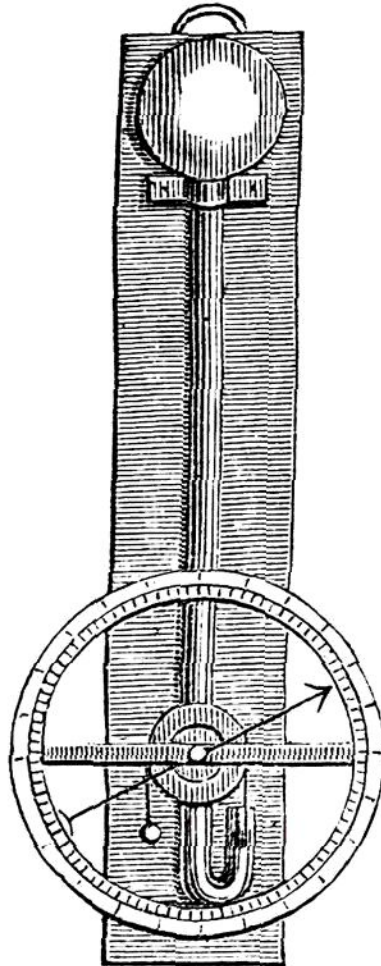


dice to truth. To Pascal, whose active mind was immediately roused by the report of this important, we might say brilliant, discovery, we are indebted for an extremely original experiment. This philosopher at once perceived that, if the suspension of the mercury in the tube was due to the pressure of the atmosphere, the column ought to become shorter when carried to a place at some considerable elevation above the level of the sea, for it would then have a less column of air to support. Perier, the brother-in-law to Pascal, was engaged to try the experiment upon the top of the Puy de Dome, a lofty volcanic mountain in Auvergne, and he found that the mercury continued to descend as the height to which it was carried increased. In this way the Torricellian principle was confirmed, the barometer discovered, and the action of the pump ascertained.



Hook's Barometer.

it was afterward discovered that the mercury rose and fell, within a small space, even when its elevation was un-