able miniſter reſolved, if poſſible, to revive the decayed ſpirit of huſbandry ; to introduce a taſte for agriculture, even among the great; and could not think of a better method to effect this, than to recommend it by the inſinuating charms of poetry. Virgil fully anſwered the expectations of his pa­tron by his Georgics. They are divided into four books. Corn and ploughing are the ſubject of the firſt, vines of the second, cattle of the third, and bees of the fourth.

He is ſuppoſed to have been in his 45th year when he began to write the Æneid ; the deſign of which was to re­concile the Romans to the government of Auguſtus. Au­guſtus was eager to peruſe this poem before it was finiſhed; and intreated him by letters to communicate it. Macrobius has preſerved to us part of one of Virgil’s anſwers to the emperor, in which the poet excuſes himſelf : who, however, at length complied, and read himſelf the sixth book to the emperor; when Octavia, who had just lost her ſon Marcel­lus, the darling of Rome, and adopted ſon of Augustus, made one of the audience. Virgil had artfully inſerted that beautiful lamentation for the death of young Marcellus, be­ginning with—*0 nate, ingentem luctum ne quaere tuorum—*but ſuppreſſed his name till he came to the line—*Tu Marcellus eris :* upon hearing which, Octavia could bear no more, but fainted away ; overcome with ſurpriſe and ſorrow. When ſhe recovered, ſhe made the poet a preſent of ten ſeſlerces for every line, which amounted in the whole to above 2000l.

The Æneid being brought to a concluſion, but not to the perfection our author intended to give it, he reſolved to tra­vel into Greece, to correct and poliſh it at leiſure. It was probably on this occaſion that Horace addreſſed that affectionate ode to him, *Sic te Diva patens Cypri,* &c. Auguſtus returning victorious from the eaſt, met with Virgil at Athens, who thought himſelf obliged to attend the emperor to Italy: but the poet was ſuddenly ſeized with a fatal diſtemper, which being increaſed by the agitation of the vessel put an end to his life as soon as he landed at Brunduſium, in his 52d year. He had ordered in his will, that the Æneid ſhould be burnt as an unfiniſhed poem ; but Auguſtus for­bade it, and had it delivered to Varius and Tucca, with the stricteſt charge to make no additions, but only to publish it correctly. He died with ſuch ſteadineſs and tranquilli­ty, as to be able to dictate his own epitaph in the following words :

*Mantua me genuit : Calabri rapuere, tenet nunc*

*Parthenope : cecini Paſcua, Rura, Duces.*

His bones were carried to Naples, according to his earneſt requeſt ; and a monument was erected at a ſmall diſtance from the city.

Virgil was of a ſwarthy complexion, tall, of a ſickly conſtitution, and afflicted with frequent headachs and ſpitting of blood. He was ſo very baſhful, that he often ran into the ſhops to prevent being gazed at in the streets ; yet was ſo honoured by the Roman people, that once coming into the theatre, the whole audience roſe up out of reſpect to him. He was of a thoughtful and melancholy temper ; he spoke little, and loved retirement and contemplation. His fortune was affluent ; he had a fine houſe and well-furniſhed library near Maecenas’s gardens, on the Eſquiline mount at Rome, and also a delightful villa in Sicily. He was ſo be­nevolent and inoffenſive, that moſt of his contemporary po­ets, though they envied each other, agreed in loving and eſteeming him. He reviſed his verſes with prodigious ſeverity ; and uſed to compare himſelf to a ſhe bear, which licked her cubs into ſhape.

The beſt edition of Virgil’s works are thoſe of Moſvicius, with the notes of Servius, printed at Lewarden in 1717, **2** vols 4to : and that of Burman, at Amſterdam, 1746, in 4 vols 4to. There are ſeveral Engliſh tranſlations, which are well known.

Virgil (Polydore), an Engliſh hiſtorian, born at Urbi­no in Italy, was ſent in the beginning of the 16th century, by pope Alexander VI. as ſub-collector of the Papal tax, called *Peter-pence,* in this kingdom. He had not been long in England before he obtained preferment in the church ; for in 1503 he was preſented to the rectory of Church- Langton in the archdeaconry of Leiceſter. In 1507 he was collated to the prebend of Scamlesby in the church of Lin­coln ; and in the same year was made archdeacon of Wells, and prebendary of Hereford. In 1513, he reſigned his pre­bend of Lincoln, and was collated to that of Oxgate in St Paul’s, London. We are told, that on his preferment to the archdeaconry of Wells, he reſigned the office of ſub-collector to the pope, and determined to ſpend the remainder of his life in England, the Hiſtory of which kingdom he be­gan in the year 1505, at the command of Henry VII. That work coſt him *11* years labour. In 1526, he finiſhed his treatiſe on Prodigies. Polydore continued in England du­ring the whole reign of Henry VIII. and part of that of Edward VI. whence it is concluded that he was a moderate Papiſt. In 1550, being now an old man, he requeſted leave to revisit his native country. He was accordingly diſmiſſed with a preſent of 330 crowns, together with the privilege of holding his preferments to the end of his liſe. He died at Urbino in the year 1555. As an hiſtorian, he is accuſed by some as a malignant ſlanderer of the Engliſh nation; yet Jovius remarks, that the French and Scotch accuse him of having flattered that nation too much : (See his Elog. cap. 135. p. 179). Beſides the above, he wrote, 1. *De rerum inventoribus ;* of which an Engliſh tranſlation was publiſhed by Langley in 1663. It was alſo tranſlated into French and Spanish. 2. *De prodigiis et ſortibus.* 3. *Epiſcoporum Angliae catalogus.* Manuſcript. 4. *De vita perfecta,* Basil, 1546, 1553, 8vo. 5. *Epistolae eruditae ;* and some other works.

VIRGINIA, one of the United States of North America, is bounded on the eaſt by the Atlantic Ocean, on the north by Pennſylvania and the river Ohio, on the west by the Miſſiſſippi, on the ſouth by North Carolina.

Theſe boundaries include an area ſomewhat triangular of 121,525 miles, whereof 79,650 lie weſtward of the Allega­ny mountains, and 57,034 westward of the meridian of the mouth of the Great Kanhaway. This ſtate is therefore one third larger than the islands of Great Britain and Ireland, which are reckoned at 88,357 ſquare miles.

The principal rivers in Virginia are, Roanoke, James ri­ver, which receives the Rivanna, Appamattox, Chickahominy, Nanſemond, and Elizabeth rivers ; York river, which is formed by the junction of Pamunky and Mattapony rivers ; Rappahannok, and Patomak.

The mountains are not ſolitary and ſcattered confuſedly over the face of the country ; they commence at about 150 miles from the sea-coast, and are dispoſed in ridges one be­hind another, running nearly parallel with the coaſt, though rather approaching it as they advance north-eaſtwardly. To the ſouth west, as the tract of country between the ſea coaſt and the Miſſiſſippi becomes narrower, the mountains con­verge into a single ridge, which, as it approaches the Gulph of Mexico, ſubſides into plain country, and gives rise to ſome of the waters of that Gulph.

From the great extent of Virginia, it may be expected that the climate is not the ſame in all its parts. It is re­markable that, proceeding on the ſame parallel of latitude westwardly, the climate becomes colder in like manner as when you proceed northwardly. This continues to be the caſe till you attain the ſummit of the Allegany, which is the higheſt land between the ocean and the Miſſiſſippi