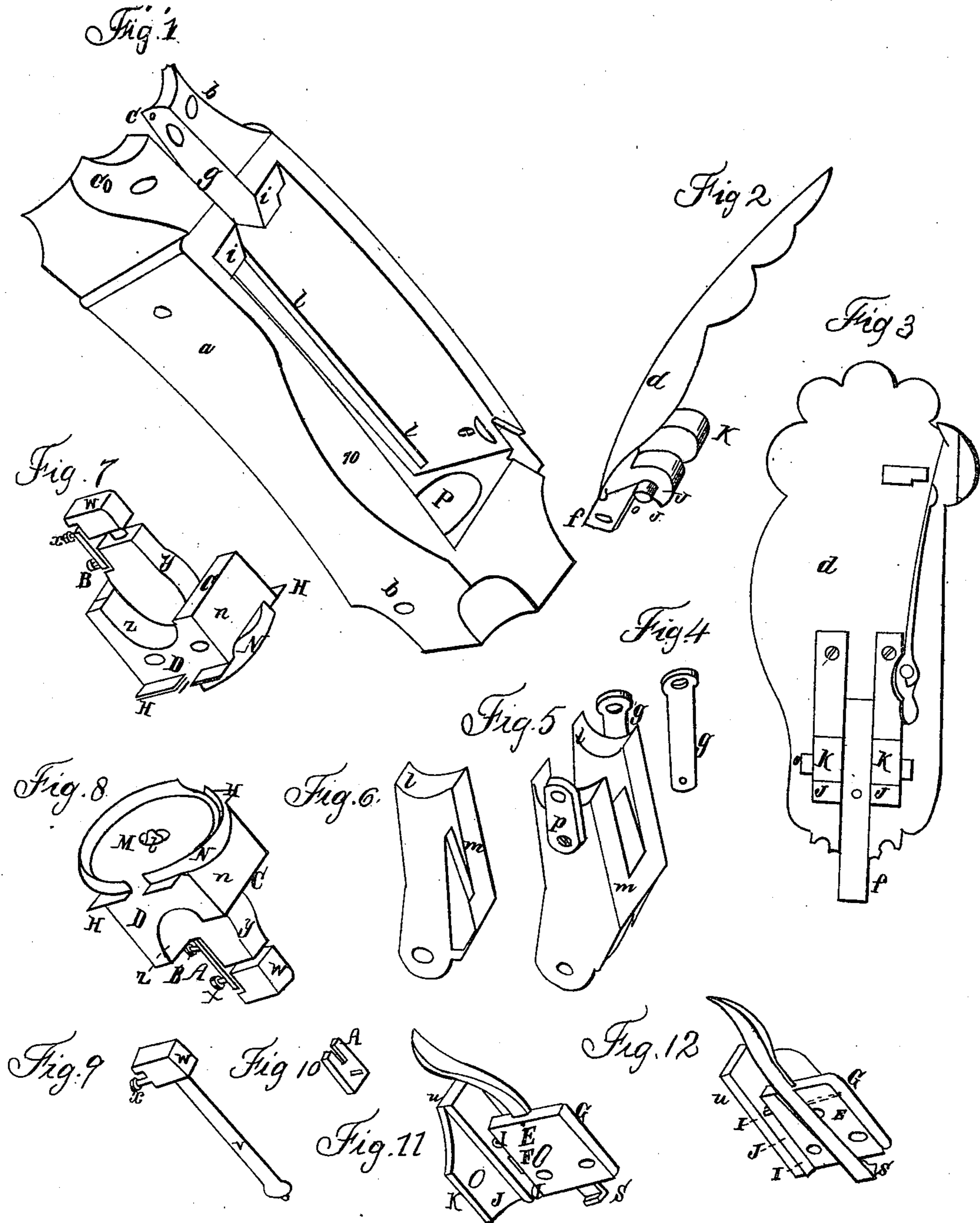


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Breech-Loading Fire-Arm.

No. 15.995

Patented Oct. 28. 1856.

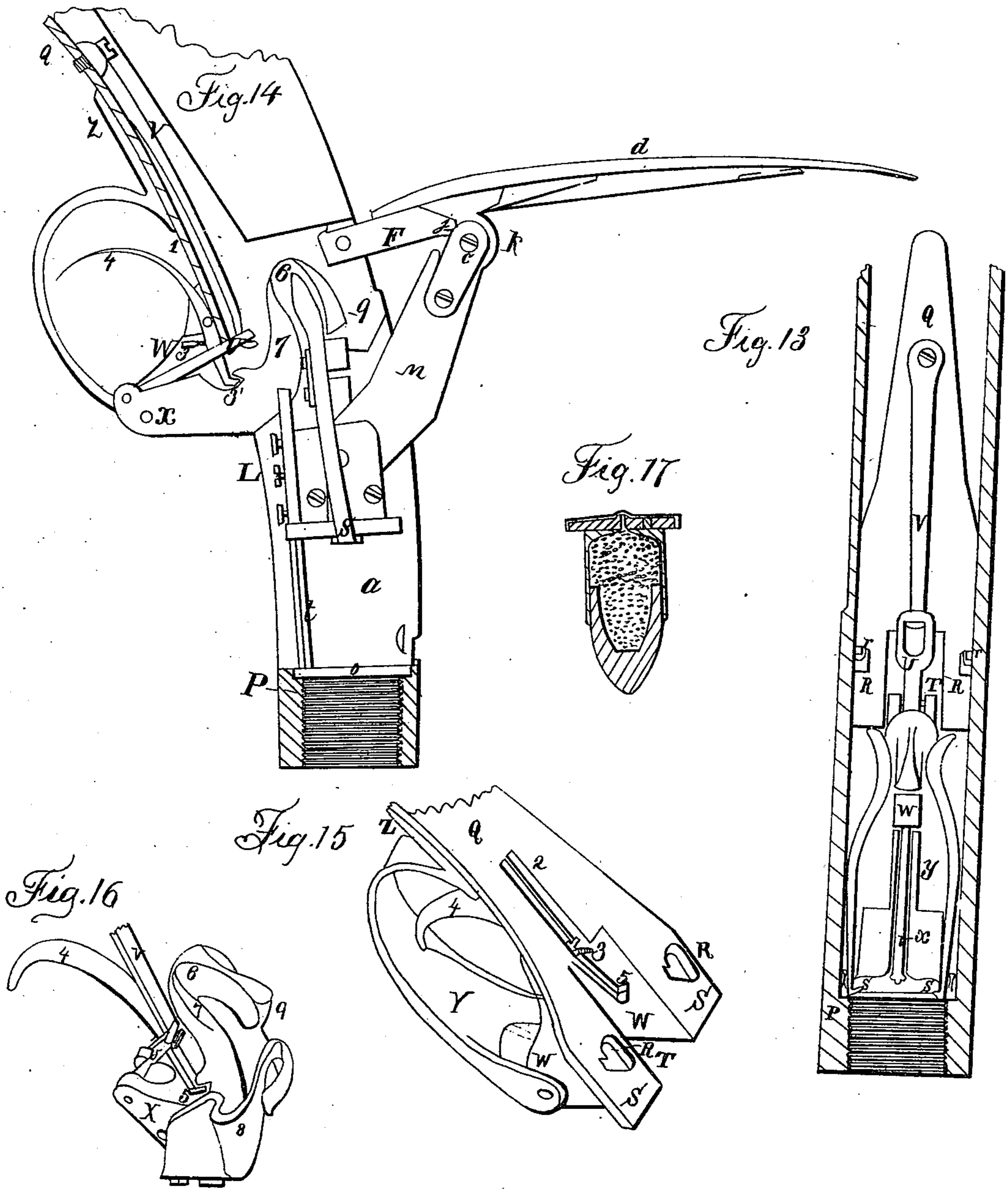


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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

G. W. MORSE, OF BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA.

IMPROVEMENT IN BREECH-LOADING FIRE-ARMS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 15,995, dated October 28, 1856.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE W. MORSE, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, have invented a new and useful Breech-Loading Gun; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, made part of this specification, and letters to correspond therewith, the same letters referring to similar parts in the several figures.

My gun is so constructed that before loading it I can blow through it or run water through it with facility; but when the charge is in it becomes comparatively air and water tight, because I use a cartridge-case which seals the breech-joint, both as to powder and the priming.

My gun is also constructed in such wise that I retract, drop the cartridge, prepare the parts for the insertion of another cartridge, and cock the gun by one motion—viz., the pulling up and back the cover of the case, to which the movable parts are for the most part attached, and this I do whether the cartridge be fired or not fired.

a, Figure 1, is the casing, to which the movable parts are attached, or in which they move, and is fastened to the barrel by a female screw, *P*, and a pin at *b*, and is fastened to the shoulder-piece by side straps and a detachable top strap, which latter is fastened to it at *c*.

d, Figs. 2, 3, and 14, is the cover, fastened by a spring-catch at *e*, Fig. 1. By a tongue, *f*, it is fastened in the slot *g*, by a pin at *h*. The lower faces of the projections *i* of the casing come in contact with the surfaces *j* of the cover's joint-knuckles *k*, which fit into the curves *l* on the limbs of the link *m*; Fig. 5, which connect the cover to the sliding breech-piece *n*, Figs. 7 and 8, the latter having curves *z* for the front joint-knuckles of the link.

Two straps, *p*, Fig. 5, and *q*, the latter a spring-strap, Fig. 4, attach the link to the cover at the pins *o*. The body of the link is wedge-shaped, with the apex toward the cover-joint, as seen in section, Fig. 6, and allows play between the limbs to the hammer.

10, Fig. 1, is a lip on the casing, but is not necessary. The hammer is operated by an outside lever, 8, Fig. 16.

Pins *r*, Fig. 13, detach the nippers *s*, Figs. 11 and 12, from the cartridge by pressing the

handles of the nippers as they are brought into their field of action by the retraction of the sliding breech-piece, the nippers moving on a center or pin at *C*, Figs. 11 and 12, and lying in grooves on the outside of the side pieces, *E*, which are screwed at *D* to the sliding breech-piece, and lie close to flanges *H*, projecting from the face end of the breech-piece, and carry pins, as at *F*, Fig. 11, to hold the link to the breech-piece. This piece has a tongue, *y*, through the length of which the percussion-pin *b*, Fig. 9, passes. This pin has a head or anvil, *w*, fastened to it by a screw, *x*, the pin having an enlargement at the other end to prevent its dropping out to act better on the primer.

A guide, *A*, Fig. 10, is screwed at *B* to the tongue *y*, Figs. 7 and 8, to keep the anvil in position. The front face of the body of the link *m* rests against the shoulder *c* of the breech-piece.

The barrel-face *M* of the breech-piece is cupped by a rim, *N*, portions being cut out for the nipper-jaws to drop in and clasp the cartridge. This rim projects without contact into the chamber *O*, Fig. 14.

1, Figs. 11 and 12, are slots in the adjustable slides *u*. These slots allow the play laterally of the slides into and out of the grooves *t*, Fig. 1, and the slides are pushed in and out by inserting the screw-driver into slots *J*. The guides are fastened out into the grooves by the screw *L*, Fig. 14, passing through holes or slots *K*, Fig. 11.

The guard-strap *Q*, Figs. 13, 14, and 15, is attached to the shoulder-piece by the usual screw, and at its guard end *S* to projections within the casing *a* by hooks *R*, Figs. 13 and 14.

Standards *W* are pendent from each side of the hammer-slot *T*, and at *X* the trigger-guard *Y* is attached thereto by the pin on which the hammer centers. The trigger-guard is fastened by a strap, *Z*, to *Q* at the rear, Figs. 13, 14, and 15.

The trigger 4 has the usual spring, 1, (seen at the part broken out at 2,) and temper-screw 3 to determine the bite of its head 5 into the catch or depression for it in the back of the hammer-leg.

The hammer 9 is operated by the spring *V* through the stirrup *U*, Fig. 14, in the usual way.

The hammer-head has depressions 6, so that at full-cock there is no pressure by the hammer on the inside of the nipper-handles.

Shoulders 7 immediately below depressions 6 press the nipper-handles apart, and cause the nipper-claws to seize the cartridge when the hammer is thrown forward. Thus in connection with the pins *r* the nippers are closed and opened at the projection. The retraction of the sliding breech-piece cocks the hammer; but when the sliding breech-piece is in position for firing the hammer is independent in its motion.

Should the cover be up, and the trigger pulled, the blow of the hammer would throw it down. Should the cover be down, but not fastened, the blow of the hammer would fasten it. The gun would not fire in the first case, but might in the second case, and if it did the parts would be ready for the firing. In any case the gun is a safe one to handle. Throw the gun in the water, take it out or fire it under water, if the cartridges are water-proof, and it makes no difference.

Figs. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, and 16 are in perspective. Fig. 3 is a bottom view of the cover.

d, Fig. 13, is a horizontal section to show the hammer and nippers in position when the gun is fired, all points being left out which would obscure this view.

Fig. 14 is a vertical section to show the hammer and nippers when the movable parts are retracted and the hammer cocked, parts being omitted, so as not to obscure this view.

Fig. 17 simply illustrates in vertical and

central section a cartridge suitable for the action of the nippers.

To charge and prepare the gun to be fired it is only necessary to pull up and back the cover *d*, which carries with it the other movable parts, and cocks the hammer. I insert another or a cartridge, throw forward and latch the cover, and the gun is ready to be fired.

If desired, the gun can be uncocked and the firing reserved till occasion for it.

Having thus fully described the nature and operation of my breech-loading gun, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. Inserting the rim *N*, or its equivalent, without contact into the chamber *O*, substantially in the manner and for the purpose described, contact being attained through the medium of a cartridge-case.

2. The nippers *s* and the mode of operating them by the pins *r* and the shoulder 7 on the hammer, or equivalents therefor, substantially in the manner and for the purpose described.

3. The combination of movable parts, or their equivalents, whereby I retract or deliver the gun of a cartridge, drop it, open and clear the way for the insertion of another cartridge, whether the previous charge was fired or failed to fire, and cock the hammer automatically at one motion, substantially in the manner described.

GEO. W. MORSE.

Attest:

THOS. G. CLINTON,
GILBERT TOWLES.