ing; with all these disadvantages, we may judge what sort of work they were likely to make; all their contrivances must be mere guessing, and they could but ill execute what they had so badly contrived; and must be continually mending their work by repeated trials, till they got it to such a form as to make a shift to serve for the use designed. And this is the first and lowest state of mechanics, which was enough to give a beginning to it; and in this state it doubtless remained for a long time, without much improvement. But at length, as men found more leisure and opportunity, and gained more experience, manual arts began to take their rise, and by degrees to make some progress in the world. But we meet with no considerable inventions, in the mechanical way, for a long series of ages; or, if there had been any, the accounts of them are now lost, through length of time; for we have nothing upon record respecting them for two or three thousand years. After that period, however, we find an account of several machines that were in use. For we read in Genesis 49 c. 13 v. that ships were as old, even on the Mediterranean, as the days of Jacob, one thousand, six hundred and eighty-nine years