(No Model.)

# A. V. HUMPHREY.

## SHIRT.

No. 390,673. Patented Oct. 9, 1888.

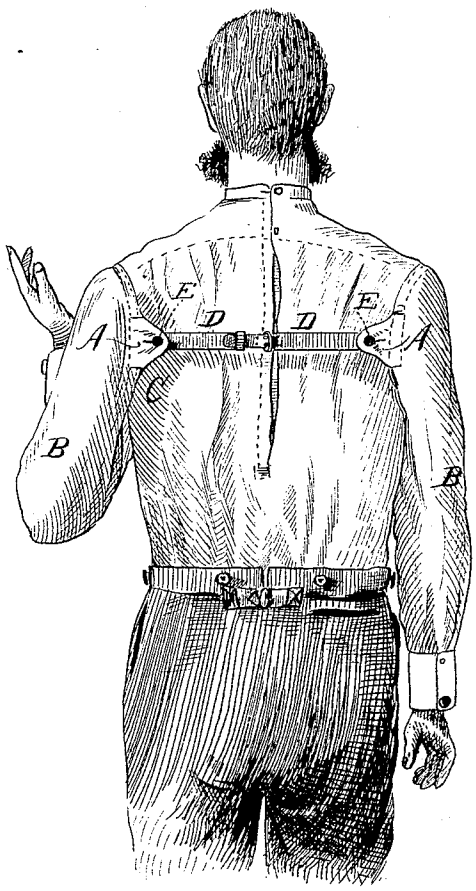



Fig 1.

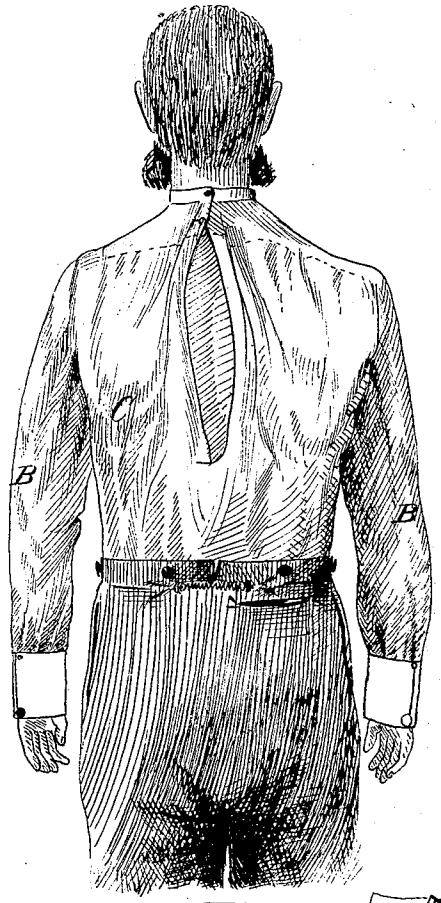



Fig 2.

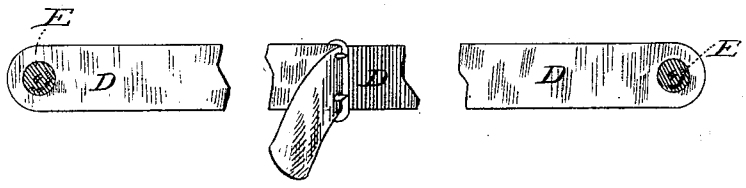



Fig 3.

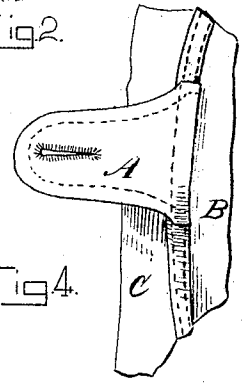



Fig 4.

Witnesses.
Henry Hunt Lettney
R. V. C. Hopper.

Inventor.
Abbie Vesta Humphrey.
per
T. W. Porter.
Her Attorney.

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

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ABBIE VESTA HUMPHREY, OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS.

## SHIRT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 390,673, dated October 9, 1888.

Application filed January 25, 1888. Serial No. 261,864. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ABBIE VESTA HUMPHREY, of Somerville, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Shirts, which will, in connection with the accompanying drawings, be hereinafter fully described, and specifically defined in the appended claims.

My invention has for its object to provide a convenient, cheap, and effective means of adjusting shirt-sleeves, so that the wristbands and cuffs attached thereto will be held in proper place upon the arms of the wearer. By investigation and practical experiments I have discovered that the position of the wristbands and cuffs, whether high or low on the wrists of the wearer, is not wholly determined by the length of the sleeve from the shoulder where it is joined to the body of the shirt. Shirt-sleeves, in order to give the requisite freedom of movement to the arms, must necessarily be loose, and the body of the shirt must also be loose, and is usually open in the back, between the shoulders, to facilitate putting it on and taking it off. When this looseness or fullness in the back is not kept gathered between the shoulders, and the usual opening therein is not kept closed, the arms, when raised and swung forward, will draw upon such fullness and cause the back of the shirt, where the sleeves are attached, to extend somewhat onto the arms, and when the arms are dropped, unless such drawn-out fullness of the back is readjusted, the wristbands and cuffs will unduly project over the hands. Consequently the most practical way to adjust the sleeves, to remedy that difficulty, as I have found by experiment, is to control the looseness of the shirt in the back between the sleeves; and my invention consists in certain attachments to the shirt for that purpose, and their arrangement and mode of operation, which are hereinafter fully described and claimed.

The accompanying drawings illustrate my invention, in which—

Figure 1 is an illustrative view showing my improvements in shirts as constructed and practically worn. Fig. 2 is an illustrative view designed to show the contrast, by comparison with Fig. 1, between a shirt of ordinary construction and without my improvement and one with my improvement, and its practical advantages. Figs. 3 and 4 are views showing in detail and detached the construction of the back-strap and one of the attachments by which it is secured to the shirt when in practical use.

I attach two button-hole pieces, A A, to the shirt, each having a button-hole therein, and secure them by stitching in the seams which unite the sleeves B B with the body C of the shirt. These attachments are arranged opposite each other across the back of the shirt, and in such position that if the arms of the wearer are raised and extended horizontally then the attachment will be centrally in line with the arms and elbows, and properly serve as fastenings, to which the ends of an elastic strap, D, are secured by means of buttons E E, fastened to said ends, as shown. This strap may be made in one piece, of suitable length, according to the size of the shirt, but preferably in two parts adjustably united by a buckle or other appropriate means, and when buttoned onto the attachments A A does not require to be detached from the same, except when the shirt goes to the laundry, as its elasticity renders it perfectly feasible and convenient for the wearer to put on and take off his shirt with the strap in place and secured to the pieces A A, as shown, and it allows ample freedom for the movements of the arms, while it draws up and controls with sufficient elastic force to keep the sleeves in place the looseness of the sleeves and readjusts the same after such movements of the arms as draw thereon, as before described. A light elastic force—such as will give the wearer no discomfort—is all that is required for this purpose, and the tendency of the force as applied is obviously beneficial.

It is obvious that various well-known devices—such as hooks, spring-clamps, &c.—may be substituted in place of the buttons upon strap D; but I consider the buttons preferable and less wearing to the linings of garments worn over them, and button-holes might be made in the straps and the buttons be secured to the attachments A A; but this exchange of positions would be objectionable, as the buttons would be in the way in washing and liable to get pulled off in the laundry.

The improvement in shirts shown and above described is simple, cheap, and effective in overcoming the difficulties and defects in shirts above stated.

I am aware that it is old and common to wear attachments on shirt-sleeves which secure the sleeves in position on the arms when shortened by doubling and folding upon themselves, and that such attachments consist, variously, of elastic bands or "armlets" worn around the arms and sleeves, of elastic straps attached longitudinally to the sleeves, and of button-hole pieces secured to the sleeves, together with buttons and other means of fastening, whereby the lower portion of the sleeves may be looped up and held suspended from the upper portion by means of said button-hole pieces and buttons. All such devices drag down upon the sleeves, as well as hold up the lower portions, and require to be duplicated. My invention differs from all these in that it adjusts the sleeves upon the arms by means of a single elastic strap extended across the back between the sleeves, and by such location and arrangement draws both the sleeves upward bodily without folds therein, gathering the looseness in the back instead of accumulating fullness on the sleeves, thus securing, as stated, a better result in a more simple and convenient manner.

I claim as my invention—

1. A shirt having a button-hole tab, A, on the back of each sleeve at the intersection of the sleeve with the body of the shirt, in combination with an adjustable elastic strap connected with said tabs and extended across the back of the shirt, as set forth.

2. The combination, with a shirt, of button-hole pieces or tabs A A, arranged one opposite the other at the back of the sleeve, and adapted, by construction and arrangement relatively to each other and the sleeves, as described, to serve as fastenings for a detachable strap extended from one tab to the other across the back, as and for the purpose specified.

3. The combination, with the sleeves of a shirt, of an elastic strap connected therewith and extended across the back of the shirt from one sleeve to the other, as and for the purposes specified.

ABBIE VESTA HUMPHREY.

Witnesses:

C. L. BECK,

H. B. BECK.