many parts, for there were ſeveral ſtraw huts in the vine­yards, which had been erected for the watchmen of the grapes ; all of which were burnt. A great magazine of wood in the heart of the town was all in a blaze.; and had there been much wind, the flames muſt have ſpread universally, and all the inhabitants would have been burnt in their houſes ; for it was impoſſible for them to ſtir out. Some, who attempted it with pillows, tables, chairs, the tops of wine caſks, &c. on their heads, were either knocked down or ſoon driven back to their cloſe quarters under arches and in the cellars of their houſes. Many were wounded, but only two persons died of their wounds.

To add to the horror of the ſcene, incessant volcanic lightning was whisking about the black cloud that ſurrounded them, and the ſulphureous ſmell and heat would scarcely allow them to draw their breath. In this dreadful ſituation they remained about 25 minutes, when the volcanic ſtorm ceaſed all at once, and Veſuvius remained sullen and silent.

Some time after the eruption had ceaſed, the air continu­ed greatly impregnated with electrical matter. The duke of Cottofiano told our author, that having, about half an hour after the great eruption had ceaſed, held a Leyden bottle, armed with a pointed wire, out at his window at Naples, it ſoon became conſiderably charged. But whilſt the eruption was in force, its appearance was too alarming to allow one to think of ſuch experiments.—He was in­formed alſo by the prince of Monte Mileto, that his ſon, the duke of Popoli, who was at Monte Mileto the 8th of Auguſt, had been alarmed by the ſhower of cinders that fell there ; ſome of which he had ſent to Naples weigſhing two ounces ; and that stones of an ounce weight had fallen upon an eſtate of his ten miles farther off. Monte Mileto is about 30 miles from the volcano. The Abbé Cagliani alſo related, that his sister, a nun in a convent at Manfredonia, had written to inquire after him, imagining that Naples muſt have been deſtroyed, when they, at ſo great a diſtance, had been alarm­ed by a ſhower of aſhes which fell on the city at eleven o’clock at night, ſo much as to open all the churches, and go to prayers. As the great eruption happened at nine o’clock, theſe aſhes muſt have travelled an hundred miles in the ſpace of two hours.

Nothing could be more diſmal than the appearance of Ottaiano after this eruption. The houſes were unroofed, half buried under the black scoriæ and aſhes ; all the win­dows towards the mountain were broken, and ſome of the houſes themſelves burnt ; the ſtreets choked up with aſhes, in ſome narrow places not leſs than four feet thick ; and a few of the inhabitants who had just returned, were employ­ed in clearing them away, and piling them up in hillocks, to get at their ruined houſes. The palace of the prince of Ottaiano is situated on an eminence above the town, and nearer the mountain. The ſteps leading up to it were deeply covered with volcanic matter ; the roof was totally de­ſtroyed, and the windows broken, but the houſe itſelt, be­ing ſtrongly built, had not ſuffered much.

An incredible number of fragments of lava were thrown out during the eruption, ſome of which werb of immenſe magnitude. The largeſt meaſured by Sir William Hamil­ton was 108 teet in circumference and 17 in height. This was thrown at leaſt a quarter of a mile clear of the mouth of the volcano. Another, 66 feet in circumference and 19 in height, being nearly of a ſpherical figure, was thrown out at the ſame time, and lay near the former. This laſt had the marks of being rounded, nay almoſt poliſhed, by continual rolling in torrents or on the sea ſhore. Our author conjectures that it might be a ſpherical volcanic salt, ſuch as that of 45 feet in circumſerence mentioned by Μ. de St Fond, in his Treatiſe of Extinguished Volcanoes. A third of 16 feet in height and 92 in circumference was thrown much farther, and lay in the valley between Veſuvius and the Hermitage. It appeared alſo, from the large fragments that ſurrounded this maſs, that it had been much larger while in the air.

Veſuvius continued to emit ſmoke for a conſiderable time after this great eruption, ſo that our author was apprehensive that another would ſoon enſue ; but from that time nothing comparable to the above has taken place. From the time of this great eruption to the year 1786 our au­thor kept an exact diary of the operations of Veſuvius, with drawings, ſhowing, by the quantity or ſmoke, the degree of fermentation within the volcano. The operations of the ſubterraneous fire, however, appear to be very capricious and uncertain. One day there will be the appearance of a violent fermentation, and the next every thing will be calm­ed ; but whenever there has been a considerable ejection of scoriæ and cinders, it has been a constant obſervation, that the lava ſoon made its appearance, either by boding over the cra­ter, or forcing its way through the crevices in the conical part of the mountain. An eruption took place in the month of November 1784, and continued for ſome time, but without being accompanied with any extraordinary circumſtance.

Since that time there have been no remarkable eruptions of this volcano, at leaſt none that have been properly authen­ticated ; though, indeed, Sir William Hamilton obſerves, that the inhabitants of Naples in general pay ſo little atten­tion to the operations of this volcano, that many of its erup­tions paſs unnoticed by at leaſt two-thirds of them.

VETCH, in botany. See Vicia.

VETERAN, among the ancient Romans, an appellation given to a *ſoldier* grown old in the ſervice, or who had made a certain number of campaigns.

VETERINARY art. See Farriery.

VEXILLUM, in botany ; the upper petal of a pea­bloom, or butterfly-ſhaped flower, which is generally larger than any of the others.

VIALES, in mythology, a name given among the Ro­mans to the gods who had the care and guard of the roads and highways.

VIATICUM, in Roman antiquity, an appellation given in common to all officers of any of the magiſtrates ; as *lictοrs, accensi, ſcribes, criers.*

VIBEX, is ſometimes uſed, by phyſicians, for a black and blue ſpot in the ſkin occaſioned by an afflux or extravaſation of blood.

VIBRATION, in mechanics, a regular, reciprocal mo­tion of a body, as a pendulum.

VIBURNUM, in botany ; a genus of plants of the class *pentandria,* order *trigynia,* and in the natural ſystem arranged under the 43d order, *dumoſae.* The calyx is quinquepartite and above ; the corolla divided into five laciniæ ; the fruit a monoſpermous berry. There are 19 ſpecies ; two of which, the *lantana* and *opulus,* are natives of Britain. 1. The *lantana,* common viburnum, wayfaring, or pliant meally tree, rises with a woody stem, branching twenty feet high, ha­ving very pliant ſhoots covered with a lightiſh brown bark ; large heart-ſhaped, veined, ſerrated leaves, white and hoary underneath ; and the branches terminated by umbels of white flowers, ſucceeded by bunches of red berries, &c. 2. The *opulus,* or gelder role ; conſiſting of two varieties, one with flat flowers, the other globular. The former grows eighteen or twenty feet high, branching oppoſite, of an ir­regular growth, and covered with a whitiſh bark; large lobated or three-lobed leaves on glanduloſe foot ſtalks, and large flat umbels of white flowers at the ends of the branches, ſucceeded by red berries. The latter grows fifteen