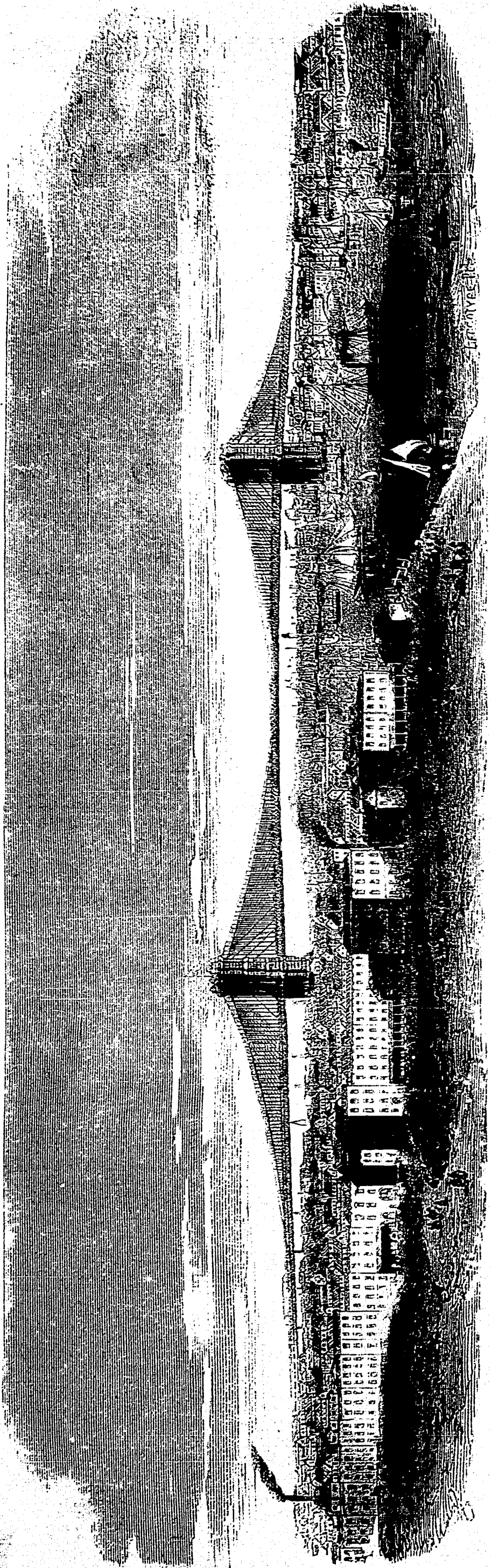




PROPOSED SUSPENSION BRIDGE BETWEEN NEW YORK AND BROOKLYN. Designed by the late J. A. Roebling, C. E.

#### PROPOSED SUSPENSION BRIDGE BETWEEN NEW YORK AND BROOKLYN.

The Citizens of New York and Brooklyn have long discussed the project of a bridge across the East river, whereby communication between them could be made still more expeditious than by the ferry system. Mr. J. A. Roebling, the celebrated Civil Engineer, who died in July last, submitted a plan a short time before his death, which, though involving a cost of about \$8,000,000 in construction, has been approved; and the enterprising people of the Empire city will no doubt take measures to carry it out. Mr. Roebling, who left his native country, Germany, in 1831, and first settled in Pennsylvania, achieved a great reputation as an engineer. Among the chief monuments of his engineering skill may be mentioned the Suspension Bridge over the Niagara river, connecting Upper Canada with Western New York, which was completed in 1855; the bridge over the Ohio at Cincinnati, &c. Should the New York and Brooklyn bridge be built upon his plan, it will be a magnificent and most convenient structure. The high piers will give the bridge sufficient elevation, and the width of the span across the channel—sixteen hundred feet—will be ample security against the causing any interruption to navigation.

A man recently entered a restaurant in a Western town and ordered a very elaborate dinner. He lingered long at the table, and finally wound up with a bottle of wine. Then lighting a cigar he had ordered, leisurely sauntered up to the counter and said to the proprietor: "Very fine dinner, landlord; just charge it to me, I haven't got a cent." "But I don't know you," said the proprietor, indignantly. "Of course you don't. If you had you wouldn't let me have the dinner." "I pay for the dinner, I say!" "And I say I can't," "I'll see about that," said the proprietor, who snatched a revolver out of a drawer, leaped over the counter and co'ared the man, exclaiming, "as he pointed it at his head: "Now see if you get away with that dinner without paying for it, you scoundrel!" "What is that you hold in your hands?" said the impudencious customer, drawing back. "That, sir, is a revolver, sir." "Oh, that's a revolver, is it? I don't care a fig for a revolver, I thought it was a stomach pump!"

#### SCENES ON THE INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY ROUTE.

It has been more or less broadly charged that the scenes on some portions of the route of the Intercolonial railway have been inspired and rendered very animated by the not unknown disease called "impercuniosity," with which some of the contractors or subcontractors have been temporarily afflicted. It has also been said that the scenes on several sections, are exceedingly dull and cheerless, because the contractors are not prosecuting the work with sufficient energy.

It is to be hoped that these statements were exaggerated and that the occasions which gave rise to them have been removed. The Commissioners do not appear to have lost faith in the system of letting the contracts, for it is stated that three additional sections are to be put up to competition without delay. The scenes to which we have to direct the reader's attention do not belong to the classes already mentioned. One of them about half way between Bic and Rimonski, shows Bic Mountain on the side of which heavy cuttings have to be made, and the other near Rimonski, indicates where the line strikes the highway from Bic to Rimonski, on the banks of the St. Lawrence, close by the Rimonski river, which has to be bridged at that point. Both the places indicated are in section 7 under contract to Mr. Haycock, of Ottawa.

A somewhat remarkable discovery of human and animal remains has been communicated by Professor Capellini, of Bologna, to the *Gazette dell' Emila*. The Professor, on his return from Denmark, whither he had gone to be present at the International Prehistoric Congress, was rendered so zealous by what he had heard there that he was induced to make many excursions in the neighbourhood of Spezzia. In the course of these excursions he visited many caverns, and in one of these he was successful in discovering traces of prehistoric man. This was in a grotto in the Island of Palmaria, the access to which was difficult and dangerous. Here he caused excavations to be made, and the result was the discovery of numerous flint and stone implements, the workmanship of which showed they belonged to the earliest period of the stone age. Besides these wrought implements and various other

objects brought into the cavern by its human occupants, he found a considerable quantity of bones of animals mingled with bones of human beings. The condition of these latter bones, he says, would justify the inference that the grotto had been inhabited by anthropophagi, and that the Italians of that epoch were cannibals, like their contemporaries in Belgium, France and Denmark. Among the human bones he found those of a woman, and part of the jawbone of a child some seven or eight years of age. Some of these bones were entire, others were partially calcined. In the centre of the cave it was possible to discern traces of fire-places. Whoever has busied himself in prehistoric researches, whoever has read Spring's excellent work on the Chauvoux Cavern in Belgium, and the writings of other authors on the subject of the caverns in France, will not hesitate to admit that the discoveries in the Island of Palmaria prove that the Italians were, as I have said, man-eaters. For the present, it will be sufficient for me to direct the attention of naturalists to the subject. The Cyclopaens spoken of in the fable were probably these cannibals.

"The Fox's Cover."—The Logotype of K. Bodmer's *For dem Fuchsbau* (in front of the fox-hole) which we print elsewhere, shows Master Reynard, calmly nerving himself before his hiding place, planning, mayhap, a nocturnal excursion to the nearest poultry yard. His watchful attitude indicates that while enjoying present rest he is not unmindful of future labours, nor unprepared for a possible surprise, notwithstanding the apparent security of his hiding place. The artist has done full justice to the fox's taste for grand sylvan scenery.

AUSTRALIAN DIAMONDS.—According to the latest accounts an extensive area of ground has been taken up for diamond mining on the Cudgegong River, New South Wales, the only locality in the colony where diamond mining has as yet been prosecuted on a large scale. The Australian Diamond Company have provided themselves with a steam-engine for working their gem machinery. Fresh discoveries are continually reported, and Tarbet, Abercrombie gold fields, and

the river Page are indicated as places whence precious stones have been received. Another diamond has been discovered recently at Sebastopol, Victoria; its weight is stated at three carats. Diamonds have been found along the greater extent of the Reedy Creek, at Eldorado, Sebastopol, Woolshed, and higher up at Wooragee. A gem found in the Epsom district was recently forwarded to Mr. Crisp, of Melbourne, who pronounced it to be a diamond; this is the first Bendigo diamond that has been heard of. A Lytleton (New Zealand) journal states that a miner has brought a number of coloured crystals into Christchurch, and on inspection one stone, about half the size of a pea, was found to be a diamond, but it was so rough and jagged that its intrinsic value when worked up would be very trifling. As the finder declared that he knew where "any quantity" of this sand was to be found, it is thought that something better may be brought to light.

The director of a French theatre, La Gaite, has introduced a curious theatrical innovation. In the "Bibliothèque Impériale" there exists an interesting collection of engravings representing the actors and actresses of the last two centuries in the costumes originally worn by them in their respective parts, and the experiment has now been made at the Gaite of restoring the original "mise en scène" of Racine's tragedy of "Andromaque," which is now given exactly as it was performed before the Grand Monarque. The well-known dramatic critic, M. de Sarcy, in a recent conference, strongly advocated the propriety of this revival. According to him a hero of Racine's tragedies, while wearing the costume as well as speaking the language of the French Court, is, though a conventional, at least a consistent type. His thoughts and expressions are essentially those of a French gentleman, in spite of his Greek or Roman pseudonym; and the polite and courtly phrases which he employs, even under the most trying circumstances, must always more or less shock the spectator's sense of the fitness of things when uttered by a man in a toga and sandals. There is, undoubtedly, much truth in this view of the case; still it will be difficult to reconcile oneself to Camilla cursing Rome in a hoop and patches, or to Julius Cesar expiring in a wig and lace ruffles.—*Pull Mall Gazette*.