

STATE OF NEW-YORK, }
 City of Buffalo, } ss.:

James M. Averell, being duly sworn, deposes and says:—I have navigated the lakes as master on sail and steam vessels for the past sixteen years between Buffalo and Chicago; I have also navigated the Niagara river and am well acquainted with its currents, channels, shoals and reefs. I have heard the statements of Capt. D. P. Dobbins, which he has sworn to in his affidavit hereto annexed in reference to the effect upon the navigation of the Niagara river of building a bridge to the Canada shore on the line indicated by him, and I fully concur in all the statements he has given on that subject.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this } JAS. M. AVERELL.
 4th day of April, 1857, }
 F. P. STEVENS, Mayor of Buffalo.

Affidavit of Capt. F. P. Billings, twenty years a navigator of lakes.

STATE OF NEW-YORK, }
 City of Buffalo, } ss.:

Francis P. Billings, being duly sworn, deposes and says:—I have been a resident of the city of Buffalo for twenty years past; during the seasons of navigation for the first fourteen years of that period, I acted as mate and captain of sail and steam vessels upon the lakes, running between Buffalo and Chicago and the intermediate ports; during that period I became acquainted with the navigation of the Niagara river; I have never undertaken to run down the Niagara river as a place of safety in preference to entering the harbor of Buffalo, nor would I dare to attempt it, (knowing the river as well as I do,) in the night time or in a severe storm. About nine years since I was in the employ of the government with Capt. Bigelow, of the navy, in the survey of the river, for the purpose of locating the Horse Shoe reef light house and the buoys on the American side of the channel, as well as designating the site for the light on the pier of Black Rock harbor, which has since been moved to the main land. I have never known a vessel in the night or in stress of weather to attempt to run into the river as a place of refuge; it has always been considered preferable to make Buffalo harbor, or if that is considered dangerous to haul on the wind and stand up the lake again.

From my intimate acquaintance with the danger of the navigation of the river, I would not dare to enter the river unless with