

junction with the stationary breech, and there hold it during explosion of the cartridge, which may be effected by pulling the trigger, and thereby causing the hammer to be thrown down against the flange or rear end of the cartridge.

In my improved fire-arm the spring-catch is so arranged as to be movable by the thumb of a person's hand, while the hand may be grasping the handle of the stock in the ordinary manner for effecting the discharge of the pistol. It does not require a pull of the forefinger on a knob or trigger to effect the movement of the catch necessary to free the barrel, so as to allow it to be thrown up or tilted by the spring. Operating the catch by the thumb is much more convenient and certain than by the forefinger. Therefore, in my peculiar arrangement of the spring-catch—that is to say, so as to run transversely relatively to the barrel and within the stock, instead of longitudinally thereof—I have effected an important improvement.

My improved arrangement of the spring-catch causes the catch to be less liable to be unlatched during the act of firing the piece than is the case where the spring-catch is placed longitudinally under or in various other ways relatively to the barrel.

I am aware of the nature of the improvement which forms the subject or subjects of the United States Patent No. 25,926, and therefore I do not claim such as my invention; but

I claim—

The arrangement and combination of the breech-elevating spring and the cartridge-shell discharger together in such manner and with respect to the barrel and stock that while the spring may be performing its function of elevating the barrel at its breech end it shall retract the cartridge-shell discharger, for the purpose as hereinbefore specified.

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Witnesses:

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