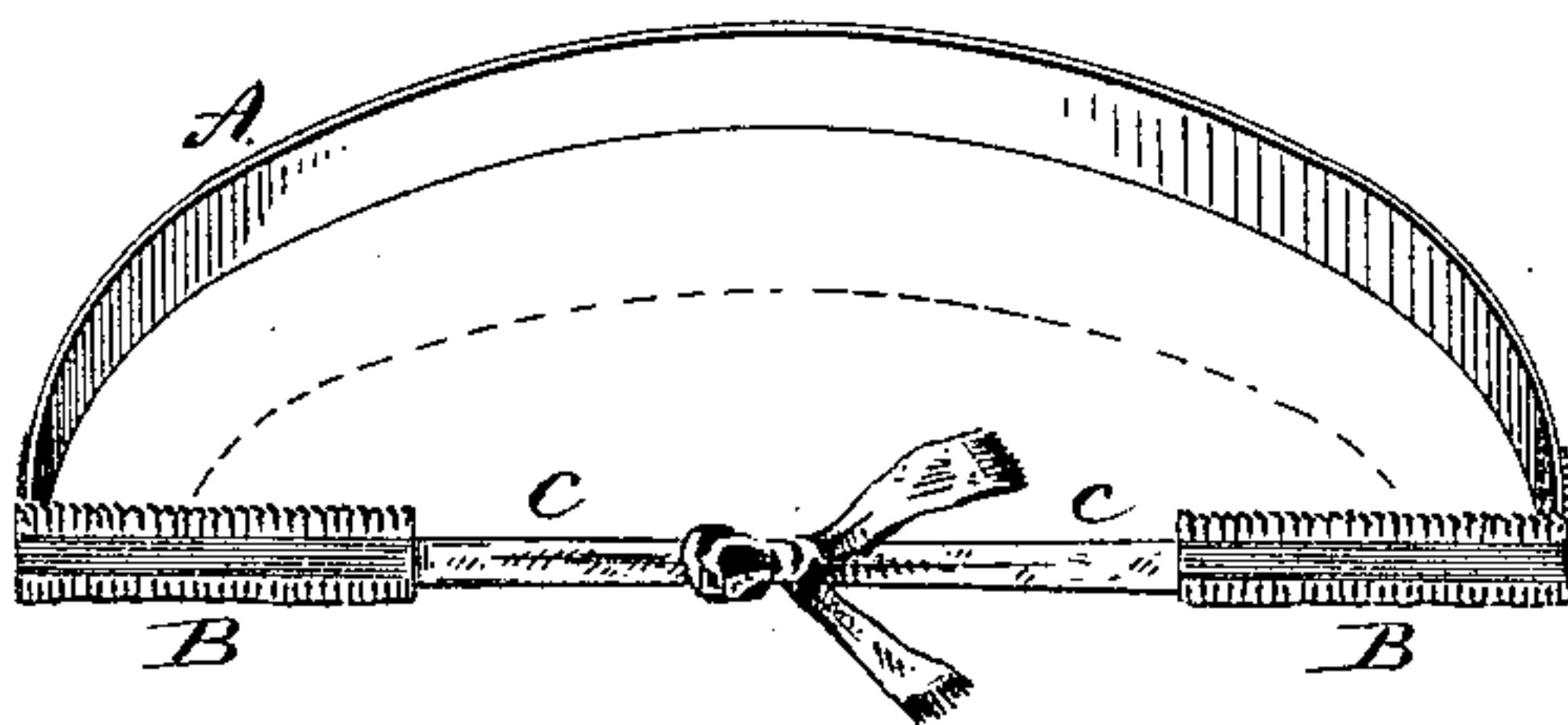


Fig. 2

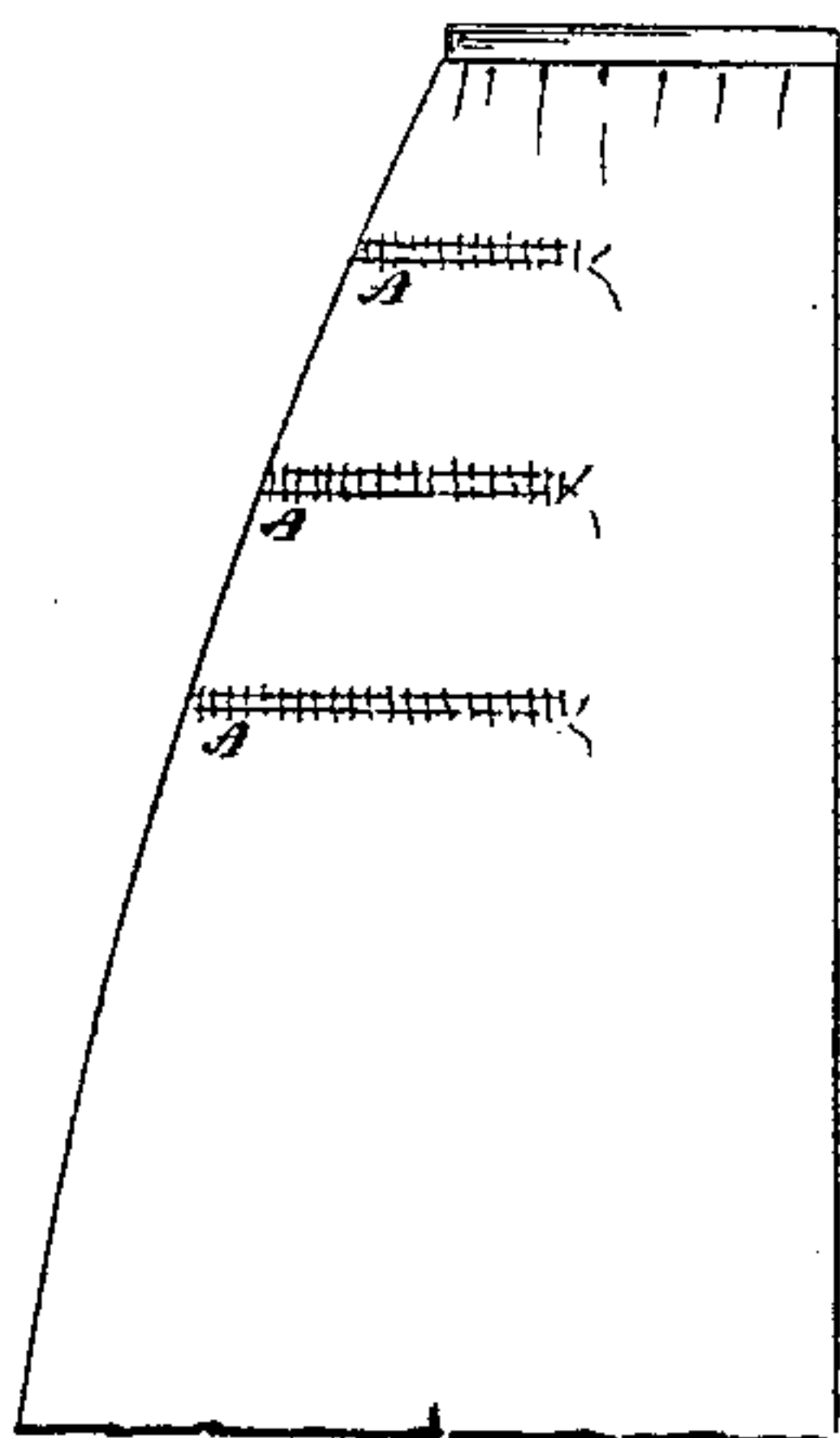
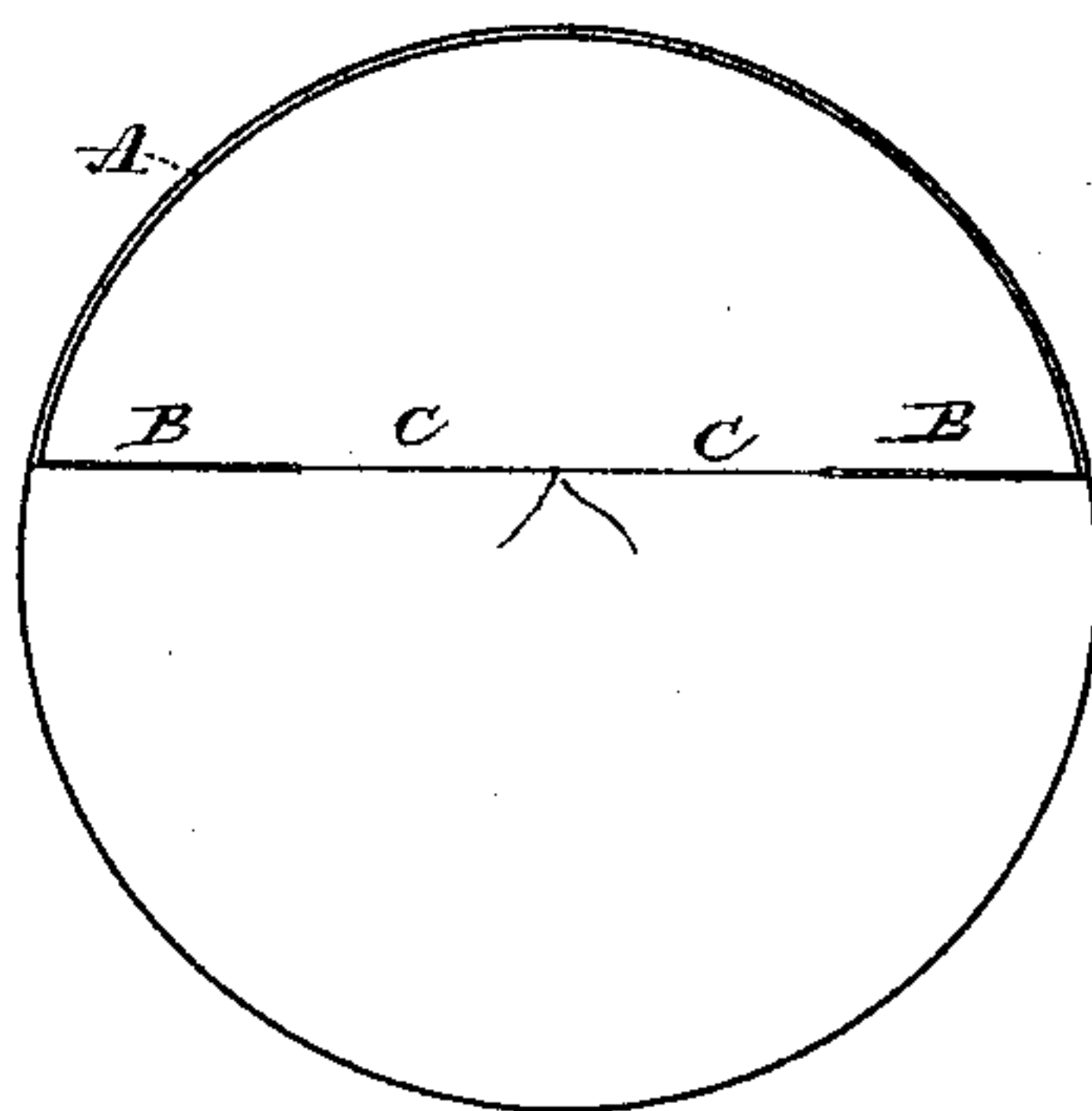


Fig. 3



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## BUSTLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 328,440, dated October 13, 1885.

Application filed October 13, 1884. Serial No. 145,334. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ALFORD TRELEASE, of Waterbury, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented a new Improvement in Bustles; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in—

Figure 1, a perspective view of one of the springs, showing the inelastic connections between its two ends; Fig. 2, side view of a skirt with the springs introduced; Fig. 3, transverse section of the skirt, showing the connection of the ends of the springs across the skirt.

This invention relates to an attachment for ladies' skirts, designed to extend the rear portion of the dress in the form of a bustle.

Short springs have been introduced in circumferential pockets in the rear portion of a skirt, the ends of the springs connected across the skirt in the rear of the person, and so that the ends of the springs may be drawn together or separated to increase or diminish the projection of the rear portion of the skirt. The connection of the end of the springs in the usual construction is rigid, and when the wearer desires to sit she must exercise considerable skill in doing so, in order not to break the springs or connections, and as the connections between the ends of the springs are unyielding any force applied tending to flatten the springs curved by the connection brings a strain upon the spring and connection, tending to break the one or the other.

The object of my invention is to overcome these difficulties; and it consists in attaching to each end of the metal spring an elastic strip terminating in an inelastic tape or connection, by which the two elastic strips may be united, and so as to form an elastic connection between the two ends of the spring, as more fully hereinafter described.

A represents one of the springs by which the skirt is extended or bustle formed. It is made from a thin strip of elastic metal. To each end of the spring a fabricated elastic strip, B, is attached. These strips terminate in a tape, C, or other suitable device, by which the free ends of the elastic portions B B may

be connected, and so as to draw the spring into a segment or semicircular shape, as seen in Fig. 1. The connection between the two ends of the spring being thus made elastic will yield so as to permit the ends of the spring to separate and come into a flat condition, or will yield to permit the connection to bend, as it were, back into the spring, as indicated in broken lines, Fig. 1.

The springs are applied in a circumferential pocket in the rear portion of the skirt, and connected across, as seen in Fig. 3, the connection being in rear of the person, and so as to hold the rear portion of the skirt extended from the wearer in bustle form.

If, wearing such a garment, a lady sit, the connections across the end of the spring yield so as to permit the connection to pass rearward into the spring or rear portion of the skirt, and also permit the spring to straighten to some extent, or sufficient to readily lie beneath the wearer without discomfort or danger of breaking either the spring or connection, and when the wearer rises, the connections and spring resume their proper shape and distend the dress.

The spring A, with the elastic strips B B attached to its respective ends, and the connections C C between, are made as an article of manufacture, to be introduced into the skirt by a person purchasing the bustle-spring; and there may be several of such springs introduced into the skirt, according to the taste or requirements of the wearer, Fig. 2 showing three such springs introduced.

I have represented the inelastic connections C C as tapes tied; but it will be understood that any of the known equivalents may be employed in the place of such tapes and knot.

I am aware that metal springs have been introduced into pockets in skirts, with a connection across the skirt in the vicinity of the ends of the springs, and in the form of an apron to rest against the body, the said apron made adjustable by various devices, so as to increase or reduce the projection of the bustle; but I do not claim such a bustle as my invention, the essential feature of my invention being the individual and independent springs, each having an elastic strip attached to its ends, with an inelastic connection between such strips, whereby each particular



spring, and a greater or less number, may be introduced into pockets formed for them in a skirt, the ends of each particular spring drawn toward each other to any desirable extent, without an apron or like connection, from one side of the skirt to the other.

I claim—

1. As an article of manufacture, the bustle-spring A, having an elastic strip, B, attached to its respective ends, the said elastic strips terminating in inelastic connecting devices C C, substantially as described.

2. A skirt having one or more springs, A, in circumferential pockets in the rear portion of the skirt, the said springs having an elastic strip, B, attached to each of their ends, the said elastic strips terminating in inelastic connections C C across the skirt in rear of the wearer, substantially as described.

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