



# United States Patent Office.

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*Letters Patent No. 62,873, dated March 12, 1867.*

## 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, ALFRED S. MUNGER, of Chicopee Falls, in the county of Hampden, and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Fire-Arms; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, sufficient to enable one skilled in the art to which the invention appertains to make use of it, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to that class of breech-loading fire-arms in which the hammer constitutes the breech-piece or abutment, which sustains the force of the recoil; and the invention consists in so constructing and applying the detaining catch of the hammer that the pivot of the said catch will be relieved by means of a rigid support, which is interposed between the back of the hammer and the stationary part of the frame, independently of the pivot, as will be hereinafter described. In the accompanying drawings, a hammer and its accessories, so constructed, are shown in connection with the handle or stock of a pistol—

Figure 1 being a plan or top view of the same; and

Figure 2 a central vertical section, taken in the plane of the line *x x*, fig. 1.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

In the drawings, A represents the handle or stock of a pistol, in which, at the proper point for exploding the cartridge that is placed in the barrel of the pistol, the hammer B is hung in the usual manner, which hammer is constructed as will be presently explained; C, the trigger, hung in handle A and engaging with hammer B, as in ordinary pistols or other fire-arms. The lock portion *a* of the hammer B is slotted, and in it is hung, upon a pivot *b*, a thumb-piece or lever, G, extending toward the end *c* of the slot *d*, in the handle A of the pistol, through and in which the hammer plays as it is "cocked" or set, and thrown forward to explode the charge in the barrel of the fire-arm, by pulling upon the trigger C in the proper direction therefor, against which end *c* of the said slot the extension-arm *f* of said thumb-piece comes to a bearing, by its end or foot *g*, and is there held by the U-shaped spring *h*, interposed between the under side of the said arm *f* and the hammer, as plainly shown in fig. 2, in section.

By this construction it is obvious that when the pistol is discharged the recoil received by the hammer is sustained by the rigid bearing *g* interposed automatically between the back of the hammer and the part *c* of the stationary frame. The pivot *b* is thus entirely relieved from the severe shock, and no frail, delicate, or yielding part is subjected thereto.

I am aware that a hammer has before been employed to sustain the force of the recoil, and released in the act of cocking, but having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The lever catch G, formed with a foot, *g*, which in the act of firing is interposed between the back of the hammer and the part *c* of the frame, to relieve the pivot *b* of pressure, and in the act of cocking is retracted to release the hammer, as and for the purposes described.

ALFRED S. MUNGER.

Witnesses:

SYLVESTER BARBOUR,  
JOEL L. HUNGERFORD.