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### Fire-arms.

*(This Invention received Provisional Protection only.)*

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION left by Charles Price and William Harris at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents on the 28th March 1876.

CHARLES PRICE, of 16, Pitt Street, Southwark, in the County of Surrey, and WILLIAM HARRIS, of the Firm of William Moore & Grey, of 43, Old Bond Street, in the County of Middlesex. "IMPROVEMENTS IN BREECH-LOADING FIRE-ARMS."

This Invention has for its object improvements in breech-loading fire-arms, and applies more especially to double-barrel fowling pieces, where the barrels are mounted on an axis in such manner that their breech ends may be raised above the breech plate for the insertion and withdrawal of the cartridges.

Instead of employing locks of the ordinary construction we arrange two sliding rods to slide in passages formed on the under side of the tang, or in a block or frame affixed thereto. Around each slider a spring is coiled, and it tends to throw the slider forward. The slider is restrained by a sear, the nose of which takes into a bent formed near its rear end; when the sear is acted on by the trigger the slider is propelled forward by the spring and a head with which it is provided comes in contact with a piston or striker, which causes it to explode the priming of the central-fire cartridge.

When the breeches are opened for reloading the same lever which draws back the bolt by which the barrels are secured also forces back the sliders above mentioned until they are again caught by the sears. The sliders are locked when required by means of a pin passing transversely through the tang or through the block in which the sliders work, and encroaching on one side on the passage in which they are contained. The pin has notches formed in it which permit the sliders to work freely in one position of the locking pin, but if when the sliders are retained by the sears the pin be turned partly round (by means of a suitable thumb piece with which it is provided) then the side of the pin engages with notches in the sides of the sliders, and holds them so that any accidental pressure on the triggers or concussion cannot cause the gun to go off. We prefer so to form the locking pin and the notches in the sliders that when the pin is turned to lock the sliders it forces them back a short distance and relieves the noses of the sears from the pressure of the springs; or this safety locking may be effected by a stud on the slider and a corresponding cam on the cross pin.

In place of using coiled springs blade or other springs may be used. Similar arrangements are also applicable to single-barrel guns.