

two feet lower. The scow and cribwork were so nicely poised across the end of the crib pier, that it remained there for several hours ; and it was not till heavy purchases by means of blocks and falls were applied, that it could be moved. When once started, however, it was soon swept away by the torrent amidst the hearty cheers of our workmen, who for several hours had been in dread that at any minute they might see the staging toppling down, and the unfinished tube deposited in the river. Beyond the loss of a couple of days, very little mischief resulted from this accident. No lateral movement of the tube took place, and the cambre was readily adjusted as soon as the staging was repaired and strengthened.

An accident of a similar nature occurred at No. 14 staging, where some three or four rafts driven out of their course came against the temporary pier, and threatened to carry it away. Happily, however, these were also eventually got off without damage, and with only the loss of a few days' work.



These mishaps, so near the completion of the work, caused more anxiety than even more serious disasters at an earlier period. Perhaps this very anxiety begot increased energy and care ; and as energy and care are of great value at such a time, it is not impossible that these casualties may have been of service to the work.

The removal of the dams was completed before the season closed, as was also the removal of the stagings for the tubes, and the cribs upon which they were erected, excepting those at Nos. 12 and 14.

At No. 12 the staging was cleared away, and the stone filling of the cribs taken out, so that the ice might clear that part away at the first shoving. At No. 14, however, there was not time to remove the superstructure of the staging, so the stone was cleared away from the cribs, and the staging left to its fate.

The 17th of December was the day appointed for the first passage of trains through the bridge. About an hour before the first train was timed to pass, a fearful crash was heard. We were all much frightened, but on running to discover the cause of the uproar, we found the staging drifting down the river with the ice, leaving the bridge perfectly clear of all its temporary works. The result of this accident was to