some have their foundations laid at five, and others at fourteen feet under the bed of the river. The piers are all four feet wider at their foundation than at the top, and are founded on the bottoms of the wooden cases on which they were built. All the piers consist of solid blocks of Portland stone, many of which are four or five tons weight, and none less than a ton, except the closers, or smaller stones intended for fastening the rest, one of which is placed between every four of the larger blocks. It is computed that the value of forty thousand pounds, in stone and other materials belonging to the piers and abutments are always under water. This magnificent structure was erected at the expense of three hundred and eighty-nine thousand pounds sterling, defrayed by the parliament. The caisson for the first large pier of this Bridge was reckoned to contain above one hundred and fifty load, or six thousand cubic feet of timber, and exceeded in tonnage a man-of-war of forty guns.*

BLACK-FRIARS BRIDGE,
OVER THE RIVER THAMES,
CONSTRUCTED OF PORTLAND STONE.

Black-Friars Bridge, though less magnificent,

* Rion’s Architecture of Stone Bridges.