

The peculiar features of this Centre,* consisted in the absence of horizontal timbers, the timbers being so arranged, that their load was received end-ways, and in the laggings being supported over each rib by folding wedges.

Mr. Trubshaw entered into the details of the construction, and method of striking the Centre, explanatory of the account contained in the Transactions.

Projections of
Railways.

Mr. Macneill explained a method which he had recently adopted for laying down the sections of Railways, so as to show at one view the position of the cuttings and embankments; and a scale being laid upon the section, their heights and lengths were at once known, in the same way as by measurement on a detached section. This method would be understood, by conceiving the line of railway traced on a map of the country, with coloured parts above, to represent the cuttings, and differently coloured parts below for the embankments.† The outlines of these, would show at once the dimensions of the cuttings and embankments. In engraved plans, the cuttings would be represented by lines, and the embankments by dots, or by stippling. The usual sections would of course be used by engineers, but a section similar to this, would convey at once, all the information requisite for Committees. Two or more lines being projected in this way, the reasons for selecting one in preference to the others would, in many cases, appear at a single glance.

Mr. Macneill proposed also to adopt the terms acclivity and declivity, with a rate marked after them. Starting then from the metropolis, or some principal town, all the ascents would be acclivities, and the descents declivities. Thus all the information generally required, would be conveyed by the inspection of a single section.

May 2, 1837.

The PRESIDENT in the Chair.

The Ordnance Maps of England and Wales were received from the Master-General and Board of Ordnance, and the President an-

* Vide Trans. Inst. C. E., vol. i. page 207.

† A similar plan is adopted in Stevenson's Bell Rock Lighthouse (Plate III.) to show the depth of the sea and the outline of different sections across the German Ocean.