

# THE RAINEY BRIDGE FRANCHISE.

*To the Editor of The New York Times:*

I did not tell the Mayor yesterday, as your report asserts, that the late Austin Corbin and myself had spent nearly a million dollars on the bridge. I did not tell him that "complications arising out of the Corbin estate" prevented me from selling my charter to Mr. Shea. I did not tell him that "Messrs. Coler and Shea had changed their minds and had antagonized him," &c.

I did say that myself and my wife had spent more than three hundred thousand dollars on this bridge within twenty-three and three-quarters years, and that, at simple interest, it would be worth about double that sum, and I did say that my friends and associates had spent in right of way and works what was to-day worth more than four hundred thousand dollars, all of which is true!

I had nothing to say about Mr. Coler, except to state the truth, that, en route to Albany on the 28th of February, last year, he came to me and urged me to sell my charter to Mr. Shea, when I explained to him that I could not, because I was tied up to Mr. C. M. P., who was raising the money to go on and complete the bridge.

I did also make some remarks about bridges and tunnels, which, if properly reported, would be of great interest to the public, to the effect, in a simple phrase, that my bridge was designed for four railway tracks, in the middle, for the heaviest trains in America, two carriageways, each twenty-one feet wide, or four feet wider than the carriageways of the magnificent Brooklyn Bridge; two walkways, each seven and a half feet wide, and two bicycle ways, each seven and a half feet wide, and that to do the same work by tunnel, as proposed by Mr. Coler, it would take at least ten tunnels and require two whole city blocks at each end for entrances and exits, and that they would cost from twice to four times as much money as the bridges, besides being always, as everywhere, a nuisance—all of which, again, is true!

Mr. Coler is reported as saying that my charter expires next Spring. This, again, is entirely untrue. He has been misled. He mentions some other things in which he is mistaken, and I hope to have the pleasure some day of demonstrating them to him.

THOMAS RAINEY.

New York, April 17, 1900.

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