

(No Model.)

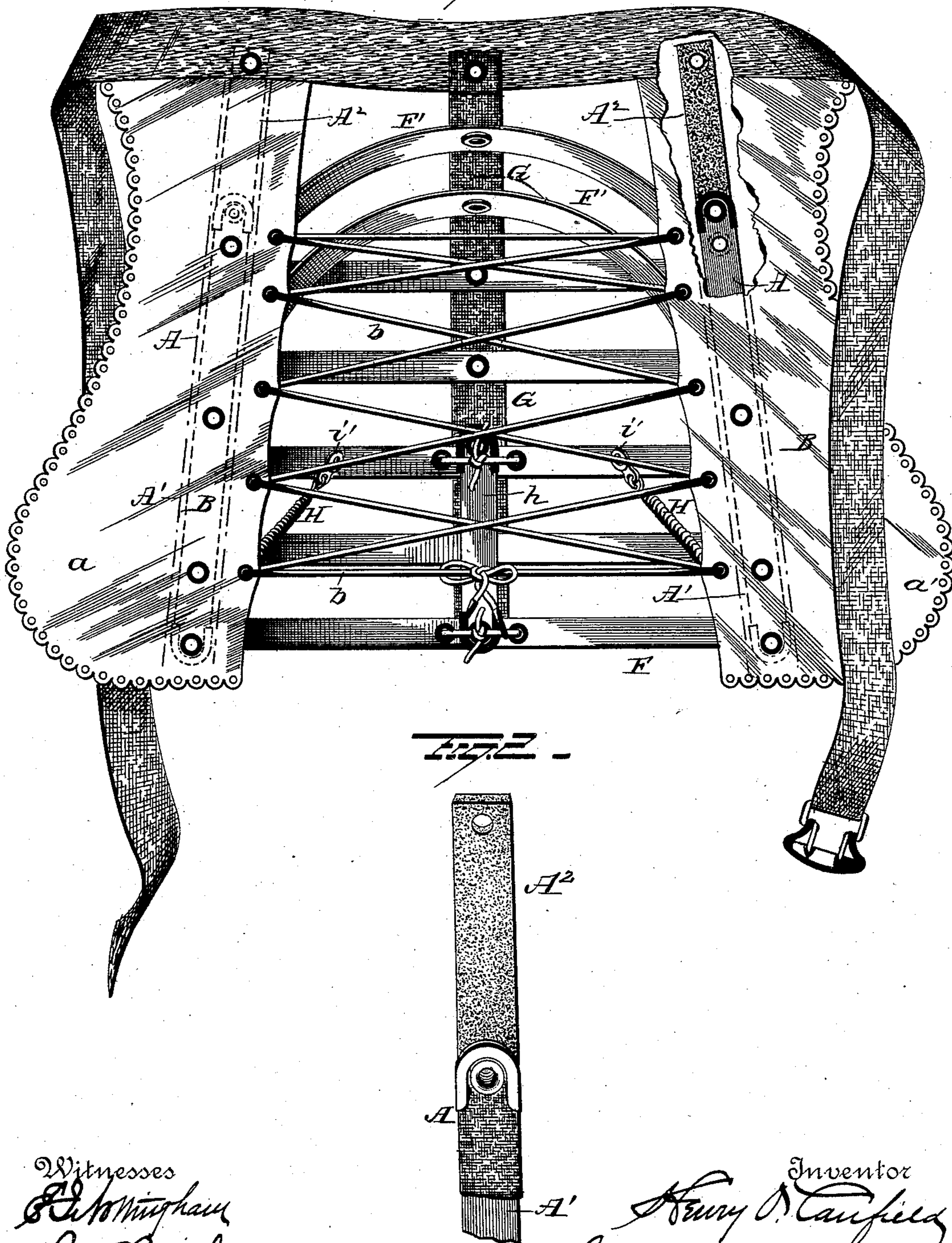
2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

H. O. CANFIELD.

BUSTLE.

No. 372,116.

Patented Oct. 25, 1887.



Witnesses
E. W. Mingham
A. W. Bright

Inventor
Henry O. Canfield
By his Attorney
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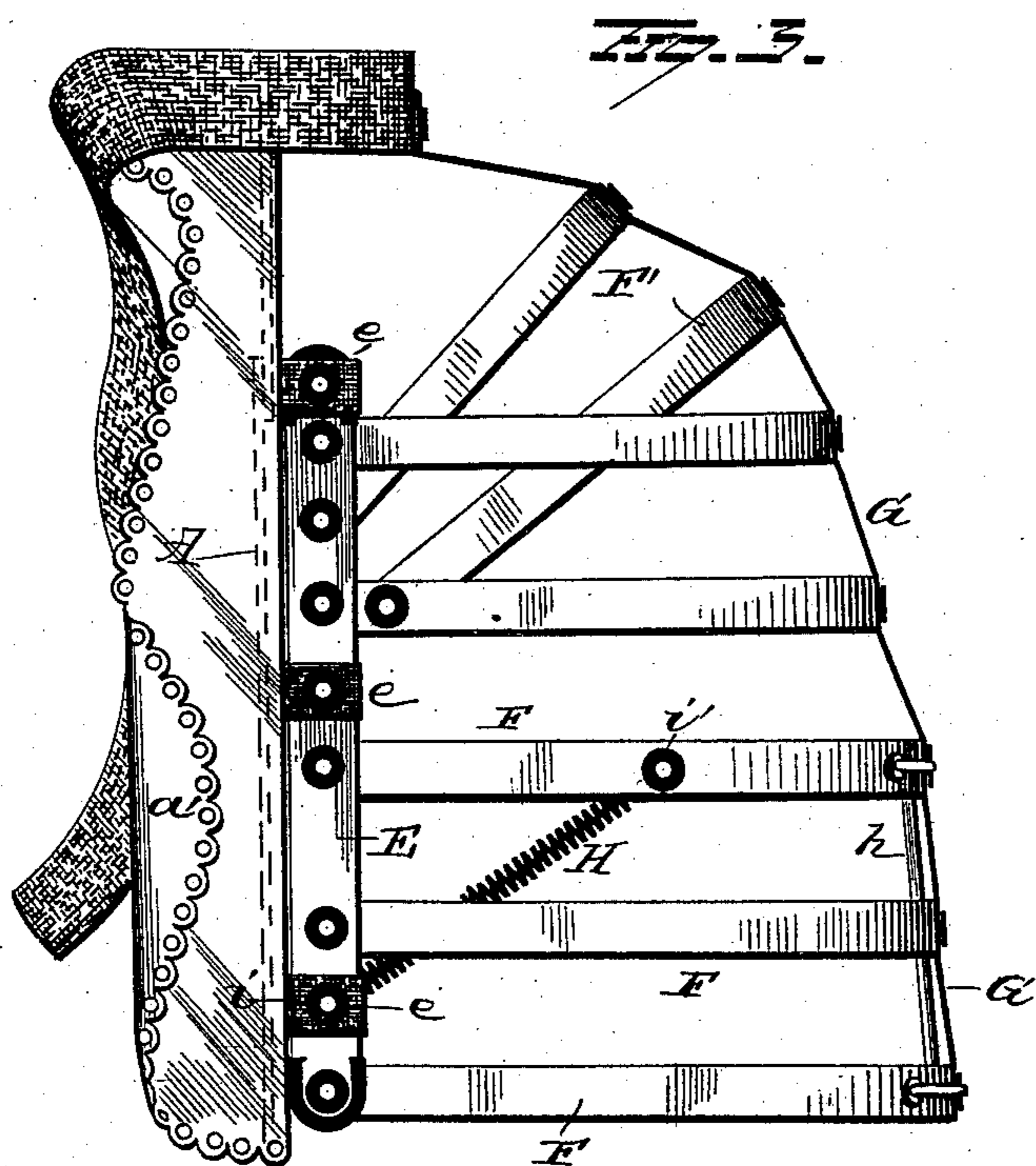
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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

BUSTLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 372,116, dated October 25, 1887.

Application filed August 5, 1887. Serial No. 246,210. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY O. CANFIELD, of Bridgeport, in the county of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and
5 useful Improvements 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.

10 My invention relates to improvements in bustles for women's wear, and more particularly to a style of bustle that is rendered collapsible to facilitate its wear and allow it to fold together when the wearer assumes a sitting or reclining position.

15 My invention has for its object to improve the construction of bustles that are adapted to be folded automatically and render them more comfortable to the wearer by a novel provision, that will be more fully described, and pointed out in the claims.

20 A further object is to so protect the upper ends of the upright body-strips of the bustle that these portions will not have injurious abrasive action upon other garments of the
25 wearer.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation of a bustle, showing my improved body-strip; Fig. 2, a view of
30 one of the body-strips with the fibrous covering broken away to expose the elastic material below it. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the bustle.

35 A A indicate a pair of body-strips, which are enveloped in casings of fibrous material, B, as usual, and the latter are furnished with lateral flaps or borders *a a'*, the inner portions of which are provided with eyelets to receive a lacing-cord, *b*. The outer flaps, *a'*, of these envelopes are not essential, but are preferred,
40 as they secure a closer fit of the bustle and contribute a more ornamental appearance thereto.

45 The body-strips A are made of compound substances, the lower portions, *A'*, being made of the usual flat spring metal, while the upper portions, *A²*, are constructed of vulcanized india-rubber or similar flexible and yielding substance. The metallic portions of these strips *A'* extend about three-fourths the height
50 of the bustle, at which point the rubber end pieces or tips, *A²*, are made to extend over the

ends of said metallic portions, and are secured thereto by riveting or in any other preferred manner, as shown in Fig. 2.

The envelope B, which covers the metallic
55 portions of the strips A, is extended upward and made to cover or encircle the rubber tips *A²*, so that the joint or meeting-point of the portions *A' A²* will be protected by the fibrous material, and thus prevent the protruding
60 corners of said portions from catching in the clothing of the wearer.

The rubber end pieces or tips, *A²*, are of sufficient flexibility that when the bustle is applied to the wearer they will readily adapt
65 themselves to the conformity of the body and secure a tight and comfortable fit without the slightest inconvenience, and avoid the disadvantages frequently experienced in the use of body-strips made entirely of metal, from the
70 fact that such metallic strips are liable to punch the wearer in the act of sitting; and they are further objectionable as being very apt, after a short use, to break through the fibrous covering and injure the clothing adjacent to the
75 bustle.

It will of course be understood that the rubber end pieces or tips, while possessing the flexibility above described, will be of sufficient rigidity to maintain their normal upright po-
80 sition when not in use, which position they are assisted in maintaining by their permanent attachment at their upper ends to the waist-band C.

If preferred, the body-strips A may be made
85 of flexible material throughout their entire length; but I prefer the construction just described, as it gives more firmness to the structure, and yet accomplishes the object sought.

At suitable points throughout the length of
90 the metallic portions of the body-strips are secured a series of straps, *e*, which extend laterally from the body-strips and encircle eyelet-bars E, to which they are secured, thus forming a hinged and flexible connection be-
95 tween the body portions and the eyelet-bars E.

The eyelet-bars E form supports for a series of bows or spring-reeds, F, which are attached thereto at their respective ends and adapted to vibrate vertically when the bustle is col-
100 lapsed. The upper bows or reeds, *F'*, are disposed at an angle to the lower ones, in order

to give the proper curvature to the bustle, as will be readily understood.

A flexible strap, G, is secured to the waistband at or about the center of the latter, and
5 extended down over the bows to the bottom of the bustle, and secured thereto for the purpose of maintaining said bows in proper relative position.

The three lower bows, F, are loosely con-
10 nected together by means of a short bar or strip, h, which runs parallel with the strap G on the under side thereof, and is loosely connected to the first and third bows from the bottom by means of cords passing through
15 eyelets formed in said bows and the bar or strip h, as will be readily understood.

The bar h, by its connection as above stated, allows the three lower bows to be vibrated together against the action of spiral springs H,
20 which are attached one at each side of the bustle. One end of each spring is connected to eyelets i, secured to the eyelet-bars E near their lower ends, while the other ends of the
25 springs are attached to similar eyelets, i', secured to the upper one of the connected series of bows. By this construction it will be seen that when the bustle is collapsed these lower bows will always be kept equidistant apart, and when the pressure is removed the springs
30 H will draw the lower bows to their normal

position together, they being held separated from each other by the bar h.

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 the flexible body-strips, of the more flexible end portions composed of vulcanized india-rubber secured to their upper ends, substantially as set forth.

2. In a bustle, the combination, with pivoted spring-bows and a waistband, of body-strips and rubber end pieces, secured at one end to the upper extremities of the body-strips and at the other end to the waistband, substantially as shown and described.

3. In a bustle, the combination, with body-strips, each of which is composed of two flexible sections, the upper sections of both strips being more flexible than the lower sections, of spring-bows secured to the body-strips, substantially as set forth.

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

HENRY O. CANFIELD.

Witnesses:

S. B. LEWIS,

C. H. HODGES.