

that until the autumn of 1826 the present capital was a wilderness, when Lord Dalhousie, Colonel Danford, Colonel By, and several other gentlemen arrived at Hull for the purpose of deliberating on the proposed construction of the Rideau Canal. They assembled on a rock near the northerly end of the present Union Suspension Bridge, with the view of considering the propriety of first constructing a bridge over the Ottawa, which would facilitate operations on the Canal. They then retired to the house of Squire Philemon Wright, and finally came to the conclusion to commence the bridge immediately. Two days afterwards operations were begun—carpenters, masons, and quarry men being hired on the spot. The centres for the first arch nearest Hull were soon put up, and in a few weeks the rubble stone arch was completed; but on taking out the centres the whole arch gave way and fell. Nothing daunted, however, another attempt was made, and with the experience of the past, centres were built and the arch constructed in the same locality. The arch was composed of dry hammered stone, without mortar, and it remained perfect after the removal of the centres. The second arch was built by Philemon Wright and Sons, under contract: thus the workmen were enabled to commence building the bridge over the main channel—a very difficult task in those days.