S. HOUGHTON.

NAPKIN-SUPPORTERS

No. 194,040. Patented Aug. 14, 1877.

Fig. 3.

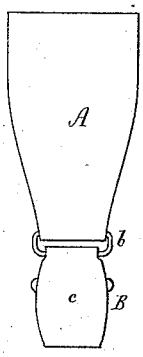


Fig. 1.

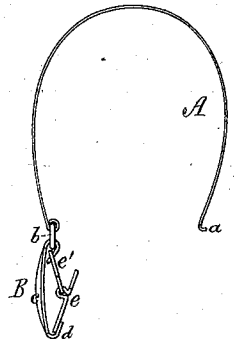
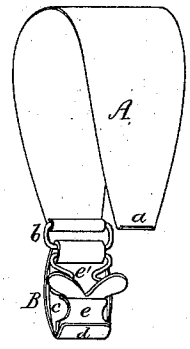


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.

S. N. Pipe

John R. Snow

Inventor

Stillman Houghton

by his attorney.

R. H. Eddy.

N. PETERS, PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

STILLMAN HOUGHTON, OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN NAPKIN-SUPPORTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **194,040**, dated August 14, 1877; application filed July 2, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, STILLMAN HOUGHTON, of the city and county of Worcester, of the State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Napkin Holder and Suspender; and do hereby declare the same to be described in the following specification and represented in the accompanying drawings, of which—

Figure 1 is an edge elevation, Fig. 2 a perspective view, and Fig. 3 a rear elevation, of my invention.

The article, as shown, is not only to answer the usual purpose of a napkin-ring—viz., to hold a napkin in a folded state or rolled together by encompassing it—but is also to support a napkin when arranged to cover the clothing over the breast and lap of an individual.

In the drawings, A represents an elastic hook or broad spring, terminating at its free end in, or there provided with, an auxiliary hook, *a*, arranged as shown. At its other extremity the hook A is connected, by a hinge or link, *b*, with a suitable clasp or buckle or device, B, for effecting the ready attachment of a napkin to and its detachment from the hook. That shown in the drawings is substantially such as is described in the United States Patent No. 145,074, and consists not only of a curved plate, *c*, provided at one end with a curved lip, *d*, but of a tongue, *e*, hinged to a link, *e'*, which, in turn, is hinged to the curved plate.

By means of the buckle or clasp a napkin may be readily connected with the hook A, and be suspended by such in front of a person when such hook is hooked upon his shirt-collar or cravat. By hooking the curved lip *d* upon the auxiliary hook or lip *a* the article can be used for holding a napkin in the manner in which a ring is commonly employed for such.

Without the auxiliary hook *a* the main hook and the clasp connected by a link or hinge are preferable as a napkin-supporter to a rigid hook having a spring fixed to and extended through it, for with the link or hinge connection the article is not liable to become forced upward and detached from the cravat or shirt-collar while a person may be bending forward over a plate in order to receive into his mouth food therefrom.

I do not claim the special clasp or buckle hereinbefore mentioned as patented.

What I claim as my invention is—

1. The improved napkin-suspender, consisting of the hook A, a clasp or buckle, B, and their connecting hinge or link *b*, arranged and applied as set forth.

2. The combined napkin suspender and holder, consisting of the main hook A and its lip or auxiliary hook *a*, and the clasp or buckle B, hinged to such main hook, and provided with the curved lip *d*, for engaging with the lip or hook *a*, all being substantially as set forth.

STILLMAN HOUGHTON.

Witnesses:

R. H. EDDY,
JOHN R. SNOW.