iron would be the most proper material of which to form the proposed Bridge. He thought it best, however, to adhere to the ancient construction, by dividing the arc into portions, in the manner of arc stones, and taking advantage of the ductility and tenacity of iron to produce an arc of that metal at least fifteen times lighter than a corresponding arc of stone, and capable of being put together upon an ordinary scaffolding, instead of an accurate cintre, in a much shorter space of time.

Mr. Wilson, in conjunction with Messrs. Walkers, constructed and set up an experimental rib at Rotherham, which being found to answer expectation, the success of the experiment was communicated by Mr. Burdon to the town of Sunderland and the county; and his proposition for the erection of an iron Bridge was acceded to. The first stone was laid in September, seventeen hundred and ninety-three; and Mr. Wilson was appointed to the superintendence of the work. The iron-work was cast by Messrs. Walkers, of Rotherham, and the arc was turned upon a very light but firm scaffolding, so judiciously constructed that not any interruption was given to the passage of