HISTORY

of

BRIDGES.

ALTHOUGH the History of Bridges might have been dispensed with, as not absolutely essential to the development of the author's great undertaking, it may be pleasing to those who delight in man's ingenuity to learn by what slow degrees the conveniences of life found their way into common use.

That Bridges were requisite in the earliest periods of time, we cannot doubt, from the knowledge we possess of the common operations of nature. Seas, Lakes, Rivers, Brooks, and Swamps, must have existed formerly as well as now; and man, in his common pursuits, must have