ployed, before the time of the Roman Republic, any regular plan for Bridges.

The Bridge of Boats, constructed by Xerxes over the Hellespont, was probably the first thing of the kind witnessed by the European nations. If Bridges had been previously used in Asia, or other parts of the globe, we have no account of them, unless the description of the one erected over the river Euphrates, in the ancient City of Babylon, may be relied on.

Ancient history is unfortunately so much confused, and the clues to information, on important points, so almost completely cut off by the destruction of the great Library at Alexandria, and other similar disasters, that the most minute research would not enable us fully to ascertain what were the acquirements of those ages which the unerring hand of time has long since swept from the face of the earth; nor is the investigation necessary to our present undertaking. We can only draw comparisons of utility and elegance from data within our reach; and we shall proceed to enumerate and treat on the different constructions denominated Bridges, of which we have any accurate account, from a remote period, down to the