CRITICAL REMARKS

ON SCHUYLKILL BRIDGE PAGE 139.

* This bridge will no doubt be allowed by all who have ever understood the fundamental laws of Architecture, to rank the first on the list of bridges in the U. S. on account of its strength and true symmetry; and widely differs from those trifling, complex formations, that we witness erected in other parts, and yet which are so much admired by some, as to obtain from them the important name of pretty Bridges; but we cannot stop to waste our time on these last unimportant fabrics, but must hasten with regret to observe, that though the Schuykill Bridge be justly entitled to the aforesaid preeminence, yet the dire defect attendant on all Bridges with piers and arcs of lateral pressure, it is said, has made some small impression on this expensive structure. But we earnestly hope, for the encouragement of those concerned in the welfare of this Bridge, and who by their perseverance, in the first instance, accomplished the bold enterprise of its erection; daring to surmount every obstacle to the final attainment of their wishes. For the sake of such persons alone we hope the fabric may not in any wise prove ruinous, as to its strength, till they have in some good degree realized a return of their capital with an interest suited to reward such spirited exertions.

Such men, as the "Schuykill Bridge Company," have proved themselves to be, are alone suitable to carry into execution great plans.

We shall now leave, for the present, any further remarks on the different Bridges described in this work; and proceed to the illustration of a more important invention for Bridges, than has ever before been recorded in history. And the author has no doubt of proving to the satisfaction of those to whom this work is dedicated, and who are alone worthy of the information it may afford, that this his invention for Bridges, does not only possess, and every the requisites suitable to prevent the failures attendant on all other Bridges through the defective mode of their construction, but also furnishes many other important advantages never before realized in any Bridge.