

*L. H. Foy,*  
*Shirt Supporter.*

*No 4,987.*

*Patented Mar 22 1864.*

*Lavinia M. Foy*

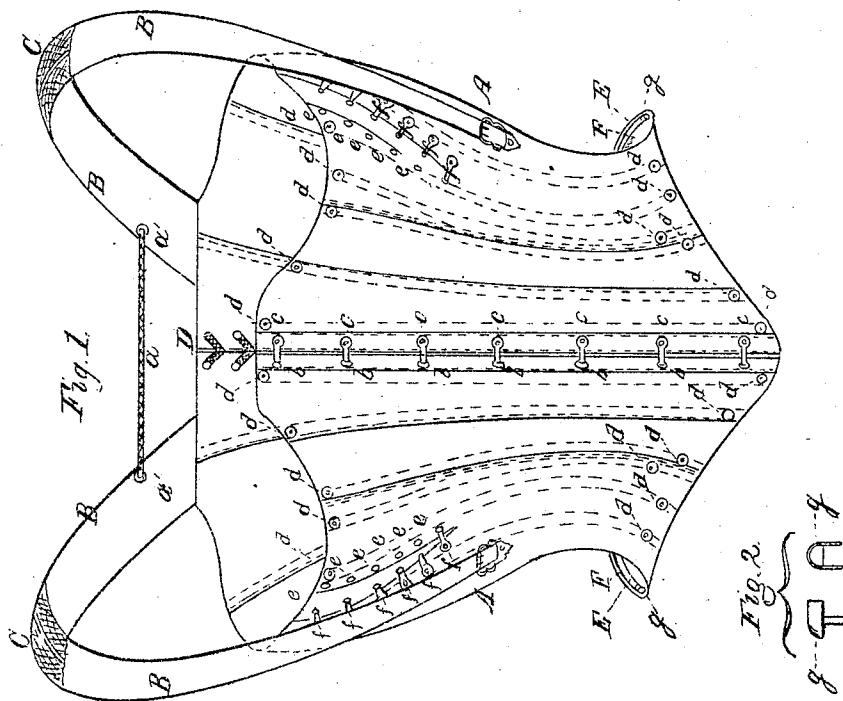
*By her Attorney*

*Thomas W. Dodge*

*Henry Hill*

*Witnesses*

*Oliver D. Dodge*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LAVINIA H. FOY, OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

## IMPROVEMENT IN CORSET SKIRT-SUPPORTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 41,987, dated March 22, 1864.

### *To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, LAVINIA H. FOY, of the city and county of Worcester, and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Corset Skirt-Supporters; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 represents a front view of my improved corset and skirt-supporter, and Fig. 2 represents a view of the hoop-shield detached.

In the drawings, A represents the body of the article, which is made of pieces so cut that when they are sewed together they will form a body of the shape indicated in the drawings, and as is fully described and set forth in my previous patents on corset skirt-supporters. The seams are indicated by full and dotted lines combined. (See back part.) Whalebone and rattans are inserted in front, and the cloth at the ends of the same is protected by small circular metal pieces *d d*, one on each side, which are fastened together by rivets, the rivets passing just clear of the ends of the whalebones or rattans. By this mode of fastening the whalebones are retained securely in place, while the cloth is well protected—that is, the whalebone is so secured and retained in position by the metal rings *d*, one being on each side, in combination with the rivet at each end of the whalebone, and which fastens the two metal pieces *d d* close and tight together, as that the ends of the whalebones cannot wear through or become detached from their proper positions in the article.

The front of the body of the corset is fastened by means of hooks *b b*. These hooks are all fastened to the article by eyelets, so that a series of holes, *c c c*, are provided, whereby, in case it is desired to enlarge the article considerably, it can be effected by simply unhooking the hooks *b* and putting in lacings, in which case the lacing-cord would pass through the holes *c c* on one side and the eyelet-holes on the other side, and into which the hooks are hooked when they are used to fasten with, as indicated in the drawings. Steels may be used in front in addition, if desired, and they could be made with a series of holes punched through them for the insertion of

the eyelets to fasten the hooks on with, and to provide for holes for the lacing-cord when that was used, as above indicated, with a view of enlarging the body A.

B B are designed to represent the shoulder-straps, which are fastened to the back part of the body and connected by buckles in front. Elastics C C are used on the shoulders. As it is sometimes desirous to throw the straps more or less off of the shoulders, the back of the article is left open at the top and laced between where the straps are fastened to the back, as indicated in the drawings at D, whereby the straps B can be thrown farther off of the shoulders by loosening the lacing.

In order to further regulate and control the shoulder-straps, lacing-holes *a a* are made, and into which a lacing or regulating cord, *i*, can be placed, whereby the straps can be controlled still nearer the top of the shoulders.

The front is made with an opening or slit over each breast, and on one side of said opening a series of hooks, *f*, are fastened with eyelets, while on the other side one or more series of eyelet-holes, *e*, are made by the insertion of eyelets, whereby the bosom can be enlarged or contracted at pleasure, as indicated in the drawings.

The hooks *f*, being attached with eyelets, the adjustment can be made with lacings, as before described, in respect to the front of the body of the article whenever desired.

F is the skirt-supporting rim which extends around the back, and which in this instance is formed by the peculiar cut of the pieces from which the body A of the article is made, as is fully described in my previous patents for improved corsets and skirt-supporters. In a case in the outer edge of the extension or rim F is inserted a hoop, E, which tends to keep the extension or rim F in proper position to support the skirts. As there is quite a tendency of the ends of this hoop forcing their way through the cloth in which they are inclosed, I put a shield, *g*, over the ends thereof. This shield I prefer to make of metal, and in the form shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings. The points *g' g'* are forced through the cloth on each side of the end of the hoop and then riveted down tight on the opposite side, whereby the cloth which covers the ends of the hoop is covered by the shield on the top, sides, and at the end of the hoop, the shield

being closed and curved at one end to fit the end of the hoop and open at the other, as clearly indicated in the drawings, especially in Fig. 2.

I am aware that neither the eyelet-fastened hook nor the shield at the extremities of the bows are new, and I do not claim them separately, each of my several clauses of claims being restricted to the combination or arrangement with a corset skirt-supporter substantially as herein shown and described. It may also be here remarked that the combinations and arrangements herein shown are not claimed as relating to a corset not having a skirt-supporter combined with it, the function of sustaining the skirt calling for strength, elasticity, and adjustability not requisite, or, at least, of inferior importance in the common corset.

Having described my improved corset and skirt-supporter, what I claim therein as of my

invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The mode of fastening the front by means of hooks *b* and eyelets, whereby the article can be either laced or hooked, substantially as set forth.

2. Making the bosom adjustable by means of the hooks and eyelets, substantially as set forth.

3. In combination with the supporting-rim *F* of a skirt supporter, the hoop *E*, shielded at its ends by metal caps *g*, substantially as set forth.

4. In combination with the supporting-rim of a corset skirt supporter, of a hoop with its ends protected and covered by shields additional to the case, for the purposes set forth.

LAVINIA H. FOY.

Witnesses:

THOS. H. DODGE,

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