invented means of surmounting these obstacles to his correspondence with his fellow man, and keeping up the chain of connexion so necessary to his existence, as well as to his gratification.

The rude trunk or branch of a tree, we may easily conceive, was the first means made use of to pass the smaller streams; but the broad Arc, the extended Chain, and massy Pile, were reserved for those ages, the labours of which have little more than served to prove that approaches to perfection were still very uncertain.

Long before the invention of any kind of geometrical Bridge, mankind had adopted modes of crossing extensive rivers; and, although some authors pretend to ascertain at what particular periods boats and ships were first invented, it is more than probable that they were coeval with the first nations of the world.

We read that the Egyptians crossed the Nile on floats of various kinds, drawn by swimming horses, trained for the purpose; and we do not find that even the Greeks, who exceeded all other nations in ingenuity and keenness of perception, had em-