



242. Great Bridge Across Mississippi River, St. Louis.

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No. 242. GREAT BRIDGE ACROSS MISSISSIPPI RIVER, ST. LOUIS.

The great St. Louis Bridge, across the Mississippi, was designed by Capt. James B. Eads, who also planned the great jetties at the mouth of the river. The bridge was constructed from 1869 to 1874 at a cost of \$10,000,000. It consists of three steel spans resting on massive limestone piers. The center span is 520 feet long, the other two each 502 feet. The total length of the bridge is 2070 yards. The highest part of the arches is 55 feet above the water. The structure has two stories. the lower for the railways, the upper for the roadway and foot passengers. Trains enter the lower track by a tunnel, 1630 yards long, beginning near the corner of 12th and Cerre streets.

Twenty-seven lines of railroads enter St. Louis, ten from the west and seventeen from the east. The larger part of the latter cross the Eads Bridge, while the remainder pass over the Merchants' Bridge, three miles further up the stream. All freight of the railroads is handled in Cupples' Station, a wonderful establishment that has no equal in the world.

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