

**HISTORY OF PROPELLERS AND
STEAM NAVIGATION. WITH
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF
THE EARLY INVENTORS**

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History of Propellers and Steam Navigation. With Biographical Sketches of the Early Inventors
by Robert MacFarlane

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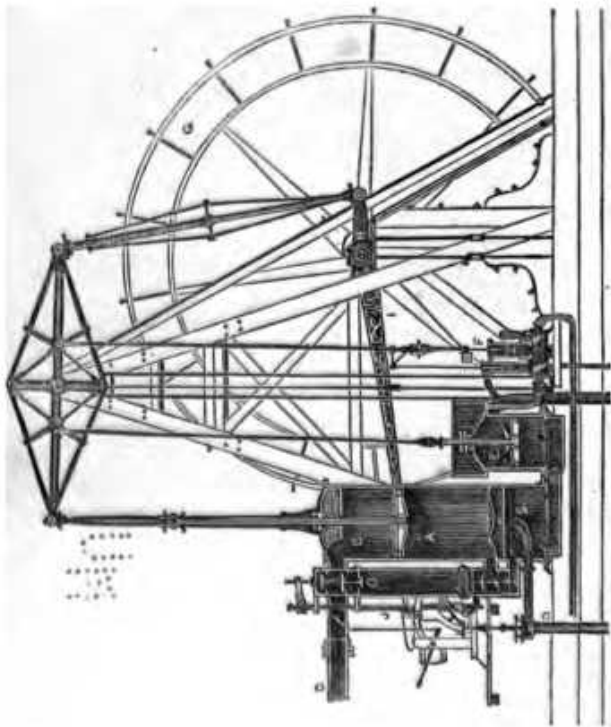
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ROBERT MACFARLANE

**HISTORY OF PROPELLERS AND
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AMERICAN CONDENSING ENGINE FOR RIVER BOATS.

HISTORY
OF
PROPELLERS
AND
STEAM NAVIGATION.

WITH
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
OF THE
EARLY INVENTORS.

BY
ROBERT MACFARLANE, C. E.,
EDITOR OF THE "SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN."

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DESIGN OF THE WORK.

THE object of this History of Propellers and Steam Navigation is two-fold. One is the arrangement and description of many devices which have been invented to propel vessels, in order to prevent many ingenious men from wasting their time, talents, and money, on such projects. The immense amount of time, study, and money, thrown away on such contrivances, is beyond calculation. The author has had opportunities which few possessed, of viewing a vast amount of indifferent re-inventions brought out for this purpose; and it has been a subject of regret to him to know, that this was owing to the want of historical information on such subjects. This work is designed to supply, in a measure, that want. It is not pretended that it contains all the propelling devices which have been invented, but it contains the only instructive arrangement, and by far the greatest variety of

such devices; and in this respect it is hoped that it will be the means of doing some good.

Another object of this work is, to present an interesting history of Steam Navigation, especially that of the attempts of the early inventors in this department of "practical mechanics." There has been much controversy respecting the claims of those men who made the first experiments in steam navigation. The author has examined the claims of each, and has treated the subject, he believes, impartially. Much information, to be found in no other work, is arranged within, relating to Fitch, Rumsey, Fulton, Symington, and Bell. A separate chapter is devoted to Marine Navigation, which will be found to contain much that is but partially known in our country. The different applications of the steam engine to river and sea navigation is clearly illustrated.

The author has seen a great number of experiments made with different kinds of propelling devices; his views will be obtained from the spirit pervading the book, the intention of which is to benefit those interested and engaged in such pursuits.

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