

— Dr. Dwights Travels —

Dr. Timothy Dwight, who saw the Haverhill Bridge in 1796, thus describes it:

"The strength of the Haverhill Bridge may be conjectured from the following facts. Six gentlemen placed themselves together upon an exact model of one of the arches, ten feet in length; in which the largest pieces of timber were half an inch square, and the rest smaller in proportion. Yet not the least injury was done to the model. Of this fact I was a witness; and was informed by the gentlemen present, that eleven persons had, a few days before, stood together upon the same model, with no other effect, than compacting it more firmly together. The eleven were supposed to weigh at least sixteen hundred pounds. No bridge which I have ever seen, except that over the Piscataqua, can be compared with this, as a fine object to the eye.

The arches above, and below, have a degree of boldness and grandeur, unrivalled in this country. Every part of the work is executed with exactness and strength on the one hand, and on the other with great neatness and beauty. When we saw it, it was new, perfectly white, and brilliant, without that dullness which