

ing Tackle.
COLTS REVOLVERS,
HAZARDS
GUNPOWDER,
JAS. DUNN & SONS,
FLASKS & POUCHES.

TELESCOPIC
TARGET AND HUNTING RIFLE MAKER,
KEENE, N. H.
Single, Double, & Four-
Barrel Hunting Rifles, and
Single and Double Barrel
Shot Guns, on hand, and
made to order.
Revolvers. A new and
superior Gun-Cane. The
best Rifle Powder & Caps,
Shot, Flasks, Ladles, &c.,
constantly on hand, and
for sale.
All kinds of Repairing
neatly and promptly done.



Map. 1. Western 460
Bought of FIFIELD & RICHARDSON,
Dealers in COLT'S REVOLVERS,
AND ALSO, IMPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF GUNS, PISTOLS, &C.
FISHING RODS OF ALL KINDS, MADE TO ORDER,
AT WHOLESALE OR RETAIL.
No. 44, WASHINGTON ST. (Codman's Building.)



MARIN,
AKER,
QUARE, SAVANNAH, GA.
to order. Imported Shot
, Shot Bags, and Eley's
on Hand.
es, Safe Locks and Scales of every description,

THE SPORTING WAREHOUSE.
POWDER FLASK
BOOK
IMPORTER AND MAKER
PISTOLS,
And Sporting Ammunition.
TERMS CASH.
one single gun 1 powder flask #20
Good Payment
Bought of ALEX. MCCOMAS,
51 South Calvert Street.

FFLEIN,
PISTOLS
AND
SHOT GUNS,
Walnut, Philadelphia.

RIDER,
IMPORTER OF
NS & PISTOLS,
D WALNUT STREETS
PHILADELPHIA.
TRYON,
Street, Philadelphia,
UFACTURER OF

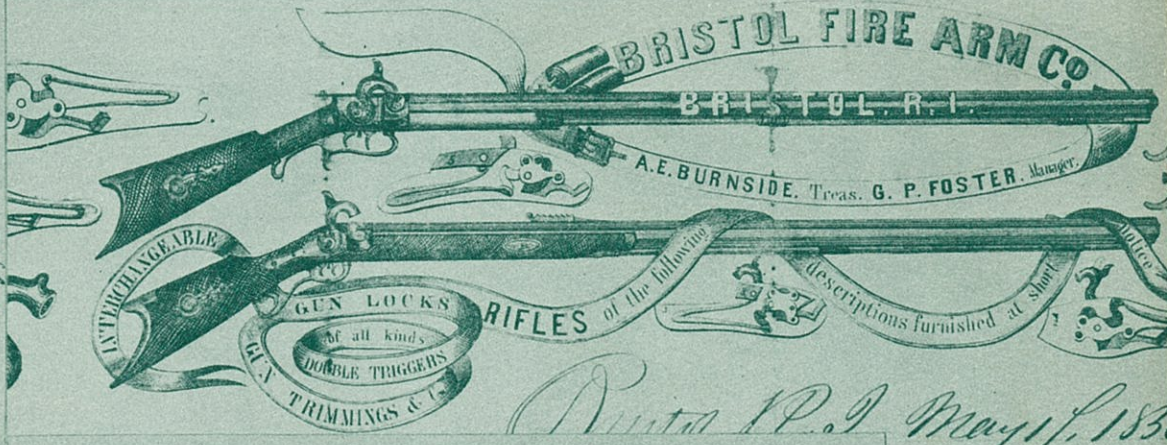
TERMS CASH.—Payable in U. S. Gold.
Ray Riling *Portland, Oregon, June 30th 1871*
Mrs. Corbett Sailing 460
Bought of WILLIAM BECK & SON,
IMPORTERS AND DEALERS IN
GUNS, RIFLES, REVOLVERS, WINCHESTER'S REPEATING RIFLES,
POWDER, SHOT, CAPS, POWDER FLASKS, SHOT POUCHES WIRE CARTRIDGES, GUN MATERIALS,
Wostenholm's I X L Bowie Knives, and Pocket Cutlery,
ALSO, A GENERAL ASSORTMENT OF
FISHING TACKLE, FANCY GOODS, BEADS, BASKETS, BIRD CAGES, AND BABY CARRIAGES,
129 FRONT STREET.



Geo. H. Himes, Printer.



OT GUNS, RIFLES & PISTOLS,
Caps, Gun Powder, Shot Wads, and every other
Wholesale and Retail.
and unfinished state of the trade



JOHN MATTHEWMAN,
POWDER FLASK MANUFACTURER.



THE POWDER FLASK BOOK



COLLECTORS' PACKS OF ENVELOPE CARTRIDGES

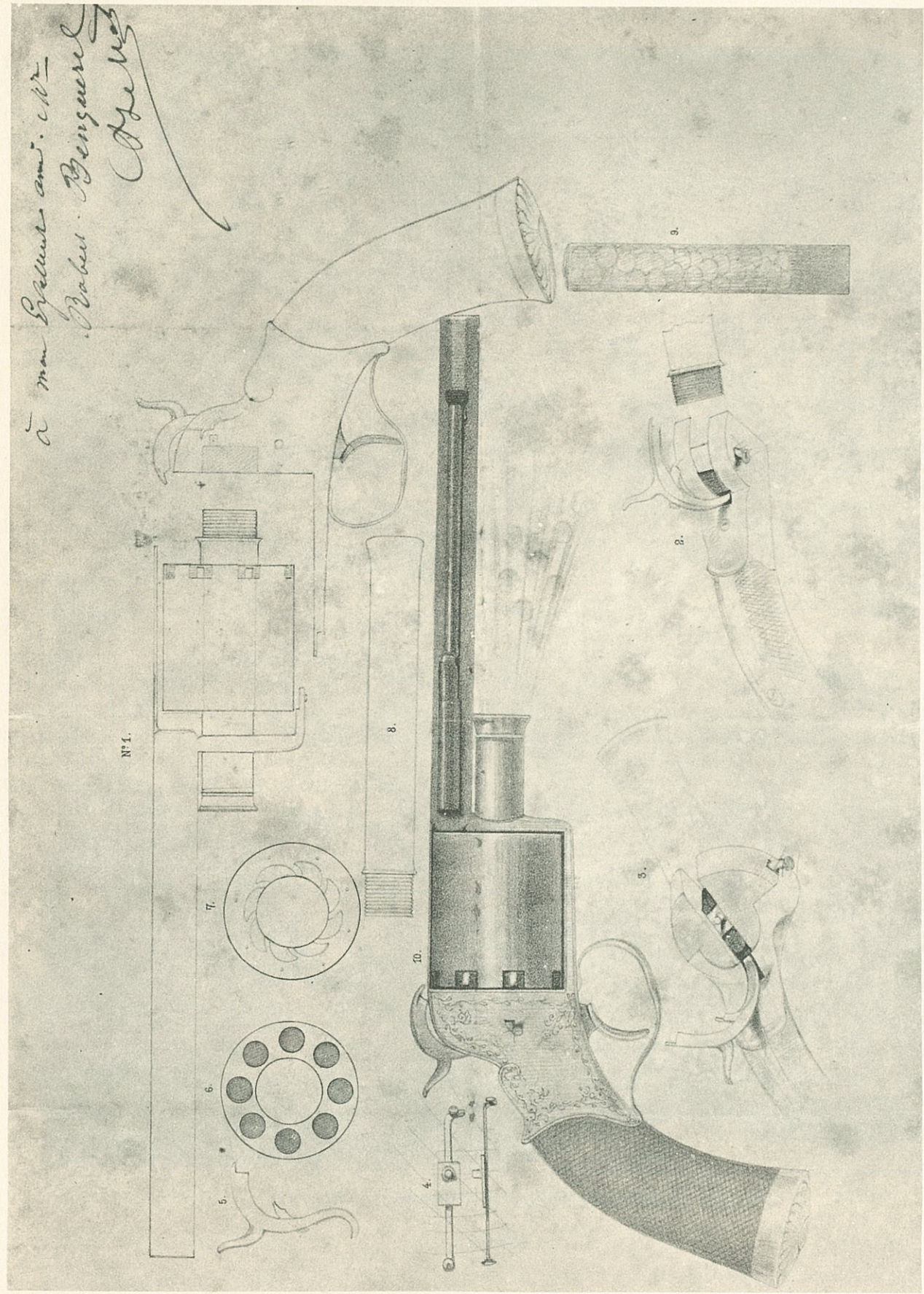
cartridge for use in the central tube or barrel of the Le Mat revolver.

We quote the following taken from the "Illustrated London News" of April 27, 1861 a dramatic exposé of the possibilities of the Le Mat arm in use with little regard to authoritative facts.

Colonel Le Mat's grapeshot revolver is essentially a weapon of American growth, although not actually invented there; in fact, it is difficult to say when or where it was first invented, for specimens of firearms with revolving barrels or chambers are found in our ancient armouries constructed as far back as the fifteenth century, but for a variety of causes they did not come into general use until the inventions of Colonel Colt had made them safe to handle, destructive in their effect when fired, and their construction so simplified that they were not liable to get out of order. The continual fighting always going on between the Indians and the pioneer settlers of

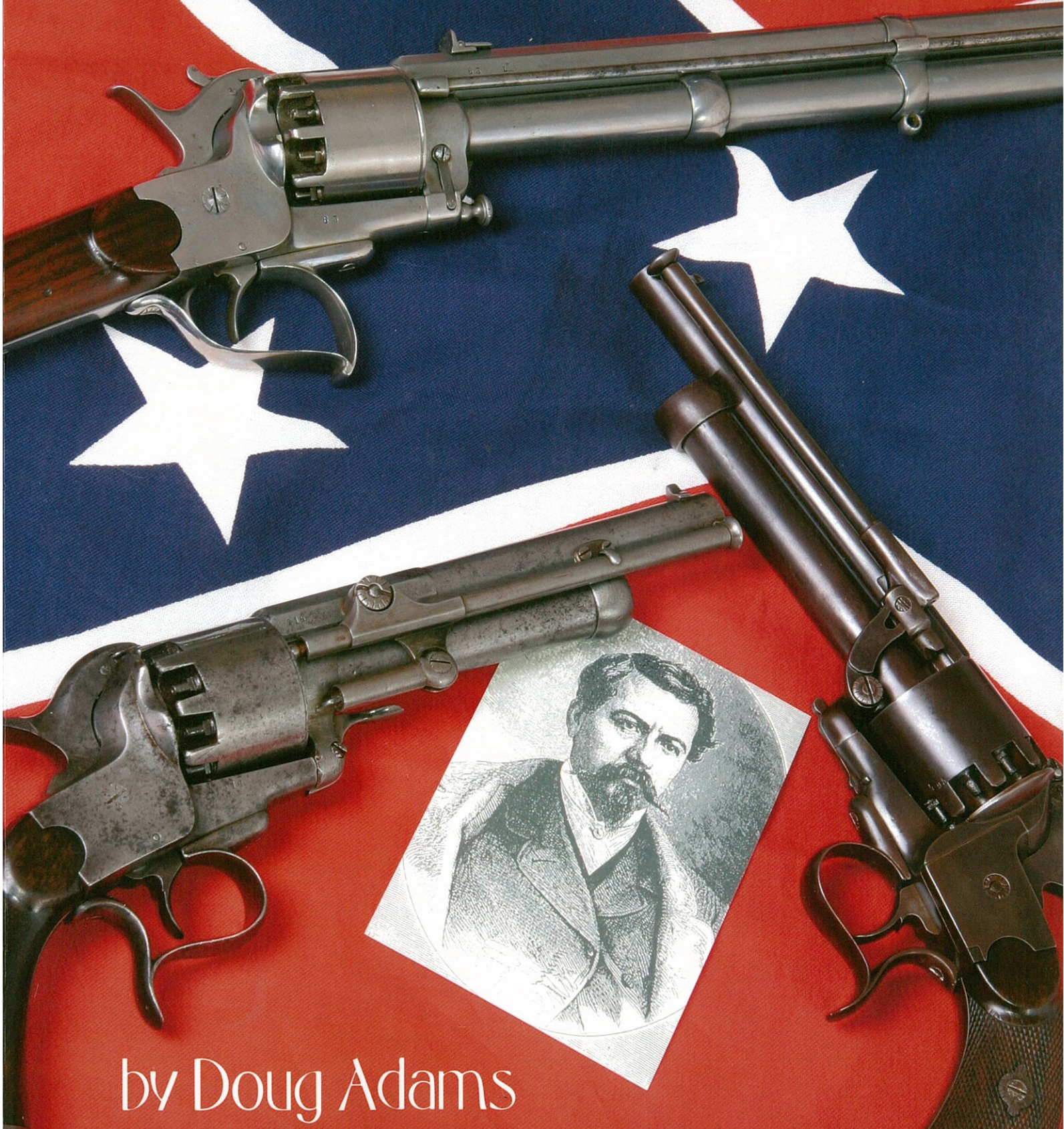
the West caused a demand for such weapons. . . . The Indian dreads the revolver, he dares not approach the white man he knows to be armed with it, for in the melee he cannot tell how many shots his white opponent may have ready for him . . . Le Mat of New Orleans has given the finishing touch to this terrible weapon by placing, in lieu of the ordinary pivot upon which the chambers turn in Colt's and other pistols, an extra barrel, of much larger bore, and consequently more terrible in its effect,—the center or extra barrel being capable of projecting (in the pistol adapted for cavalry purposes) an ounce Minie ball, or eighteen buckshot placed together as grapeshot . . . The pistol is constructed for the Army, is fourteen inches long, and not heavier than the pistols in ordinary use. It has been submitted to a board of United States' military authorities, and reported upon most favourably by them.

Shown from the "Harper's Weekly," cover of Vol. V., No. 238, N. Y., Saturday, July 20, 1861



DR. ALEXANDRE LE MAT'S ORIGINAL DRAWING

THE CONFEDERATE LEMAT REVOLVER



by Doug Adams

ever the central barrel is to be fired the ring *m* of the cock 11 is pushed down with the index finger of the hand holding the pistol, and the hammer *b* is set with the other hand in the position as shown in B, when the ring *m*, returns up again to embrace the notch *h* of the dovetail of the hammer *b* by the elasticity of the spring *o*. The cock being thus set for the discharge of the center barrel, the trigger may be pulled and said barrel discharged. If there be any bullet-charges still left, the cock is again brought to its regular form, as indicated above, previous to pulling the trigger anew. A means of close defense and attack is thus given, heretofore not known or used, which in naval combats is especially invaluable.

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

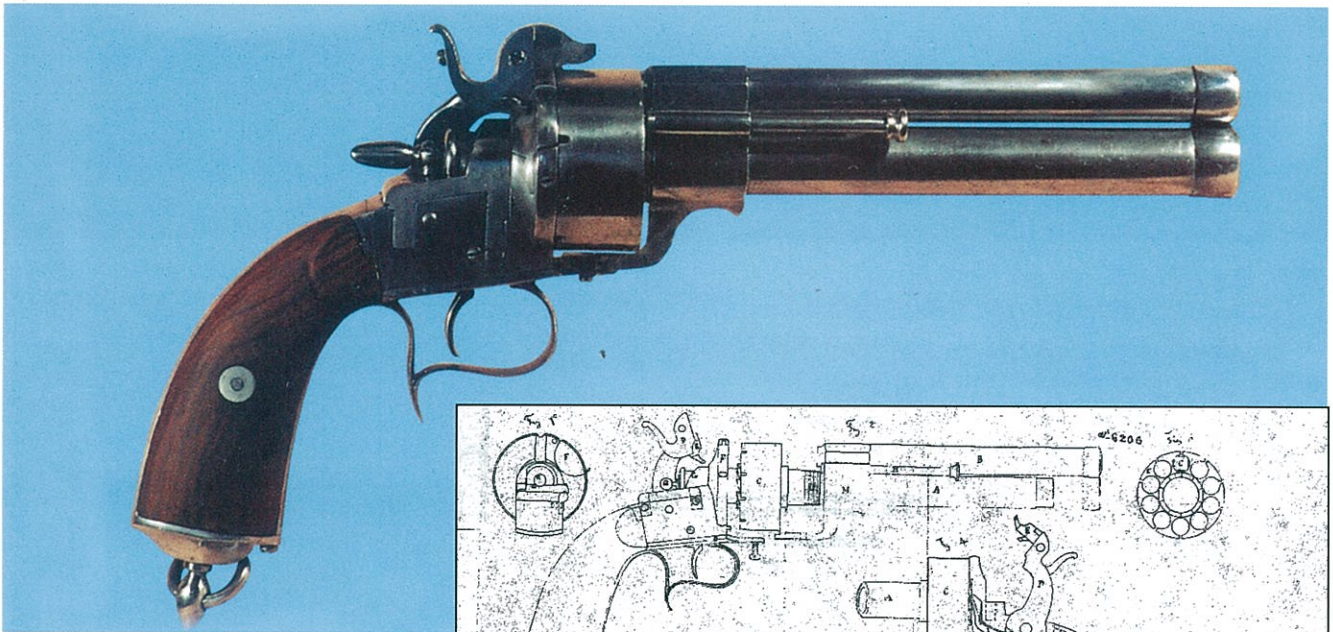
1. The substitution of a shot barrel to the solid cylinder or pin upon which the revolving cartridge-cylinder of revolvers constructed upon Colt's or similar systems of revolver, in the manner and for the purposes as described.

2. The gun-cock No. 11, with a double hammer, *a* and *b*, constructed and operating substantially as described, and for the purposes specified.

A. LE MAT.

Attest:

JOHN S. HOLLINGSHEAD,
C. GIRARD, M. D.



(above)
An extremely rare example of the LeMat rimfire pistol.

(right)
The Belgian Patent #6206 of July 20, 1858, which covered the rimfire version of the LeMat revolver. This first version of the LeMat system was too advanced for its time and was discarded in favor of the more familiar percussion version.

is of note, in that it differs dramatically from the percussion versions covered in the other patents. This pistol is a unique rimfire design. Although this is one of the first LeMat patents, due to the complexities of rimfire cartridges, the pistol itself may not have been produced until the late 1860s.

Promotion of the percussion version of this system became the

CONFEDERATE HANDGUNS

BY

WILLIAM A. ALBAUGH, III

HUGH BENET, JR.

EDWARD N. SIMMONS



CONCERNING THE GUNS

WHICH MADE THEM AND THE TIMES OF THEIR USE



Courtesy Mrs. Eugenie Le Mat Eggleston

JEAN ALEXANDRE FRANÇOIS LE MAT, CIRCA 1860

maintained a most comfortable establishment in Paris, presided over by an ex-slave who remained with us until her death.

According to my father, during this period of the Colonel's life he was constantly traveling between Paris and the Confederate States and after the war made many trips to America, although always maintaining his home in Paris. During the Franco-Prussian War he served as a surgeon for the French army. I know my grandfather had quite a reputation as an inventor and I wish I could give you more information as to his revolver, but oddly enough the thing I remember best is that he invented some sort of a fire extinguisher. In appearance my grandfather was a very distinguished personage; in character he was noble and generous, in disposition, kind and gentle. I am very proud to be his granddaughter.

Jean Alexandre François Le Mat received his degree as a Doctor of Medicine in 1842; the *Medical Register of New Orleans* carrying this record on page 188: "Porteur d'un diplôme de la faculté du Montpellier, délivré le 15 Juillet 1842." The same source, however, indicates that Le Mat did not secure his license to practice medicine in New Orleans until permission was granted by that city's Medical Committee at their meeting of November 28, 1849. In the meantime he had evidently married Sophie Lepretre, as the 1850 City Directory lists them as man and wife living at 188 Dauphine Street.

The first indication that Le Mat was of an inventive nature appears in 1856, when he was granted a patent by the United States patent office for a revolver which combined the features of the six-shot revolver and the single-barrel shotgun. This was assigned patent number 15925, dated October 21, 1856. It was described later by the New Orleans *Daily Delta* of June 21, 1861, as being "... one of the most formidable weapons of the pistol kind ever invented." Formidable was the correct word, for the revolver had a cylinder containing not six, but nine shots of .42 caliber which revolved

upon a central barrel of .63 caliber which contained a buckshot (so-called "grape-shot") cartridge. The revolving cylinder and the buckshot barrel were fired by the same hammer merely by shifting the hammernose up or down. As originally conceived, this hammer had two noses.

Dr. Le Mat appeared before a notary public, Theodore Guyal, on September 14, 1857, and filed a statement concerning his patent of October 15, 1856:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

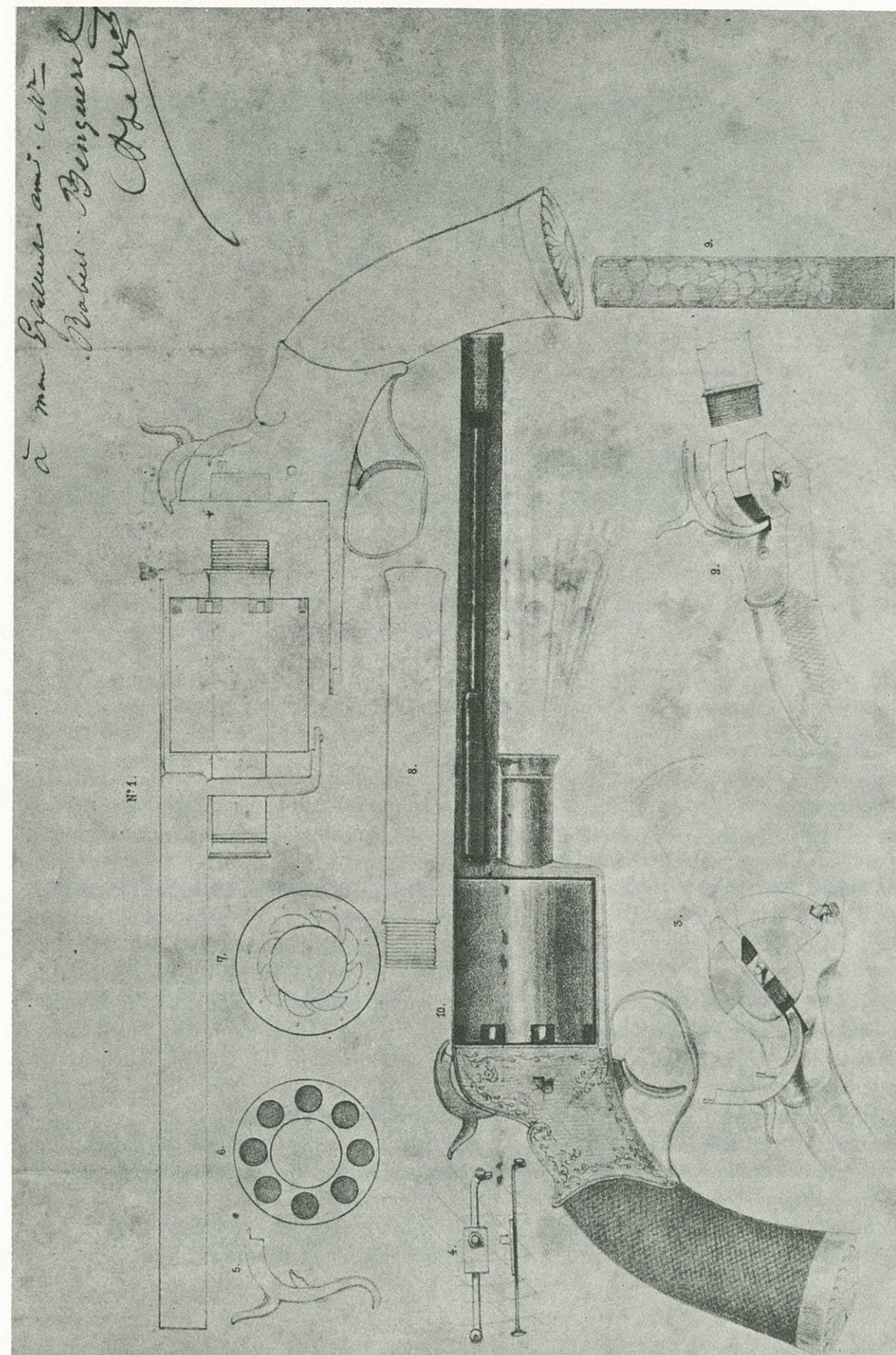
STATE OF LOUISIANA

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Be it Known that on this Fourteenth day of September in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Eighty-second:

Before me, Theodore Guyal, a Notary Public in and for the Parish and City of New Orleans, State of Louisiana, duly commissioned and qualified:

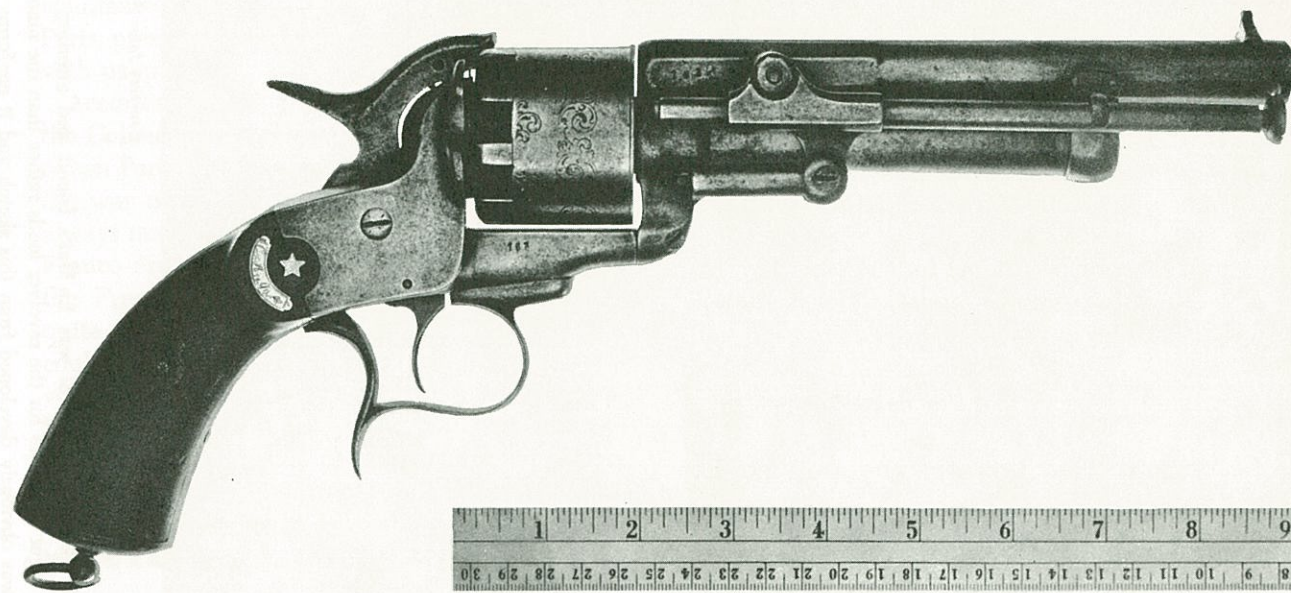
Personally came and appeared ALEXANDRE LE MAT, of the City of New Orleans, aforesaid who produced and exhibited to me said Notary a *Patent* issued by the Patent Office of the United States of America, granting unto him, the said Le Mat, his heirs, administrators or assigns for the Term of Fourteen years from the Twenty-first day of October One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-six, the full and exclusive right and liberty of making, constructing, using and vending to others to be used a new and useful *Improved Fire Arm*, the invention of the said Le Mat as fully described and delineated in the Schedule and drawings attached to said Patent, and in which the invention claimed by him and secured by said Patent consists of First: The substitution of a Shot Barrel to the solid cylinder as a Pin, upon which the revolving cartridge cylinder of revolvers constructed upon Colt's or similar systems revolve, in the manner and for the purposes as described: and Second: The Gun cock No. 11 with a double hammer a & b constructed and operating substantially as described and for the purposes specified.



Courtesy John W. Boyle

LE MAT'S ORIGINAL SKETCH

A pencil drawing signed by Le Mat and inscribed in French, "to my excellent friend Mr. Robert Benguerel." Robert Benguerel was Le Mat's friend and attorney in the clouded "New Orleans Affair." The reader's attention is invited to detail 6 on the sketch which shows only eight chambers for the revolver loads rather than the nine of all existing specimens. The official patent drawing covering U. S. Patent No. 15925, dated October 21, 1856, was obviously developed from this sketch and it conforms to the detail of the eight chambers as shown.



A FIRST MODEL LE MAT

Courtesy Samuel E. Smith

Serial number 163. The semi-circular inlay behind the silver star is marked *Co. A 18 Ga.* The 18th Georgia regiment was one of the state's most famous.

Which said Patent bears the No. 15925 and dated at the City of Washington on the Twenty-first day of October Eighteen Hundred and Fifty-six.

And the said Alexandre Le Mat having requested me, said Notary, to certify to the existence of the said Letter Patent in his possession. I have granted these presents under my Signature and Seal of Office at New Orleans on this fourteenth day of September in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-seven.
Theo. Guyal

The purpose of such a notarized statement obviously was the future promotion and sale of the revolver so patented. Copies of the statement could be handed out as affirmations of intent.

Two years later a working partnership was formed between Dr. Le Mat and Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard, at the time a major in the United States Army Engineers, stationed in New Orleans. Later he was to become one of the foremost Confederate generals.

THE LE MAT-BEAUREGARD PARTNERSHIP

The contract between Le Mat and Beauregard plainly indicates that the two fully intended first to protect themselves from imitations by securing patents in all major countries and, after this had been done, to manufacture and sell the revolver. This contract is dated April 4, 1859, and is entitled "Contract of Sales and Association." It provided that one-quarter of Le Mat's patent rights were to be ceded to Beauregard in exchange for certain favors which Beauregard, as a major in the United States Army, would be in a position to bring about, plus certain financial commitments.

Four days after the signing of the partnership agreement, Major Beauregard signed several notes to enable Dr. Le Mat to raise money to promote the grape-shot revolver. A copy of one of these notes reads as follows:

New Orleans, April 8th, 1859
Being the sole authorized Agent for the United States of Dr. Alexandre Le Mat for the sale and proper disposal of his Grape Shot revolver (a great and superior improvement on Colt's), I herewith promise to pay from his share of the first net proceeds of said sales or disposals—whatever sum or sums may be furnished him (including interest thereon @ 10% per annum) for the purpose of providing him with means to visit Europe for the sale or disposal of his Patents for said arm—

G. T. Beauregard¹

Beauregard's first attempt to publicize Le Mat's weapon was on March 2, 1859, when a quasi-official board composed of prominent Army, Navy and political personages gave the revolver a public trial. The report by this board was quite favorable.

New Orleans, March 2nd, 1859

We the undersigned have examined and tried the "Grape shot revolving pistol" of Mr. A. Le Mat of this city and feel no hesitation in stating that after a close examination of said arm, we consider it a great and important improvement on Colt's revolver. . . .

We consider this arm far superior to any we have seen for the use of cavalry acting against Indians or when charging on a square of infantry or a battery of field pieces. It is also indispensable for artillerist's in defending their pieces against such a charge, and for infantry defending a breach. . . . Its advantages in the naval service in boarding or repelling boarders is too obvious to require anything but passing notice. . . .

It is more than probable that the introduction and use of this pistol in the cavalry service would give to the latter the preponderance over the infantry, if not armed in like manner, for what would become of a line or square of infantry after its fire should have been drawn by the cavalry when the latter coming up to within a few paces would pour 10 shots into their very faces. . . .

We earnestly recommend that this arm should be introduced in our military and naval services,

so soon as the Government will find it practicable to do so. . . .

Signed by

L. Rousseau	A. C. Myers
Capt. U.S. Navy	Lt. Col. U.S. Army
G. T. Beauregard	R. Smith
B.V. Maj. U.S. Army	Late Capt. U.S. Army
F. E. Prime	G. W. Lay
1st Lieut. U.S. Engr.	Lt. Col. ADC
	to Gen. in Chief

We the undersigned have examined Mr. Le Mat's revolver and fully concur in the above opinions and recommendations.

I think highly of the above weapon
Winfield Scott

Braxton Bragg	P. O. Herbert
Late Lt. Col. U.S. Army	Late Brvt. Col. U.S.A.
N. G. Evans	Late Gov. of Louis.
Capt. U.S. 2nd Cavalry	E. K. Smith
	Capt. U.S. 2nd Cavalry ²

W. H. Stevens

The results of the trial were published May 21, 1859, in *The True Delta*, *The Bee* and *The Crescent* (all of New Orleans) in the form of paid advertisements. But shortly before their appearance Le Mat submitted this "Report of the Special Board" to Colonel Samuel Cooper, Adjutant General, United States Army, in Washington, D. C., on May 11, going to that city armed with various letters of introduction to the Honorable John B. Floyd, Secretary of War.

A board composed of Lieutenant Colonel Joseph E. Johnston, First Cavalry, Brevet Major George D. Ramsey and Brevet Major Theodore T. S. Laidley, Ordnance, convened at the Washington Arsenal on May 11, 1859, and its report was transmitted as follows:

Washington, D. C.
May 11, 1859

Colonel:

I have the honor, herewith, to transmit the report of the Board of Officers instructed by Special Orders No. 80 of May 9th, 1859 for the pur-