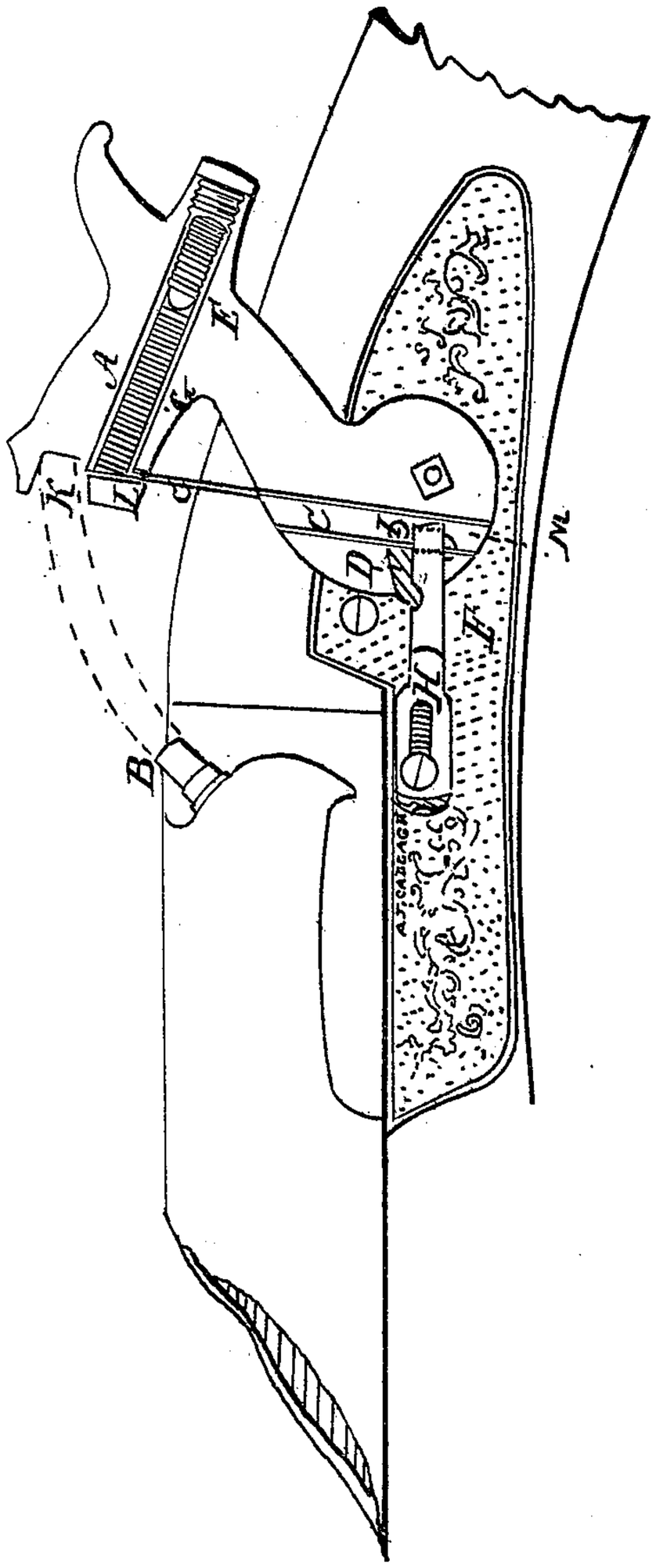
M. J. GALLAGER.

Self-Priming Gun Lock.

No. 17,733. Patented July 7, 1857.



Witnesses;
Charles Shole
Sam'l P. Bell
Not. Pub.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MAHLON I. GALLAGER, OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

SELF-PRIMING GUN-LOCK.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 17,733, dated July 7, 1857.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MAHLON I. GALLAGER, of Savannah, county of Chatham, in the State of Georgia, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Firearms, or more properly for an attachment to a self-capping hammer for all kinds of firearms; and I do hereby declare that the following is an exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon.

My invention relates to that class of firearms which has attached a self-capping hammer, with a tube or cylinder for the reception of the primers, a sliding rod, which is set in motion by the movement of the hammer, to which it is attached, and working in a groove in the lock plate, depositing one primer in the cavity of the hammer as it approaches the tube or nipple of the gun, and consists in a slide or shipper on the lock plate, which, being moved out, releases the sliding rod attached to the hammer by allowing the pivot on the same to move around on the axis of the hammer, in a second groove cut in the lock plate connected with the first named, when the gun may be used with the ordinary percussion caps, or as if a self-capping hammer had not been attached. The particular advantage claimed for this slide or shipper is for sporting guns, as it enables the sportsman to let down the hammer at will, after the gun is cocked, without forcing out a primer or exhausting the primers in the cylinder without getting a shot.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention or improvement, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

By pulling back the hammer A, the sliding rod C is drawn down by the action of the pivot I in the groove D, which groove is in the lock plate F, as shown in the drawing. The sliding rod C being drawn below the pellets in the cylinder G, they are moved forward by the spiral spring E. As the hammer approaches the tube or nipple of the gun B, the sliding rod C forces through the slot L one of the pellets from the cylinder G into the cavity of the hammer K, which retains it there until it explodes on the nipple B, which may be repeated until the pellets in the cylinder G are exhausted.

The slide or shipper H on the lock plate, by being moved out, allows the pivot I to work on the axis of the hammer, in the second groove M cut on the lock plate, and connecting with the groove D, which relieves the sliding rod C from acting on the pellets contained in the cylinder G, the simple moving of the shipper H allowing the gun to be used as a self-primer, or with the ordinary percussion cap.

I do not claim as my invention the cylinder G, the spiral spring E or the mode of inserting caps or primers in the hammer for self-priming purposes, which was invented by N. B. Saffern and others, but

What I do claim is—

The shipper H, which relieves the sliding rod C and allows the firearm, to which this improvement is attached, to be used with the ordinary percussion cap without exhausting the primers from the cylinder G, or for the convenience of sportsmen, as before described, and without which a self-capping hammer is valueless to a sportsman.

M. I. GALLAGER.

Witnesses:

W. H. GLADDING,

H. P. GARDNER.