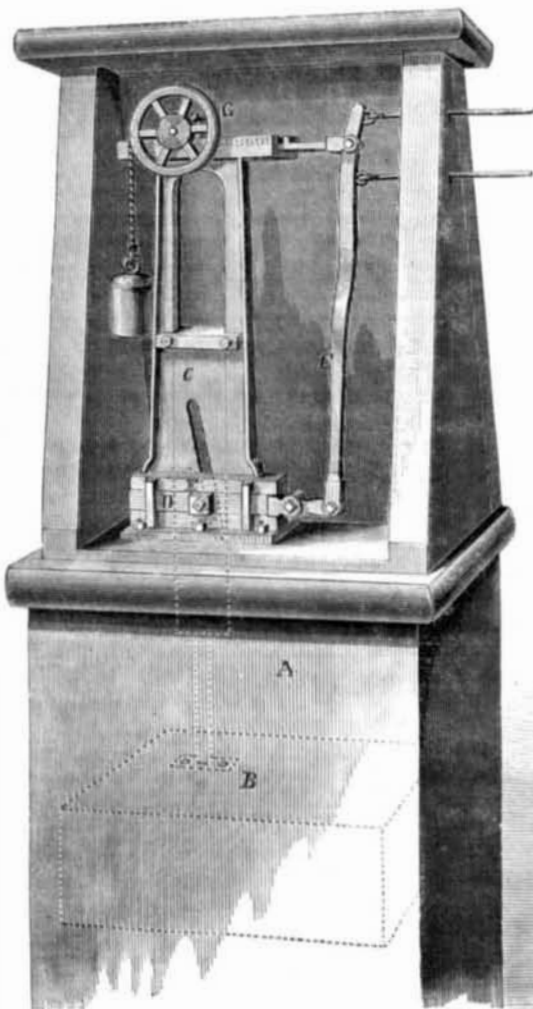


Improved Indicator for Streams.

This invention is designed to indicate the height of water in streams or flumes, and give notice immediately of any dangerous increase, so that injury to dams can be foreseen and prevented. It also indicates loss of water from any cause, and strikes an alarm bell to call attention to the derangement, whatever it may be. The apparatus may be placed in the house or the mill; in the first instance the necessity for going out doors is obviated. The details are as follows:—

The case, A, contains a float, B, which has a cross-head, C. This cross-head works between guides and has a slot in it which moves a bar, D, by a pin, E,

**BRADLEY'S INDICATOR FOR STREAMS.**

placed therein. The bar is connected to a long lever, F, which, in common with a sliding rack and weighted wheel, G, causes the index hand on the dial, H, to move around, through the action of the levers aforesaid, and at the same time liberate an alarm bell to inform persons in the vicinity that a change is taking place.

This instrument can be used, we are informed, in shoal or deep water, and is valuable to pilots, millers and all other parties interested in the matters it professes to control.

It was patented through the Scientific American Patent Agency, Nov. 8, 1864, by R. D. Bradley, of Preston, Md.; address him as above for further information.

Singular Freak of a Lunatic.

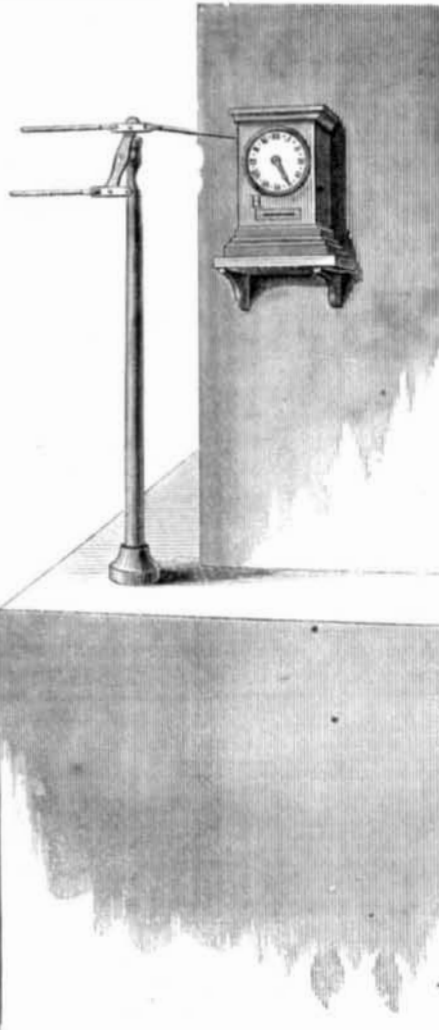
Has any one noticed the miniature fort at the top of Blackwell's Island to the north of the Lunatic Asylum? It is the work of an insane man, who has spent half his life upon it. He lost his mind in Mexico, or somewhere else where high privates were in demand, and just escaped being Mr. Armstrong, or Mr. Parrot, or Mr. Whitworth, by going crazy.

Gunnery was what ailed him—and fortification. As he was found to be quite hopeless, and obedient to his monomania, they gave him intrenching tools and told him to fortify the island. He took the geographical and geological bearings with the accuracy of a West Pointer and concluded that any attack upon it would come from the Sound. So he devised a sea-coast battery with bomb proof, approached by a dike

with sluices and gates, and mounting heavy ordnance.

There never was a more patient worker for humanity or patriotism than this poor addled head. Nobody else being insane upon the same point he could get no assistance. All the other monomaniacs had oil on the brain, or poetry, or capital punishment, or negro suffrage, and were quite as devoted and zealous as he upon their several claims.

So the old soldier, with a long sigh and a brave heart, took up his single shovel and commenced to build the whole fort by himself. He wheeled barrow after barrow of earth into the sea, tugging from morning till night, until at last he raised a narrow



causeway from the main land to a rock at the end of a long sand bar. With pebbles and shells and stones from the river, he walled this causeway until it became permanent. All this was not a month's or a year's work; year after year passed over his gray hairs, but he kept on wheeling, wheeling. The great city, on the greater island required protection, and he was making its ægis. So he went on like the men who threw up the Charleston redoubts, and for fear that he might be late to his task he left his bed in the asylum altogether and built himself a hut close to his place of labor. Here he slept and dwelt, in the company only of his assuring conscience; and when at last his path was done, he set to work at his fort.

The result of all these years is before us. His battery is sodded green, with parapet, berm, ditch, magazine, revetments, abattis, and it mounts mock or Quaker guns, upon carriages of capital construction, looking up from the sound towards Hell Gate, like real arbiters of dominion.

The old lunatic is worn and failing, but he is not satisfied. His fort is done, but not his whole duty. So he has projected a water battery and sea-wall around the entire island, and meant to bring to bear upon it all the knowledge of Vauban and Todleben. When the Island is impregnable he will wrap his mantle about him and die at his battery.

For the truth of all this story let anybody passing up the East river look upon the island tip, and see an old man ditching and building, and the little fort close by him bristling with pop-guns.

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