of my experience or reading heard of a pier founded in such a depth of water on an irregular rock affording little or no support to the piles"

This pier however was not carried to the rock, for the weakness & leakage of the cofferdam became so threatening that the foundation was commenced 5 to 6 feet above the rock

The pasts report also says in regard to foundations

The modes pursued in New England, either on piles wharves logframes or stones loosely thrown into the stream were considered and condemned The destruction of many of the bridges of that country was predicted; but with a hope that this apprehension might prove unfounded, as the enterprizes of the people there were admired & applauded