

United States Patent Office.

JAMES E. McBETH, OF NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND SHELDON STURGEON, OF THE SAME PLACE.

Letters Patent No. 73,357, dated January 14, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN BREECH-LOADING FIRE-ARMS.

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, JAMES E. McBETH, of New Orleans, in the parish of Orleans, and State of Louisiana, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Fire-Arms; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

The present invention consists in providing a case or box for the lock and trigger, and their necessary connecting parts, which is separate and distinct from the other portion of the fire-arm, and in so hanging such box or case as to swing upon pivots of the fire-arm, and thus allow the breech-end of the barrel to be opened for inserting or removing a cartridge, &c., and closed, it being held closed by means of a spring-catch or dog, suitably arranged therefor. In the accompanying plate of drawings, my improvement in fire-arm is illustrated—

Figure 1 being a central longitudinal section through the breech of a barrel to a fire-arm box or case for holding the lock and trigger and butt or stock, and

Figure 2 a transverse vertical section, taken in the plane of the line $x x$, fig. 1, with the lock and trigger-box or case swung out of line with the barrel.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

A, in the drawings, represents the barrel of a fire-arm, connected and fastened through a frame, B, to the stock or butt C. The frame B, at the breech-end of the barrel, is cut out or left open, and in this opening is placed a box or case, D, that, by screw-pins or pivots a , is hung to the frame B at or near its under edge E, so as to swing thereon, and thus into or out of line with the barrel and its breech-frame. In this box or case D, the cock F and trigger G are hung, with the cocking-trigger H, the parts being arranged and operating as and in a manner similar to that described in the schedule annexed to Letters Patent granted to me on the 2d day of October, A. D. 1866, and therefore needing no particular explanation herein. I, a spring-dog or catch, hung in frame B, in proper position to engage with a notch, J, in the case or box D, and thus to hold it in position, and in line with the barrel when swung to such position. e , a groove in rear end of box or case D. This groove extends in a circular direction, with the pivot a at such end as the centre. d , a spring, fastened at one end in frame B, and projecting at its free end e into the circular groove e .

The mode of operation of the parts above described is as follows: By a backward pressure of the end, m , to the dog or catch I, against its spring n , the end of said dog is withdrawn from the notch J, and the spring d operates to throw out the case or box D, and into and against the palm of the hand of the person holding the piece. In the event of the spring d getting out of order, the case can be swung out and into the palm of the left hand by simply pressing it out with the fingers of the left hand, and in order to do this, the case or box is held in the middle of the left hand, the palm on the left side, and the fingers on the right side. When the case D is out sufficiently, the cartridge can be inserted in the bore. The case is swung back into proper position simply by pushing it sufficiently with the palm of the left hand. The left side of the end of the dog or catch is bevelled, so that the right side of the case or box coming against it will cause it to recede, in order to allow it to pass, and when opposite the notch J, will immediately fall into it by means of the spring n . The projection m on the dog I is not intended to project above the top of the piece, but is sunk in a recess large enough to allow the thumb-nail to work freely, and no more, the reason for which is obvious.

O, a lever, hung in breech-end of barrel A, for ejecting the shell of the cartridge.

The fire-arm can be rendered useless by taking out the pivots $a a$, which allows the lock-case to be removed and carried about the person, or thrown away.

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

The close-hinged box D, in which are completely encased the lock and cock, and which is held in position by means of the spring-dog I, as and for the purposes specified.

The above specification of my invention signed by me, this 9th day of April, 1867.

JAMES E. McBETH.

Witnesses:

JNO. S. COSBAY,

W. G. JAMES.