*of the Law,* in Jewiſh antiquity, two tables on which were written the decalogue, or ten commandments, given by God to Motes on mount Sinai.

TABOO, a word uſed by the South Sea iſlanders, near­ly of the same import as prohibited or interdicted. It ap­plies equally to perſons and things, and is alſo expressive of any thing ſacred, devoted, or eminent.

TABOR, a mountain of Galilee, about *12* miles from the city of Tiberias. It riſes in the form of a ſugar-loaf, in the midst of an extenſive plain, to the height of 30 stadia, according to Josephus. The aſcent is ſo easy, that one may aſcend on horſeback. On the top there is a plain two miles in circumference.

The situation of Mount Tabor is most delightful. Rising amidst the plains of Galilee, it exhibits to the enchanted eye a charming variety of proſpects. On one side there are lakes, rivers, and a part of the Mediterranean ; and on the other a chain of little hills, with small valleys, shaded by natural groves, and enriched by the hands of the husbandmen with a great number of useful productions. @@Here you behold an immensity of plains interſperſed with hamlets, fortresses, and heaps of ruins ; and there the eye delights to wander over the fields of Jezrael or Mageddon, named by the Arabs *Elbn-Aamer,* which signifies “ the field of the ſons of Aamer.” A little farther you distinguish the mountains of Hermon, Gilboa, Samaria, and Arabia the Stony. In short, you experience all thoſe ſenſations which are produ­ced by a mixture and rapid ſuccession of rural, gay, gloomy, and majestic objects.

It was upon this enchanting mount that the apostle Pe­ter ſaid to Christ, “ It is good for us to be here : and let us make three tabernacles ; one for thee, and one for Moſes, and one for Elias.”

Flavian Joſephus, governor of Galilee, cauſed the ſummit of this mountain, for the ſpace of two miles and a half, to see ſurrounded with walls. The inhabitants of Tabor long braved the power of the Roman armies ; but being deprived of water in conſequence of the great heats, they were for­ced to surrender at diſcretion to Placidus, the general of Veſpafian.

Several churches were built upon this mountain by St Helen, who founded here also ſome monasteries. Of the two most remarkable, one was dedicated to Moſes, and in­habited by Cenobites of the order of St Benedict, who fol­lowed the Latin rites : the other was dedicated to the pro­phet Elias by monks of the order of St Bafil, attached to the Greek rites. The kings ot Hungary erected here alſo a pretty ſpacious convent for ſome monks belonging to that nation, of the order of St Paul the first hermit. Tabor was alſo the seat of a bishop, dependant on the patriarchate of Jeruſalem

When Godfrey of Bouillon ſeized on this mountain, he repaired the ancient churches, which were beginning to fall into ruins. Under Baldwin I. in 1113, the Saracen troops retook Tabor ; and their ſanguinary fury gained as many victories as there were priests and Cenobites. This mountain again fell into the hands of the Christians ; but the Ca­tholic standard was not long displayed on it. Saladin pulled it down the year following, and destroyed all the churches. The Christians retook it once more in 1253 ; and their zeal made them rebuild all the ſacred places At this time Rome being accustomed to give away empires, Pope Alexander IV. granted Tabor to the Templars, who fortified it again. At length, in the courte of the year 1290, the sultan of Egypt destroyed and laid waste the buildings of this mountain, which could never be repaired afterwards ; ſo that at present it is uninhabited.

TACAMAHACA, in pharmacy, a ſolid resin, impro­perly called *a gum* in the shops. It exudes from a species of poplar ; and is in repute for mitigating pain and aches, and is alſo reckoned a vulnerary.

TACCA, in botany : A genus of plants belonging to the claſs of *dodecandria,* and order of *trigynia.* The flower is above. The corolla has six petals, and is vaulted. The calyx is hexaphyllous ; the fruit a dry, angular, three- celled berry. There is only one ſpecies known, the pinnatifida.

TACITUS (Caius Cornelius), a celebrated Roman historian, and one of the greatest men of his time, appears to have been born about the year of Rome 809 or 810, and applied himself early to the labours of the bar, in which he gained very considerable reputation. Having married the daughter of Agricola, the road to public ho­nours was laid open to him in the reign of Veſpasian ; @@but during the ſanguinary and capricious tyranny of Domitian, he, as well as his friend Pliny, appears to have retired from the theatre of public affairs. The reign of Nerva restored these luminaries of Roman literature to the metropolis, and we find Tacitus engaged, in the year 850, to pronounce the funeral oration of the venerable Virginius Rufus, the col­league of the emperor in the conſulſhip, and afterwards ſucceeding him as conſul for the remainder of the year.

The time of his death is not mentioned by any ancient author, but it is probable that he died in the reign of Trajan.

His works which still remain are, 1. Five books of his History. 2. His Annals. 3. A Treatiſe on the different Nations which in his time inhabited Germany: and, 4. The Life of Agricola his father-in-law. There is alſo attribu­ted to him a Treatiſe on Eloquence, which others have aſcribed to Quintilian. The Treatiſe on the Manners of the Germans was published in 851.—In the year 853, Pli­ny and Tacitus were appointed by the senate to plead the cauſe of the oppressed Africans against Marius Priſcus, a corrupt proconſul, who was convicted before the fathers ; and the patriot orators were honoured with a declaration that they had executed their trust to the entire satisfaction of the house. The exact time when Tacitus publiſhed his history is uncertain, but it was in ſome period of Trajan’s reign, who died ſuddenly, A. U. C. 870, A. D. 117.— The history comprises a period of 27 years, from the accession of Galba, 822, to the death of Domitian, 849. The history being finished, he did not think he had completed the ta­blature of ſlavery ; he went back to the time of Tiberius : and the second work, which, however, comes first in the or­der of chronology, includes a period of 54 years, from the accession of Tiberius, 767, to the death of Nero, 821 : this work is his “Annals.”

It is remarkable, that princes and politicians have always held the works of Tacitus in the highest esteem@@; which look as if they either found their account in reading them, or were pleased to find courts, and the people who live in them, so exactly deſcribed after the life as they are in his writings, Part of what is extant was found in Germany by a receiver of Pope Leo X. and published by Beroaldus at Rome in 1515. Leo was ſo much charmed with Ta­citus, that he gave the receiver a reward of *500* crowns ; and promised not only indulgences, but money alſo and ho­nour, to any one who ſhould find the other part ; which it is ſaid was afterwards brought to him. Pope Paul III as Muretus relates, wore out his Tacitus by much reading it ; and Cosmo de Medicis, who was the first great duke of Tuſcany, and formed for governing, accounted the reading of him his greatest pleaſure. Muretus adds, that several princes, and privy-counſellors to princes, read him with great application, and regarded him as a sort of oracle in politics. A certain author relates, that Queen Christina of

@@@[mu] Mariti's Travel's, vol. ii.

@@@[mu] Murphy's Translations of Tacitus.

@@@[mu] Biographical Dictionary.