(No Model.)

L. S. SAMUEL.

STIFFENER FOR FLANNEL SHIRT COLLARS.

No. 447,364. Patented Mar. 3, 1891.

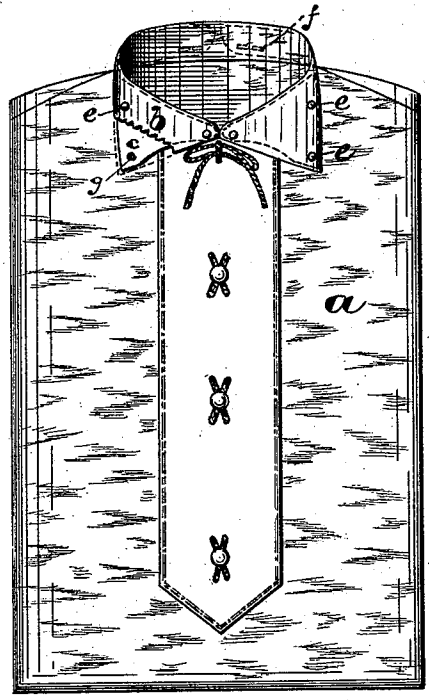


Fig. 1.

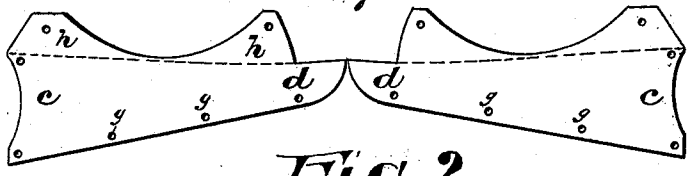


Fig. 2.



Fig. 4.

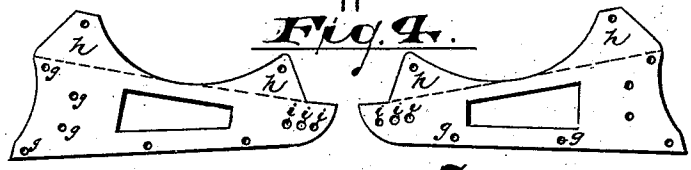


Fig. 5.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEOPOLD S. SAMUEL, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

STIFFENER FOR FLANNEL-SHIRT COLLARS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 447,364, dated March 3, 1891.

Application filed December 3, 1889. Serial No. 332,427. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEOPOLD S. SAMUEL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Newark, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shirts and Attachments Therefor; 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The object of this invention is to provide stiffeners for the collars of flannel shirts and other similar woolen garments, which stiffeners can be readily detached from the said garment when the same is to be laundered.

It consists in the improved support or stiffener, and in the arrangements and combinations of parts, substantially as will be hereinafter set forth, and finally embraced in the claim.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, in which like letters indicate corresponding parts in each of the figures, Figure 1 is a front view of a shirt having the improved collar-stiffener. Fig. 2 is a plan of the stiffener in its preferred form detached from the shirt and opened up in its blank form, and Fig. 3 illustrates a slight modification of construction. Fig. 4 shows in detail a metallic fastener which may be employed.

In said drawings, *a* indicates a woolen garment having a collar *b* of like material. As ordinarily used, woolen garments having collars are not starched, but depend for their stiffness on buckram or other stiffeners permanently inserted beneath the outer fabric of wool, where it will lie hidden from view. By permanently inserting such a stiffener beneath the collar of a garment, when the same is laundered the wash-water removes the starch from the fabric, so that its value as a stiffener is reduced, and because of unequal shrinkage of the woolen cloth and stiffening material the set of the collar is made uneven and imperfect.

In my improvement the stiffening-pieces are separable from the collar or are removably fastened thereto, so that the said stiffeners may be easily and quickly detached from the soiled shirt and be transferred to another without damage to the garment or the trouble and time consumed in ripping. Said stiffeners conform in general outline and width to the turned-down front ends of the collar, and extend from the upper turned edge or line of folding in the collar, where it bears upwardly against said collar, to the lower edge of said collar, where it receives the removable fasteners, the collar thereby being held out smoothly on the face of the stiffener, so that the point of the collar cannot roll or otherwise lose its proper shape while in use. The stiffener I prefer to use consists of a piece of stiff material, preferably such as will be unaffected when subjected to the action of water—as, for example, celluloid or varnished fiber. It may be of any shape suited to the prevailing style or styles; but is preferably shaped as shown in Fig. 2, where said stiffener is shown to be wide at the end, as at *c*, in correspondence with the shirt-collars now in vogue, and narrow at *d*, where it extends toward the back of the neck of the shirt. The said portions *c d* lie underneath the collar at one side of the woolen garment, and are secured thereto by suitable fasteners *e*, a similar stiffener being provided for the portion of the collar lying on the opposite side of the neck of said garment. The perforations are formed and the separable or removable fasteners are secured at or near the outer edges of the collar and stiffeners, so that the former may be held out smoothly on the face of the stiffener, whereby the said edges are prevented from curling up and showing the stiffener beneath.

The fasteners for securing the stiffener to the collar may be lacing-cords or metallic fasteners, such as shown in Fig. 4, in which *f f* are prongs which extend through the collar of the shirt or garment and through perforations *g g* prepared in the stiffeners. Said prongs are bent down, as indicated in outline, to hold the parts together in place. At the upper edge the stiffener is provided with a lap or fold *h*, which is adapted to lie against the body portion of the shirt and be secured therethrough by means of fasteners of any kind to more perfectly hold the stiffener in proper relation to the collar. It also acts

as a stay for the necktie-strap and to provide a rounded edge beneath the upper edge of the collar, to which it is secured, which conduces to the ease and comfort of the wearer.

It will be understood from inspection of Fig. 1 that two parts of the stiffeners are separate and apart at the back of the neck, the said stiffeners not extending continuously around the rear of the neck. By this arrangement the shirt is allowed to remain easy and loose on the wearer's neck, and not firm and stiff, as in the case of a starched collar. Furthermore, the shirt-collar can be turned up more easily than if the stiffener were in one piece, as will be apparent.

In Fig. 3 the stiffening sections or pieces are shown to be provided with perforations *i i i*, by which said said stiffeners may be united by laces or fasteners, making a continuous stiffener. In this case the said continuous stiffener may be made adjustable to suit any variety in the size and shape of shirt or wearer's neck. However, ordinarily I prefer an open back, for the reason and advantage stated.

I am aware that metallic springs, (not conforming to the shape of the collar,) buckram, and other stiff fabrics have been permanently inserted in collars of garments in various ways; but separable collar-stiffeners conformable to the collar, so as to hold the edges of the same out in proper shape and having a general adaptability, as described, I believe to be novel.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim as new is—

The combination, with a soft collar of a garment, of a collar-stiffener conforming to the outline of the forward ends of the collar, the said collar-stiffener being perforated to receive removable fasteners and being in sections, whereby the front edges of the collar-stiffener may be changed in its relation to the front edges of the collar, and said fasteners holding the free edge of the collar from rolling, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of November, 1889.

LEOPOLD S. SAMUEL.

Witnesses:
CHARLES H. PELL,
CHARLES R. MICHEL.