country, beſides the above articles, contains likewiſe va­luable mines of ſilver, copper, tin, lead, and iron; and abounds in many places with horned cattle, ſheep, horſes, and venison. The principal rivers by which it is water­ed are the Elbe, the Schwerze-Elſter, the Mulde, the Saale, the Unſtrut, the Weiſſe-Elſter, and the Pleiſſe. Theſe rivers, as well as the lakes and rivulets, abound in fiſh; and in the White-Elſter are found beautiful pearls. This electorate is extremely well cultivated anti inhabited, and is ſaid to include about 250 great and ſmall towns, upwards of 5000 villages, 196 royal ma­nors, and near as many royal caſtles, beſides private eſtates, and commanderies. The provincial diets here conſiſt of three claſſes. The firſt is compoſed of the prelates, the counts, and lords, and the two universities of Leipſic and Wittenberg. To the ſecond belong the nobility in general, immediate or mediate, that is, ſuch as ſtand immediately under the fief-chancery or the aulic judicatories, and ſuch as are immediately under the juriſdiction of the amtman. The third claſs is formed of the towns in general. The general provincial diets are ordinarily held every ſix years; but there are others, called *ſelection diets,* which are convened commonly every two years. We would here obſerve, that not on­ly theſe diets, but thoſe in moſt of the other ſtates of Germany, are at preſent extremely inſignificant and un­important, retaining little more than the ſhadow of their former power and privileges; for even the petty princes, though they depend upon their more potent neighbours, and muſt be careful not to give them any umbrage, are almoſt as abſolute in their reſpective territories as the grand ſeignior himſelf. As to religion, it was in this country that the reformation took its riſe in the 16th century, to which it hath ever ſince adhered, according to the doctrines of Luther @@\*. The two late electors, when they embraced Popery in order to qualify themſelves to be elected kings of Poland, gave the moſt ſolemn aſſurances to their people, that they would invio­lably maintain the eſtabliſhed religion and its profeſſors in the full and free enjoyment of all their eccleſiaſtical rights, privileges, and prerogatives whatſoever, in regard to churches, worſhip, ceremonies, uſages, univerſities, ſchools, benefices, incomes, profits, juriſdictions, and immunities. The electoral families ſtill continue Roman Catholics, though they have loſt the crown of Poland, for which they at firſt embraced Popery. With reſpect to eccleſiaſtical matters, the country is divided in­to pariſhes, and theſe again into ſpiritual inſpections and conſiſtories, all ſubordinate to the eccleſiaſtical council and upper conſiſtory of Dreſden, in which city and Leipſic the Calviniſts and Roman Catholics enjoy the free exerciſe of their religion. Learning flouriſhes in this electorate; in which, beſides the free-ſchools and gymnaſia in moſt of the chief towns, are the two cele­brated univerſities of Wittenberg and Leipzig, in the laſt of which are alſo ſocieties for the liberal arts and the German language, with bookſellers and printers of the greateſt eminence. A great variety of manufactures are alſo carried on in this country. The principal are thoſe of fine and coarſe linen, thread, fine lace, paper, fine glaſſes and mirrors; porcelain, equal it not ſuperior to that of China @@†; iron, braſs, and ſteel wares; ma­nufactures of gold and ſilver, cotton, wool, and ſilk; gloves, caps, hats, and tapeſtry;. in which, and the na­tural productions mentioned above, together with dye­

ing, an important foreign commerce is carried on. A great addition has been made ſince the year 1718 to the electoral territories, by the extinction of the collateral branches of Zeitz, Merſeburg, and Weiſſenfels, whoſe dominions devolved to the elder electoral branch, deſcended from the margraves of Meiſſen. The firſt of theſe, who was elector of Saxony, was Frederick the Warlike, about the beginning of the 15th century.

This elector ſtyles himſelf duke of Saxony, Juliers, Cleve, and Berg, as alſo of Engern and Weſtphalia, arch-marſhal and elector of the Holy Roman empire, landgrave in Thuringia, margrave of Meiſſen, and of Upper and Lower Luſatia, burgrave of Magdeburg, princely count of Henneberg, count of La Mark, Ravenſherg, Barby, and Hanau, and lord of Ravenſtein. Among the electors he is reckoned the ſixth, as great-marſhal of the empire, of which he is alſo vi­car, during an interregnum, in all places not ſubject to the vicariate of the count palatine of the Rhine. He is moreover ſole director of the circle; and in the va­cancy of the ſee of Mentz claims the directorium at the diet of the empire. His matricular aſſeſſment, on ac­count of the electorate, is 1984 florins, beſides what he pays for other diſtricts and territories. To the chamber-courts he contributes, each term, the ſum of 1545 rix dollars, together with 83 rix-dollars and 62 kruitzers on account of the county of Mansfeld. In this elec­torate, ſubordinate to the privy council, are various col­leges for the departments of war, foreign affairs, the fi­nances, fiefs, mines, police, and eccleſiaſtical affairs, to­gether with high tribunals and courts of juſtice, to which appeals lie from the inferior. The revenues of this elector are as conſiderable as thoſe of any prince in the empire, if we except thoſe of the houſe of Auſtria. They ariſe from the ordinary and extraordinary ſubſidies of the ſtates; his own demeſnes, conſiſting of 72 bailiwics; the impoſt on beer, and the fine porce­lain of the country; tenths of corn, fruit, wine, &c. his own ſilver mines, and the tenths of thoſe that be­long to particulars: all which, added together, bring in an yearly revenue of betwixt 700,000l. and 800,000l. yet the electorate is at preſent deeply in debt. The regular troops commonly amount to 20,000 men, excluſive of the militia of the ban, the arriere-ban, and the body of miners and hunters, who are obliged in time of war to bear arms. The whole electorate is divided into circles.

The electoral circle, or the duchy of Saxony, is bounded by the circles of Meiſſen, Leipzig, and Thur ringia, the principality of Anhalt, the marche of Bran­denburg, and Luſatia. The principality of Anhalt lies acroſs it, and divides it into two parts. Its greateſt length and breadth is computed at about 40 miles; but though it is watered by the Elbe, the Black Elfter, and the Mulde, it is not very fruitful, the ſoil for the moſt part conſiſting of fand. It contains 24 towns, three bo­roughs, betwixt 400 and 500 villages,. 164 noblemens eſtates, 11 ſuperintendencies, three inspections, under one conſiſtory, and 11 prefecturates or diſtricts. The preſent duchy of Saxony is not to be confounded with the old; for the latter was of a much greater extent, and contained in it thoſe large tracts: anciently called *Eaſtphalia, Engern,* and *Weſtphalia,* of which the elec­toral circle was no part, but was taken by Albert the Bear, margrave of Salzwedel, from the Venedi. His

\* See Reformation, n⁰ 8.

†See *Porcelain,* n⁰ 23, 24.