A petition for liberty to build a bridge over Merrimack river, at Deer Island, was presented to the Legislature of Mass. June 1, 1791. Notwithstanding the continuance of opposition of the surrounding towns, the charter was granted in 1792. The bridge was begun in April of that year, and in seven months, Nov. 26, 1792, was opened to the public. Deer Island was purchased by the Bridge Co.; a road was laid out across it and a hotel was erected upon it—which is now the residence of the late Hon. Richard S. Stor-Mead. The bridge as stated by Cowles, "consisted of two bridges resting on Deer Island in the middle of the river." It was says to "be about one thousand and thirty-three feet long, thirty-four feet wide. Its height