DESCRIPTION OF SITE.

The Connecticut River Bridge is erected on the line of the New Haven, Hartford and Springfield Railroad where it crosses the Connecticut River, near the villages of Windsor Locks and Warehouse Point.

Leaving Windsor Locks the railroad follows the bank of the river northward to the westerly end of the bridge, where it curves to the right and crosses the river in a straight line nearly east and west. It then turns again to the north and follows the east bank of the Connecticut to Springfield. A fine view of the bridge can be obtained from the cars on that portion of the road between Windsor Locks and the west end of the bridge.

On the west side of the river is the canal of the Connecticut River Company, used mostly for manufacturing purposes. It is also used to pass vessels around the falls and rapids in the river.

The bridge extends over this canal as well as the river, crossing them at an angle of about 65°.

THE OLD BRIDGE.

There was originally constructed at this point, in the year 1844, a wooden bridge with stone piers. The trusses were Howe's patent, consisting of top and bottom chords of timber, connected by inclined braces and counter braces, with vertical tie rods of round iron.

This bridge was destroyed in a gale on the 13th of October, 1846, by being blown bodily off the piers into the river, for want of proper fastenings to the masonry.

With a delay of only forty-five days, a new bridge similar to the old one was constructed, which remained in use until taken down after the present iron structure was completed.

This bridge was built for a single track only, which passed over the top of the girders on the river part of the bridge, and between them on that part over the canal and tow-path, as it was necessary to have more space under the bridge at that point.

The part over the river consisted of seven spans of 177 feet each, at a height of about 46 feet above the level of the water in the river. At the easterly end of the bridge was a short span of about 26 feet, over a roadway, and on the westerly side of the