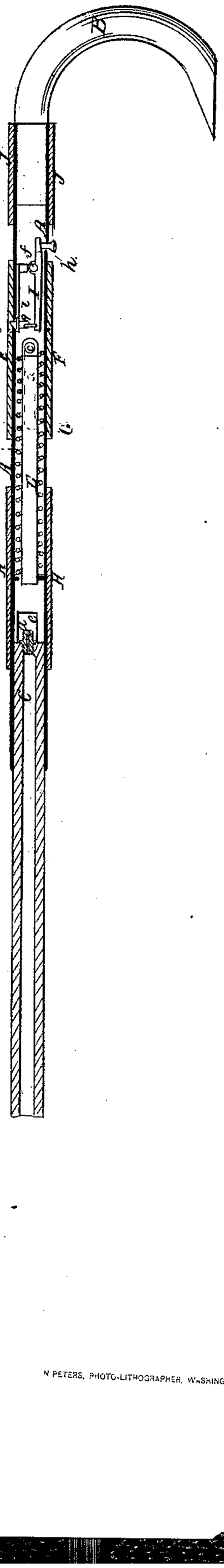
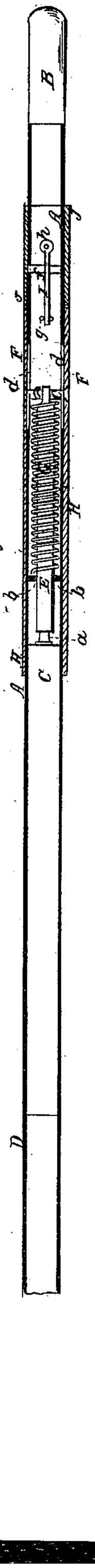
R. R. BECKWITH.

Muzzle-Loading Fire-Arm.

No. 19,674 Patented Mar. 23, 1858.





UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT R. BECKWITH, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN WALKING-STICK GUNS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **19,674**, dated March 23, 1858.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT R. BECKWITH, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Walking-Stick Guns; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figures 1 and 2 are longitudinal central sections at right angles to each other of a walking-stick gun with my improvement.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in both figures.

This invention consists in a novel and very simple combination of parts, applied as hereinafter described, to effect the cocking and letting off of the hammer to fire the gun.

To enable others to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

A is a piece of metal tubing, which, with a handle, B, inserted in the rear end, constitute the stock of the gun. Into the front end of the tube A is screwed the barrel C, which may be of any length. The barrel is covered by a tube, D, (see Fig. 2,) which slides over it and forms a continuation of the stick from tube A of the stock. This tube D is intended to have a wooden or metal plug inserted in its extremity to form the end of the stick, and when the gun is to be fired the said tube may be drawn from the barrel, or simply have the plug at its extremity drawn out, in which latter case the discharge will be made through the tube D.

a is the cone to receive the percussion-cap or other percussion priming arranged in the center of the breech, and *e* is an opening in the tube A, for the purpose of enabling the cap or priming to be applied

E is the hammer, consisting of a straight rod of iron arranged centrally within the tube A in rear of the barrel, and working through a guide, *b*, in the said tube. This hammer has inserted transversely through its rear end a pin, *c*, the ends of which pass through two straight slots, *d d*, in the sides of the tube A, and are riveted or otherwise secured to a piece of metal tubing or sleeve, F, which is fitted to slide easily upon the exterior of the tube A.

G is the mainspring, of spiral form, coiled round the hammer within the tube A, having one extremity attached to the guide *b*, or forward portion of the tube A, and its other extremity to the pin *c*, and always exerting a tendency to move the hammer forward.

H is a tube or sleeve fitted, like F, to slide on the exterior of the tube A, for the purpose of covering and uncovering the opening *e*, through which the cap or priming is passed to the nipple.

I is a small lever, which may be termed the "locking-lever," arranged within the back part of the tube A in rear of the hammer E, and working on a stationary fulcrum-pin, *f*, which is arranged transversely to the tube. The front end of this lever has attached to it a catch-pin, *g*, the upper part of which is beveled toward the front, and the rear end of said lever has attached to it a small stud, *h*, and both catch-pin and stud work through holes in opposite sides of the tube A, the latter in a convenient position to be pressed by the thumb or one of the fingers while the stick is held in the hand. The catch-pin *g* has a spring, *i*, applied to it in such a manner as to have a tendency to cause it to be protruded from the tube A, but by pressing the stud inward the catch-pin is drawn within the outer surface of the tube. The sleeve F has a hole, *j*, near its rear end, which, as the sleeve slides longitudinally on the tube A, guided by the pin *c* and slots *d d*, works in line with the pin *g*, and this hole, when the sleeve is drawn far enough back, is entered by the catch-pin and prevented moving forward till the catch-pin is withdrawn from it.

J is a short sleeve, which is capable of sliding along the tube A to cover and uncover the stud *h*, which may be made to project so little from the interior of the tube A that the sleeve J can never interfere with it.

The operation of the gun is as follows: To charge the barrel, the tube D is drawn off and the charge and ball inserted at the muzzle of the barrel, after which the tube D is replaced. To apply the cap or priming, the sleeve H is slid forward to uncover the opening *e* in the tube A, and the cap or priming introduced through the said opening, after which the sleeve is drawn back again to cover the opening. To cock the hammer, the sleeve F is drawn back by hand till the hole *j* arrives over the catch-pin *g*, which is forced by the

spring *i* through the said hole, and thus locks the hammer and keeps it cocked till the pin is withdrawn. To fire, the sleeve J is drawn back to uncover the stud *h*, after which, by pressing the said stud, the catch-pin *g* is withdrawn, and the sleeve, which has held back the hammer, is thereby liberated and the hammer allowed to be driven forward by the spring F to explode the cap or priming.

This improvement affords efficient protection against the accidental discharge of the gun and permits it to be carried cocked without danger, besides which it makes the lock of very simple and cheap construction.

Instead of employing three separate sleeves H F J, all three may be combined in one, with an opening in the rear part to expose the stud *h* when the gun is cocked; or the sleeve J may be retained in a separate condition, as described, and the sleeves H F made in one piece with an opening in the front part, which will coincide with the opening *e* when the sleeve is drawn back and the hammer cocked.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination of the hammer E, pin C, sleeve F, and the locking-lever I, as and for the purposes herein set forth.

ROBERT R. BECKWITH.

Witnesses:

J. F. BUCKLEY,

MICH. HUGHES.