

R. BIERING.
Bustle.

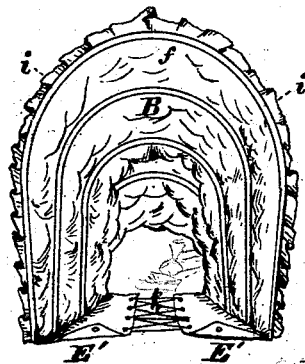
No. 168,130.

Patented Sept. 28, 1875.

Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Witnesses

Thos W Weston

Arthur C. Fraser

Inventor:

Robert Biering

*Per Burke & Fraser
Atty's.*

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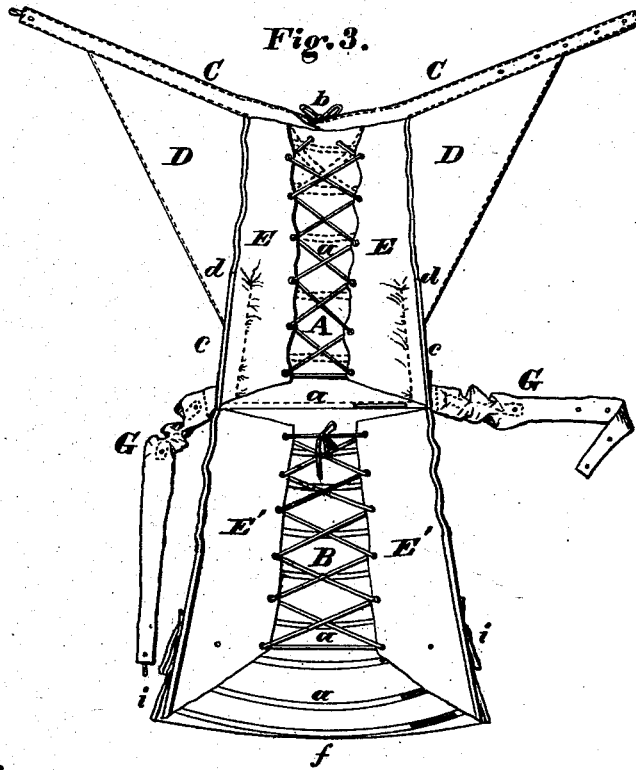


Fig. 4.

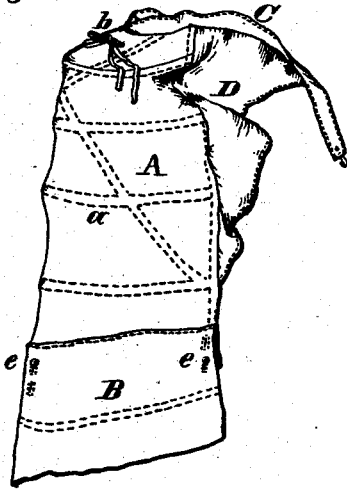


Fig. 5.

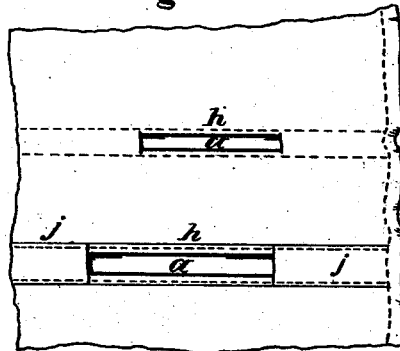
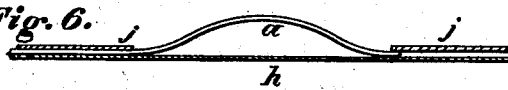


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT BIERING, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN BUSTLES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **168,130**, dated September 23, 1875; application filed May 3, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT BIERING, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Pompadour-Bustles, of which the following is a specification:

My invention relates to that class of bustles which, when secured to the waist of the wearer, extend down more or less nearly to the hem of the dress-skirt, and give the proper set or shape to the dress behind; and it consists in the lower portion being removably and adjustably attached to the upper or bustle proper; also, in the construction and forms of the said bustle, as will be hereinafter fully described.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view, showing my improved bustle in its proper position on the wearer. Fig. 2 is a view from the under side, showing the construction of the trail-support. Fig. 3 is a front view, showing the bustle detached from the wearer. Fig. 4 is a side view, showing the adjustment of the trail-support. Figs. 5 and 6 are, respectively, plan and sectional views, illustrating the manner of removing the springs.

Heretofore, in constructing bustles of this class, it has been customary to make them similar to one-half of a hoop-skirt, having no body-cloth, and consisting only of a series of springs bent into the form of a semicircle, and connected together by tapes properly arranged and spaced. This form provides no support whatever for the trail of the dress.

My bustle consists of two distinct portions: The upper part or bustle proper A, and the lower part B, which I will designate as the trail-support. The bustle A is, preferably, made of two thicknesses of muslin stitched to form shirrs to receive springs *a a*. The construction of this portion by means of double gores and diagonal springs is substantially that shown and described in my patent dated February 23, 1875.

The obtuse angles, formed by the free ends of the waistband C with the sides of the bustle A, are filled by triangular gussets or wings D D of cloth, cut bias on the long side, and strongly stitched to the bustle and band. The angle named being obtuse, it follows that

when the ends of the band C are brought around and fastened in front the said wings stand out full, and are drawn smoothly over the hips of the wearer, thus holding the bustle firmly in place, (see Fig. 1,) and materially assisting in its support. With these gussets or wings it is impossible for the bustle to slip around to the side of the wearer. E E are webs of cloth secured at one edge to the bustle, and provided at their free edges with eyelets for lacing. In the ordinary bustle the lacing cannot be accomplished while the bustle is attached to the wearer; but in mine, as herein shown, the ends of the lace-cord are passed up through eyelets in the top of the bustle at *b*, and tied on the outside, thus rendering the adjustment easy and convenient after the bustle is put on. The edges of the bustle are stiffened by the insertion of springs *c c*, which extend upward from the bottom of the bustle A to the points *d d*, just above the lower corners of the wings D D. The lower portion or trail-support B is formed of one thickness of cloth only, to avoid unnecessary weight, and the shirrs are formed by stitching on tape of suitable width, as shown at *j*, in Fig. 5. The upper edge of the trail-support conforms in size to the lower edge of the bustle proper, and is attached removably and adjustably thereto by means of buttons *e e*, or other equivalent device. I provide several button-holes in the support B, arranged vertically, one above the other, preferably in three rows, one at each side, and one behind, by which means the trail-support may be adjusted as to height.

By engaging the lower button-holes at the sides, and the upper at the back, as in Fig. 4, the trail is caused to droop behind. Reversing the operation causes a reverse effect.

By the proper shaping of the cloth and arrangement of the shirrs or spring-cases, I produce the gracefully-curved projecting support *f* for the trail. (Shown in Figs. 1 and 2.)

It will be observed that the extremity of *f* is nearly horizontal, and quite stiff. This serves to bear up the trail of the dress and prevent its dragging on the ground.

To avoid unsightliness, should any portion of the trail-support become exposed, I provide one or more rows of muslin ruffles, *i*, stitched

thereon, as shown. Or, if desired, other material may be substituted, as, for instance, striped or figured dark fabric, to resemble balmoral skirts. Webs E' E', provided with suitable eyelets and laces for adjusting the width, are required for the trail-support B, as well as the bustle A. To prevent said support from wrinkling at the bottom, I provide the edges with stiffening-springs *g g*, which extend upward to a point about half-way to the junction of the two portions A B.

To enable the entire garment to be washed, I provide for the easy removal of the springs, as follows: At a point, *h*, near one end of the shirrs, said shirr is cut or omitted for a short space. The spring is removed (see Fig. 6) by bending up the exposed portion, which releases the short end; the spring may then be drawn out. By reversing the operation, the spring is readily replaced.

To prevent the bustle from swinging side-wise, or backward, and retain it closely to the person, I provide bands G G, preferably of muslin in two thicknesses with strips of elastic webbing interposed or inserted in suitable shirrs while in a state of tension. These bands may be attached to the bustle in any convenient manner, but preferably removable, and after the bustle is put on are brought round to the front and secured together. Their elasticity permits the free use of the limbs in the act of sitting down, or when walking.

It will sometimes be desirable to remove the part B entirely, and wear only the part A. This can, of course, be done very readily either before or after putting on.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. The bustle A, provided with a waistband, C, and wings D D, arranged to be drawn over the hips, when constructed substantially in the manner shown.

2. A bustle, A, provided with an adjustable and removable lower portion or trail-support, B, when constructed and arranged in the manner substantially as shown.

3. A bustle, A, provided with webs E E, having suitable laces and lacing-holes, the ends of the said laces passing out through holes in the top of the bustle at *b*, so as to be adjusted from and tied on the outside, as set forth.

4. In combination with the bustle A, the trail-support B, attached adjustably and removably thereto, and provided with a curved rear projection, *f*, substantially as shown, and for the purposes set forth.

5. In combination with the bustle A and trail-support B, constructed as herein described, the elastic bands G G, as and for the purposes specified.

6. A pannier or bustle constructed with a series of concealed pockets, *j j*, having openings *h h*, in combination with springs *a a* detachably inserted in the pockets *j j*, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ROBERT BIERING.

Witnesses:

HENRY CONNETT,

ARTHUR C. FRASER.