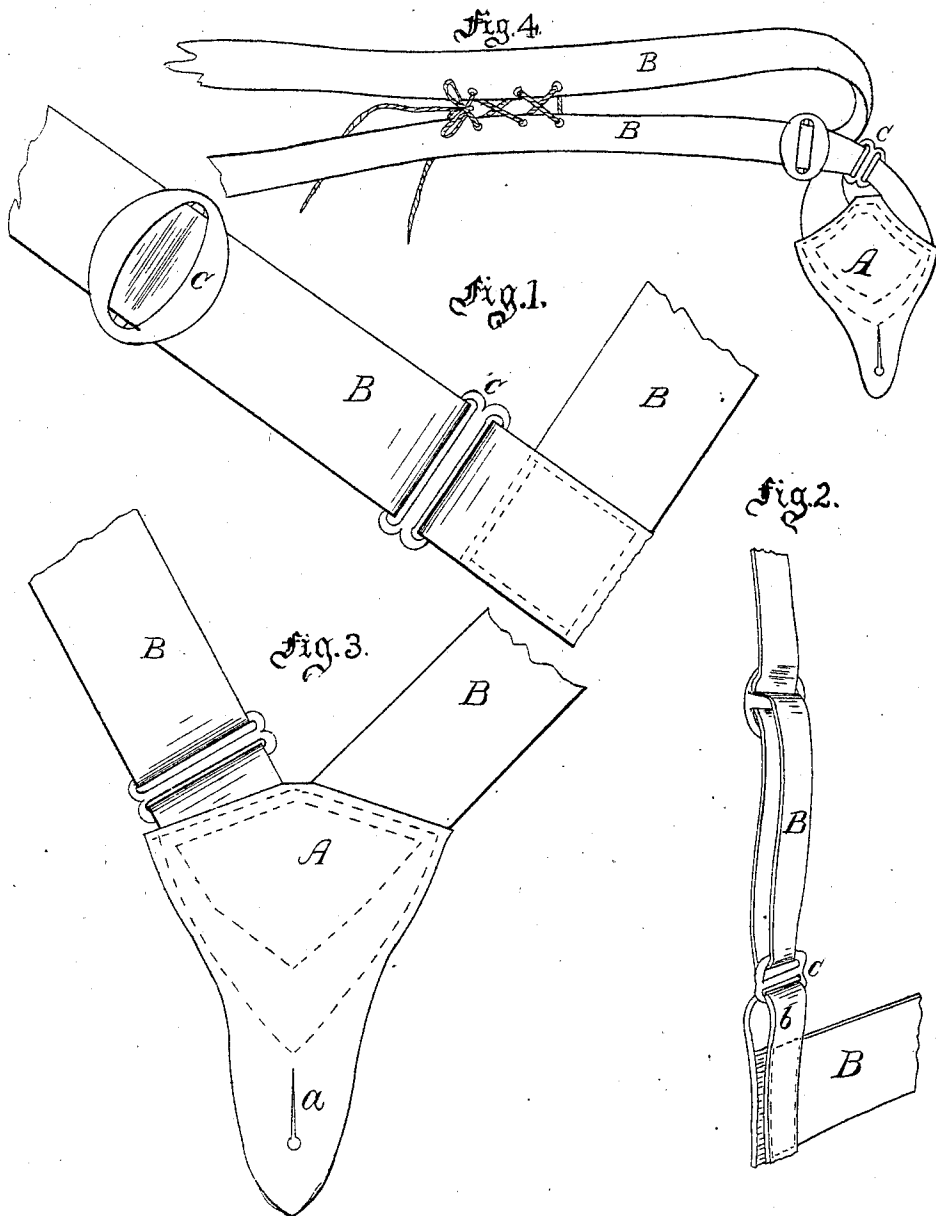


C.H. Cleveland,
Suspenders.

No 81,984.

Patented. Sept. 8. 1868.



Witnesses
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United States Patent Office.

C. H. CLEVELAND, OF SELMA, ALABAMA.

Letters Patent No. 81,984, dated September 8, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN SUSPENDERS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, C. H. CLEVELAND, of Selma, Dallas county, State of Alabama, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Suspenders; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the shoulder-straps as united before being attached to the leather.

Figure 2 is a sectional view of the same.

Figure 3 is a plan view of the shoulder-straps when attached to the leather.

Figure 4 is a plan view, showing the method of lacing the shoulder-straps together.

On the 8th day of October, 1867, a patent was issued to me by the United States Patent Office for an improvement in suspenders. The principle involved in that patent, constituting as it did the gist of the invention, and which is fully stated in the specification which accompanies the same, is that the shoulder-straps are so arranged that they pass in the rear of the lungs, and at the same time are united together at a point, and in such a manner as to form a fork, being sufficiently far beneath the armpit to render it impossible for the straps to be brought in such close contact with the cavity or under portion of the arm as to impede in any degree the freest circulation and respiration.

Since the issue of my patent, hundreds have used the suspenders, and all fully attest not only the value and entire practicability of my invention, but that the same does, in actual use, possess all the advantages claimed.

Still, a few isolated cases have been met with of persons who are exceedingly weak-breasted, or very round-shouldered. In such cases it seemed desirable to have the bracing properties of the suspender increased, so as to render the same less yielding, and consequently augment the power of the resisting force of the same, and thus compel the body to be thrown forward and occupy a perpendicular position, no matter how great the natural tendency to stoop may be.

To render my invention entirely applicable to all cases, and especially to meet the wants of the class of persons alluded to, *i. e.*, to furnish them with a suspender constructed on the same principle as my patent, but so arranged that its bracing properties can, at pleasure, be greatly increased, and at the same time being entirely susceptible of adjustment, the degree of pressure can readily be regulated, or, when desired, entirely withdrawn.

To attain the foregoing result is one of the objects of my present invention, and to accomplish which I insert in the shoulder-straps, and in that portion of the same which is intended to be in the rear, when applied to the human form, and immediately below where my patented suspenders, as they are now worn, cross, a series of eyelets sufficient in number to allow the straps to be laced and brought together, by the ordinary corset-lace or other cord, to a point, when the form is erect, which will be immediately above the strap of the pantaloons or other article of dress.

Another object of my invention is to overcome what experience has demonstrated is a positive defect when the suspenders are manufactured as described in my patent of October 8, 1867. I there describe that I attach the shoulder-straps to two pieces of leather, of diamond, lozenged, or other convenient form, by passing the same through openings cut in the upper portion of the leather, and which are at right angles to each other.

In fully testing my suspenders as manufactured for the market, this plan of attachment has proven to be entirely impracticable, and consequently most objectionable.

The perspiration from the body, coming in contact with the leather, has a constant tendency to rot and consequently weaken the same, and will soon cause the bearing-surface for the strap, which is of necessity very narrow, to tear out.

And again, independent of the reason above stated, provided the leather were not brought in contact with any destructive agent, still the constant weight and strain of supporting the article of dress would soon cause the loop to stretch and give to such an extent that after a few months' wear the same would pull out.

I obviate this difficulty by inserting one end of each shoulder-strap between the open ends of a short loop of webbing. This forms three thicknesses of webbing, which I insert between pieces of leather, and firmly sew the same together.

In the upper portion of the webbing-loop, I insert a single or double metallic loop, through which I pass the free end of the shoulder-strap, and secure the same precisely in the same manner that I pass and secure the shoulder-straps in the openings formed in the upper portion of the leather, as described in my patent of 8th October, 1867.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction.

A A are two pieces of leather, or other suitable material, of lozenged, diamond, or any other convenient form. In these pieces A A, I cut a button-hole, *a*.

b is a short loop of webbing, only of length sufficient to furnish a firm and secure bearing for attachment to the leather, A, and to extend but a short distance above the upper edge of the same. In the looped end of the piece of webbing *b*, I insert a metallic loop, *c*.

B B are two shoulder-straps, and are constructed of elastic webbing or other suitable material. One end of these shoulder-straps B B is inserted between the loose ends of the webbing-loop *b*. The three thicknesses of webbing thus formed are securely sewed to the leather, A, and having a triangular bearing therein. I usually, before sewing the leather and webbing together, apply a thin piece of leather, of shield or heart-shape, over the ends of the webbing, and then sew the whole together. The other end of the shoulder-strap B is passed through the metallic loop *c*, and secured to a slide, C, on the strap B. By means of this slide C the shoulder-straps can be lengthened or shortened, as occasion requires.

d d are a series of eyelets, arranged in the shoulder-straps B B. Through these eyelets *d d*, I insert a corset-lace, D, or other like cord, by means of which the power of the bracing properties of the suspenders can be increased at pleasure, and thus affording any degree of resisting force that may be deemed desirable, and one that can be augmented or diminished at the option of the wearer.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new therein, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

The suspender or shoulder-brace, composed of two single straps, B B, each passing from its attaching strap at the one side over the shoulder to the attaching strap on the reverse side of the body, when shoulder-straps are provided with eyelets *d d* and a bracing cord, D, substantially as described and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

C. H. CLEVELAND.

Witnesses:

JOHN D. BLOOR,

JOHN S. HOLLINGSHEAD.