Class in this country, may be cited the railroad bridge, called the Thomas Viaduct, over the Patapsco on the line of the Baltimore and Washington railroad designed and built by Sir B. H. Latrobe. This is one of the few existing bridge structures with a curved axis. Besides the tensile weakness of stones, there are other objections to stone bridges, such as the length of time required in construction, the additional cost of centering the arches and the shortness of the spans, these are short in comparison with other bridges, thus causing great contraction in the waterway, and