tion and intelligence to decide upon the facts and the testimony.

I approach my subject, therefore, with confidence; intending to draw no conclusion that does not rest on established facts, and is not legitimately deduced from premises that are apparent to the common sense of men. And I shall endeavour to use no argument more difficult of comprehension than that which is deduced from the assumption, that, if one wire will bear a weight of 1500 pounds, ten thousand such wires will sustain a weight of ten thousand times fifteen hundred pounds; that if one pound will produce a given depression in a single strand, it will require ten thousand pounds to produce an equal depression in ten thousand similar strands.

With this explanation, we may proceed to the examination of the plan of the work proposed.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BRIDGE.

The plan which I have presented for this structure, represents a wire suspension bridge, of which the span, measured from centre to centre of the abutments or supporting towers, is 1050 feet.

A work equally safe, and, it is believed, in all respects as economical and advantageous, might be erected with a span of 850 feet; but it would involve the necessity of raising an abutment 140 feet high, and consume more time in its execution than the plan now presented.