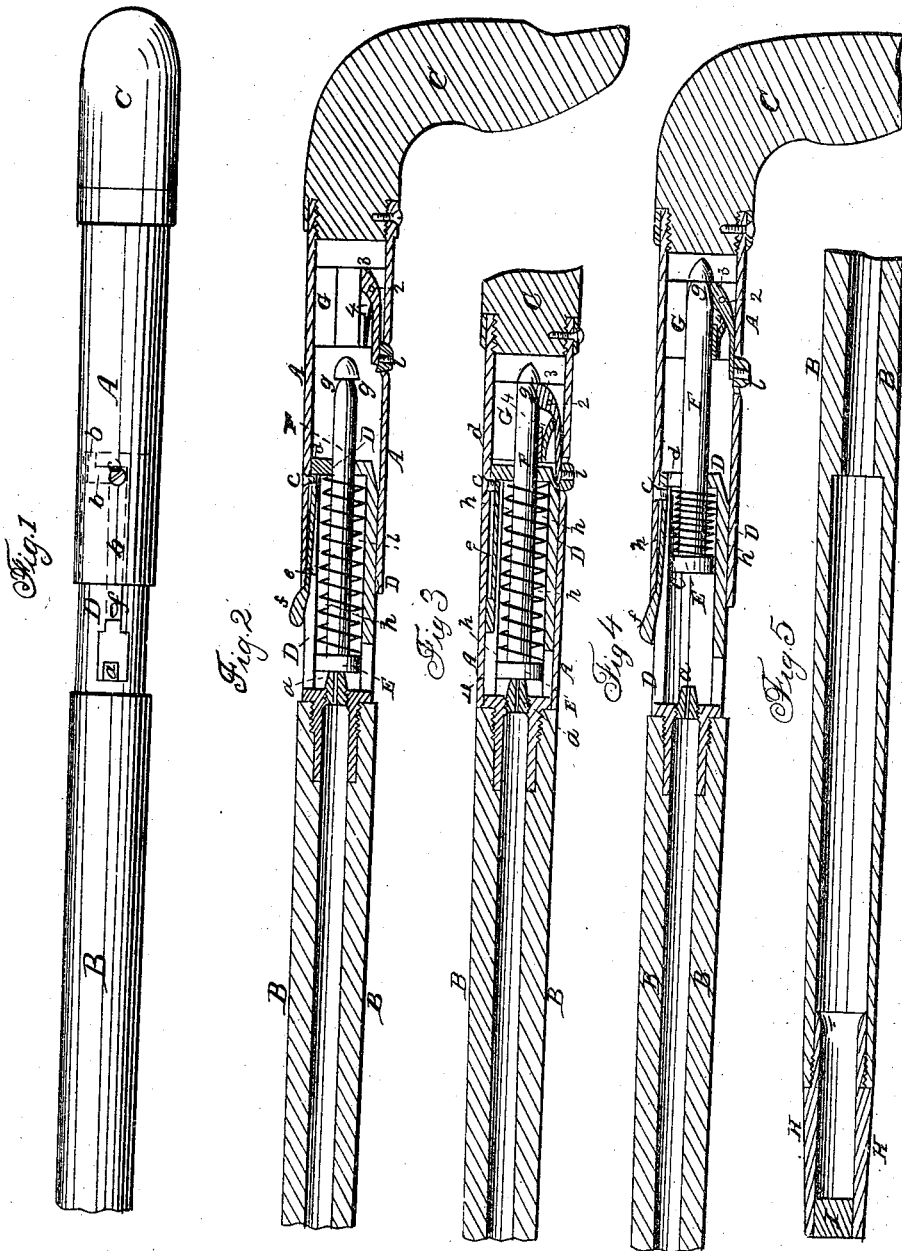


J. F. THOMAS.
CANE GUN.

No. 19,328.

Patented Feb. 9, 1858.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN F. THOMAS, OF ILION, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND SAMUEL REMINGTON, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN CANE-GUNS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 19,328, dated February 9, 1858.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN F. THOMAS, of Ilion, in the county of Herkimer and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cane-Guns; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a top plan of the cane-gun with the case or upper portion drawn back on or from the barrel or lower portion thereof, so as to expose the nipple and the opening through the rear portion of the barrel for facilitating the placing of the cap on the said nipple. Figs. 2, 3, 4, and 5 represent longitudinal sections through the barrel and case, and showing the several positions of the interior parts at the cock and uncock of the piece.

Similar letters of reference, where they occur in the several drawings, denote like parts of the contrivance in all the figures.

My invention relates to the manner in which I combine and arrange the case, barrel, and interior parts of the gun, so as to make the implement safe, cheap, and effective, as will be hereinafter particularly pointed out and claimed, both as a cane and a fire-arm.

To enable those skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe the same with reference to the drawings.

The exterior of the cane-gun is composed substantially of but two parts—viz., an upper part or case, A, and a lower part or barrel, B. The case A may be furnished with a head, C, of any suitable kind, by which the implement may be handled and managed. The barrel B may have at its lower end a cap, ferrule, or plug, which is easily removed to unmask the bore of the gun, and at its upper end has a nipple, *a*, and a socket or cylinder, D, over which the case A neatly slides. There is a groove, *b*, formed on the periphery of the socket D, (shown by dotted lines in Fig. 1,) in which a screw, pin, or stud, *c*, in the case A works, to form a bayonet-fastening between the said case and barrel. There is a slot cut longitudinally through the socket D, in which a spring, *e*, that is fastened at *b* to said socket, works, said spring carrying upon its front end a projection, *f*, which serves the double purpose of a back

sight to the gun and a stop, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, 4, to prevent the case A from being forced forward until said projection is pushed down. This back sight and stop is not seen on the gun until it is cocked; but the act of cocking the piece allows it to rise up out of its slot.

E is the hammer for exploding the cap. It is connected to a rod, F, which has a groove or recess, *g*, cut entirely around its upper end, so as to form a catch all around it. This rod F passes through the end D of the cylinder connected to the barrel and through the trigger-block G, which is fixed to the interior of the case A. A helical spring, *h*, is coiled around the rod F, one end of said spring bearing against the hammer E and the other end against the closed-up end of the cylinder D, within which the said spring is placed. The trigger *i* is pivoted at the point 2 to the trigger-block G, and has upon it a sear, 3, which catches into the groove *g* of the rod F when that end of said rod is drawn past the sear. A spring, 4, tends to throw out the trigger *i* and at the same time raise up the sear 3 to catch the rod F, and thus hold the arm in cock.

When the arm is cocked, as shown in Figs. 1 and 4, the rod F and its spring tend to hold the case A to the barrel B. So, also, is the same effect produced when the hammer is down on the cap and the case slid up over the part D, as shown in Fig. 3, as the sear is still against the groove in the rod F; but when the arm is fired by pressing in the trigger *i*, which throws out the sear 3, the rod F is entirely released from the case A, as shown in Fig. 2, and flies with all the power of the spring *h*, carrying its hammer E against the cap. After the piece is fired and the case A is again slipped over the part D, first pressing down the projection or back sight, *f*, the sear again catches the end of the rod, and holds it until again fired. The object of the groove *g* around the rod F is that the rod may turn in its bearings on its long axis, and yet be always caught by the sear when it is drawn past said sear.

Instead of closing the end of the barrel with a tight ferrule, I use an open one, H, with a piece of cork or other similar material, I, (but not wood or metal,) inserted in its lower end, so as to remain there by its own friction, the object of this being that in case of accidental

discharge of the piece the cork may be carried out with the ball, and prevent any danger of bursting the barrel. Wood would swell and shrink and become inconvenient. Metal would not be fast and loose enough for the purpose, and I therefore use cork.

Having thus fully described the nature and object of my invention, what I claim therein as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. Connecting the case A and barrel B by means of the hammer and its rod F and the trigger-block and trigger, as set forth.

2. In combination with the case and barrel, the catch-spring e for holding the case and hammer when the arm is cocked, as set forth.

3. The continuous groove or shoulder around the end of the rod F, so that said rod may turn in its bearings without preventing the sear from catching it whenever drawn back past it, as described.

4. The combination of the trigger-block G, trigger i, with its sear 3 and spring 4, and the hammer and its rod, substantially in the manner and for the purpose set forth.

JOHN F. THOMAS.

Witnesses:

W. W. THOMAS,
VERNON POTTER.