WALDEN, a town of Essex, commonly called *Saffron Walden,* with a market on Saturdays, and two fairs on Mid­lent Saturday for horſes, and November 1st for cows. It is remarkable for the plenty of ſaffron that grows about it. This town was incorporated by Edward VI. and is govern­ed by a mayor and 24 aldermen, It is 27 miles north-west- by-north of Chelmsford, and 43 north-east of London. E. Long. 0. 20. N. Lat. 52. 4.

WALDENSES. See Waldo.

WALDO, a merchant of Lyons in the latter part of the 12th century, who applying himſelf to the study of the Scriptures, and finding no warrant there for ſeveral of the Romiſh doctrines, particularly that of transubstantiation, publicly oppoſed them. His followers, who from him were called *Waldenſes,* being chased from Lyons, ſpread over Dauphine and Provence ; upon which Philip IT. is ſaid to have razed 300 gentlemens seats, and destroyed ſeveral walled towns to stop their growth : but this, instead of suppressing, ſpread them over a great part of Europe. The articles of their faith, which they drew up and dedicated to the king of France, agreed in most points with thoſe of the preſent Protestants. In the year 1200, thoſe of them who dwelt in the province of Albigeois in Languedoc, from whence they were called *Albigenſes,* stood upon their defence ; upon which Philip drove them into Bohemia, Savoy, and Eng­land. The cruſade against them is ſaid to have confided of 500,000 men, who wore their croſſes on their breasts, to diftinguiſh themſelves from thoſe who went to the Holy Land, and wore them on their ſhoulders.

WALES, a county situated in the ſouth-west part of Britain, into which the ancient Britons retired from the perſecution of the Saxons. Anciently it was of greater ex­tent than it is at preſent, and comprehended all the country beyond the Severn, that is, besides the 12 counties included in it at present, thoſe of Herefordshire and Monmouthſhire, which now are reckoned a part of England, were then in­habited by three different tribes of the Britons, namely, the Silures, the Dimetæ, and the Ordovices. The Romans were never able to ſubdue them, till the reign of Veſpasian, when they were reduced by Julius Frontinus, who placed garriſons in their country to keep them in awe. Though the Saxons made themſelves masters of all England, they never could get possession of Wales, except the counties of Monmouthſhire and Herefordshire, formerly apart of Wales. About the year 870, Roderic king of Wales divided it among his three ſons ; and the names of theſe divisions were, *Demetia,* or *South-Wales ; Povesia,* or *Fowls-Land* ; and V*enedotia,* or *North-Wales.* Another division is mentioned af­terwards in the records, viz. North Wales, South Wales, and West Wales ; the last comprehending the counties of Monmouth and Hereford. The country derived the name of *Wales,* and the inhabitants that of *Welſh,* from the Sax­ons, who by thoſe terms denote a country and people to which they are strangers ; for the Welsh, in their own lan­guage, call their country *Cymry,* and their language *Cymraeg.* They continued under their own princes and laws from the above-mentioned period, and were never entirely ſubjected to the crown of England till the reign of Edward I. when Llewellin ap Gryffith, prince of Wales, lost both his life and dominions. Edward, the better to ſecure his conquest, and to reconcile the Welſh to a foreign yoke, ſent his queen to lie in at Caernarvon, where she was delivered of a prince ; to whom the Welsh, on that account, the more readily submitted. Ever since that time, the eldeſt ſons of the kings of England have commonly been created princes of Wales, and as ſuch enjoy certain revenues from that country.

As to the character of the Welsh, they are ſaid to be a brave, hoſpitable people ; and though very jealous of af­fronts, passionate, and hasty, yet are easily reconciled. The common people look with a ſuſpicious eye on strangers, and bear an hereditary grudge to the English nation, by whom their ancestors were expelled from the finest parts of the island. The gentlemen are apt to value themſelves upon the antiquity of their families ; and with ſome reaſon, as they can generally trace them much higher than the inhabitants of most other countries.

All the better sort, both in town and country, can ſpeak English, eſpecially in the counties bordering upon England. The common people, in general, only ſpeak their own lan­guage, which is the ancient Britiſh ; and not only differs en­tirely from the Engliſh, but has very little affinity with any of the western tongues, unleſs we ſhould accept the Gaelic, Erie, or Irish. It is ſaid to be a dialect of the ancient Cel­tic, and in many respects to reſemble the Hebrew. Most of the clergy are natives of the country, and understand Engliſh ſo well, that they could exerciſe their functions in any part of Britain. The public worship, however, is as often performed in Welſh as in Engliſh, excepting in the towns, where the latter is the prevailing language. The inhabitants are computed at about 300,000.

The country, though mountainous, eſpecially in North Wales, is far from being barren or unfruitful; the hills, besides the metals and minerals they contain, seeding vast herds of ſmall black cattle, deer, ſheep, and goats, and their valleys abounding in corn, as their ſeas and rivers do in fiſh. Here are allo wood, coal, and turf for fuel, in abundance.

Wales is bounded on all sides by the ſea and the Severn ; except on the east, where it joins to the counties of Chester, Salop, Hereford, and Monmouth. Its length, from the ſouthernmost part of Glamorganſhire to the extre­mity of Flintſhire north, is computed at about 113 miles ; and its greatest breadth, from the river Way east to St Da­vid’s in Pembrokeſhire west, is nearly of the same dimensions,being about 90 miles.

After the conquest of Wales by Edward I. very material alterations were made in their laws, ſo as to reduce them nearer to the Engliſh standard, eſpecially in the forms of their judicial proceedings : but they still retained very much of their original polity, particularly their rule of inheritance, viz. that their lands were divided equally among all the iſſue male, and did not deſcend to the eldest ſon alone. By other ſubſequent statutes their provincial immunities were still farther abridged : but the finiſhing stroke to their de­pendency was given by the statute 27 Hen. VIII. c. 26. which at the same time gave the utmost advancement to their civil proſperity, by admitting them to a thorough communication of laws with the ſubjects of England. Thus were this brave people gradually conquered into the enjoyment of true liberty ; being inſensibly put upon the same footing, and made fellow-citizens, with their conquerors.

It is enacted by the 27 Hen. VIII. 1. That the domi­nion of Wales ſhall be for ever united to the kingdom of England. 2. That all Welſhmen born ſhall have the same liberties as other king’s ſubjects. 3. That lands in Wales ſhall be inheritable according to the Engliſh tenures and rules of deſcent. 4. That the laws of England, and no other, ſhall be uſed in Wales : besides many other regula­tions of the police of this principality. And the 34 and 35 Hen. VIII. c. 26. confirms the same, adds farther re­gulations, divides it into twelve ſhires, and, in ſhort, reduces it into the same order in which it stands at this day ; differ­ing from the kingdom of England in only a few particulars, and thoſe too of the nature of privileges (ſuch as having courts within itſelf, independent of the proceſs of West-