BUFFON'S

ceived ? How a perfectly hard body should admit this force, or receive motion, is beyond comprehension; and the enquiry is unnecessary, sinceno such body exists; for, all bodies are endowed with elasticity. The force of electricity is proved by experiments to be elastic, and to belong to matters in general; and therefore, if no other elasticity existed in the interior parts of bodies but that of this electrical matter, that would be sufficient for the communication of motion; and consequently to this great spring, as a general effect, the particular cause of impulsion must be attributed.

A little reflection on the mechanism of elasticity will convince us that its force depends on that of attraction. To have a still more clear idea of this subject, let us suppose a spring the most simple, such as of a solid angle of iron, or of any other hard substance, and then sec what will be the result of compressing it. By compression we oblige the parts adjacent to the top of the angle to bend, or to separate a little from each other; but the pressure being removed they again approach as near as they Their adhesion, from which had done before. the cohesion of bodies results, is clearly an effect of their mutual attraction. Upon the spring being pressed this adhesion is not destroyed,

364