fertile, abounding in corn, wine, and fruits ; and they have ſuch plenty of cattle, that they supply the ſhips therewith that call there. However, their principal trade is wood. The inhabitants are lively and well made ; and they pretend to a great deal of religion and gallantry at the same time. They pique themselves upon points of honour, and are ex­tremely revengeful. It is their cuſtom to rove about in the night-time in queſt of intrigues, and ſeldom fail in finding women for their purpoſe. It is ſubject to Portugal ; and Angra is the capital town. W. Long. 27. 1. N. Lat. 28. 45.

TEREBELLA, the Piercer, in natural hiſtory, a ge­nus of insects belonging to the claſs of *vermes,* and order of m*ollusca.* The body is filiform, the mouth placed before ; the preputium puts forth a pedunculated tubulous gland. There are ſeveral capillary tentacula about the mouth. There are ten ſpecies.

*Terebinthine Electuary.* See Pharmacy, n⁰ 599. TEREBINTHUS, in botany. See Pistacia.

TEREDO, in natural hiſtory, a genus of *vermes* belong­ing to the order of *testacea.* The animal is a terebella ; there are two valves, calcareous, hemiſpherical, and cut off before, and two lanceolated. The ſhell is tapering, bending, and capable of penetrating wood. There are only three ſpecies ; the *navalis, utriculus,* and c*lava.*

The *navalis,* or ſhip-worm, which has a very ſlender ſmooth cylindrical ſhell, inhabits the Indian ſeas, whence it was imported into Europe. It penetrates easily into the ſtouteſt oak-planks, and produces dreadful deſtruction to the ſhips by the holes it makes in their ſides ; and it is to avoid the effects of this insect that veſſels require ſheathing.

The head of this creature is well prepared by nature for the hard offices which it has to undergo, being coated with a ſtrong armour, and furniſhed with a mouth like that oſ the leech ; by which it pierces wood, as that animal does the ſkin ; a little above this it has two horns which ſeem a kind of con­tinuation of the ſhell ; the neck is as ſtrongly provided for the ſervice of the creature as the head, being furniſhed with ſeveral ſtrong muſcles ; the reſt of the body is only covered by a very thin and tranſparent ſkin, through which the mo­tion of the inteſtines is plainly ſeen by the naked eye ; and by means of the microſcope ſeveral other very remarkable particulars become viſible there. This creature is wonder­fully minute when newly excluded from the egg, but it grows to the length of four or six inches, and ſometimes more.

When the bottom of a veſſel, or any piece of wood which is conſtantly under water, is inhabited by theſe worms, it is full of ſmall holes ; but no damage appears till the outer parts are cut away : Then their ſhelly habitations come into view ; in which there is a large ſpace for incloſing the ani­mal, and ſurrounding it with water. There is an evident care in theſe creatures never to injure one another’s habita­tions ; by this means each caſe or ſhell is preſerved entire ; and in ſuch pieces of wood as have been found eaten by them into a sort of honeycomb, there never is ſeen a paſſage or communication between any two of the ſhells, tho’ the woody matter between them often is not thicker than a piece of writing-paper.

They penetrate ſome kinds of wood much more eaſily than others. They make their way moſt quickly into fir and al­der, and grow to the greateſt ſize. In the oak they make ſmall progress, and appear ſmall and feeble, and their ſhells much discoloured.

Since each of theſe animals is lodged in a ſolitary cell, and has no acceſs to thoſe of its own ſpecies, it has been matter oſ ſurpriſe how they ſhould increaſe to ſo vaſt a multitude. Upon diſſecting them, it appears that every in­dividual has the parts of both ſexes, and is therefore ſuppoſed to propagate by itſelf.

The ſea-worms, which are pernicious to our dripping, ap­pear to have the ſame office allotted them in the waters which the termites have on the land (see Termes). They will ap­pear, on a very little conſideration, to be moſt important beings in the great chain of creation, and pleaſing demonſtrations of that infinitely wise and gracious Power which formed, and ſtill preſerves@@, the whole in ſuch wonderful order and beauty: for if it was not for the rapacity of theſe and ſuch animals, tropical rivers, and indeed the ocean itſelf, would be choked with the bodies of trees which are annually carried down by the rapid torrents, as many of them would laſt for ages, and probably be productive of evils, of which, happily, we cannot in the preſent harmonious ſtate of things form any idea @@(a) ; whereas now being conſumed by theſe animals, they are more eaſily broken in pieces by the waves ; and the fragments which are not devoured become ſpecifically lighter, and are conſequently more readily and more effectually thrown on ſhore, where the sun, wind, infects, and various other inſtruments, ſpeedily promote their entire diſſolution.

TERENCE, or Publius Terentius Afer, a cele­brated comic poet of ancient Rome, was born at Carthage in Africa. He was ſlave to Terentius Lucanus the ſenator; who gave him his liberty on account of his wit, his good mien, and great abilities. Terence, on his becoming a freed man, applied himſelf to the writing of comedies ; in the execu­tion of which he imitated Menander and the other celebrated comic poets of Greece. Cicero gives him the moſt pom­pous eulogiums, both for the purity of his language and the perſpicuity and beauty of his compoſitions, which he conſiders as the rule and ſtandard of the Latin tongue ; and obſerves, that they were eſteemed ſo line and elegant, that they were thought to have been written by Scipio and Lelius, who were then the greateſt perſonages and the moſt eloquent of the Roman people. Terence died while on a voyage into Greece, about the 15th year before the Chriſtian era. There are six of his comedies extant, of which the beſt editions are the Elzevir one 1635, 12mo; that *cum integris notis Donati, et selectis variorum,* 1686, 8vo ; Weſterhovius’s, in two vols 4t0 1726; and that of Bentley the ſame year 4to. Madam Dacier has given a beautiful French verſion *of* this author ; and a very good Engliſh tranſlation was publiſhed in 4to, 1768, by Mr Colman.

TERM, in law, is generally taken for a limitation of time or eſtate ; as, a leaſe for term of life or years.

Term, however, is more particularly uſed for that time wherein our courts of juſtice are open ; in oppoſition to which, the reſt of the year is called *vacation.*

Term, in grammar, denotes ſome word or expression in a language.

The word *term, terminus,* is borrowed metaphorically, by the grammarians and philosophers, from the meaſurers or ſur-

@@@(a) That wood will endure in water for many centuries, is apparent from the oak flakes which were driven into the bed of the river Thames on the invaſion of this iſland by Julius Cæsar, one of which is to be ſeen in Sir Aſhton Lever’s muſeum, and likewiſe from thoſe bodies of trees which are daily found in the bogs and moraſſes of Great Britain and Ireland, which after a duration, the former of eighteen hundred, the latter of upwards of two thouſand years, are found in a perfect ſtate of preservation.