

NIAGARA RAILWAY SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

A REPLY TO THE RECENT CRITICISM MADE
BY MR. EDWARD WASELL.

Nearly twenty-two years have now elapsed since the completion of the Niagara Suspension Bridge. During this time scarcely a month has passed but the structure has been attacked, or criticised in a friendly as well as unfriendly spirit; but generally from motives not entirely disinterested. One fault is common to all the critics, viz.: their judgment is based on what they would do now, and not what they would have done twenty-six years ago.* These pamphleteers find their echo in the general press; and when, after a twelvemonth, the round of the country has been made, another one stands ready to repeat the farce. Among the latest of these productions is a modest little pamphlet by Mr. Wasell,

* In criticizing work built even so recently as 25 years ago, it should in justice be remembered that the era of iron chords, beams, angle irons, etc., had not yet arrived, and hence wood had to be used in situations where it would be considered inadmissible at the present time.