

THE FORTH BRIDGE.



Two years ago I read a paper on the proposed Forth Bridge at the Southampton meeting of the British Association. Until the other day I had not since glanced at the paper, and a re-perusal was in many respects suggestive; for during the past two years the works have progressed, and some of the theories advanced in the first paper have been put to the test of actual practice. In one respect the re-perusal was a painful one, for the opening sentence contained a reference to Sir William Siemens, and I was reminded of the loss of a friend who took the greatest interest in the Forth Bridge, and whose vast experience and matured judgment could always be drawn upon in times of doubt or difficulty.

Taking up the narrative of the proceedings from the date of my last paper, I may state, in the first place, that five tenders were submitted for the construction and erection of the bridge, the amounts varying from £1,487,000 to £2,301,760, and that the contract was finally let to Messrs. Tancerd, Arrol, and Co., on the 21st of December, 1882, for