familiar because largely concealed by the surrounding buildings, are not the least important or least expensive details of the bridge. Still lower, structures of solid masonry support the approaches.

In October, 1878, a sensation was created by a communication to the N. Y. Sun, purporting to reveal a plot for blowing up the bridge. It was alleged that a certain stone-mason, inspired by the ambition of the “youth who fired the Ephesian dome,” had secreted charges of dynamite between the courses of stone at the base of the tower on which he was engaged. The explosive was connected by wire with the exterior at points known only to the wicked mason, and at a suitable time, probably while the cities were celebrating the completion of the bridge, it was his intention to wreck the structure. A mysterious diagram was also published, said to be a copy of the working plan of the unprincipled wretch, showing the places of deposit and the line of connecting wires.*

On May 29th, 1877, a single wire was carried across the river, attracting much attention as the first connecting link, with the “promise and potency” of greater things. The process of cable-making now commenced. Each cable is composed of 5,296 thicknesses of wire laid parallel. The wire is continuous in varying lengths, joined by a

* Lest apprehension of real danger should exist in any timid mind, it may be well to add that no such workmen as “John Parker” has ever been employed on the Brooklyn Bridge. If he had been there with the worst intentions in the world, his scheme was utterly impracticable. The whole story was a newspaper hoax, nearly as barefaced as the Herald’s celebrated outbreak of wild animals in Central Park.