HISTORY

larity of construction, it has more powerful claims; and these qualities it must be allowed to possess in as great a degree as any Bridge in Europe. Although this Bridge has been erected so many centuries, it exhibits no marks of decay: twelve months ago there were no fissures to be perceived in either of the arcs; and all that was missed were a mound and sceptre, which have been torn from a statue of king Ethelbert by the ruthless hand of time.*

LONDON BRIDGE.
OVER THE RIVER THAMES.

This ancient Bridge was first erected with timber in the reign of Ethelred, one of the Saxon Princes, between the years nine hundred and ninety-four, and one thousand and ten; it was rebuilt with the same sort of material in the year one thousand one hundred and sixty-three, but this second formation of timber not proving equal to the first in strength, and a considerable improvement taking place in the erection of Bridges; about thirteen years afterwards, in the reign of Henry II, this last wooden structure was taken down, and a Bridge of Port-

* Rees's New Cyclopaedia.