



The Natural History of Animals, Vegetables, and Minerals Volume 5 With the Theory of the Earth in General

Georges Louis Le Clerc Buffon



This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1776 Excerpt: ...like the teeth of a comb, the edge of the ring which was about three times broad and which bore all the load, was entered about a line and an half into the wood, and on each side a bundle of fibres, and the little knot which was on on the upper side, had not at all contributed to its breaking. I have a journal of above one hundred experiments of the same kind, which I made on pieces of different sizes, to be affined of their respective strength. The first remark I made, is, that wood never breaks without giving notice, at least, if the piece is not very small or very dry. Green wood breaks more difficultly than dry, and in general, wood which has a spring, resists much more than that which has not. The lap, the branches, the tops, and all young wood is weaker than old: the strength of the wood is not proportionable to its volume, a double or quadruple piece of the same length, is much stronger in proportion than another. It does not require 4000 lb. to break a piece ten foot long, by four inches square, and it requires ten to break a double piece, it requires 26000 lb. to break a quadruple piece, i. e. a piece ten foot long by eight inches square. It is the same with respect to length a piece of eight feet and of the same thickness as a piece of sixteen feet, must by mechanical laws be just double, nevertheless it bears much less. I could give physical reasons for all these circumstances the wood which in the same soil grows the fastest, is the strongest: that which has grown the slowest and whose annual circles, i. e. the lignous coats are thin, is weaker than the other. I found that the strength of wood is proportionable to its weight, inasmuch that a piece of the same length and size, but heavier than another piece, will be likewise stronger nearly in ..

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