book of common prayer. He complied with the terms of the act of uniformity, and continued a steady conformist till his death. He was one of the first members of the Royal Society, and correſponded with many learned men. In 1697, the curators of the university press, at Oxford thought it for the honour of the university to collect the mathema­tical works of the Doctor, which had been printed ſeparately, ſome in Latin, ſome in English, and publiſhed them all together in the Latin tongue, in 3 vols, folio. He died in 1703. He ſpeaks of himſelf thus: “ It hath been my en­deavour all along to act by moderate principles, being will­ing, whatever side was uppermost, to promote any good deſign for the true interest of religion, of learning, and of the public good.” Beſides the works above-mentioned, he publiſhed many others.

WALLOONS, a name for the inhabitants of a considerable part of the Netherlands, viz. Artois, Hainault, Namur, Luxemburgh, and part of Flanders and Brabant.

WALNUT-tree, in botany. See Juglans.

WALPOLE (Sir Robert), earl of Orford, was born at Houghton in Norfolk, September 6th, 1674, and educated on the foundation at Eton ſchool. Thence he was elected to King’s College in Cambridge ; but, ſucceeding to the family estate by the death of his elder brother, he resigned his fellowship. In 1700, he was choſen member of parlia­ment for King’s Lynn, and repreſented that borough in se­veral ſucceeding parliaments. In 1705, he was nominated one of the council to prince George of Denmak, lord high admiral of England ; in 1707, appointed ſecretary at war ; and, in 1709, treaſurer of the navy. In 1710, upon the change of the ministry, he was removed from all his posts, and held no place afterwards during the queen’s reign. In 1711 he was expelled from the houſe *of* commons for what they called notorious corruption in his office as ſecretary at war. The borough of Lynn, however, re-elected him; and, though the house declared the election void, yet they perished in the choice. In the well-known debate relating to Steele for publishing the Criſis, he greatly diftinguiſhed him­ſelf in behalf of liberty, and added to the popularity he had before acquired.

On the death of the queen, a revolution of politics took place, and the Whig party prevailed both at court and in the ſenate. Walpole had before recommended himſelf to the houſe of Hanover by his zeal for its cauſe, when the commons conſidered the state of the nation with regard to the Protestant ſuccession : and he had now the honour to procure the aſſurance of the houſe to the new king (which attended the address of condolence and congratulation), “ That the commons would make good all parliamentary funds.” It is therefore not to be wondered at, that his promotion ſoon took place after the king’s arrival ; and that in a few days he was appointed receiver and pay- master general of all the guards and garriſons, and of all other the land forces in Great Britain, paymaster of the royal hoſpital at Chelſea, and likewiſe a privy counſellor. On the opening of a new parliament, a committee of ſecrecy was choſen to enquire into the conduct of the late ministry, of which Walpole was appointed chairman ; and, by his management, articles of impeachment were read against the earl of Oxford, lord Bolingbroke, the duke of Ormond, and the earl of Strafford. The eminent ſervice he was thought to have done the crown, by the vigorous proſecution of thoſe ministers who were deemed the chief instruments of the peace, was ſoon rewarded by the extra­ordinary promotions to the offices of first commissioner of the treaſury, and chancellor and under treaſurer of the ex­chequer.

In two years time he resigned all his offices on account of a miſunderstanding which took place between him and the rest of the ministry about certain ſupplies demanded for the ſupport of his majesty’s German dominions. On the day of his resignation he brought in the famous ſinking fund-bill, which he preſented as a country-gentleman, say­ing, that he hoped it would not fare the worse for having two fathers ; and that his ſuccessor Mr Stanhope would bring it to perfection. His calling himſelf the father of a project, which hath since been ſo often employed to other purpoſes than were at first declared, gave his enemies fre­quent opportunity for ſatire and ridicule ; and it hath been ſarcastically observed, that the father of this fund appeared in a very bad light when viewed in the capacity of a nurse.In the next ſession of parliament, Walpole oppoſed the ministry in every thing ; and even Wyndham or Shippen did not exceed him in patriotiſm. Upon a motion in the houſe for continuing the army, he made a ſpeech of above an hour long, and diſplayed the danger of a standing army in a free country, with all the powers of eloquence. Early in 1720 the rigour of the patriot began to ſoften, and the complaiſance of the courtier to appear; and he was again appointed paymaster of the forces, and ſeveral of his friends were found ſoon after in the list of promotions. No doubt now remain­ed of his entire conversion to court meaſures; for, before the end of the year, we find him pleading as strongly for the forces required by the war-office as he had before declaimed against them, even though at this time the same pretences for keeping them on foot did not exist.

It was not long before he acquired full ministerial power, being appointed first lord commissioner of the treaſury, and chancellor of the exchequer ; and, when the king went abroad in 1723, he was nominated one of the lords justices for the administration of government, and was ſworn ſole ſecretary of state. About this time he received another distinguiſhed mark of the royal favour ; his eldest ſon then on his travels being created a peer, by the title of baron Walpole of Walpole. In 1725 he was made knight of the Bath, and the year after knight of the Garter. The meaſures of his administration, during the long time he remained prime or rather ſole minister, have been often canvassed with all the ſeverity of critical inquiry. It is difficult to diſcern the truth through the exaggerations and miſrepreſentations of party. He has indeed been accuſed of employing the sinking fund for the purpoſes of corruption, of which it was long the faſhion to call him the father ; but the man who reflects on the tranſactions of Charles II. and his infamous cabal, will acquit him of the latter part of this charge. He was an enemy to war, and the friend of commerce; and becauſe he did not reſent ſome petty inſults of the court of Spain ſo ſuddenly as the fiery part of the nation thought he ſhould have done, a formidable opposition was formed against him in the houſe, which had influence enough to employ in its cauſe almost all the wit of the nation. Pulteney and Pitt were the great leaders of the party in the houſe of commons ; while Bolingbroke and Pope and Johnſon, and almost every man of genius, exerted themſelves without doors to enlighten, by pamphlets in proſe and verſe, the minds of the people, and show the necessity of a Spaniſh war. This he strenuously oppoſed, becauſe he knew that the foreign ſettlements of that power are very remote, and in a climate destructive to Engliſhmen ; and that ſuch of them as we might be able to take, we could not possibly retain. The opposition howe­ver prevailed. The nation was indulged in a war, of which it ſurely had no cauſe to boast of the ſucceſs; and it is now univerſally known, that the greater part of thoſe who with honest intentions had, either in parliament or out of it, been