PENDENT BRIDGES.

Pendent, or hanging Bridges, called also philosophical Bridges, are those which are not supported by posts or pillars, but hang at large in the air, being sustained only at the two ends or abutments. Bridges of this kind are used by the Spaniards for passing the torrents in Peru, over which it would be difficult to throw more solid structures either of stone or timber. Some of these hanging Bridges are formed so strong and broad, that loaded mules pass along them. Ulloa, tom. i, page three hundred and fifty eight. Dr. Wallis gives the design of a timber Bridge, seventy feet long, without any pillars, which may be useful in places where pillars cannot be conveniently erected. Phil. Trans. No. one hundred and sixty three, p. seven hundred and fourteen. Dr. Plot informs us that there was formerly a large Bridge over the castle-ditch at Tutbury in Staffordshire, made of pieces of timber, none much above a yard long, and yet not supported underneath, either with pillars or archwork, or any other sort of prop whatever.*

* Dr. Rees's New Cyclopædia.