the numerous vessels which navigate the busy river of Sunderland. The mode of bracing the ribs was so simple and expeditious, that the whole was put together and thrown over the river in ten days; the scaffolding was immediately removed, and the Bridge opened for general use, on the ninth day of August, seventeen hundred and ninety six.

During the period occupied in erecting the Bridge, Mr. Burdon took out a patent to secure the invention of "a certain mode or manner of making, uniting and applying cast-iron blocks to be substituted in lieu of keystones, in the construction of arcs." He thus proceeds to describe his invention, which "consists in applying iron or other metallic compositions to the purpose of constructing arcs upon the same principle as stone is now employed, by a subdivision into blocks easily portable, answering to the keystones of a common arc, which being brought to bear on each other, gives them all the firmness of the solid stone arc, whilst, by the great vacuities in the blocks, and their respective distances in their lateral position, the arc becomes much lighter than that of stone, and by the tenacity of the metal the parts are so intimately connected that the