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Traffic moves in a stream over the rebuilt bridge.

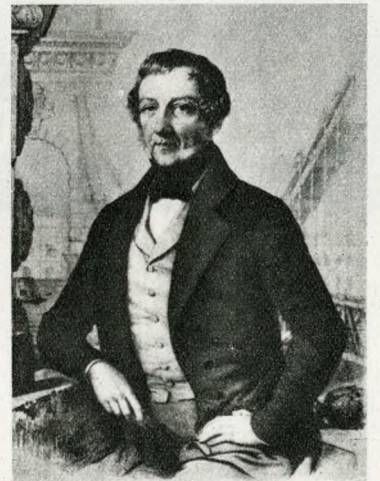
**ONE OF EUROPE'S FINEST BRIDGES,
LINKING BUDA AND PEST,
STANDS AS A MEMORIAL TO ITS BUILDERS**



The bridge in the 1850s.

bridge and appended an elevation and some sections; but first there was a long argument over whether the bridge was to be of wood, stone or iron, and if the last, then whether it should be suspended on chains or not. Many considerations, partly economic, partly aesthetic and partly of durability, argued for a suspension bridge. This was Széchenyi's final choice, and he returned with Clark's plans.

It took several years of struggle, in Hungary and in Britain, before a building licence was



Tierney William Clark.

It was Count István Széchenyi in the thirties of the last century, who first proposed that a permanent bridge be built, linking Buda and Pest. The technical sciences in Hungary were then still in their infancy, so that Széchenyi sought a designer abroad—in Britain, which was then the most advanced industrial country. He found the man he required in the person of Tierney

William Clark. Engineer T. W. Clark was then forty, and had built four of the nine bridges across the Thames.

The engineer was a self-assured, cool and reserved individual. Széchenyi, on the other hand, was all nerves and temperament. The preparatory talks were stormy and the two personalities often clashed with each other. Clark prepared a project for the construction of the

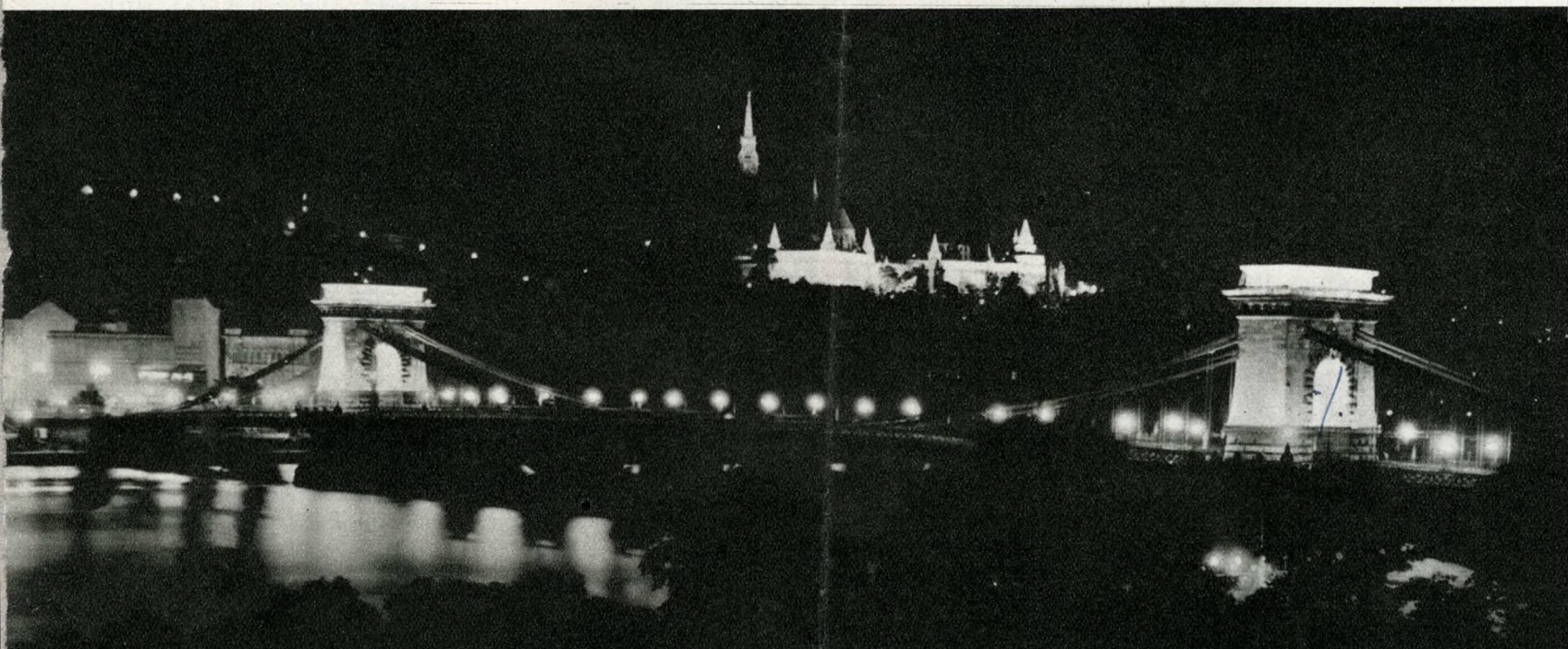


A portrait of Adam Clark.

obtained for the bridge and all the technical details were settled. And last, but by no means least, a banker had to be found who would extend credit to the Bridge Association, founded by Széchenyi to build the bridge. Several offers were received and contacts were mobilized in the hope of a high rate of interest. The tenders of three houses were accepted and the credit was obtained from Sina of Greece, Rothschild of Austria and Wodianer of Hungary.

The graceful span in the splendour of evening lights.

Photographs by Dezső Sziklás



**THE BRIDGE
THAT TWO CLARKS BUILT**