WELLESLEY BRIDGE now SARSFIELD BRIDGE.

Planned exactly as the Pont Neuilly over the Seine at Paris. It took 14 years to build. Commenced in 1821 and opened in 1835 in great pomp by the Marquis of Normandy. The foundation stone was laid by the Earl of Clare. Called after the Marquis of Wellesley, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Interesting to learn that Eugene O’Curry, son of an itinerant dealer from West Clare, worked as a labouring man at this bridge. Afterwards he became Professor of Irish Archaeology and History in the Royal University of Ireland. Note the large wickerwork baskets called “Kishes” used for the transport of turf.