

is going to be launched. When the pen fails to express to the full the contemptuous feelings of M. Sainte-Beuve's illustrious correspondent, the pencil comes to the rescue; and then, in the *legende* underneath the wicked *croquis*, the pen returns to the charge to place the dots upon the 'i's. It is reported that the Princess is terribly frightened at the consequences which her satires may draw down upon her family. So far as she is concerned she need care little for the awkward discovery, because she has a regal annuity from her husband, Prince A. Demidoff, besides the fortune she inherited from the late Prince Jerome."

Another Paris correspondent says:—"A curious scene took place at the breaking of the seals at the house of Sainte-Beuve. The three executors, M. Troubat, secretary to the late author; M. Lacussade, former secretary, and the notary, were there with the *juge de paix*, when some persons unknown came on the scene. The judge was about to break the seals when one of them said: 'I am the mandataire of the Princess Mathilde. I claim in her name a bundle of letters written to the deceased by her Imperial Highness.' A second said: 'I am a commissary of police. I come to support the demand, and I oppose the opening of the papers.' The executors, having consulted together, replied: 'Since the question has taken a legal turn the tribunals will decide it. The letters referred to will remain under seal.' A third unknown said: 'I have come from the family of the testator. I oppose the opening of the seals, and still further the execution of the will. We will prove that the testamentary document was inveigled and falsified. It is dated only eight days before death occurred, and we know that M. Sainte-Beuve no longer wrote.' From all quarters came people whom nobody knew, claiming to be his relations, among them being a provincial attorney. This promises a fine lawsuit."

#### THE OLD BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE.

After an agitation of about six years, the Common Council of the City of London, under authority of an act of Parliament, resolved upon building the old Blackfriars Bridge, and on the 22nd Feb. 1760, the plans submitted by Mr. Robert Mylne were adopted. In

April following the contract was let to a Mr. Phillips for the sum of £110,000, and the construction of the work was immediately afterwards commenced. On the 7th of June the first pile was driven for the work in the middle of the river, and on the 31st of October, the first stone was laid in the north abutment by the Lord Mayor, coins being placed as

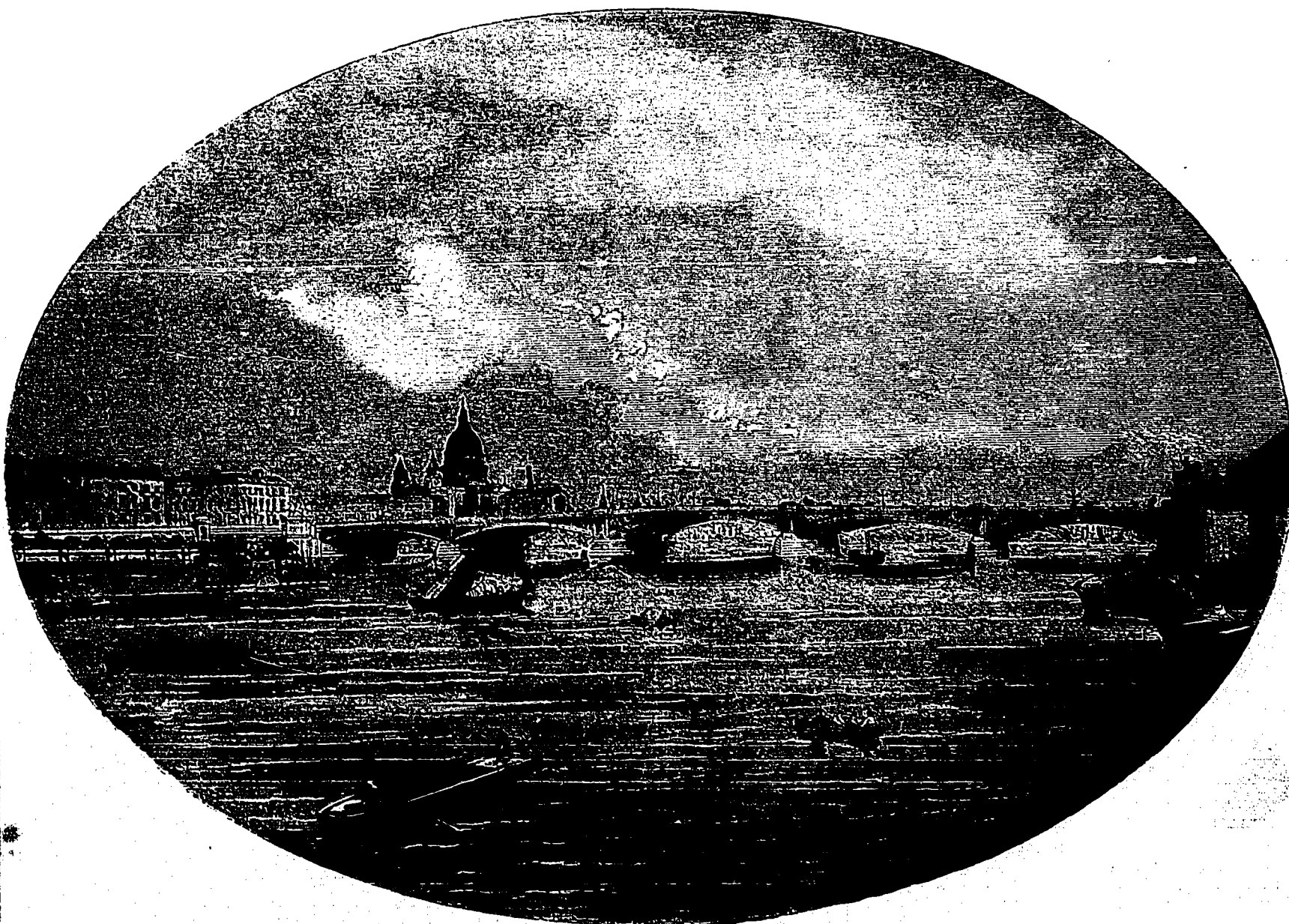
usual beneath the stone, and a plate of tin with a Latin inscription upon it, of which the following is a translation: "On the last day of October, in the year 1760, and in the beginning of the most auspicious reign of George III., Sir Thomas Chitty, Knight, Lord Mayor, laid the first stone of this bridge undertaken by the Common Council of London (amidst the rage of an extensive war) for the public Accommodation and Ornament of the City, Robert Mylne being the architect, and that there might remain to posterity a Monument of this City's affection to the Man who, by the Strength of his Genius, the Steadiness of his Mind, and a certain kind of happy Contagion of his Probity and Spirit (under the Divine Favour and fortunate auspices of George II.) recovered, augmented, and secured, The British Empire in Asia, Africa, and America, and restored the Ancient Reputation and Influence of this Country amongst the Nations of Europe, the Citizens of London have unanimously voted this Bridge to be inscribed with the name of WILLIAM PITT." On the 19th of November, 1766, Blackfriars bridge was first opened to foot passengers, and twelve months later for horse traffic, but it was not till the 19th of November 1769, just three years later, that it was thrown open to the passage of vehicles. For three quarters of a century this bridge stood well, being alike a monument of the Engineer's skill and the City's enterprise; but gradually signs of decay began to manifest themselves. Extensive and costly repairs failed to arrest their progress; and the old bridge was condemned and finally demolished to give place to the new. The cost of the old bridge was about £150,000, that of the new £350,000.

#### BLACKFRIARS NEW BRIDGE.

It is just a hundred years ago that the old bridge over the Thames at Blackfriars was opened to public use; and the new bridge was opened on the 6th of last month. The old one, having become crazy and unsafe, was taken down in 1864. The foundation-stone of the new one was laid with much ceremony by Alderman Hale, then Lord Mayor, in the presence of the whole Court of Aldermen, the Sheriffs, Common Councillors, civic officers, and a large number of invited guests, on July 20, 1865. The



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