

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

[Entered at the Post Office of New York, N. Y., as Second Class Matter.]

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF PRACTICAL INFORMATION, ART, SCIENCE, MECHANICS, CHEMISTRY AND MANUFACTURES.

Vol. XLVII.—No. 12.
[NEW SERIES.]

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 16, 1882.

[\$3.20 per Annum.
[POSTAGE PREPAID.]

IMPROVED BOAT-LOWERING APPARATUS.

The necessity of an efficient boat-lowering apparatus must have been impressed upon any one who has from time to time read of marine disasters, in which the loss of life has been doubled by the imperfection or disarrangement of the boat-lowering apparatus. In fact, it may be said that too frequently the sole cause of loss in such cases is the lack of proper appliances of this character.

We give below an engraving of a new apparatus for lowering and raising boats, recently patented in this country, also in Canada, England, France, and Germany, by Mr. R. H. Earle, of St. Johns, Newfoundland. In the engraving Fig. 1 shows the boats being lowered. Fig. 2 shows the davit in use as a life ladder resting against the ship's side. Fig. 3 shows the cradle detached, containing a man who is in the act of picking up a child. The davit is shown lifting a boat full of people in Fig. 4. Fig. 5 shows the davit acting as a spar keeping the boat from the ship's side, and taking persons on board during a storm; and Fig. 6 shows the appliance in use as an ordinary davit.

This apparatus, while very simple in its construction and easily operated, performing all the functions of the ordinary davits, is at the same time efficient in so many other ways as to place it at the head of devices of its class.

It is a very much needed invention, and its adoption will undoubtedly be the means of saving thousands of lives not only at sea but wherever boats are used. The inventor informs us that expert sea captains who have examined this appliance assert that every boat on a ship fitted with this device could be filled with passengers and lowered within from one to two minutes from the time of the occurrence of the accident.

This apparatus is not only wonderfully rapid in its operation, but it guarantees absolute safety to the passengers. After launching the ordinary ship's boats the life rafts may be lowered, or if the ship is so fortunate as to be equipped with the well known collapsible boats invented by E. L. Berthon, M.A., of England, these boats could be readily placed in the cradle, filled with passengers, and quickly launched, thereby saving many lives that would otherwise be lost.

The preparations necessary to lower the boat with this apparatus are exceedingly simple. When an accident occurs the covering attached to the boat is thrown off, when the passengers take their seats, and all is ready. Then the levers which hold the boat and the lowering appliance rigidly to the deck are instantly unloosed, and the boat is immediately lowered to the water. Clearing the decks thus

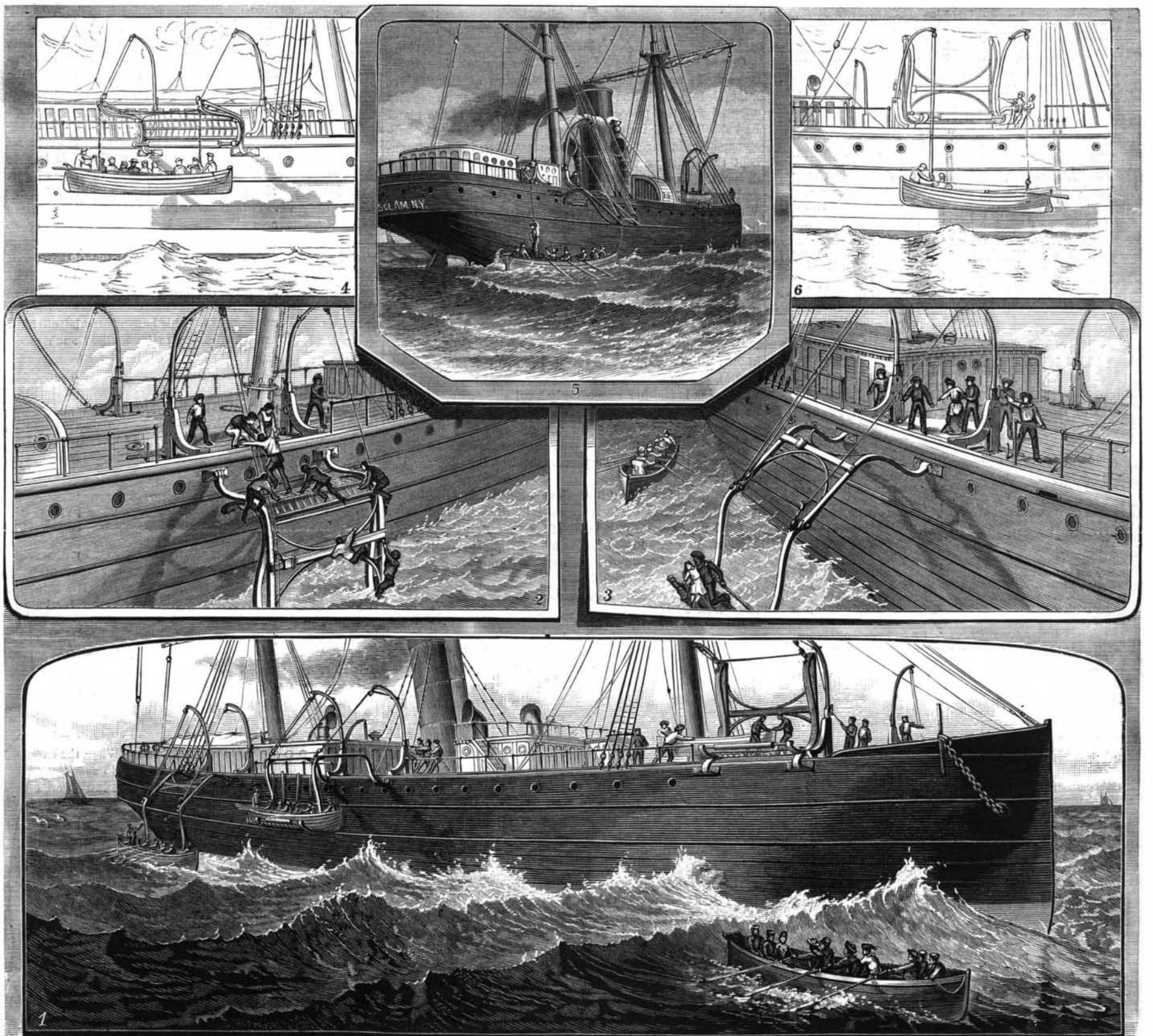
quickly quells excitement and gives assurance of safety to passengers, enabling the officers of the ship to maintain order and discipline, a thing of rare occurrence when the ordinary and tardy means of boat lowering are employed.

The dashing of the boats against the ship's side, lowering one end of the boat before the other, jumping into boats, the cutting of the boat's ropes by sailors and rowing away without passengers, are all impossible where this improved appliance is employed.

In this improved system of boat lowering a great saving in labor is effected. With the ordinary plan it requires ten to fifteen persons to lower and attend to each life-boat; in the new apparatus no lifting is required, and four or five persons are sufficient to the task. This is extremely important, especially in the case of steamers, where comparatively few men are employed.

For military transport, where rapidity, safety, and secrecy are indispensable, this invention will prove of great value. And in times of collision the swinging davits will be of inestimable value.

Further information in regard to this invention may be obtained by addressing R. H. Earle, 216 Water street, St. Johns, Newfoundland, or Earle, P. O. box 1177, New York city.



EARLE'S BOAT LOWERING AND RAISING AND LIFE SAVING APPARATUS.