

Springs from the decays of time. * I have since learned, that it is too nicely built, and has suffered some decay by the retention of water in the joints and elsewhere.

It was long doubted whether a bridge could be so constructed, as to resist the ice of the Merrimack. The stream is rapid; and the climate so cold, as to produce, annually, thick and firm ice. But the doubt has vanished. Seven bridges have been built on this stream; and not one of them has been carried away. The defensive piers have proved an effectual security against this evil. These are formed in the figure of a half pyramid; the base a semi-rhombus; and are strongly fortified with iron. When the ice descends in large floats against this pier; it rises on the oblique front; and breaking by its own weight, easily passes between the principal piers; and is thus rendered harmless".

* In a note to the above, Dr. Dwight adds, — "In the year 1812, I found the arched work of this bridge above taken down, and with it a large proportion of its fine appearance gone".