

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

M. J. COLVER.  
UNDERSKIRT.

No. 559,681.

Patented May 5, 1896.

Fig. 1.

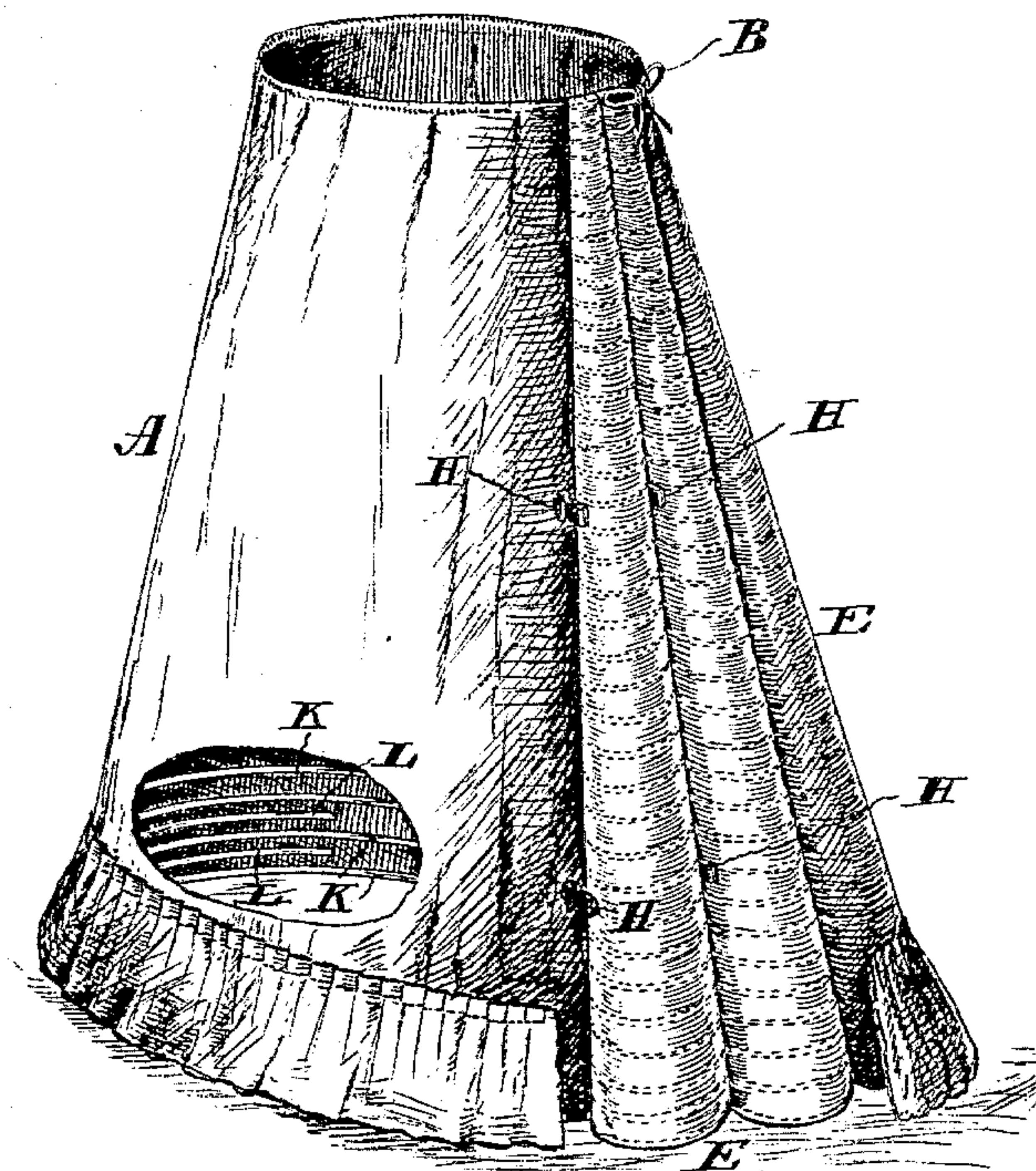
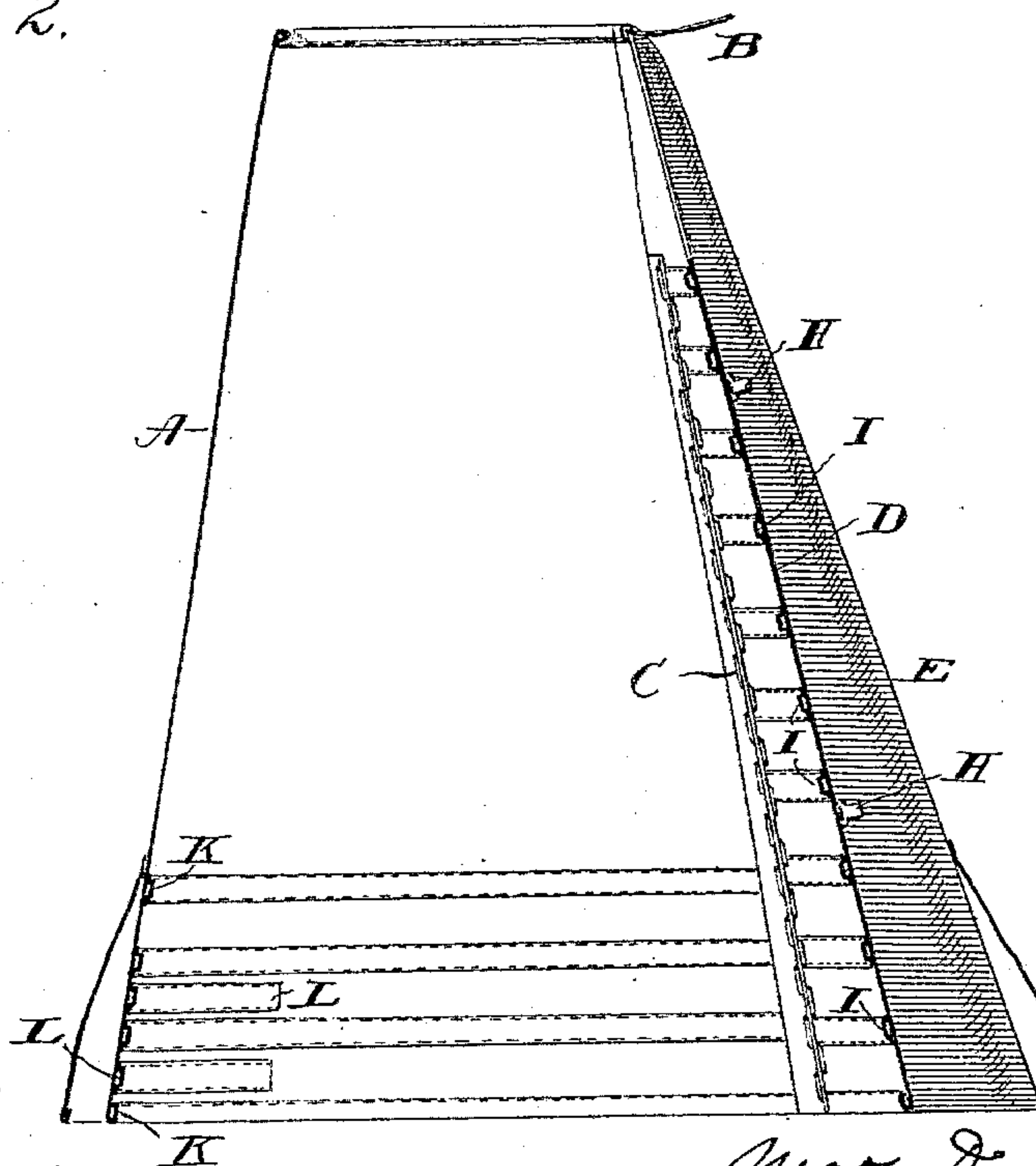



Fig. 2.



Witnesses  
 W. Williamson.  
 Henry C. Hazard.

 Inventor  
Mary J. Colver  
by Brindle & Russell  
her Attorneys

(No Model.)

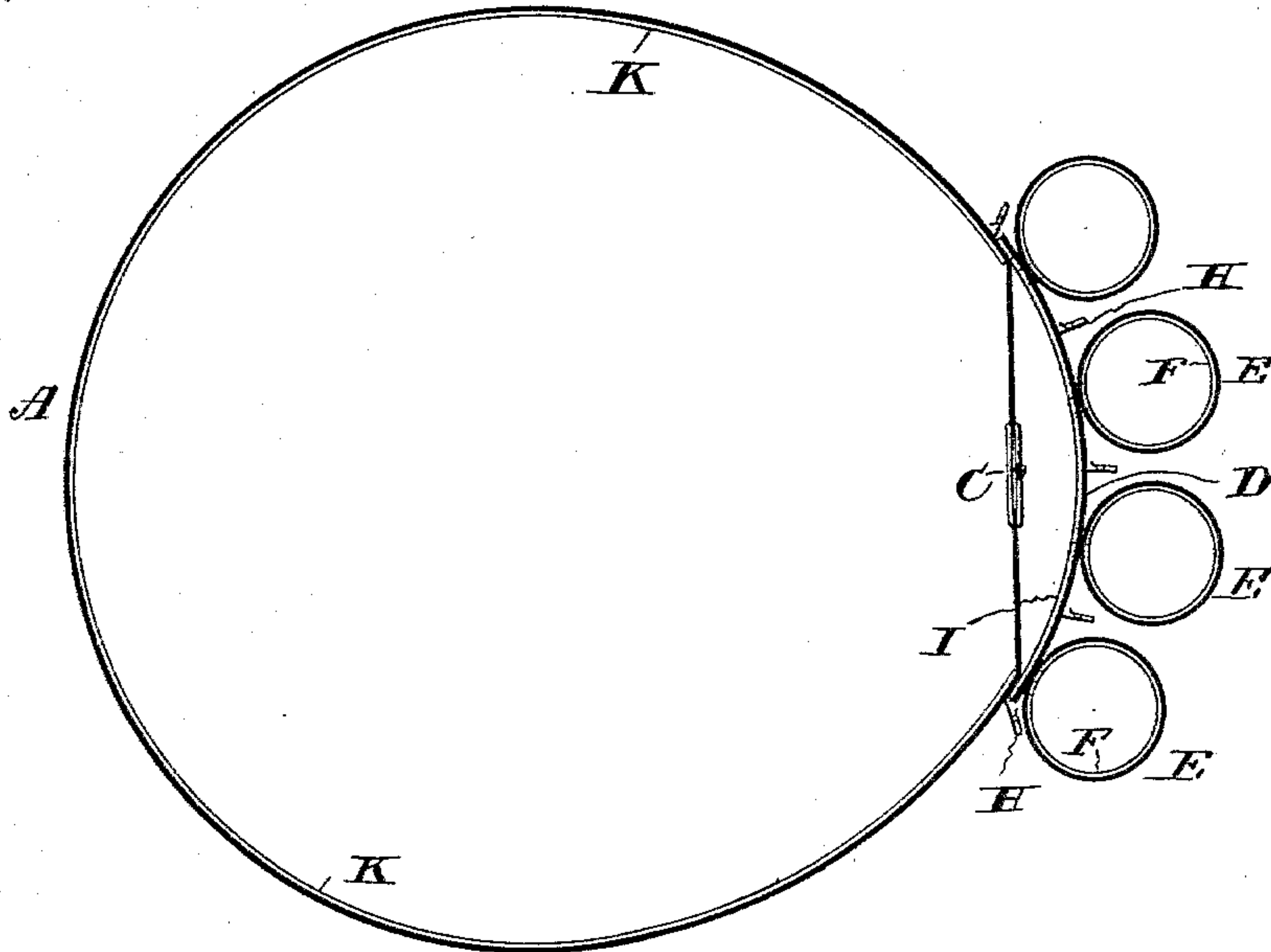
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M. J. COLVER.  
UNDERSKIRT.

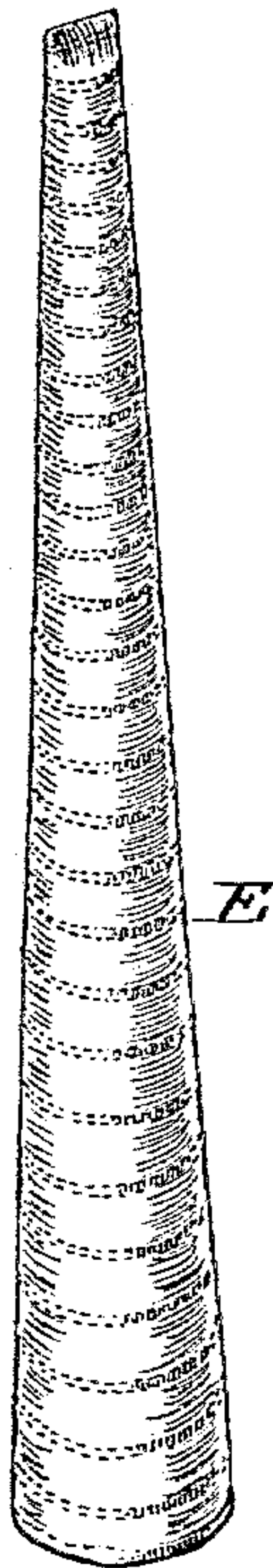
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*Fig. 3.*

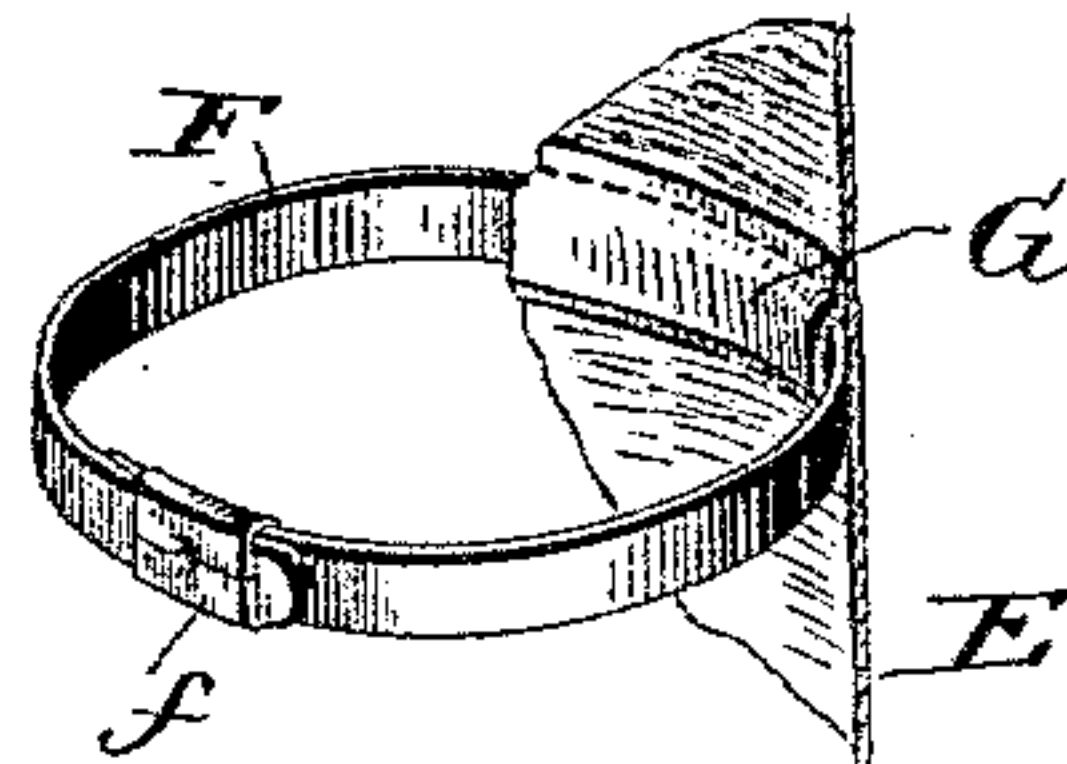


*Fig. 4.*



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*Fig. 5.*



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her Attorneys



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

MARY J. COLVER, OF FRANKFORT, INDIANA.

## UNDERSKIRT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 559,681, dated May 5, 1896.

Application filed March 20, 1895. Serial No. 542,732. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MARY J. COLVER, of Frankfort, in the county of Clinton, and in the State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Petticoats; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a petticoat or underskirt made in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical section thereof. Fig. 3 is a horizontal section. Fig. 4 is a detail perspective view of one of the goddets, and Fig. 5 is a like view of one of the goddet rings or bands.

Letters of like name and kind refer to like parts in each of the figures.

The object of my invention is to enable the outside dress-skirts of ladies' apparel to be draped or shaped according to a desired style or fashion without applying to such skirts themselves, as a part thereof, the heavy and expensive linings and trimmings, such as haircloth, chamois, or other stiffening or shaping materials and to this end said invention consists in a petticoat or undergarment constructed substantially as and for the purpose hereinafter specified.

In designing my invention I have had in view more especially the production of means to enable the outer skirts of ladies' dresses to be shaped or arranged in accordance with the style known as the "organ-pipe" or "goddet." This style of dress, as ordinarily made, involves the use of stiffening material, such as haircloth, to produce and preserve the desired shape, which is objectionable, both as adding to the cost of the dress and making it unduly heavy.

In the carrying of my invention into practice I employ a petticoat or underskirt A that at its top edge is provided with a drawstring B or other means for securing it to the person and at its back is preferably divided vertically and provided with a lace or cord C to permit of adjustment of the petticoat to various sizes and styles. Attached at its side edges to the back portion of the petticoat, upon each side of the lacing C, is a piece D, forming a supplemental back to

which is secured a number—as shown, four—of tubes E and E, that extend vertically from the waist to the bottom of the petticoat and have the tapering form, with their larger ends at the bottom, that is characteristic of the goddets. Each of these tubes is formed, preferably, of goods or material the same as is employed in making the petticoat, and is kept normally distended by a series of horizontal elastic rings or bands F and F, that successively increase in diameter from the waist downward, and which are secured within the tube by means of a piece or strip of tape G, covering them and stitched to the tube. The rings or bands F may be made of pieces or strips of metal or other elastic material, bent into circular shape, and the ends of each suitably united, as by a clip f, as shown.

The tubes E and E are attached to the petticoat, preferably by being stitched or sewed thereto. Secured by sewing or otherwise to the garment at each side of each tube E are several spring clips or clasps H and H at points respectively near the upper and lower ends thereof, which are designed to catch or grip the outer skirt or dress and cause the same to be held in folds, closely conforming to the tubes, and thus produce the goddet or organ-pipe effect.

The supplemental back D is made to curve convexly outward and to properly support the tubes and the dress by means of a number of flexible horizontal strips I and I, secured to the inner sides thereof and placed a short distance apart from the bottom of the petticoat for about three-fourths of the way to the top or waist. Said strips may be of spring metal or other elastic material.

To extend or flare out the bottom of the outer dress a number, preferably four, of parallel horizontal strips or bands K and K of elastic, metal, or other material are secured to the bottom of the petticoat a short distance apart and extend only around the sides and front of the same from the points where the side edges of the supplemental back are attached thereto.

To weight the front portion of the bottom of the petticoat, so as to more perfectly balance the same, I use two short flexible metal



strips or pieces L and L, that are respectively secured to the petticoat in the two spaces between the three lower ones of the bands K and K.

5 To use a dress in connection with my petticoat, it is necessary simply to place the former in position over the latter and, closely conforming the back portion of the dress to each of the tubes E and E, fasten the same in place  
10 over the latter by means of the clips or clasps H and H. The effect produced is precisely similar to that obtained where the goddets are made a permanent part of the dress, as by the use of the stiffening materials heretofore referred to; but with the use of my petticoat  
15 there is a material diminution in weight and cost. Of course the number of the tubes E and E may be diminished or increased without departure from my invention.

20 Where greater stiffness is desired than is afforded by a single strip I in the supplemental back, I propose to use two or more thereof, superimposed upon each other, and of course at any of the places where flexible  
25 strips or bands are used in the garment the

same plan can be pursued to secure added stiffness.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. An undergarment having a series of longitudinally-extending, projecting ribs, and means at the sides of each of the latter for holding the dress-skirt, drawn inward over each of the ribs, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

2. An undergarment having at its back a series of longitudinally-extending, tubular dress-supports and provided with fasteners at the sides of each of the latter for engaging the dress and holding the same drawn inward over each of the supports, substantially as and for the purpose shown.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of March, 1895.

MARY J. COLVER.

Witnesses:

ASA H. BOULDEN,

ARTHUR L. COOPER.