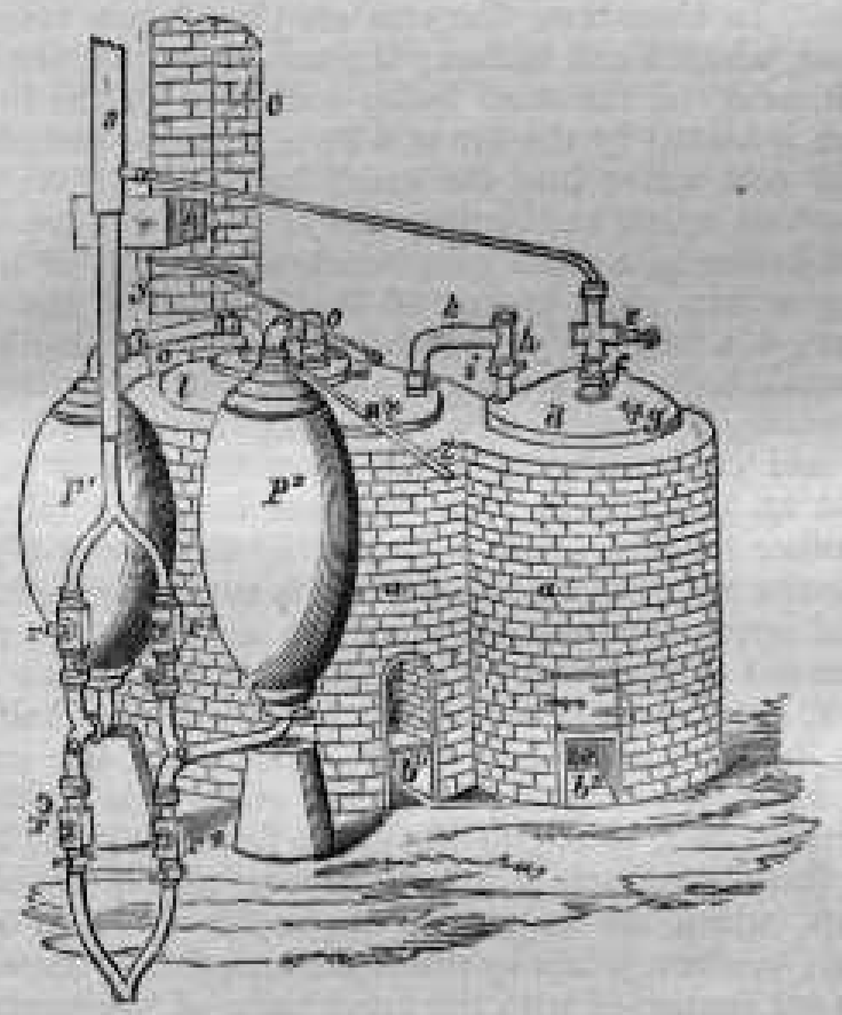
Savery denied it; and the better to conceal the matter, he bought up all the Marquis of Worcester's books that he could procure, and burned them. He said that he found out the power of steam by chance; that having drank a flask of Florence, and thrown the empty flask upon the fire, he called for a basin of water to wash his hands; and perceiving that the little wine he left in the flask had filled up the flask with steam, he took the flask by the neck and plunged the mouth of it under the surface of the water in the basin, and this water was immediately driven up into the flask by the pressure of the air. Now, that he never made such an experiment, I thus prove: I made the experiment purposely with about half a glass of wine left in the flask, which I laid upon the fire, till it boiled into steam; then putting on a thick glove, to keep the neck of the flask from burning me, I plunged the mouth of the flask under the water that filled the basin; but the pressure of the atmosphere was so strong, that it beat the flask out of my hand with violence, and threw it up to the ceiling. As this must also have happened to Captain Savery, if ever he had made the experiment, he would not have failed to tell such a remarkable incident, in order to embellish his story."

Dr. Robinson, however, is more just to Savery. He says:—"Captain Savery, a person of great ingenuity and ardent mind, saw the reality and practicability of the Marquis of Worcester's project. He knew the great expansive power of steam, and had discovered the inconceivable rapidity with which it is reconverted into water by cold; and he soon contrived a machine for raising water, in which both these properties were employed. He says that it was entirely his own invention. Dr. Desaguliers insists that he only copied the Marquis's invention, and charges him with gross plagiarism, and with having bought up and burned the copies of the Marquis's book, in order to secure the honour of the discovery to himself. This is a very grievous charge, and should have been substantiated by very distinct evidence. Desaguliers produces none such, and he was much too late to know what happened at that time. The argument

which he gives is a very foolish one, and it gave him no title to consider Savery's experiment as a falsehood; for it might have happened precisely as Savery relates, and not as it happened to Desaguliers. The fact is, that Savery obtained his patent of invention after a hearing of objections, among which the discovery of the Marquis of



SAVERY'S STEAM ENGINE.

Worcester was not mentioned; and it is certain that the account given in the 'Century of Inventions' could instruct no person, who was not sufficiently acquainted with the properties of steam to be able to invent the machine himself."

Savery obtained a patent in 1698, for "raising water