(No Model.)

H. O. CANFIELD.

BUSTLE.

No. 370,927. Patented Oct. 4, 1887.

Fig. 2.

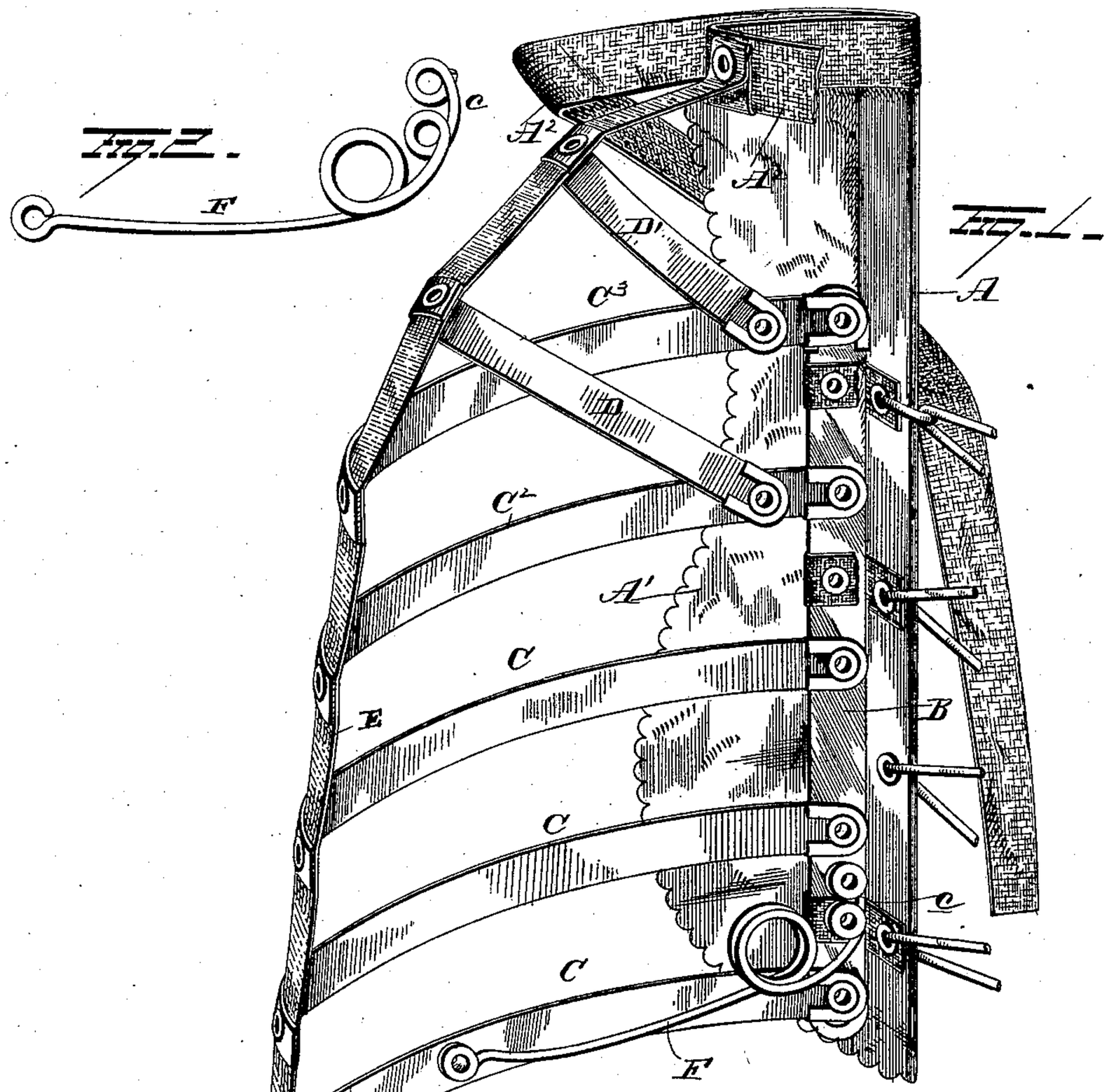

Fig. 1.

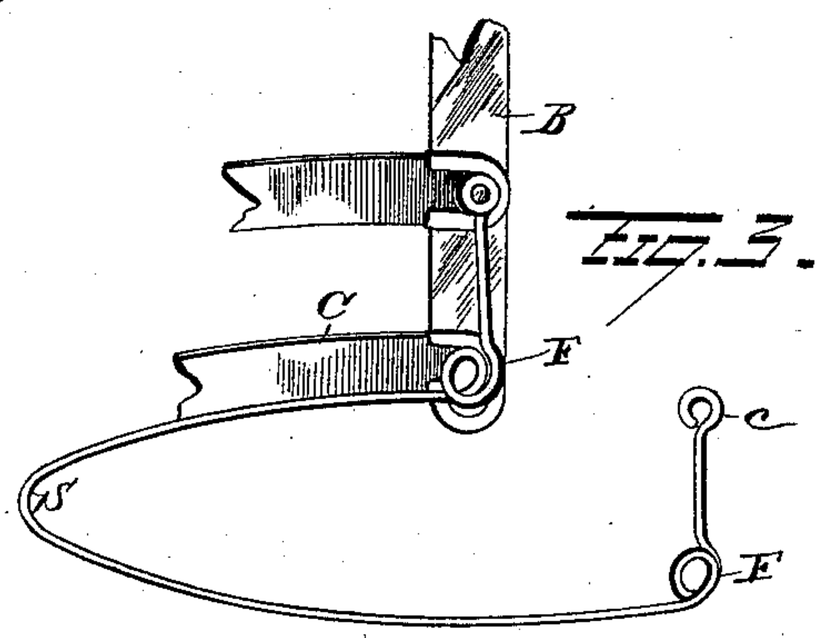

Fig. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY O. CANFIELD, OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO THE CANFIELD RUBBER COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

BUSTLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 370,927, dated October 4, 1887.

Application filed June 18, 1887. Serial No. 241,783. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY O. CANFIELD, residing at Bridgeport, in the county of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Bustles; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to an improvement in bustles.

The object of the present invention is to afford a simple and efficient means of constructing a bustle that may be made to fold flat against the person of the wearer when a sitting position is assumed, and that will be instantly caused to resume an extended form usual to such appendages or supports to the skirts of female attire.

A further object is to construct a bustle that may be folded and resume its shape without a complication of parts, and that can be produced rapidly in quantity at a low initial cost.

With these objects in view my invention consists in certain features of construction and combinations of parts, that will be hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

Referring to the drawings making a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a side elevation in section, showing the interior of the bustle and the attached retractile spring. Fig. 2 is a detached view of the spring. Fig. 3 shows another form of the spring in position on a bustle.

In the drawings I have only shown one side or half of a bustle; but the construction of the other side or half is in all respects similar to the side shown.

A represents one of two body-pieces, preferably made of elastic metal, and enveloped with a fibrous cover. To these body-pieces eyelets are affixed, to permit a cord to be inserted, that is useful to change the form of the bustle and make it project more or less, as may be desired.

Upon the body-strips A, near their outer edges, the eyelet-bars B are preferably secured by flexible bars, bands, or lacings, that permit a hinged action of the bars B upon the body-strips. These eyelet-bars B are perforated at spaced intervals to receive securing-eyelets, by which the flat spring-bows C C^2 C^3 are pivotally attached to have a swinging motion upon these points of connection.

Upon the upper spring-bows, C^2 C^3, similar flat bows, D D′, are pivoted, to permit them to vibrate. The spacing-tape E, or other flexible band, is attached at proper points upon the spring-bows C C^2 C^3 to hold these bows in horizontal and parallel position when the bustle is uncompressed, the tape E being connected at its upper end to the securing-band A^2, by which the bustle is held in place upon the wearer.

The device by which the spring-bows C C^2, &c., are held in normal position, and that permits a folding action of these bows, is shown in Fig. 1. It consists of two spiral springs, F, one on each side, constructed of spring-wire, and having their ends extended about at a right angle to each other. The springs F are attached, preferably, upon the inner surface of the eyelet-bars B, near their lower ends, to cause the coils of the springs to form joints, as the upright extended ends *c* of the springs are affixed to the inner surface of the eyelet-bars B, while the horizontal short extensions *d* are secured by their outer ends to the lower spring-bow, C, the tension of the spiral springs holding the lower spring-bow about at right angles to the vertical body-strips and eyelet-bars.

It is evident that the elevation or upward swinging movement of the lower bar, C, will permit the other spring-bows above it to be folded, and that a release of this spring-bow will by the action of the spiral springs F cause an automatic resumption of projected adjustment of the series of spring-bows, to extend the skirts of the wearer, the collapse of the bustle being effected when a sitting or reclining position is assumed by the person wearing it.

In Fig. 3 another form of the springs shown in Fig. 1 is exhibited. In this device the spiral springs F are formed on one piece of spring-wire bent into a bow shape. The form and size of the wire bow S adapts it to lie against the inner surface of the lower flat spring-bow, C, the center of the bow S being loosely secured in contact with the bow C by a loop of the spacing-tape E, to prevent the displacement of bow S and cause the bow-spring C to be actu-

ated by the vertical folding of the bow S. The spiral springs F are located near the points of pivotal connection of the lower flat spring-bow, C, with the eyelet-bars B, and their free ends *c* are bent into eyes, through which eyelets or rivets are inserted through the eyelet-bars B to secure these ends to the bars. It will be seen that this form of construction will afford the same advantages as the style of spring-bow extenders shown in Fig. 1, and that the bow S, when made to swing upwardly by pressure, such as is incidental to the assuming of a sitting or reclining posture by a wearer, will have a hinged movement or yielding action of its integral spiral springs F, and that these, from their tension, will instantly cause a downward movement of the bar C, and the series of connected bars C^2, &c., to extend the bustle and cause it to take its normal shape when such a pressure is relaxed.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a bustle, the combination, with a waistband, supports for carrying the spring-bows, spring-bows pivoted to said supports, and a tape connecting the bows and waistband, of two flat coiled springs, each having a short upper arm and a longer lower arm, the short upper arms being attached to their respective spring-bow supports and the longer lower arms to one of the spring-bows, substantially as set forth.

2. In a bustle, the combination, with a waistband, body-strips, eyelet-bars, and spring-bows pivotally secured to the eyelet-bars, of a spring having two spiral coils formed of its body integrally at opposite points, attached to the eyelet-bars by its ends and to the lower spring-bow intermediate thereof, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

HENRY O. CANFIELD.

Witnesses:

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