

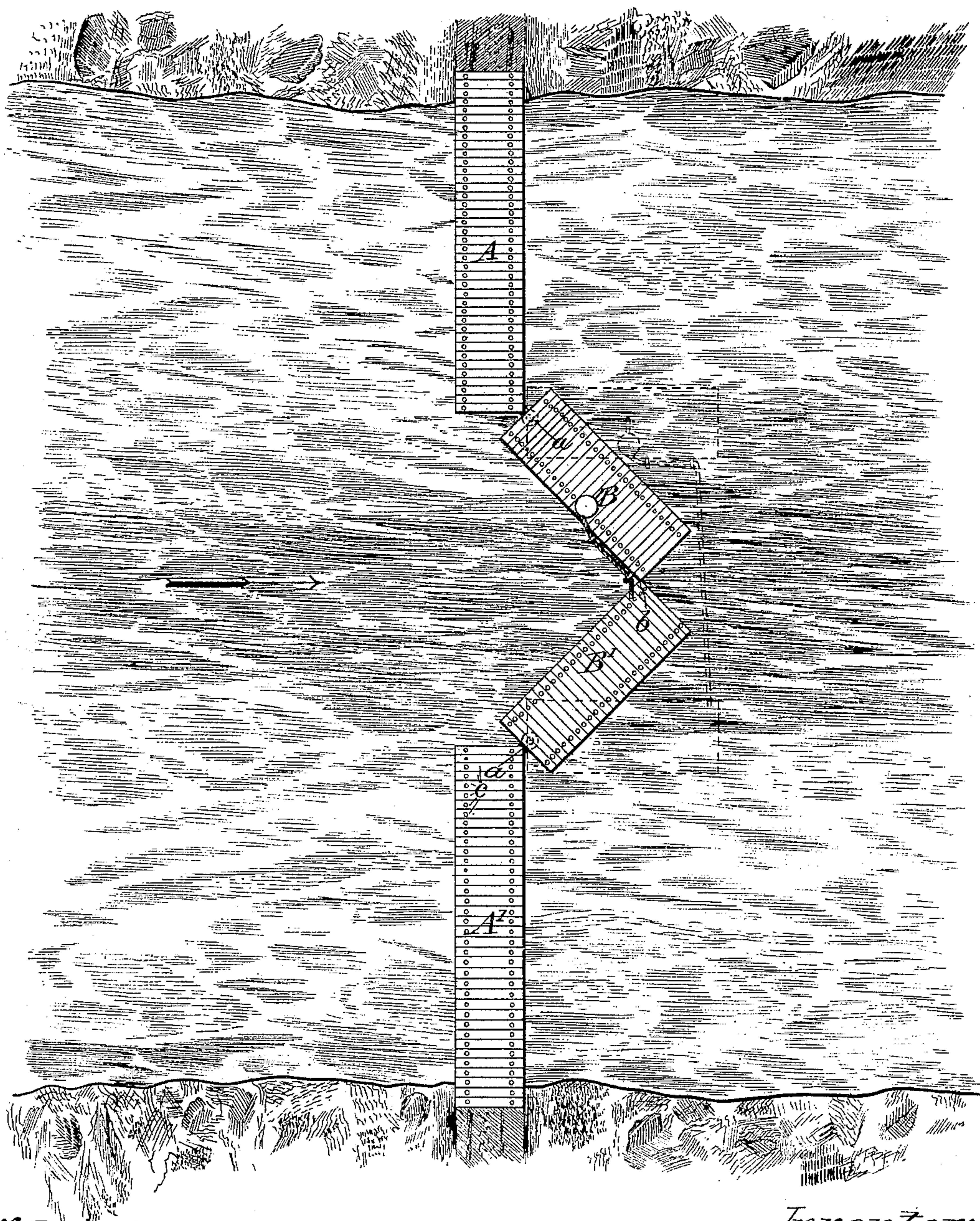
(No Model.)

S. N. STEWART.

PONTON BRIDGE.

No. 401,765.

Patented Apr. 23, 1889.



Witnesses:
A H Coddington
& W Stanley

Inventor:
S. N. Stewart

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SYLVESTER N. STEWART, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

PONTON-BRIDGE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 401,765, dated April 23, 1889.

Application filed January 19, 1889. Serial No. 296,926. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SYLVESTER N. STEWART, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Ponton - Bridge, (not patented yet in any country,) of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to that class of ponton-bridges in which an opening must be provided for the passage of boats and rafts. The object of my improvement is to furnish a draw that may be closed against a torrential current without strain and without the aid of other than manual power. I attain these objects by the construction shown in the accompanying drawing, which represents a plan view of the bridge, and in which A and A' are two causeways of earth, piling, or boats. The two floating leaves B and B' meet at b and form the draw. The leaves are hinged to each causeway at a a in such a manner as to swing freely, and are of such length relatively to the open water-way as, when closed, to have the form of a V. The leaves thus arranged can be drawn together with a hand-capstan that would be entirely inadequate to close a draw at right angles to the current; and such a draw will open and leave a water-way of a certain width—say four hundred feet—in one-half the

time required by a one-leaf draw, for when each leaf shall have been moved two hundred feet by the force of the current an opening of four hundred feet is obtained. The two leaves B B' are drawn together by an ordinary capstan and wire rope. When the rope is slackened, the pressure of the current forces the leaves apart, leaving an opening for boats to pass, the rope sinking to a considerable depth. Only the roadway c c c is shown, the form and arrangement of the boats beneath it being the subjects of other applications for patents, as is also the method of bridging over the corners a a and b. For a foot-bridge, however, this bridge is complete as shown here without bridging the corners and without any boats beneath the leaves B B'.

What I claim, and request to have protected by Letters Patent, is—

A bridge with a floating draw constructed of two floating leaves, one connected to each causeway in such manner as to swing freely, and of such length relatively to the open water-way as when closed to have the form of a V, substantially as and for the purpose described.

S. N. STEWART.

Witnesses:

JAMES T. STANLEY,
I. W. STANLEY.