

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

W. F. ALSTON.

FIRE ARM.

No. 358,915.

Patented Mar. 8, 1887.

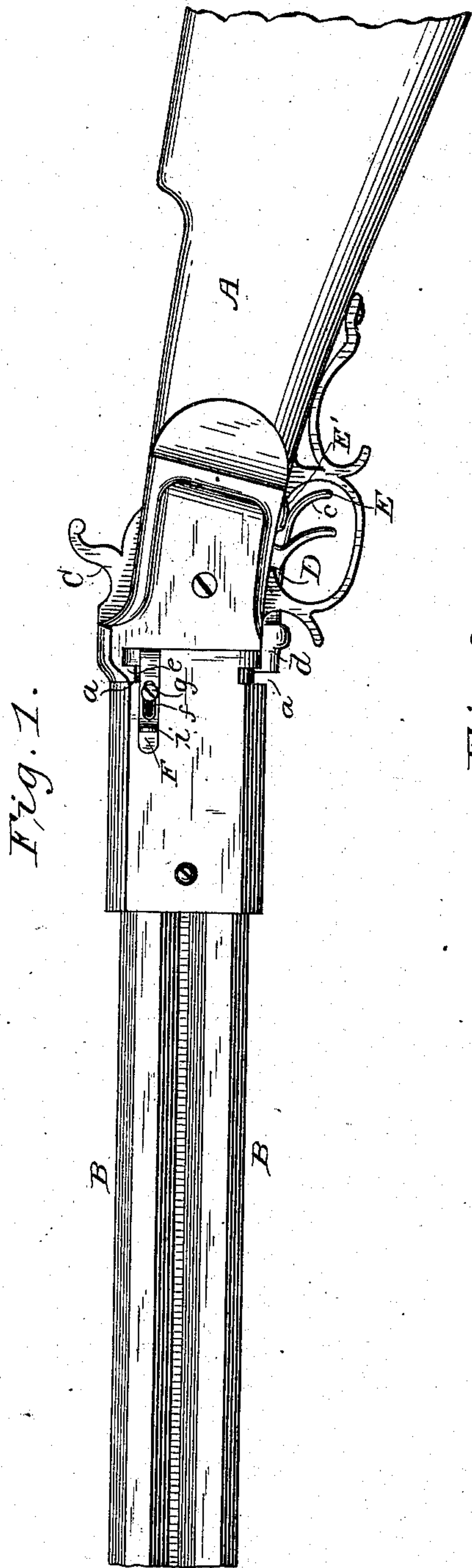
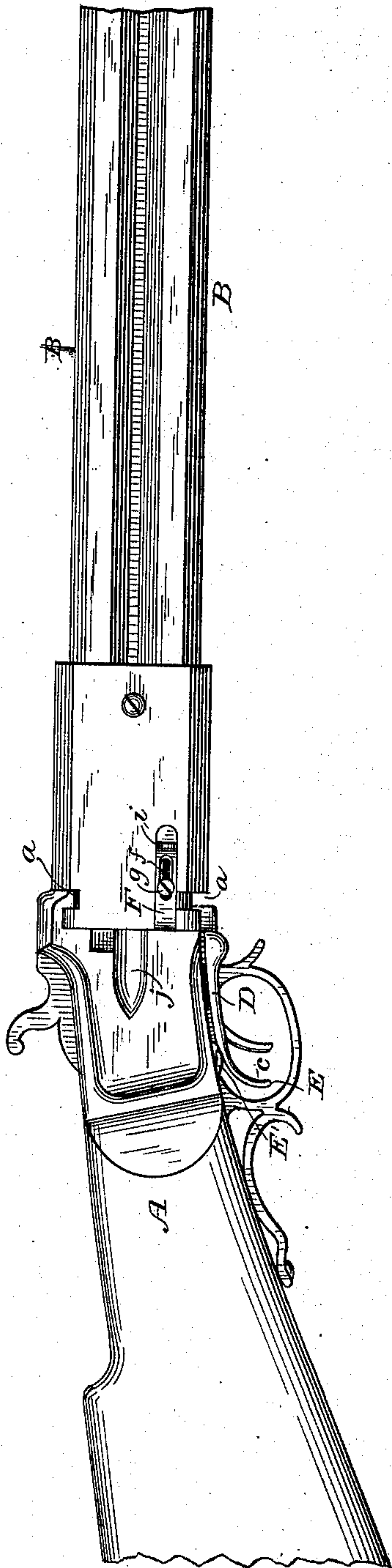


Fig. 2.



Witnesses
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By *his Attorney*
J. R. Little,

(No Model.)

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Fig. 3

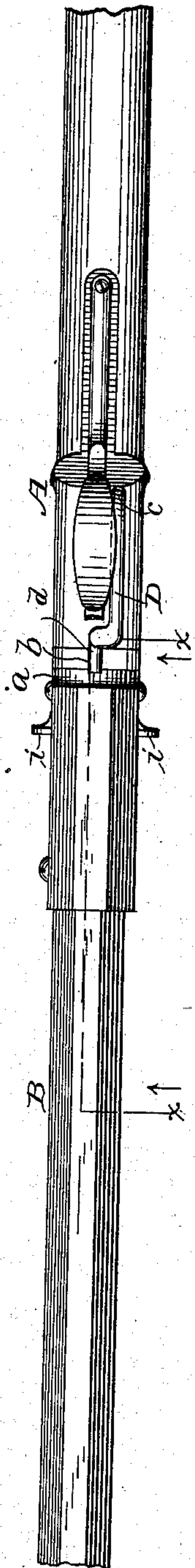
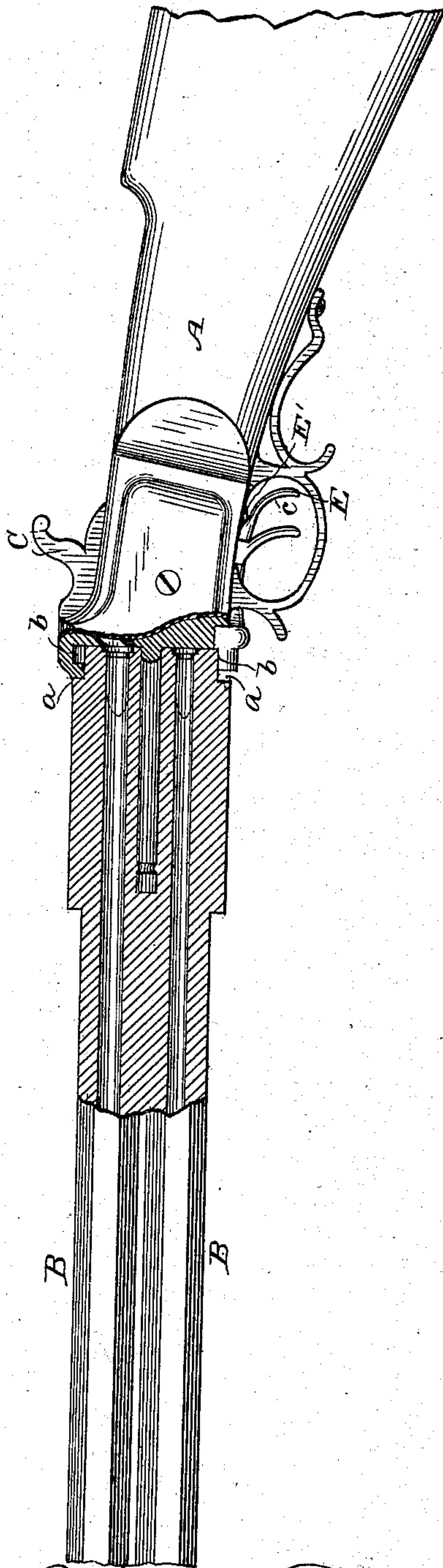


Fig. 4.



Witnesses

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Wm. J. Riddle,

By his Attorney

William F. Alston, Inventor
J. R. Little,

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM F. ALSTON, OF WALKER COUNTY, TEXAS.

FIRE-ARM.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 358,915, dated March 8, 1887.

Application filed November 8, 1886. Serial No. 218,300. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM F. ALSTON, a citizen of the United States, residing in the county of Walker and State of Texas, have
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fire-Arms; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it ap-
10 pertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to rifles, the object of the invention being to provide a simple and improved rifle of that class in which bores of different diameters are adapted to be brought
15 into position with relation to the stock, so that each of them may be operated upon by the hammer.

A further object of the invention is to provide improved means for holding the barrels
20 stationary at the different adjustments.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of a rifle embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a similar view from the opposite side. Fig. 3 is a bottom view, and Fig. 4 is a longitudinal section on the line *x x* of Fig. 3.
25

Corresponding parts in the several figures are denoted by the same letters of reference.

Referring to the drawings, A represents the stock, and B represents the barrels, of a rifle,
30 which are, as shown, of different diameters. Upon the upper and under faces of the barrels, at the breech thereof, are provided grooves or recesses *a*, communicating centrally with which are cross-cuts or grooves *b*. The barrels of
35 the rifle are centrally pivoted to the stock in such manner that they may be revolved to bring either of the bores into position to be acted upon by the hammer C, which, with the operating mechanism, is of any usual or well-
40 known construction.

Upon the under side of the stock A, adjacent to the trigger-guard D, is pivoted a finger-catch, E, which is curved at its rear end to form a convenient finger-hold, *e*, while its opposite or front end is formed with an integral
45 nib or lug, *d*, adapted to engage either of the cross-cuts *b*, to prevent a rotation of the barrels when in their adjusted position.

It will be observed that by raising the finger-catch, the nib or lug at its forward end will be lowered from the cross-cut or groove

with which it is in engagement to permit the rotation of the barrel, so that the other bore may be brought into coincidence with the hammer.

The nib or lug on the front end of the finger-catch is held in engagement with either of the cuts or grooves *b* by means of a flatspring, E', which is set in the under side of the stock, and bears against the upper side of the finger-
55 catch at the rear end thereof.

The grooves *a* are adapted to be engaged by a projecting tongue, *e*, which extends from the stock A, and guides and holds the barrels containing the cartridge to be acted upon by
60 the hammer.

On each side of the barrel-breech and adjacent to the end of the barrel is a shell-extracting device, consisting of a metal plate, F, which rests in a recess in the breech and is
65 adapted to have a limited movement therein, the said plate having an elongated slot, *f*, which is engaged by a pin, *g*, for such purpose. A lug, *i*, extends out integrally from the plate to afford a means for moving said
70 plate, while a portion of the latter adjacent to the stock is bent down at right angles to normally rest in a recess in the end of the breech and extend beneath the flange of the shell. It will be noted that one side of the stock is
75 provided with a depression, *j*, to afford a channel for the ejection of the shell as the ends of the respective barrels are brought on a line therewith.

In practice the end of the particular barrel
80 to be used is brought on a line with the recess *j*, the cartridge inserted, and the barrels then rotated on their pivot, so that the barrel to be used is brought on a line with the hammer, in which position it is locked by the projecting
85 end of the catch entering the recess on the face of the other barrel.

I am aware that fire-arms have heretofore been provided with two barrels of different diameter, having a common pivot relative to
90 the stock, and also that breech-loading fire-arms in which the barrel is adapted to be turned in its pivot for loading and discharging the shell have been constructed with a transverse top and bottom groove adapted to be
95 engaged and braced by corresponding projecting tongues at the top and bottom of the stock.

My invention differs from these previous constructions in that a single projecting tongue is provided at the top of the stock and adapted to alternately engage the transverse grooves 5 as the respective barrels are brought into position for firing, and in that supplementary notches or grooves are provided at right angles to each transverse groove, and are adapted to be engaged alternately by a corresponding 10 lug on the front end of a catch at the bottom of the stock, the arrangement being such that when one transverse groove is engaged by the tongue at the top the supplementary notch of the transverse groove on the under barrel is 15 engaged by the lug of the catch at the bottom.

I am also aware that breech-loading fire-arms have heretofore been provided with a pivoted catch engaging a recess in the under side of the single barrel, to lock the barrel in position 20 for firing. The improved catch comprised in my invention is extended and provided with a finger-hold in rear of the trigger, and has its projecting lug at the front end adapted to automatically engage the notches intersecting 25 the transverse grooves.

My invention consists, substantially, in the improved construction and arrangement and combinations of parts, as set forth in the following claims.

30 I claim—

1. The combination of a stock provided with hammer and trigger devices and having the forwardly-projecting tongue at its top, the two barrels having a common pivot relative to the 35 stock and provided upon the upper and under faces of the breech with transverse grooves, each adapted to engage the tongue, and with the notches *b*, intersecting said grooves at an angle thereto, and a finger-catch pivoted to 40 the stock within the trigger-guard and having a projecting lug at its front end adapted

to engage the said notches, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, in the herein-described spring-actuated fire-arm, of a stock provided 45 with hammer and trigger devices, two barrels having a common pivot relative to the stock and provided with notches at the top and bottom faces, and a catch secured to the under side of the stock within the trigger-guard and having 50 its rear end forming a finger-hold, *c*, in rear of the trigger, the front end of the catch engaging the notch in the face of the under barrel when the other is brought into firing position, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination, in a fire-arm, of a stock 55 provided with hammer and trigger devices, two barrels having a common pivot relative to the stock and provided with notches *b*, substantially as described, at the top and bottom 60 faces, and a finger-catch pivoted to the under side of the stock and having its finger-hold *c* in rear of the trigger and provided with a projecting lug at its front end adapted to engage 65 either of the notches when the barrels are rotated, substantially as set forth.

4. The combination, in a fire-arm, of a stock provided with hammer and trigger devices and having a forwardly-extending tongue, the barrels having a common pivot relative to the 70 stock and provided upon the upper and under faces with transverse grooves *a* and intersecting notches *b*, the former engaged by said tongue, and a finger-piece pivoted to the stock and having its point adapted to engage the 75 notches *b*, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM F. ALSTON.

Witnesses:

W. W. ALSTON,
W. I. WALLACE.