N. H. BRUCE.

CLASPS.

No. 171,983. Patented Jan. 11, 1876.

Fig. 1.

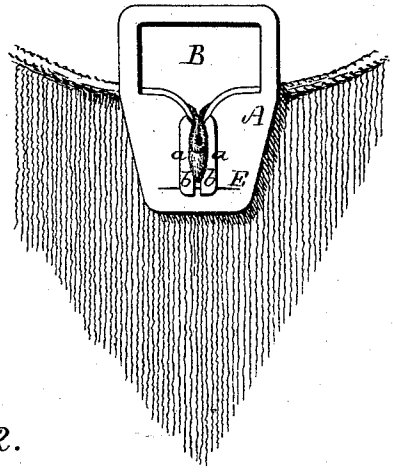


Fig. 2.

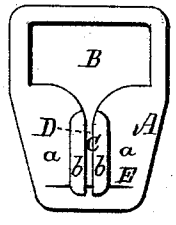
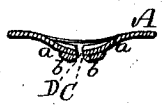


Fig. 3.



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NORMAN H. BRUCE, OF CLINTON, ASSIGNOR TO JOHN A. S. GRAVES AND WYMAN E. ABERCROMBIE, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN CLASPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **171,983**, dated January 11, 1876; application filed December 9, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NORMAN H. BRUCE, of Clinton, Worcester county, Massachusetts, have invented an Improved Clasp for Stocking-Supporters, of which the following is a specification:

The device embraced in this invention consists of a thin metallic plate, having an eye or loop at the top, by which connection is made with the strap of the stocking-supporter, and a slit or throat at bottom to seize hold of and gripe the top of the stocking with sufficient tenacity to support or uphold the leg of the garment.

My improvement in such device consists, mainly, in the form and manner of producing the slit above named, whereby I avoid injury to the stocking, and retain a firm hold upon the latter.

The drawings accompanying this specification represent, in Figure 1, a perspective view, in Fig. 2 a face view, and in Fig. 3 a cross-section, of a clasp embodying my improvement.

In these drawings, A represents a thin metallic plate, of a size and form that shall best adapt it to the purpose intended—that is, of constituting the clasp or catch of a stocking-supporter. In the upper part or half of the plate A I create a loop or eye, B, of a size sufficient to receive the strap of the supporter, which is secured within it in a suitable manner. The method of supporting the stocking with this clasp is to insert a fold of the top of the stocking within a narrow slit, C, formed in the lower part of the plate A. To produce this slit I effect two cuts through the plate A—one a vertical or longitudinal cut, D, extending centrally of the plate, from the eye or loop B nearly to the bottom of such plate, leaving a sufficient portion of the latter intact to resist the lateral pressure exerted by the crowding of the fabric into the slit, and the other a lateral or transverse cut, E, intersecting the lower termination of the cut D, and extending nearly to the sides of the plate A. By means of the two incisions D and E two wings or jaws, *a a*, are formed, which are slightly raised above the surface of the plate A, in order to obtain a narrow slit, C, into which the stocking is crowded; and in order to prevent cutting or injury to the stocking from the sharp edges of such slit, which would otherwise ensue, I re-enforce such edges by narrow strips *b b*, of metal, and round off the inside corners of the re-enforced edges. To prevent the material of the stocking from being caught in the lateral incision E, or being cut or injured by the intersecting corners of the two incisions, I prolong the lower ends of the strips *b b* beyond the said incision E, as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings.

In use a fold of the top of the stocking is inserted within the upper part of the slit C, and pressed down to its lower end and against the metal of the plate A. The friction or gripe of the sides of the slit upon the stocking is sufficiently powerful to enable the clasp to maintain a firm hold upon such stocking, while the re-enforced and rounded edges of the slit, and the prolonging of the strips or guards *b b*, protect the material from injury, as before stated.

I claim—

1. A clasp consisting of a metallic plate, provided with a loop, and having a slit bounded by lips *a*, raised or projecting from the face of the plate, as set forth.

2. The metallic plate formed with a slit bounded by lips *a*, as described, in combination with re-enforcing strips *b*, substantially as set forth.

NORMAN H. BRUCE.

Witnesses:

F. CURTIS,

W. E. BOARDMAN.