

A. R. Stanley.

Hoop-Skirt.

N<sup>o</sup> 76291

Patented Mar. 31, 1868

Fig. 1.

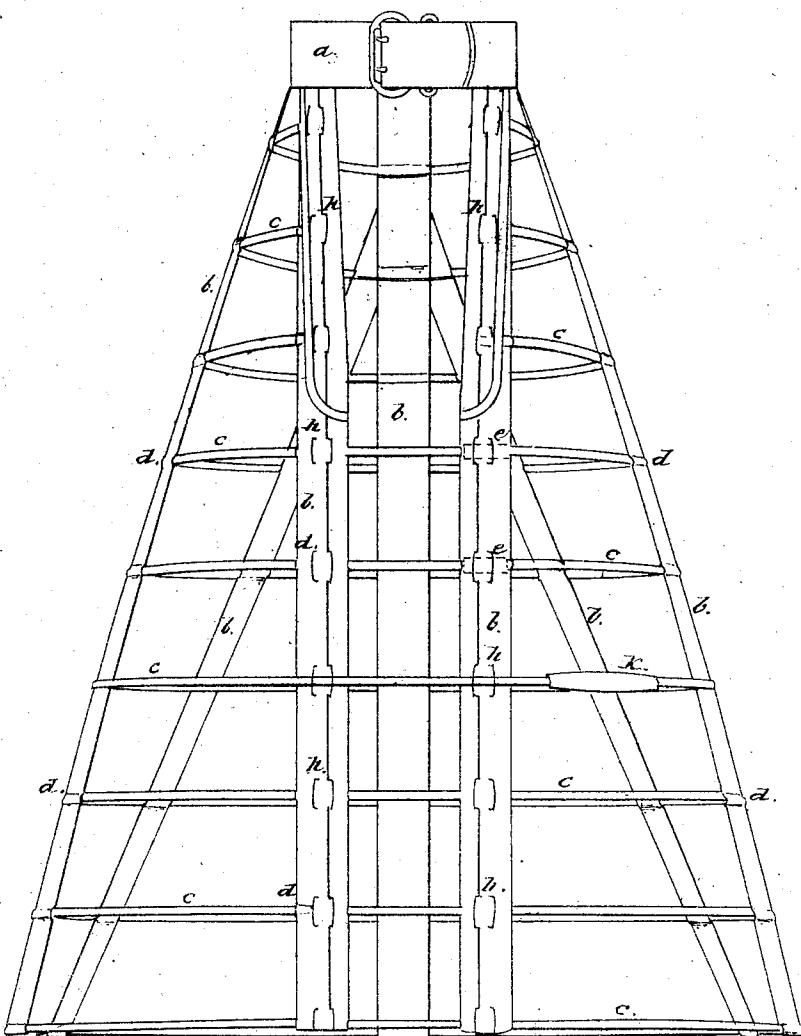


Fig. 2.

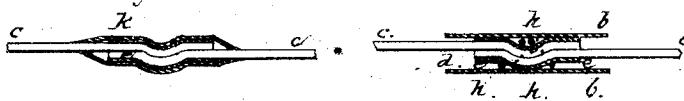


Fig. 3



Attest:

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# United States Patent Office.

ALFRED R. STANLEY, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

*Letters Patent No. 76,291, dated March 31, 1868.*

## IMPROVEMENT IN HOOP-SKIRTS.

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, ALFRED R. STANLEY, of Boston, in the State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Ladies' Hoop-Skirts; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation of a skirt, representing two modes of application of my said improvement.

Figure 2, a longitudinal section of that part of one of the hoops where the two ends are united and clasped; and

Figure 3 represents in section, longitudinal and cross, another of the modes of application of my said improvement.

Figs. 2 and 3 are drawn on a large scale.

The same letters indicate like parts in all the figures.

In the manufacture of hoop-skirts, the connecting-ends of each hoop are generally united by a metal clasp, which surrounds the lapped portions of the hoop-wire, and is intended to afford a substantial security against any tendency of the ends to separate, the clasp being generally struck down upon or bent with the wire in such manner as to lock the parts firmly together.

The edges of these clasps, however, are more or less sharp or jagged, and catch into the clothing of the wearer. To remedy this, the tapes of many skirts are made or woven alternately double and single, to form tubes or pockets, which receive and cover the metal clasp; but, though said pockets answer the purpose of covering the clasps, the manner in which the skirts have been made has rendered such use of them very objectionable. In such cases the ends of the hoops have been united simply by lapping the ends within a metallic tube, and the tube simply squeezed or clasped, and then inserted in the pocket of one of the tapes. In consequence of this imperfect union, the ends are very apt to become disengaged from the clasp while the skirt is being worn, much to the annoyance and trouble of the wearer.

To remedy these difficulties is the object of my invention, which consists in first giving a short bend to the metallic tube or clasp, and to the two lapped ends of the hoop within it, so that they cannot be drawn out or separated without bursting open the metal clasp, and covering the metallic clasp with a non-metallic tube, or pocket fastened thereon.

In the accompanying drawings, *a* represents the waistband of a skeleton skirt; *b b*, the tapes woven alternately as a single and as a double cloth to form pockets for the reception of the hoops *c c*, which are covered with braid in the usual manner.

In making the skirt, each hoop, in succession, is inserted in the pockets *d* of the tapes, a metallic tube or clasp, *e*, slipped on to one of the ends, the two ends lapped, as represented in the sections, figs. 2 and 3, the metallic tube *e* slipped over them, and then, by means of a suitable tool or instrument, the tube and lapped portions of the hoop bent in a short curve, as represented at *i*, forming a slight protuberance on one side, and a corresponding cavity on the other. When thus united, the two ends of the hoop cannot be separated. The part of the hoop thus clasped and united is then inserted in one of the pockets *d* of one of the tapes *b*, and therein secured by sewing, as represented at *h*. The thread passing into the cavity, and each side of the protuberance *i*, will effectually prevent the hoop from being drawn out of the pocket; all these operations being performed on the former, and the skirt being completed before removal from the former-frame; and, although I deem this the best mode of securing the jointed portion of the hoop in the pockets of the tapes, other and equivalent modes may be substituted.

In cases in which the pockets of the tapes are not used as a covering to the metallic clasp by which the ends of the hoops are united, as, when single tapes are used, I use a tube, *k*, made of braided or woven fabric of greater length than the metal tube, so that when slipped on and secured, it will overlap the braiding on the hoop. This covering may be secured in place by sewing, cementing, or otherwise, and if made of an elastic material, it will adapt itself to the protuberance and cavity of the clasp, and thereby retain its place. A tube of vulcanized India rubber, of a suitable color, may be used for that purpose.

I am aware that the lock-clasp is not new, and that a straight clasp has been inserted in the pocket of the tape, and retained by spangles, as shown in the patent of Waterman, of 1864. I do not, therefore, wish to be understood as claiming separately either of these features; nor do I claim any other method than that specified hereinbefore; but

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The method of manufacturing hoop-skirts herein described, that is to say, uniting the ends of the wires by means of the lock-clasps herein described, and enclosing said clasps in the pockets of the tapes or equivalent covering, all while on the "former," substantially as set forth.

I also claim, as a new manufacture, a hoop-skirt with the ends of the wires united together by the lock-clasps herein described, and said clasps enclosed in the pockets of the tapes, or the equivalent thereof, all substantially as herein described.

ALFRED R. STANLEY.

Witnesses:

ANDREW DE LACY,

WM. H. BISHOP.