An eminent technical writer in America, A. J. Du Bois, writes:

I congratulate you on the book. It is just what the student needs and the only book which covers the ground of practical designing at all adequately. It covers it admirably, too. In connection with a good work on strains—as the author intends it to be used, it leaves nothing to be desired for a full and thoroughly valuable practical and theoretical course—except a similar work by the same author in the same spirit upon Iron Railway Bridges.

I never looked over a work with more genuine satisfaction. It will be as useful in the office as in the class-room. The whole matter is presented in detail, clearly and fully in the Text, and when the student takes that in and understands it, the Tables alone are all he needs to refer to in actual designing. There is an immense amount of labour in these Tables, and altogether it is the most valuable work on the subject I ever saw. If more engineers would write more such books, we wouldn't hear so much about "Theory" and "Practice." I feel as if I owed a large debt of gratitude to Mr. Waddell, for this is just what I have been wanting a long time. If our students don't get a good useful grip on designing now, it will be their own fault entirely. Mr. Waddell has energy and industry to match his ability. I have been impressed by the careful painstaking thoroughness of the book and the man.—Engineering News and American Contract Journal, February 14th, 1885.

We strongly recommended this book to students and engineers desirous of learning the art of bridge designing. The extensive practical experience of the author in the construction of highway bridges has led him to keep always in view economy as well as stability, so as to design a safe and durable structure at the minimum cost. Hence the results of his patient labor embodied in this book will be sure to prove of great value to the technical public.—Engineering News and American Contract Journal, March 21st, 1885.

The general plan of this book is radically different from that on which numerous works on bridges and roofs have hitherto been prepared. While almost numberless treatises on the theoretical part of bridge construction have appeared during the past few years, somewhat to the perplexity of students and young engineers, it is not too much to state that not one of a really practical nature has preceded Professor Waddell’s work. Questions of construction and design have received most rational and masterly treatment at his hands. Professor Waddell has brought to bear on this work the benefit of an accumulated experience both as a practical engineer and as an instructor in two technical schools of the highest standing, and his book is probably the most valuable contribution to the literature of iron bridge building which has yet appeared.—The American Engineer (Chicago), February, 13th, 1885.

The book will be found of the greatest value to county commissioners, and all others who have to make contracts with builders of iron highway bridges, as it gives complete and easily comprehended data for making estimates of cost, and for determining whether designs or completed structures will endure the strains to which they will be subjected.—The Railway Age (Chicago), March 5th, 1885.

The work is replete with valuable information, systematically arranged and well digested, and will, no doubt, soon take a prominent place as a book of instruction and reference.—Toronto Mail, March 7th, 1885.

It is well known that very many of our present highway bridges are defective both in design and workmanship, and a person devoting years of time to the study and writing up of these important structures merits the thanks of the whole travelling public in general and that of engineers, bridge designers, and constructors in particular.—Montreal Daily Witness, February 28th, 1885.

The book here reviewed is based upon the same general principles as