this work, when the arms of the Bridge are united in the centre, the action of the levers ceases.

**EXTENT.** From a recollection of the many absurd opinions lavished on this invention, at its first promulgation, by characters the least to be expected, namely, of those who profess a vast knowledge in science, the author has been ready to conclude that he would suspend for the present any information on this important part of the subject; preferring rather to wait the period, when ocular demonstration should sufficiently punish the gross ignorance of these pretenders to science and enemies to the useful arts.

But the author has also considered, that if a Bridge on this plan be indeed capable of the vast extent he has heretofore asserted, and which, from a multiplied conviction of the excellence of its principles, he still dares to assert; how dishonorable would it be on his part, were he to shrink from the just vindication of its true merits, because a mere quack philosopher and two or three bookful theorists, (who may be looked up to by some as *Gods in science*, but who are in reality of those that are the pests of the arts in every age) because these, in the plenitude of their wisdom may think fit to doubt the existence of the vast powers vested in this invention, without having once investigated even one of its golden properties.

The narrow limits that persons of this description have been disposed to fix for the utmost extent