

## P R E F A C E .



The following pages comprise chiefly the annual reports on the progress of the East River Suspension Bridge, from 1869 to 1872.

Having heretofore appeared in newspaper form only, they are now presented as a connected narrative, giving a detailed account of the work from its inception to the present time, when the foundations are finished and the towers have already reached more than half their intended height. They present, a history of the successful completion of the two largest pneumatic foundations extant, as regards area of base, although surpassed in depth by those of St Louis.

Being the first application of timber caissons on a large scale, it may be of interest to state, that, at the time of writing, with already more than two-thirds of the ultimate pressure on the base of the Brooklyn tower, the total settlement has only been five-eighths of an inch, and of uniform character all around.

An introductory chapter is added, giving an outline of the general plan of the structure, its principal dimensions and location, as originally designed by the late John A. Roebling, and described by him in his preliminary report of 1867; together with the few modifications made since then.

BROOKLYN, OCT. 1st 1872.