

COULD NOT STAND POVERTY.

FREDERICK E. BEARDSLEE KILLS HIMSELF WITH PRUSSIC ACID.

Frederick E. Beardslee, well known among electricians and expert chemists, was found dead yesterday morning on a table in the laboratory of the Denison Auto-telegraph at 76 Beekman-street, where he had for some time been employed to make experiments. Near the body stood a tumbler containing a little prussic acid. Coroners' Physician Conway, who viewed the body, said that Beardslee had probably taken prussic acid with suicidal intent.

Mr. Beardslee, who was the son of George W. Beardslee, a contemporary of Prof. Morse, was among the early experimenters on the telephone, and during the rebellion was on Gen. Terry's staff as electrical engineer. In conjunction with his father he invented the telegraph system in use by the Army of the Potomac. He retired from service with the rank of Brevet Colonel in the Signal Corps. At the close of the war he engaged in electric work for various concerns. In 1876 he went to Mexico for the German firm of Maxell & Degrasse and remained there for several years, taking charge of their entire Mexican business. He returned from there about three years ago, broken in health and with little fruit of his labor. Since then his existence has been growing more precarious and his health steadily worse, so that he lost heart.

Last March he was given employment in the Denison laboratory by R. D. Radcliffe, who was conducting experiments on the Denison Auto-telegraph. Beardslee had for some months been working upon the thing, but, it is said, in a less cheerful mood than if his wages had been regularly paid. A friend urged him to go home, but he refused, saying that he had to see a man in regard to negotiating the stock, and also to visit the shop and get his overcoat. His wife received a letter from him yesterday morning, in which he stated that he intended taking his life.

Mr. Beardslee was 44 years of age. He was born in Rochester and was a graduate of the Troy Polytechnic Institute. He lived with his wife and one child at 178 Willoughby-street, Brooklyn.

The New York Times

Published: September 9, 1888

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