tioned : as also they differ from freeholders by one eſpecial mark and tincture of villenage, noted by Bracton, and re­maining to this day ; *viz.* that they cannot be conveyed from man to man by the general common-law conveyances of feoffment, and the rest ; but muſt paſs by ſurrender to the lord or his ſteward, in the manner of common copy-holds ; yet with this difference, that, in the ſurrenders of theſe lands in ancient demeſne, it is not uſed to ſay, “ to hold at the will of their lord,” in their copies ; but only, “ to hold according to the cuſtom of the manor.”

VILLI, among botaniſts, a kind of down like ſhort hair, with which ſome trees abound.

VILLIERS (George duke of Buckingham), an inge­nious and witty nobleman, whoſe mingled character render­ed him at once the ornament and diſgrace, the envy and ri­dicule, of the court he lived in, was ſon to that famous stateſman and favourite of king Charles I. who lost his life by the hands of lieutenant Felton. He was born in 1627, the year before the fatal cataſtrophe of his father’s death. The early parts of his education he received from various domeſtic tutors, after which he was ſent to the univerſity of Cambridge. Having here completed a courſe of ſtudies, he, with his brother lord Francis, went abroad under the care of one Mr Ayleſbury.—Upon his return, which was not till after the breaking out of the civil wars, the king being at Oxford, his grace repaired thither, was preſented to his majeſty, and entered of Chriſt-church college. Upon the decline of the king’s cauſe, he attended prince Charles into Scotland, and was with him at the battle of Worceſter in 1661 ; after which, making his eſcape beyond ſea, he again joined him, and was ſoon after, as a reward for this attachment, made knight of the garter.

Deſirous, however, of retrieving his affairs, he came pri­vately to England; and in 1657 married Mary, the daughter and ſole heireſs of Thomas lord Fairfax, through whole intereſt he recovered the greateſt part of the eſtate he had lost, and the assurance of ſucceeding to an accumulation of wealth in the right of his wife.

We do not find, however, that this ſtep lost him the royal favour ; for after the reſtoration, at which time he is ſaid to have possessed an eſtate of L. 20,000 *per annum,* he was made one of the lords of the bed-chamber, called to the privy-council, and appointed lord-lieutenant of Yorkshire and maſter of the horſe. All theſe high poſts, how­ever, he lost again in the year 1666. For having been refuſed the poſt of president of the north, he became diſaffected to the king ; and it was diſcovered that he had car­ried on a ſecret correſpondence by letters and other tranſaction with one Dr Heydon, tending to raiſe mutinies among his majeſty’s forces, particularly in the navy, to ſtir up ſedition among the people, and even to engage perſons in a conſpiracy for the ſeizing the tower of London. Matters were ripe for execution ; and an inſurrection, at the head of which the duke was openly to have appeared, was on the very eve of breaking out, when it was discovered by means of ſome agents whom Heydon had employed to carry let­ters to the duke. The detection of this affair ſo exaſperated the king, who knew Buckingham to be capable of the blackeſt deſigns. that he immediately ordered him to be ſeized ; but the duke finding means, having defended his houſe for ſome time by force, to make his eſcape, his ma­jeſty ſtruck him out of all his commiſſions, and issued a pro­clamation requiring his ſurrender by a certain day.

This ſtorm, however, did not long hang over his head ; for, on his making a humble ſubmiſſion, king Charles, who was far from being of an implacable temper, took him again into favour, and the very next year reſtored him both to the privy-council and bed-chamber. But the duke’s diſpo

ſition for intrigue and machination could not long lie idle ; for having conceived a reſentment againſt the duke of Or­mond for having acted with ſome ſeverity againſt him in regard to the laſt-mentioned affair, he, in 1670, was ſuppoſed to be concerned in an attempt made on that noble­man’s life by the ſame Blood who afterwards endeavoured to ſteal the crown. Their deſign was to have conveyed the duke to Tyburn, and there to have hanged him ; and ſo far did they proceed towards the putting it in execution, that Blood and his ſon had actually forced the duke out of his coach in St James’s Street, and carried him away be­yond Devonſhire houſe, Piccadilly, before he was reſcued from them.

It does not appear, however, that this tranſaction hurt the duke’s intereſt at court ; for in 1671 he was inſtalled chancellor of the univerſity of Cambridge, and ſent ambaſſador to France. Here he was very nobly entertained by Louis XIV. and preſented by that monarch at his depar­ture with a ſword and belt ſet with jewels, to the value of 40,000 piſtoles ; and the next year he was employed in the ſecond embassy to that king at Utrecht. However, in June 1674, he resigned the chancellorſhip of Cambridge, and about the ſame time became a zealous partizan and favourer of the Nonconformiſts. On the 16th of February 1676, his grace, with the earls of Salisbury and Shaſteſbury and lord Warton, were committed to the Tower by order of the houſe of lords, for a contempt in refuſing to retract the purport of a ſpeeeh which the duke had made concerning a dissolution of the parliament. This confinement did not laſt long ; yet we find no material tranſaction of this noble­man’s life recorded after it, till the time of his death, which happened in 1687. Wood tells us that he died at his houſe in Yorkſhire ; but Mr Pope, who muſt certainly have had very good information, and it is to be imagined would not have dared to advance an injurious falſehood of a perſon of his rank, has, in his epiſtle to lord Bathurſt, given us a moſt affecting account of the death of this ill-ſtarred no­bleman, whom, after having been maſter of near L. 50,000 *per annum,* he deſcribes as reduced to the deepeſt diſtreſs by his vice and extravagance, and breathing his laſt moments in a mean apartment at an inn.

As to his perſonal character, it is impossible to say any thing in its vindication ; for though his severeſt enemies ac­knowledge him to have posseſſed great vivacity and a quickneſs of parts peculiarly adapted to the purpoſes of ridicule, yet his warmeſt advocates have never attributed to him **a** ſingle virtue. His generosity was profuſeneſs, his wit ma­levolence, the gratification of his paſſions his ſole aim thro' life, his very talents caprice, and even his gallantry the mere love of pleaſure. But it is impoſſible to draw his character with equal beauty, or with more juſtice, than in that given of him by Dryden, in his Abſalom and Achitophel, under the name of *Zimri,* to which the reader is referred.

As a writer, however, he ſtands in a quite different point of view. There we ſee the wit, and forget the libertine.— His poems, which indeed are not very numerous, are capital in their kind ; but what will immortalize his memory while language ſhall be underſtood, or true wit reliſhed, is his ce­lebrated comedy of The Rehearſal.

VILLOSE, or Villous, ſomething abounding with villi or fibres like ſhort hair ; ſuch is one of the coats of the ſtomach.

VINCA, in botany: A genus of plants of the claſs *pentandria,* and order of *monogynia ;* and in the natural ſyſtem arranged under the 30th order, *Contortae.* The corolla is twiſted ; there are two erect follicles ; the ſeeds are naked. There are five ſpecies ; only two of which are natives of