

ORIGIN

OF THE

VICTORIA BRIDGE.

On the 22nd March last, a Special Meeting of the Montreal Board of Trade was held for the purpose of giving the members an opportunity of expressing their opinions as to the necessity of erecting a second bridge across the St. Lawrence, at or near St. Helen's Island. Those in favour of the project had, for some time, contended that the construction of the contemplated "Royal Albert Bridge," the plans of which were produced at the meeting, was evidently demanded for the accommodation of the railways now building from Quebec to Montreal, and from Montreal to Aylmer, north of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers. During the discussion which ensued, the subject of the Victoria Bridge was introduced by Mr. Thomas Cramp, a portion of whose remarks is thus given in the report of the proceedings, which appeared in the *Montreal Herald* :—

"He (Mr. Cramp) had listened with astonishment to the statements of Mr. Young, which would lead any one to suppose this was the first time the question of bridging the St. Lawrence at this point (St. Helen's Island) had ever come up. In 1846, he could recollect this question was brought up and discussed. Many of those here to-day would remember the establishment of a journal called the *Canadian Economist*, a paper edited by a number of gentlemen for the love of the thing. The paper gave the public a great deal of valuable information. Among these gentlemen was Mr. George Elder, who, with Mr. Young, wrote articles, calling the attention of the people of Montreal and the Dominion to the necessity of establishing a bridge to connect the north and south sides."