

FIRST EDITION

LOUISVILLE BRIDGE.

Indiana and Kentucky United—The Greatest Bridge in the United States—Its History and a Complete Description of the Work.

It was stated by telegraph on Saturday that the great bridge over the Mississippi at Louisville had been formally opened. We find in the Courier-Journal of the 18th inst. the following history of the enterprise and description of the structure:—

By this bridge three great and distinct systems of railways are directly connected. First, this bridge completes the direct North and South all-rail route. Second, it furnishes the missing link between Memphis, New Orleans, and the lower Mississippi Valley and in the connection, and New York, Boston, Washington, Baltimore, and the principal cities in the Northeastern States, forming a continuous and unbroken line between the Southwest and Northeast. Thirdly, it forms the link in the chain of roads connecting Savannah, Charleston, Wilmington, Norfolk, and the principal cities in the Southeast with St. Louis, and the lines starting from points on the upper Mississippi.

HISTORY OF THE ENTERPRISE. The project of a bridge over the Ohio at this point is by no means a new one. The necessity of such a structure was felt at an early period in the history of Louisville, and on the 29th day of January, 1839, a charter for the work was granted by the State Legislature. The company failed to obtain the necessary funds to continue the work, and the project was abandoned, and slumbered until it was revived by the late Hon. James Guthrie, who may in fact be called the father of the enterprise, as it was mainly through his energetic efforts that the enterprise took a definite shape. On the 10th of March, 1856, he procured a renewal of the charter, or rather a new charter, which charter was renewed by the Legislature February 19, 1862.

The superstructure of the bridge is placed below the grade of the track except over the Kentucky and Indiana channels. The lowest part of the superstructure over the middle channel is 90 feet above low-water mark, and over the Indiana channel 96 1/2 feet above low-water mark.

THE LENGTH OF THE BRIDGE.

The length of each span, counting from the Kentucky to the Indiana shore, and the entire length of superstructure, including abutments, are shown in the following table. The length of spans are from centre to centre of the piers:—

Table with 2 columns: Span description and Length in feet. Includes Kentucky abutment (35), Two spans of 50 feet (100), One pivot draw over canal (361), Four spans of 149-10 feet (596-40), Two spans of 180 feet (360), Two spans of 310 feet (620), Two spans of 227 feet (454), One span of 370 feet (370), Six spans of 245 1/2 feet (1473), One span of 490 feet (490), Two spans of 180 feet (360), One span of 149-10 feet (149-10), One span of 100 feet (100), Indiana abutment (35), Total (3599).

LAYING THE CORNER-STONE.

On the first day of August, 1867, the first stone was laid, with imposing ceremonies, by Mr. W. Hamilton, President of the Bridge Company, on pier No. 10. The work of constructing the masonry was carried on with the view of building the piers next to the Kentucky shore high enough to render their completion before the commencement of the fall. The work during the spring months, so the erection of the superstructure could be commenced at the earliest practicable moment. This point secured, it was determined to take advantage of the unusual low water by putting in the difficult foundation of the piers at the end of the fall. The attempt was successful, and three of the most difficult foundations were secured between the 1st of October and the 1st of December, 1867.

DISASTERS AND DIFFICULTIES.

An unusual rise in the river carried away all the building derricks and the temporary track for transporting stone to the piers, and caused other serious damage. On the 24th of October, no derrick was left standing in the river. Extraordinary exertions were put forth, and in three weeks a new track had been constructed across the river, derricks and derrick-booms built, and the work progressed satisfactorily until the 24th of November, 1869, the last stone was laid in pier No. 19.

THE MASONRY.

The masonry consists of two abutments and twenty-seven piers, comprising, in the aggregate, 30,500 cubic yards of limestone work, which for beauty and excellence, both of material and workmanship, is unsurpassed. The piers vary in length from 120 to 105 feet, and are laid in hydraulic cement manufactured in this vicinity. The piers all rest upon the solid rock bed of the river. The foundations of some were obtained with great difficulty on account of the swift current and the tendency of springs to break through the coffer dams.

THE SUPERSTRUCTURE.

The superstructure, except the portions spanning the river, is placed below the grade of the road. The below grade, or deck portion, is what is known as Pink's Suspension Truss. The spans over the channel are of a plan especially arranged for this bridge. The entire superstructure is of iron, except the flooring, and consists of twenty-seven spans, varying in length from 50 to 400 feet. The channel spans, 370 and 400 feet, are the longest ever built on the American continent.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE BRIDGE.

The bridge, when entirely finished, will have footwalks four feet wide on each side, with hand-railings. It has a single line of track, and is so arranged that, if desirable, the space of twenty feet six inches between the footwalks may be floored and used for the accommodation of carriages when not occupied for railroad purposes. The superstructure is proportioned for a maximum movable load of 2500 pounds per lineal foot, which can only be brought upon it by a train of engines coupled together. Seven times this maximum load is calculated to be the weight necessary to break it down. In all ordinary railroad work the load that it will be called upon to sustain is at most two-thirds of this maximum, so that even more than seven fold is provided to prevent accident.

The total number of pounds of wrought and cast iron used in the construction is 8,723,000, and for the rail-roads, flooring and hand-railings, 620,000 feet of timber (board measure) were used.

MAGNITUDE OF THE WORK.

The erection of this superstructure during the past season was a work of vast magnitude, including, as it did, the placing in position the ponderous mass of iron required for the channel spans, one of which, the Indiana channel span, was erected over water running eighteen miles per hour, and on an average ten feet deep. Some of the pieces weighed five tons, and were put in place 160 feet above the bed of the river.

THE CITY TRUSTS.

The New Board and the City Disagree—An Injunction against the City.

This morning in the Nisi Prius, before Chief Justice Thompson, the Attorney-General, in half of the new Board of Trustees, presented the following bill in equity praying an injunction to restrain the city from continuing the transaction of business under the trusts, which the recent act of Assembly, confirmed by the Supreme Court, vested in them, the new board:—

In the Supreme Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, in equity.

William Welsh, Edward King, Henry M. Phillips, William R. Miller, Alexander Biddle, Charles H. T. Collis, James Campbell, James L. Claghorn, J. Gillingham Fell, Gustavus S. Benson, J. H. Michener, and George H. Stuart bring this their bill of complaint against the City of Philadelphia, and against Daniel M. Fox, Mayor of said city; Charles S. Smith, Superintendent of the Girard Estates; Samuel S. Cavin, Agent for the said Estates; Charles Ott, Superintendent of the Trusts; Samuel W. Cattell, President of Select Council of said city; Thomas A. Barlow, C. E. Kamery, John C. McCall, Henry Marcena, John Cochran, John C. Bickel, John A. Sherman, Alex. L. Hodgdon, John Ferreira, A. H. Fraciscus, Samuel G. King, George W. Plumly, Joba L. Shoemaker, David Cramer, William W. Burnell, James W. Hopkins, Joseph H. Hooker, William Bunn, James Ritchie, Charles H. Harkness, Charles Thompson Jones, William F. Smith, Edward A. Shalcross, Samuel L. Snyder, Robert Armstrong, Hugh McIlwain, George A. Smith, members of the Select Council of said city, Louis Wagner, President of the Common Council of said city; William Calhoun, Daniel M. Blackburn, Geraldus B. Stockdale, Isaac Griffiths, Thomas Hamilton, William H. Pagen, George W. Nichols, William Mountain, James F. Stockton, John J. Harwood, Alexander W. Grant, John Barsley, John W. Creely, John C. Martin, John Rice, Walter Allison, George L. Buzby, William B. Hanna, George W. Hall, Thomas H. Gill, William T. Lader, Abraham Klimes, R. J. Walker, H. J. Oran, Elliott W. Leighton, Henry Hahn, R. W. Sulzfeld, H. A. Stiles, John F. Glenn, George J. Hetzell, James Logan, John Canning, William H. Ehret, Daniel W. Stockham, Daniel P. Ray, Joseph S. Allen, Nicholas Shaine, Charles A. Souder, Daniel Carr, William E. Miller, William S. Allen, James Jenner, Samuel Miller, William Baldwin, George Widener, James Bowker, J. C. Gilbert, Samuel C. Willetta, Amos R. Ellis, Henry Glass, Thomas Lewis, Charles Judge, George H. Shisler, James S. Stewart, John B. Parker, James M. Seibert, and George W. Myers, members of the Common Council of said city; Joseph F. Marcer, Treasurer of said city; Samuel P. Hancock, Controller of said city.

And thereupon the plaintiffs complain and show:

That an act of the General Assembly of this Commonwealth was approved June 30, 1869, entitled "A further supplement to an act entitled 'An act to incorporate the city of Philadelphia, approved the 3d of February, 1854,' creating a board called Directors of City Trusts." (L. S. 1375).

That said act provided inter alia for the appointment of persons to constitute a board to be called Directors of City Trusts, which board was thereby authorized to exercise and discharge all the duties and powers of the said city (of Philadelphia), however acquired, concerning any property appropriated to charitable uses, as well as the control and management of the persons of any orphans or others, the objects of such charity, to the extent the law has been, or hereafter may be, by statute law or otherwise, vested in or delegated to the said city or the officers thereof. And it was further by said act provided that "all singular the duties, rights, and powers of the said city, and all property and estate whatsoever dedicated to charitable uses or trusts the charge or administration of which then was or might thereafter become vested in or confided to the city of Philadelphia shall be discharged by the said city through the instrumentality" of said board.

That by said act the Treasurer of said city was declared to be the Treasurer of the said Directors of Trusts, and the said board were empowered to appoint and discharge the said Directors of Trusts, for and in the name of the said city, to do, perform and discharge whatever acts and duties are, or from time to time may become proper or necessary to be done by the said city in discharge of said Trusts," etc.

That under the provisions of said act the plaintiffs have been duly and legally appointed the "twelve Directors of City Trusts," and from the time of their appointment to said offices they have acted, and now still are directors of said city trusts.

That upon the first day of July, 1869, the Common Councils of said city passed a resolution entitled a "Resolution of instructions, to certain city officers," which resolution was on the 8th day of July, 1869, passed by the Select Council of said city, and in pursuance of said resolution is hereto attached, marked exhibit A. By said resolution "all parties having under their control or supervision any property belonging to the city of Philadelphia as trusts for charitable purposes were instructed not to surrender any deeds, records, or securities, nor to permit their examination, nor to grant possession of any real estate except upon authority of the said city."

That upon the eleventh day of October, 1869, the said "city of Philadelphia" filed her bill in this honorable Court against the plaintiffs and the other members of said Board of Trusts, in which said bill the said city charged that the aforesaid act of the said City Council of 1869, was unconstitutional and void. And said city prayed this honorable Court so to decree and to enjoin the present plaintiffs and their colleagues from interfering with the trusts in said bill set forth.

That proceedings were thereupon had, that said bill was dismissed by the Court of Nisi Prius, and on appeal entered by said city said decision the said decree was by said city on the seventeenth day of February, A. D. 1870, after full hearing, affirmed, and the said dismissed appeal of the appellants, all which, by reference to the records of this honorable Court to January term, 1870, No. 6 (in equity), will more fully and at large appear.

That pending said proceedings the plaintiffs, out of respect to this Court, took no measures to enforce the authority or in exercise of the jurisdiction conferred upon them by said act of Assembly, save to meet and to organize said board by the election of the plaintiff William Welsh as President of said board, and to appoint a committee, and they have provided a suitable place for the safe-keeping of all the title papers, books of account, and records of said trusts; all of which the defendants Smith, Cavin, and Ott have had notice, and demand has been made of them for delivery of said books and records, as per exhibit C.

IX. That after the affirmation by this Court of the said decree at Nisi Prius dismissing said bill, the plaintiffs hoped that the city of Philadelphia and her officers would recognize the authority and jurisdiction of this Court, and that the act of Assembly, and would without molestation or hindrance place the plaintiffs in peaceable possession of all the property of said trusts, and the plaintiffs especially hoped that the Councils of said city would repeal or annul the said resolution whereof exhibit A is a copy. And the plaintiffs accordingly, on the said seventeenth day of February, 1870, after the affirmation of said decree dismissing said bill, and before the hour assigned for the meeting of the Councils on said day, served a written notice on the Mayor of said city, whereof exhibit B is a true copy. And the Mayor of said city sent said notice with a message to the Select Council, of which exhibit D is a true copy. But neither

the Select or Common Council passed, nor did any member of either of said bodies introduce, any resolution proposing the repeal of the aforesaid resolution set forth in exhibit A.

This morning, in the Nisi Prius, before Chief Justice Thompson, Attorney-General Brewster, on behalf of the new Board of Trusts, presented an application for an injunction to restrain certain city officials from further interfering with the new board. The application is as follows:—

On the contrary of the said bill, the Common Councils adhere to their aforesaid obstructive resolutions, and all of the defendants, acting thereupon, now refuse to recognize the plaintiffs as having any authority to interfere with or manage the trusts so as aforesaid committed to the charge of the plaintiffs.

And the defendants refuse to permit the plaintiffs to take possession of any of the real estate securities, or other property of said Trusts, or to suffer or allow the plaintiffs to proceed in the discharge of their duties.

And the defendants are now holding possession of all said trust property, without the consent and to the entire exclusion of the plaintiffs.

And said defendants claim to have the right to make leases, and to do all other acts, matters, and things necessary for the management of said trusts, to the utter exclusion of the plaintiffs and their rightful authority in the premises.

All which doings of said defendants are contrary to law and to equity, and tend to the irreparable damage of said trusts whereof the plaintiffs are the lawful custodians and directors as aforesaid.

Wherefore the plaintiffs need equitable relief, and they therefore pray:—

That pending this bill the said defendants and each of them, their officers, servants, and agents, be specially, and upon final hearing they be perpetually enjoined from refusing to recognize the plaintiffs as directors of said Trusts; from refusing to permit the plaintiffs to take possession of the real estate and securities belonging to said trusts, and from retaining or withholding any portion of said trust estate from the plaintiffs as Directors of said Trusts.

And that they be further restrained and enjoined from collecting, receiving, disbursing, or holding any of said Trust funds or moneys, save as thereto authorized by said act of June 30, 1869; and from drawing, countersigning, or paying any warrants, drafts, or orders for said trust funds or moneys, or any part thereof, unless thereto authorized by the plaintiffs; and from making, executing, sealing, or delivering any leases, or other writings touching or concerning said trusts, or any of the said trust estates or property, except by like consent of the plaintiffs.

And that they be further, as aforesaid, restrained and enjoined from holding any portion of the said trust estates, securities, or property, to the exclusion of the plaintiffs, and from interfering therewith to the exclusion of the plaintiffs, and from obstructing or in any manner interfering with the plaintiffs in the discharge of their said duties as directors of said trusts, and from acting in any manner in performance of the duties of Directors of said trusts heretofore confided to the city of Philadelphia, and which, by the act of June 30, 1869, have been devolved upon the Directors of the City Trusts.

And for such further and other relief as to the Court shall seem meet and equity may require, F. CARROLL BIERWATER, for plaintiffs.

Attached to the bill were the exhibits referred to—resolutions of Councils, etc., together with the following:—

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 19, 1870.—Dear Sir:—The Directors of the City Trusts have provided, as a place of deposit for the safe keeping of all the title papers, books of account, records, and documents whatsoever of the said city pertaining to the trusts of the Fidelity Insurance Trust, and Safe Deposit Company of Philadelphia, and you are hereby required to deliver the custody thereof to the said Board of Trusts.

Respectfully yours, WILLIAM WELSH, President.

To Charles S. Smith, Esq., Superintendent of Girard Estates. Samuel S. Cavin, Esq., Agent of Girard Estates.

COPY OF NOTICE TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF CITY TRUSTS. PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 19, 1870.—Charles Ott, Esq., Superintendent of City Trusts.—Dear Sir:—The Directors of City Trusts have provided, as a place of deposit for the safe keeping of all the title papers, books of account, records, and documents whatsoever of the said city pertaining to the trusts of the Fidelity Insurance Trust, and Safe Deposit Company of Philadelphia, and you are hereby required to deliver the custody thereof to the said Board of Trusts.

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and he determined a day or two since to ascertain where it was. After running through the different rooms, he found it wrapped up in a shawl and lying in a corner when there was nothing but rubbish, which was piled upon the new-born infant; and in all probability it had been left there at least four days. The spark of life was almost extinct, and but a plaintive wail indicated its presence. We assisted in removing the wretched child to the car works, by means of a former to be taken to the infirmary, and the latter to the poor-house, where they will be properly cared for. Mrs. Mann has all the necessary facilities for her work; consisting of a hard heart, a secluded residence, damp rooms, etc., and she practices it with all the will, the only condition being that she shall be well paid.

AN AWFUL EXPLOSION. An Entire Structure Demolished—Seven Men Killed and a Number Wounded.

The St. Louis Democrat of February 18 says: The fearful concussion of a most awful boiler explosion shook the entire southern portion of St. Louis, and reverberated throughout the city half-past four o'clock yesterday.

To listeners in the central and western sections the detonation was appallingly distinct, and excited the gravest apprehensions of some unnameable calamity. Residents for many blocks around were nearly stunned, and on rushing out discovered the air filled with clouds of smoke and dust, over and around the site of the well-known "Union Car Works and Railway Foundry," on De Kalb street and Lami street.

The steam-engine in this foundry worked also the machinery in the car works, by means of a massive shaft passing through an excavation beneath Lami street. It was the boiler of this engine that had exploded, hurling the entire building into scattered ruins, wrecking an adjoining building, and, in fact, causing a crushing or scalding to death of six of the workmen, and wounding—some dangerously and others less seriously—about twice as many more.

The people on the streets and in the buildings in the immediate neighborhood were for a time paralyzed with horror, and blinded or almost blinded in darkness by the vapor and grime, but when the first moments of surprise had passed, they poured in crowds towards the scene of wreck.

Four of the unfortunates, dead, were taken out by the men who were gathering together to help view the more plentiful, and in a wonderfully short time the mass of timbers, iron, brick, mortar, and rubbish was searched through—two other dead bodies were borne sorrowfully out, and the still living were extricated and removed.

The six mangled corpses were carried across Lami street to the car works, and deposited there, laid out upon boards on the ground, presenting a spectacle most lamentable and sickening—heads crushed, faces confused and broken, and legs and arms broken, bloody, ghastly, and covered with coal dust.

The following is a list of the dead:—Daniel O'Shea, a single man, aged thirty years. Patrick Sweeney, a married man, fifty years of age. He was a widow and two children.

Francis Collins, unmarried, twenty-three years of age. Dominick Moran, a boy of fourteen years. John Kegan, the engineer, thirty-four years of age. He leaves a widow and one child.

Matthew Roe, aged twenty-three years, unmarried. All of the above six were killed instantly. Paul Bebout, aged twenty-five years. He was married, and lived at No. 2327 Congress street, where now are his widow and two children. He died shortly after being removed from the ruins.

In several cases the injuries from scalds, burns, and bruises are so severe as to preclude the possibility of recovery. Some of the wounded, upon being rescued, were taken or went alone to their homes. The following list comprises the names of all of the most seriously injured:—Patrick McDonald, Frank Fitzpatrick, John Grimes, Bogart, Flanagan, Robert Bowman, John Bledsoe, John Waddell, Charles Cameron, Richard Wells and brother, and a German name unknown. All of the above killed and wounded were laborers, except the engineer, Kegan.

The building is a perfect wreck. Some parts of the structure were thrown a great distance—one piece of iron, weighing perhaps three hundred pounds, was hurled over the space of a hundred feet. Adjoining on the south was Card's distillery, in the brick wall of which a breach six feet in diameter was blown by the explosion.

The cause of the explosion has not yet been satisfactorily ascertained. The foreman, Max Marcotte, had just passed through the engine-room, and he was the last man to see the pressure was not above eighty pounds. As he passed out at the front door, having just left the engine-room, the explosion occurred. Marvellously he escaped unharmed, though hurled about five feet into the street. The engine was not in motion at the time of the collapse.

SHOCKING. A Son Inadvertently Kills His Father.

Mr. Alexis Droit, formerly of St. Louis, lately residing in Illinois, five miles from East St. Louis, on the Columbia road, was on his way on Thursday accidentally shot dead by his own son, a youth of sixteen years. Seeing some ducks in the lake, he laid picked up his gun, asked his father if it was loaded, and the same instant raised with his thumb the hammer of the gun, and as he could not answer, his son's thumb slipped off the hammer, the gun was discharged, and the contents were lodged in the father's right side. The unfortunate man lingered in great agony till yesterday, when he expired. The young man was in a delirious state, bordering on insanity since the occurrence, and the family are apprehensive that he will become deranged in consequence of this deplorable casualty.

LEGAL INTELLIGENCE. Court of Quarter Sessions—Judge Ludlow.

The second period of the February term opened this morning, a new jury being in attendance. The Court was officially informed, this morning, that the officers having in charge bench warrants for the arrest of parties indicted for keeping gambling-houses had been unable to serve them, and his Honor instructed Special Detective Wood to call upon the Mayor for whatever force he should deem necessary for the arrests, and said that if they were needed, every officer of the Court would be detailed to the execution of its process.

Parties failing to attend this morning, the court adjourned until Wednesday, it being the intention of the Courts to stand adjourned to-morrow, in celebration of Washington's birthday.

Court of Quarter Sessions—Judge Paxson. The old bill cases left untried from past terms were argued this morning.

District Court, No. 1—Judge Harro. Joseph D. Thornton vs. John Van Gunten, who was sued with Robert Grigg. An action on a promissory note. Judgment for plaintiff, \$277.75. Henry S. Haines vs. N. Atwood. An action on a promissory note. On trial.

District Court, No. 2—Judge Stroud. W. Burnett Levern vs. The Atlantic Bridge Manufacturing Company. An action to recover for a brick-making machine sold to defendants. Verdict for plaintiff, \$139.92.

W. W. McLaughlin vs. George Smith. An action to recover for work done upon the new city road, the plaintiff having been employed by the defendant, who was contractor for the construction of the road. On trial.

U. S. District Court—Judge Caldwell. The February term of this Court was opened this morning, John Welsh, Esq., being appointed foreman of the Grand Jury.

The first case put upon trial was that of the United States vs. One still and other property, claimed by James Donahoe. An action to recover for a brick-making machine sold to defendants. Verdict for plaintiff, \$139.92.

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U. S. District Court—Judge Caldwell. The February term of this Court was opened this morning, John Welsh, Esq., being appointed foreman of the Grand Jury.

The first case put upon trial was that of the United States vs. One still and other property, claimed by James Donahoe. An action to recover for a brick-making machine sold to defendants. Verdict for plaintiff, \$139.92.