OF BRIDGES.

tunnel under the channel of the river Euphrates, to afford a secret communication betwixt the two Palaces. These circumstances, with others that are recorded in sacred as well as profane history, tend to favour the impression that this Bridge, though erected at this early stage of the world, was wholly built of brick.

We pass on to observe that other remote ages of antiquity have furnished their various constructions for the crossing of rivers. It is written that about five hundred and ten years before the birth of Christ, Darius Hystaspes built a Bridge of Boats across the Danube, when engaged in his Sceythian warfare. He also crossed the Thracian Bosphorus, with upwards of six hundred thousand men, by means of a Bridge of this sort, the strait being three thousand feet over. Xerxes, in the year four hundred and ninety, before Christ, had a Bridge of Boats of nearly a mile in length across the Hellespont. This first Bridge that Xerxes formed, being carried away by a tempest, he substituted two others; the one consisting of three hundred and sixty vessels of the largest kind used in ancient navies, and the other containing three hundred and forty; these were moored with large