A BRIDGE OVER THE SEVERN,
CONSTRUCTED OF CAST-IRON.

Another iron Bridge is that over the Severn at Buildwas, about two miles above Coalbrook Dale. An old stone Bridge, of three narrow arcs, having been carried away by a high flood in one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, the present iron Bridge was planned and built by the Coalbrook Dale company, under the superintendence of Mr. Thomas Telford, the county surveyor, in one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six. It consists of a single arc, one hundred and thirty feet in span; the rise, from the springing to the soffit being twenty-seven feet; and as it was thought necessary to keep the road-way as low as possible, the outside ribs are made to go up as high as the railing; they are connected with the ribs that bear the covering plates, by means of pieces of iron dovetailed in the form of king-posts. The plates which compose the covering over the lower ribs are cast with deep flaunches; they are laid close to each other, and form an arch of themselves. These side ribs, or arcs, would have added much more to