



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## IMPROVEMENT IN TOY TARGETS.

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*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOSEPH POZNANSKI, of New York, in the county and State of New York, have invented certain Improvements in Toy Targets; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

The object of my invention is to combine amusement with instruction, to foster a spirit of patriotism, and to encourage habits of economy; and to this end the invention consists in a novel construction of the target, and in certain details of arrangement and combination of devices operating in connection therewith, for placing and displacing a flag or flags, for operating a rotating disk or tablet containing a series of inscriptions, and for securing in a bank or receptacle coins used as projectiles and discharged at the target from a toy gun or pistol.

The target may be made to represent a fort, castle, or other building, or may be of any other suitable design. In the "bull's-eye" is an opening large enough to admit the passage of a coin or a missile of corresponding size. On the rear side of this opening is a swinging door, communicating with a hammer for striking a gong, and also communicating with a device for locking and releasing an oscillating flag-staff, connected by a pawl and ratchet or other mechanism with a rotating disk or tablet containing a series of inscriptions or legends, so that when the swinging door is forced inward it operates upon the hammer to sound the bell, and also operates upon the locking device, so as to release a flag-staff and cause it to assume a vertical position and display a flag above the top of the target, and at the same time to rotate the tablet and cause one of the legends or inscriptions to be displayed through an opening in the target. The space behind the target, in which the mechanism is inclosed, constitutes or communicates with a bank or receptacle for money, and is provided with a guard for preventing the abstraction of coins, which may be used as projectiles and discharged at the target to operate the mechanism, as described.

To enable those skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to more fully understand the same, I will proceed to describe in

detail one mode of carrying out the invention, having reference to the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a front view of a target constructed according to my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical section taken in the line  $x x$  of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a vertical section taken in the line  $y y$  of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a detail view, and Fig. 5 is a vertical section taken in the line  $z z$  of Fig. 4.

The mechanism is inclosed in a box or casing A, which may be made of any suitable material. The front or face B forms the target proper, and may be made to represent a portion of the wall of a fort or other building. The bull's-eye of the target consists of an opening,  $b$ , somewhat larger than the diameter of the coins in common use. On the rear side of the opening  $b$  is a door, D, which is hinged or pivoted by its upper edge to the inner side of the face B, above the top of the opening  $b$ , so as to cover said opening when hanging vertically, but be allowed to swing toward the interior of the casing A. A lever, C, is pivoted to a lug or projection on the inner side of the face B, so as to oscillate toward the face and back of the casing. The upper or short arm of the lever is provided with a hook or catch,  $c$ , and is furnished with a spring,  $c^x$ , having a tendency to press it toward the back of the casing. The lower or long arm of the lever extends downward and toward the center, and its end comes nearly or quite in contact with the rear side of the door D, so that said door cannot be pushed very far inward without oscillating the lever.

Above the door D is pivoted, in suitable bearings, a plate, E, having two arms, forming a right angle. To these arms are attached flag-staffs  $e^1 e^2$ , carrying flags  $f^1 f^2$ , which may represent different national ensigns. A weight, G, is suspended by a link,  $g$ , from the plate E, in such a manner as to hold one of the flag-staffs in an upright position. In the upper portion of the casing A is a slot,  $a$ , which extends the entire length of the top of the casing, and partly down the two opposite sides, and the flag-staffs work in said slot when the plate E is oscillated.

The mechanism above described operates as follows: The flagstaff  $e^1$  is depressed to a hori-

zontal position until it engages with the hook *c* of the spring latch or lever *C*, which holds it in such position, with the flag-staff *e*<sup>2</sup> in an upright position, as shown in Fig. 4. When the door *D* is pressed inward it bears against the long arm of the locking-lever *C*, and oscillates it, so as to cause the hook *c* to release the flag-staff *e*<sup>1</sup>, whereupon the action of the weight *G* upon the plate *E* elevates the flag-staff *e*<sup>1</sup> to an upright position, and depresses the flag-staff *e*<sup>2</sup> to a horizontal position, as shown in Fig. 3.

In this manner much amusement may be afforded to young persons by representing the striking of one flag and the raising of another in its stead above the walls of a fort or castle. When one of the flag-staffs is in an upright position the other is concealed from view in the slot *a*, as shown in Fig. 3. If desired, the flag-staff *e*<sup>2</sup> may be omitted, in which case no flag will be displayed until the staff *e*<sup>1</sup> is released from the locking device.

On the rear side of the target *B*, above the bull's-eye *b*, is a rotating shaft, *I*, having its bearings in a frame, *i*, of any suitable construction. The front end of this shaft carries a disk or tablet, *L*, the front surface or face of which is divided into a number of spaces, of sector shape or other suitable form, corresponding with that of an opening, *J*, in the target *B*. The periphery of the disk *L* is provided with ratchet-like shoulders *l*, for engagement with a pivoted pawl, *K*, so that it can rotate in one direction only. The shaft *I* is connected with the plate *E* by any suitable means which will allow the shaft to rotate simultaneously with the oscillation of the flag-staff in one direction, but prevent its rotation in the opposite direction. As shown herein, the shaft *I* is provided with an ordinary pawl-and-ratchet mechanism, the ratchet *m* being fast on the shaft *I*, and the pawl *n* being carried by a loose plate, *M*, from which a stud, *p*, projects, and works in a slot, *s*, in the link *g*, which carries the weight *G*.

When the flag-staff *e*<sup>1</sup> is depressed to be locked in a horizontal position by the latch or lever *C*, the pawl *n* slips over the ratchet *m*, and the disk *L* is held stationary by the engagement of the pivoted pawl *K* with one of the shoulders *l*. When the flag-staff *e*<sup>1</sup> is released by the locking device, and is raised by the action of the weight *G* to an upright position, the pawl *n* remains engaged with the ratchet *m*, and by the connection of the slotted link *g* and plate *M* the shaft *I* is caused to rotate until the pawl *K* drops into another of the shoulders *l*, to prevent the backward movement of the disk.

In each of the sector-shaped spaces or divisions of the face of the disk *L* is an inscription or legend of a patriotic or other suitable character—such as, for example, a record of some event in the history of the nation. As the disk is rotated, as above described, these inscriptions are successively brought into position for displaying them through the opening

*J*, as shown in Fig. 1, in which a legend is represented as displayed through the opening immediately under flag *f*<sup>1</sup>.

In addition to the devices above described, the apparatus may be provided with a bell or gong, *H*, and a swinging hammer or striker, *h*, arranged immediately behind the door *D*, so that when the door is forced inward and operates upon the lever *C*, it will also strike the hammer *h* and cause it to sound the bell.

As this invention is intended to be used as a toy bank or money-box, provision is made for the reception and retention of coins discharged at the target from a toy gun or pistol. The lower portion of the interior of the casing *A* forms a chamber, *S*, which may itself constitute, or may communicate with, the receptacle for the money. This chamber is provided with a guard, consisting of inclined planes *R*, extending from either or any of the sides, so as to form a hopper, through the open bottom of which the coins drop as they are discharged into the target, and fall into the chamber *S*, and their abstraction from the chamber is effectually prevented by having one of the inclines extend somewhat lower than the other, and under the same. The coins may be placed in the opening *b*, or in front of the bull's-eye, and be driven into the receptacle by a projectile discharged at it, or in any suitable manner; or the coins themselves may be used as projectiles, and be discharged at the target from a toy gun or pistol of any suitable description, and operated in any suitable manner.

In order to produce a complete apparatus, I have provided a device for discharging the coins at the target; which device consists of a tube, *T*, provided with trunnions, and mounted on a frame or carriage, *U*, to represent a miniature cannon. The tube is provided with a piston attached to a sliding rod, *v*, surrounded by a spiral spring, and with a trigger, *w*, for holding the piston when the rod *v* is drawn back and the spring compressed. The gun being properly sighted, it is loaded by dropping a coin through a slot, *t*, near the breech of the gun. The trigger *w* is then depressed, whereupon the sudden expansion of the spring drives the piston forward and discharges the coin at the target.

In an apparatus constructed as herein described, the entire operation is as follows: The flag-staff *e*<sup>1</sup> is first depressed and locked in a horizontal position, so as to bring the staff *e*<sup>2</sup> to an upright position, and display the flag *f*<sup>2</sup> above the top of the target. The coin is then discharged from the gun, and, entering the open bull's-eye, strikes the door *D*, pressing it inward, so as to sound the bell and operate the lever *C*, whereupon the flag-staff *e*<sup>1</sup> is released and rises to an upright position, so as to display the flag *f*<sup>1</sup>, and at the same time the disk *L* is rotated, so as to display through the opening *J* another inscription instead of the one previously displayed, while the coin discharged through the opening *b* falls down

the inclines R into the chamber S. The chamber S may be provided with a door, s, for removing the money when desired.

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

1. A toy target provided with a money-receptacle, into which coins can be deposited through the bull's-eye, substantially as described.

2. The combination of the open bull's-eye *b*, the swinging door D, the locking and releasing lever and catch C *c*, and the oscillating flag-staff *e*<sup>1</sup> or *e*<sup>2</sup>, arranged to operate as herein shown and described.

3. The combination, with an open bull's-eye and a movable door, of a rotating disk or tablet, substantially as herein described.

4. The combination, with the bull's-eye and movable door, of inclines or guards forming a money safe or receptacle, substantially as and for the purpose herein described.

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Witnesses:

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