

# CONSTRUCTION

OF THE

## GREAT VICTORIA BRIDGE.

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### CHAPTER I.

#### THE GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY OF CANADA.

THE Grand Trunk Railway of Canada traverses British North America from the shores of the Atlantic to the rich prairie country of the Far West. By one unbroken line of railway, passing, under one management, through upwards of 1200 miles of cultivated country, it carries the varied products of the distant western states of America to the sea-board. It opens up for the inhabitants of the wonderful valley through which it passes the means of inter-communication and transport throughout the whole of the year,—an advantage of which the severity of the climate deprived them, previously to its construction, for at least six out of every twelve months. But, besides the commercial and social benefits, the Grand Trunk Railway presents to Canada a great political advantage. It connects and associates together the British dependencies in North America, and, by means of the Great Bridge over the St. Lawrence, it brings them all into direct communication with the United States and the best ports of the Atlantic.

Before the construction of the Grand Trunk Railway, the River St. Lawrence presented to the Canadians the sole available means of inter-communication either for business or for pleasure. To this grand river, and its magnificent chain of inland navigation,—natural and artificial,—Canada is no doubt indebted for her prosperity and growth. But for six months of the year the St. Lawrence was sealed up by frost.