Remarks,

On Caesar's Timber Bridge.—Page 40.

* This kind of scaffolding in water, which by some in the present day is profanely called Bridge Architecture, is supposed to have been first introduced by Julius Caesar, as a temporary expedient to transport his army across the Rhine. Whether this be the fact, or not, is quite immaterial; one thing is evident at first sight, namely, that by the timber piles or scaffold-poles of this, his formation, being drove obliquely into the bed of the river, not only Caesar's mechanical skill was here somewhat manifested, but also his skeleton structure was sure to prove much stronger for its intended purpose, than any of those erected in the United States, with their posts perpendicular. And as a certain strength in these silly formed structures is highly necessary to their existence, and which strength is alone to be derived from the degrees of strut or brace which the standards possess, we are led to conclude that there has been a great falling off in this sublime mode of Bridge building. However, if this defect or decay in the building of these structures be the signal for the speedy abolition of such Bridges in this country, the public ought greatly to rejoice. It has long been the author's most fervent wish that the period may not be far distant, when the beautiful rivers of America shall no longer be annoyed with these and other nuisances,† which are every year endangering the lives of men, and proving to their unskillful inventors their unsufficiency to withstand the natural effects of winter seasons.

† Such as the North River and Elizabeth-Town ferry boats.