the small arcs or openings in the piers give a free passage to the water, which otherwise endanger the fabric. Besides, the Bridge is not straight, but bent in several places, forming unequal angles, which are greatest where the current is strongest, and thereby its fury is opposed and broken.

Dr. Smollet, mentioning this Bridge, observes, that it is a great curiosity from its length, and the number of its arcs; but that the arcs are too small, the passage above is too narrow, and the whole appearance too slight to resist the impetuous force of the river.*

**The Bridge, Pont Neuf, at Paris,**

constructed of stone,

was begun in the reign of Henry III; that monarch having laid the first stone upon the thirty-first of May, one thousand five hundred and seventy-eight; but it was not completed till the year one thousand six hundred and four. It consists of twelve arcs; is one thousand and twenty feet long, and seventy-two feet broad, of which the carriage-

* Wonders of Nature and Art.