SPLICING.

CXLVI. The term splicing, as applied to timber work, may be defined to be the uniting of two pieces of timber by their end portions, so as to form (in figure) a continuous timber upon a straight axis.

The splicing of timber to withstand a thrust action, requires only the meeting of the squared ends of pieces; or, a half lap, formed by removing the half of each for a foot or two, more or less, from the end, and lapping the remaining halves, so as to have the extreme end of each, meet the shoulder of the other.

But the splicing of pieces to withstand tension, obviously requires a more complicated process; and, from what has already been said, [CXLIV,] it is clear that only a part of the absolute section can be made available to withstand a tensile strain.

In Fig. 56, we have the profile of a lock splice, by which one-third of the section is available for tension; the depth of the locking being equal to one-third of the thickness of timber. Now, that the locking may not split off, we have seen that the lap should extend 10 times the depth of lock, each way, making a lap of 6½ times the thickness of the timbers.

By slanting the timber to a thickness at the end equal to that in the neck of the lock, we lose none of the cleavage required to split off the hook, while we gain in amount of section where it is required for bolt holes to secure the splicing. Otherwise, the bolt holes would