

(No Model.)

T. P. TAYLOR.

BUSTLE.

No. 376,272.

Patented Jan. 10, 1888.

Fig. 1.

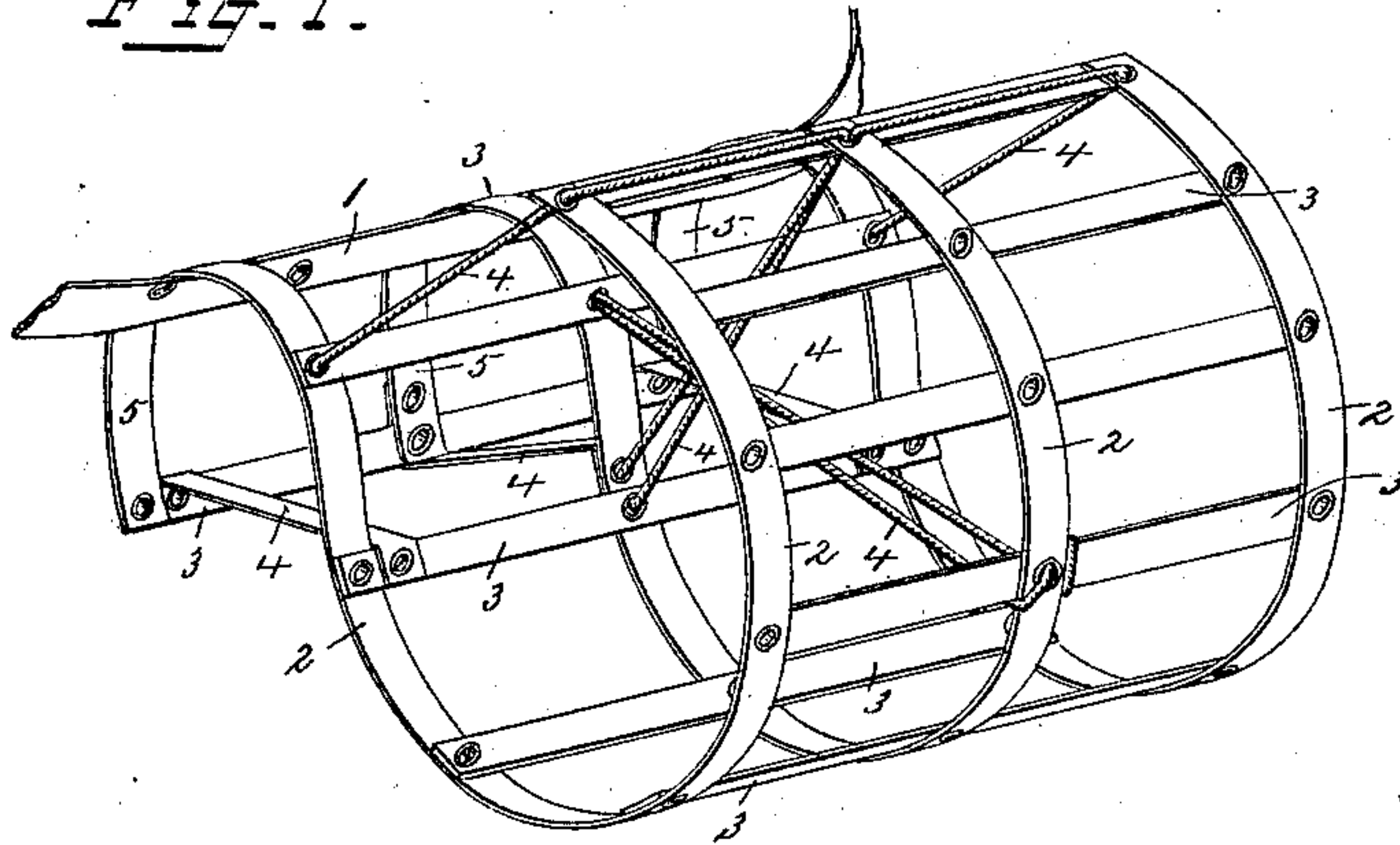
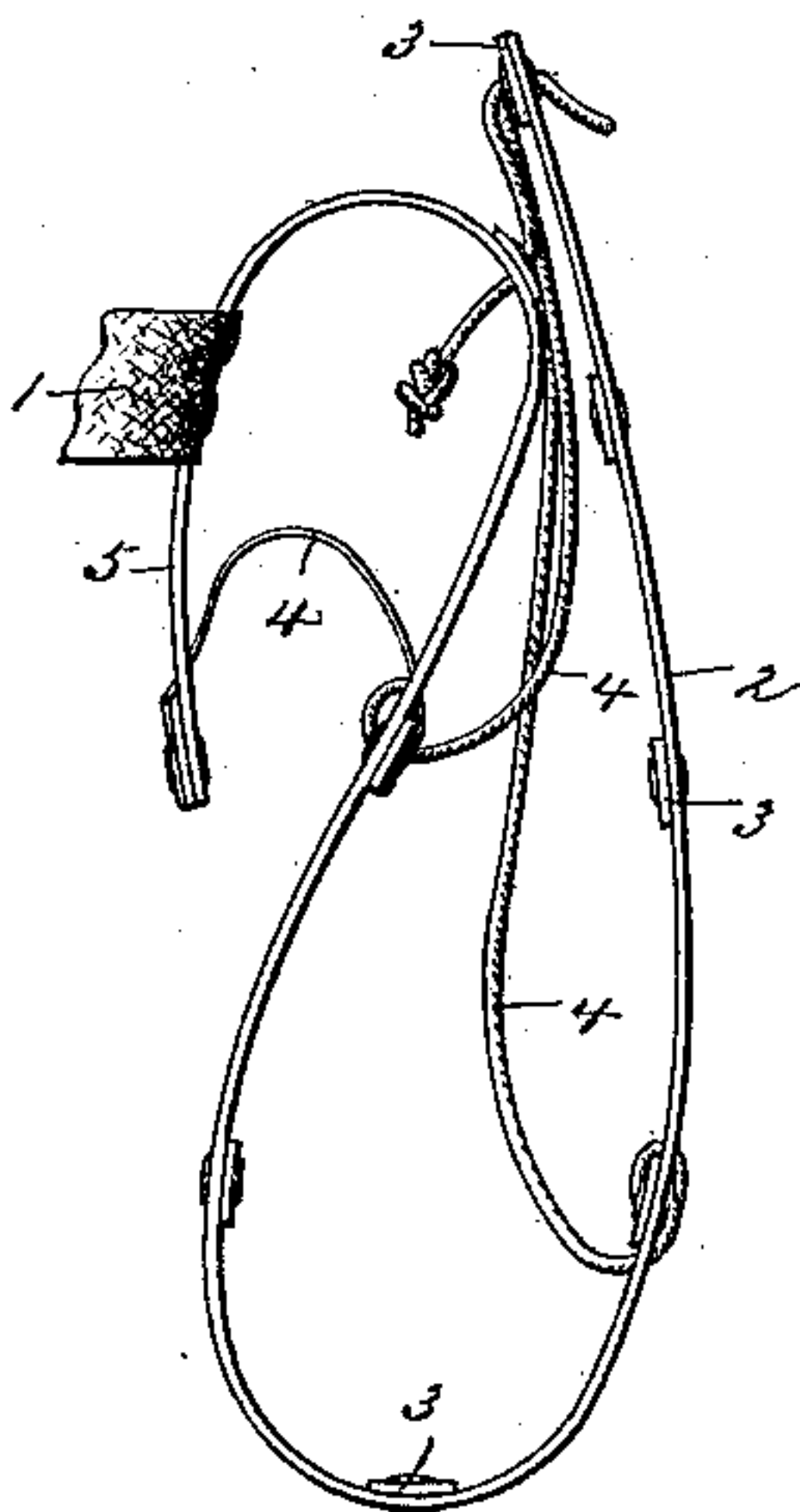


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BUSTLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 376,272, dated January 10, 1888.

Application filed July 9, 1887. Serial No. 243,822. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS P. TAYLOR, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bridgeport, in the county of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and 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.

My invention relates to the manufacture of bustles, and has for its object to simplify and cheapen their construction, and at the same time to greatly improve their mode of operation in use.

With these ends in view I have devised the simple and novel construction which I will now describe, referring by numbers to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective of my improved bustle in the expanded position, and Fig. 2 a side elevation in the collapsed position.

1 denotes the belt; 2, the ribs; 3, rigid cross-pieces extending from rib to rib, and 4 adjusting strips or cords, which connect different parts of the bustle.

The gist of my invention lies in the broad idea of a series of spring-ribs which in the distended position approximate the shape of the letter S, and which are secured together by rigid cross-pieces to prevent lateral displacement. These ribs collapse inward in vertical planes. Any number of ribs may be used, three being ordinarily quite sufficient on account of the rigid cross-pieces. The ribs and cross-pieces may be made of any suitable material—as, for example, flat spring-steel, reed, whalebone, or twin wire. The ribs lie substantially parallel with each other both in the distended and collapsed positions, and the rigid cross-pieces which connect them are eyeleted or otherwise secured to each rib. Any number of cross-pieces may of course be used.

The length of the ribs and their special curvature are not of the essence of my invention and may of course be varied to suit the requirements of the trade or the taste of the manufacturer. For convenience in description I shall refer to the ribs as each bent to form two open-ended bows. The belt is attached to each rib near the

upper portion of the inner bow, the ends of the ribs continuing downward and forming extensions 5, which rest against the back of the wearer and form an excellent support for the bustle, as they remove the strain almost entirely from the belt. In practice the outer bow is ordinarily made largest and forms most of the distending portion of the bustle. The free end of the outer bow is ordinarily extended somewhat above the top of the inner bow, so that when the wearer sits down the bustle will collapse to substantially the position shown in Fig. 2. Adjusting strips or cords 4 are placed wherever they are needed to give strength and stability to the bustle and to regulate its size. In the drawings I have shown adjusting-cords extending from the ends of the outer bows to the tops of the inner bows, from the lower ends of the inner bows to the central portion of the ribs which form the inner sides of both bows, and also cords crossing each other and connecting the ends of the outer bows with the central portion of the ribs and the outer side of the outer bow with the top of the inner bow.

It will of course be understood that the arrangement of these adjusting-cords may be varied almost without limit without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I claim—

1. A bustle consisting of a series of spring-ribs bent to form inner and outer open-ended bows, a series of rigid cross-pieces connecting said bows, whereby lateral displacement is prevented, a belt connected to the inner bows, and adjusting-cords connecting the opposite sides of the bows.

2. A bustle consisting of a series of spring-ribs bent to form inner and outer open-ended bows, a series of rigid cross-pieces connecting said bows, whereby lateral displacement is prevented, a belt connected to the inner bows, extensions 5 at the ends of the inner bows, which rest against the person of the wearer, for the purpose set forth, and adjusting-cords, substantially as described.

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

THOMAS P. TAYLOR.

Witnesses:

A. M. WOOSTER,
C. E. RUGGLES.