

Verplanck's Point and Buttermilk Falls, are about ten miles^s apart, and within this whole included space, all the shore lines have been traced, and at every position having the appearance of offering such facilities for crossing the Hudson River by Bridge, as you require, minute measurements have been made.

Very nearly all the crest lines have been run out on both sides of the River, and contours traced to afford minute information of the topography.

In addition to such surveys as seemed necessary to ascertain the best position for the Bridge, considered as an independent structure, measurements have been made, lines run, and cross-sections taken to give you all required information, respecting the proposed avenues of approach, highways leading to the Bridge, and particularly having in mind the great system of railways leading to, and from your work, very accurate information has been obtained by actual survey, showing the grades and alignments of various routes, practicable and impracticable, reaching the different sites of the Bridge, upon which estimates have been made.

Within the limits authorized by law, over which you are allowed to cross the river, the water-way varies in width from less than five hundred yards to over a mile and a quarter.

The location is in the beautiful and grand highlands, classical and historic, far lovelier than any portion of the Rhine, bolder, and more distinct in its character than any part of the valley of the Father of Waters.

Topographically the region may be described as mountainous.

At the southwesterly portion of the district stands the "Dunderberg," towering to a height of 1550 feet above the river. This mountain breaks down to the westward near to, and connects with "Bear Hill" to the north of which is "Popolopen" Creek, the head waters of which are not far from the celebrated "Forest of Dean" iron mines.

Northerly of Popolopen, is the "Torn Mountain," which is more or less distinctly defined, as it occupies the Westerly Slope of the Valley of the Hudson for some six miles, and then is merged into "Crow's Nest," to the rear of the Military Post