4000 l ; and though he may be depoſed, he cannot resign his dignity. All the nobility have a seat in the great coun­cil, unleſs they are under 25 years of age. In this council the supreme authority and legislative power is veiled. Next to it is the ſenate or pregradi, which consists of about 250 members, who have the power of making peace or war, and foreign alliances; of appointing ambassadors ; fixing the standard of the coins ; imposing duties and taxes; and all offices by ſea and land are in their gift. The third council consists of the doge and his six counſellors, in which all let­ters and instruments relating to the state are read, ambassadors admitted to audience, and other important affairs transacted. The other colleges are the council of ten ; which decides all criminal cases without appeal, and to which even the doge himſelf is ſubject : the procurators of St Mark, whoſe office is very lucrative, and who decide with reſpect to wills, guardianships, and the making a proper provision for the poor ; and the state-inquisition, whoſe busineſs it is to provide for the public tranquillity. In the wall of the ducal palace are heads of lions and leopards, with open mouths, to receive informations of any plot or treaſon against the state. Here is alſo a particular college for the regula­tion of dreſs, but their juriſdiction does not extend to strangers. The method of electing the doge is no leſs singular than complicated, and effectually calculated to prevent all kinds of bribery or corruption. All the members of the grand council who are past 30 years of age, being assembled in the hall of the palace, as many balls are put into an urn as there are members present ; 30 of theſe balls are gilt, and the rest white. Each counsellor draws one ; and those who get the gilt balls go into another room, where there is an urn containing 30 balls, nine of which are gilt. The 30 members draw again ; and thoſe who by a second piece of good fortune get the gilt balls are the first electors, and have a right to choose 40, among whom they comprehend themselves.

Theſe 40, by balloting in the same manner as in the former instances, are reduced to 12 second electors, who chooſe 25 ; the first of the 12 naming three, and the remain­ing II two a-piece, All thoſe being assembled in a chamber apart, each of them draws a ball from an urn containing 25 balls, among which are 9 gilt. This reduces them to 9 third electors, each of whom chooſes five, making in all 45 ; who, as in the preceding instances, are reduced by ballot to II fourth electors, and they have the nomination of 41, who are the direct electors of the doge. Being shut up by themſelves, they begin by choosing three chiefs and two ſecretaries ; each elector being then called, throws a little bil­let into an urn which stands on a table before the chiefs. On this billet is inſcribed the perſon’s name whom the elector wishes to be doge.

The ſecretaries then, in the preſence of the chiefs and of the whole assembly, open the billets. Among all the 41 there are generally but a very few different names ; as the election for the most part balances between two or three candidates. Their names, whatever is the number, are put into another urn, and drawn out one after another. As soon as a name is extracted the ſecretary reads it, and if the person to whom it belongs is present, he immediately retires. One of the chiefs then demands with a loud voice, whether any crime can be laid to this person’s charge, or any objec­tion made to his being raiſed to the Sovereign dignity ? If any objection is made, the accuſed is called in and heard in his own defence ; after which the electors proceed to give their decision, by throwing a ball into one of the two boxes, one of which is for the Ayes, the other for the Noes. The ſecretaries then count the balls ; and if there are 25 in the first, the election is finiſhed ; if not, another name is read, and the same inquisition made as before, till there are 25 appearing balls.

The principal Venetian order of knighthood is that of St Mark; the badge of which is a large gold medal dependent on the breast. The order of Constantine knights wear a cross hanging from a gold chain.

With reſpect to religion, that of the Venetians is the Ro­man Catholic; but they are no bigots. The court of inquisition is here under very great restrictions ; and the pope *it* considered as little more than a temporal prince, his supre macy being rejected.

The Venetians are still the greatest naval power in Italy. They pretend they could sit out, in case of necessity, 60 men of war, 100 galleys, and l0 galeasses; though one can hardly imagine how they could man half that number. The army is ſaid to consist of between 20,000 and 30,000 men ; the greatest part of which are Dalmatians and Switzers. The commander in chief, styled *Capitano,* is always a foreigner of distinction. General Græme, a Scotchman, lately enjoyed that honourable post. The ordinary revenues of the state are computed at about 1,200,000 l. sterling; but in time of war they can raise them greatly. A considerable part of the revenue ariſes from the customs, and the duty on salt made at Corfu and Chioſa.

The Venetians are in general tall and well made. They are a lively ingenious people, extravagantly fond of public amuſements, with an uncommon reliſh for humour, and yet more attached to the real enjoyments of life than to thoſe which depend on ostentation and proceed from vanity. The women are of an easy addreſs, and have no aversion to culti­vating an acquaintance with thoſe strangers who are preſented to them by their relations, or have been properly recommended.

VENIRE facias, in law, is a judicial writ lying where two parties plead and come to issue, directed to the ſheriff, to cauſe 12 men of the same neighbourhood to meet and try the same, and to say the truth upon the iſſue taken.

VENTER, ſignifies the belly; but it is alſo uſed for the children by a woman of one marriage : there is in law a first and ſecond venter, &c. where a man hath children by ſeveral wives ; and how they ſhall take in deſcents of lands.

*Venter Inspiciendo,* is a writ to ſearch a woman that faith ſhe is with child, and thereby withholdeth lands from the next heir : the trial whereof is by a jury of women.

VENTILATOR, a machine by which the noxious air of any cloſe place, as an hoſpital, gaol, ship, chamber, &c. may be discharged and changed for fresh.

The noxious qualities of bad air have been long known ; and no one has taken greater pains to ſet the miſchiefs arising from foul air in a just light than Dr Hales; who has allo propoſed an eaſy and effectual remedy by the tile of his ventilators; his account of which was read to the Royal Society in May 1741. In the November following Μ. Triewald, military architect to the king of Sweden, informed Dr Mortimer ſecretary to the Royal Society, that he had in the preceding ſpring invented a machine for the uſe of his majesty’s men of war, in order to draw out the bad air from under their decks, the least of which exhausted 36,172 cu­bic feet of air in an hour, or at the rate of 21,732 tons in 24 hours. In 1742 he ſent one of them, formed for a 60 gun ſhip to France ; which was approved of by the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris; and the king of France ordered all the men of war to be furnished with the like ventilators.

The ventilators invented by Dr Hales consist of a ſquare box ABCD (fig. 1.) of any size; in the middle of one side of this box a broad partition or midriff is fixed by hinges X, and it moves up and down from A to C, by means of