HISTORY

The longest Bridge in England is that over the Trent, at Burton, built by Bernard Abbot, of Burton, in the twelfth century. It is all of squared freestone, and is very strong. The length of the Bridge is fifteen hundred and forty-five feet, having thirty-four arcs. The piers are lofty and well executed.*

IRON BRIDGES.

Iron being the most abundant, cheap, and generally the most useful of all metals, has of late been employed in many works where great strength was required, in proportion to the weight of the material: hence cylinders, beams, and pumps for steam-engines, boats, and barges for canals and navigable rivers, pillars for warehouses and other large buildings, and at length Bridges, have been constructed of Iron.

Iron Bridges are the exclusive invention of British artists. The first that has been erected on a large scale is that over the river Severn, at Coalbrookdale, in Shropshire.

* Dr. Rees's New Cyclopædia.