

Fig. 108.

The Great Wall of China was measured in many places by Mr. Unthank, an American engineer, lately engaged on a survey for a Chinese railway. His measurements give the height at 18 feet, and a width on top of 15 feet. Every few hund d yards there is a tower 24 feet square, and from 20 to 25 feet ligh. The foundation of the wall is of solid granite. Mr. Unthank brought with him a brick from the wall, which is supposed to have been made two hundred years before the time of Christ. In building this immense stone fence to keep out the Tartars, the builders never attempted to avoid mountains or chasms to save expense. For 1300 miles the wall goes over plain and mountain, and every foot of the foundation is in solid granite, and the rest of the structure solid masonry. In some places the wall is built smooth up against the bank, or canons, or precipices, where there is a sheer descent of 1,000 feet. Small streams are arched over, but on the larger streams the wall runs to the water's edge, and a tower is built on each side. On the top of the wall there are breastworks, or defences, facing in and out, so the defending forces can pass from one tower to another without being exposed to any enemy from either side. To calculate the time of building, or cost of this wall, is beyond human skill. So far as the magnitude of the work is concerned it surpasses everything in ancient or modern times of which there is any trace. The Pyramids of Egypt are nothing to it.—London News.