So far as we have been enabled to check them over, the computations of strains and quantities are correct. The estimate of cost however, is somewhat higher than for the plans of Messrs. Clarke, Reeves & Co. or the Delaware Bridge Company, being $1,885,000 for a single track structure, without the tunnel, or $1,985,000 including the tunnel; at which price the parties made a formal tender for the whole work.

We regret that Mr. Charles Bender, who originally made a valuable preliminary report to your Board of Directors and presented plans for a Cantilever bridge possessing great merit, did not find himself at leisure to revise those plans and estimates of cost, in order to make them conform to our specifications, so that we might consider them in competition with the others. Mr. Bender was among the first to take an interest in your enterprise and to make valuable suggestions about its construction, by which all designers have probably profited; while his original plan contained such excellent features that we should probably have had the satisfaction of recommending it among the best, had it been made to conform to the terms of the circular inviting designs.

We also regret that the Baltimore Bridge Company, which had originally sent in a preliminary study for a counter-balanced Cantilever span, was unable, from press of other engagements, to complete the plans which we understand them to have begun. We would have been quite certain to receive good plans from this skillful and experienced firm.

**GENERAL FEATURES.**

Whether the structure shall be for a single or double railway track depends upon the estimates of its future business. We would recommend that the tunnel and the approaches, on both the New York and Long Island sides, be built for double track, and that the main spans and trestle across Blackwell's Island should be for single track, with provision for an eventual second track, if required. For these elements the bridge proper will cost, according to the estimates of Clarke, Reeves & Co., $2,083,875; and according to those of the Delaware Bridge Company, $2,031,425. The tunnel will probably cost about