(No Model.)

S. WALES.

GARMENT SUPPORTER.

No. 348,873. Patented Sept. 7, 1886.

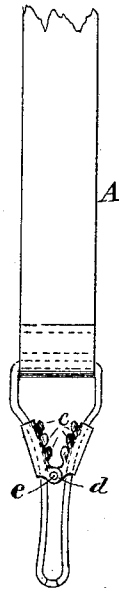


Fig. 1.

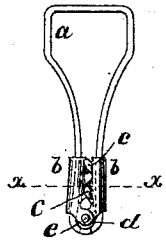


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

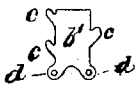


Fig. 4.

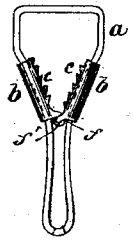


Fig. 5

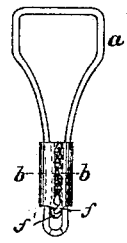


Fig. 6.

Fig. 7.

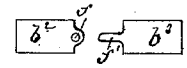


Fig. 8.

Witnesses.
Chas. P. Mitchell
George A. Lewall

Inventor.
Sigourney Wales.
by N. C. Lombard
Attorney.

N. PETERS. Photo-Lithographer, Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SIGOURNEY WALES, OF CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO HARRIOT H. WALES, OF SAME PLACE.

GARMENT-SUPPORTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 348,873, dated September 7, 1886.

Application filed June 12, 1886. Serial No. 204,944. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SIGOURNEY WALES, of Cambridge, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Garment-Supporters, of which the following, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification.

My invention relates to garment-supporting clasps; and it consists in the combination of a frame, the two long sides of which are at different distances from each other at different points in the length of said frame, and two sleeves, fitted one upon each of said side bars of the frame and connected together so as to be movable in unison endwise of said side bars, and about their point of connection to clamp and hold and to release the article to be supported.

It further consists in certain novel features of construction, arrangement, and combination of parts, which will be best understood by reference to the description of the drawings and to the claims to be hereinafter given.

Figure 1 of the drawings is an elevation of my improved garment-supporting clasp attached to a suspension-webbing, with the clamping jaws in position to permit the insertion of a portion of the article to be supported between them. Fig. 2 is an elevation of the same clasp removed from the webbing, and with the sliding jaws in position to clamp and hold the article to be supported. Fig. 3 is a transverse section on line *x x* on Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a plan of one of the blanks from which the sleeves shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3 are formed. Figs. 5, 6, and 7 are views corresponding to Figs. 1, 2, and 3, except that no suspension-webbing is shown, and showing a slightly-modified construction of the clamping sleeve-like jaws; and Fig. 8 is a plan of the two blanks for forming the sleeve-jaws shown in Figs. 5, 6, and 7.

In the drawings, *a* is the frame, made preferably of wire bent to the shape shown, and preferably having the ends of the piece of wire overlapping each other, but disconnected at the lower end of the frame, though, if desired, said ends may be soldered or brazed together. Upon each side bar of said frame is fitted so as to be easily movable thereon a sleeve or tube, *b*, provided upon its inner side with teeth *c* and with ears *d*, by which and the pivot-pin *e* it is connected at its lower end to the corresponding sleeve upon the other side bar of said frame, as shown in Fig. 1. The sleeve *b* is formed from the blank *b'* (shown in Fig. 4) by bending said blank into a tube around the bar of the frame *a* till the teeth *c*, formed upon opposite edges thereof, interlock, as shown in Fig. 3.

The two sleeves *b b*, when pivoted together, as shown, serve as clamping-jaws to seize and hold the article to be supported, the same being inserted between said jaws when in the position shown in Fig. 1, and by moving the jaws to the position shown in Fig. 2 they are made to close upon the article and clamp it firmly between the teeth of said jaws.

In Figs. 5, 6, and 7 a modification of the sliding jaws *b b* is shown, which are made from the blanks b^2 b^3 (shown in Fig. 8) by bending the same around the bars of the frame *a* in such a manner that the parallel edges of said blanks abut upon the outsides of said bars, as shown in Fig. 7, the inner sides of said jaws being roughened by filing teeth therein after they have been bent to a cylindrical form; or indentations may be made in the centers of said blanks before bending the same. The blank b^2 has formed in one end an eye, *f*, and the blank b^3 has formed upon one end the tongue *f'*, which is passed through the eye *f* and bent outward to form a hinge, by which the jaws *b b* are pivoted together, as shown in Figs. 5 and 6.

The operation of my invention is as follows: The clamping sleeves or jaws *b b* are moved upward on the side bars of the frame *a* to the position shown in Figs. 1 and 5. The fabric to be supported is then inserted between the inner roughened or toothed sides of the separated jaws *b b*, and the frame *a* is then drawn upward through said sleeve-like jaws, forcing their upper ends toward each other and clamping the fabric between the toothed or roughened inner surfaces of said jaws. When it is desired to release the fabric, it is only necessary to push downward upon the frame *a*, and thus open the jaws again. This makes a very

reliable clasp that is readily and easily operated, and that will not injure the fabric, and that can be cheaply made.

A is the webbing from which the clasp is suspended.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. A garment-supporting clasp composed of a loop-like frame, the side bars of which are nearly parallel to each other for a portion of their length at their lower ends and diverge from each other in curved lines above said nearly-parallel portions, and a pair of tubular jaws hinged together at one end and fitted to and movable in unison upon the side bars of said frame, whereby said jaws are adapted to be moved outward about their hinged connection to permit the insertion of the material to be supported as they are moved upward on said side bars, and to close upon and clamp said material between them as they are moved downward on said bars, substantially as described.

2. The combination of the loop-like frame *a*, the tubular or sleeve-like jaws *b b*, pivoted together at one end and fitted to and movable in unison upon the side bars of the frame *a*, and the webbing A, all constructed, arranged, and operating substantially as and for the purposes described.

3. The combination of a loop-like frame of varying width and a pair of tubular or sleeve-like jaws having toothed or roughened inner surfaces, and pivoted together at one end and fitted to and movable in unison upon the side bars of said frame, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses, on this 11th day of June, A. D. 1886.

SIGOURNEY WALES.

Witnesses:
N. C. LOMBARD,
JOHN W. MCGRATH.