some merchants of Zealand sent over 200 emigrants, and founded a colony, to which they gave the name of New Walcheren; but before they were able thoroughly to esta­blish themselves, they were attacked by the Spaniards of Trinidad, aided by the Indians, and the colony was utterly destroyed. Tobago remained deserted till 1654, when two opulent merchants of Flushing, named Lampsin, again colo­nized it, and raised it to be one of the most thriving commercial emporiums in the West Indies. About the same time the duke of Courland, to whom James I. had given a grant of the island, carried about a hundred families from Courland, and settled them on one of the most beautiful parts of the island, which was named after the founder. The island experienced various vicissitudes till it was taken by the British in 1793, in whose possession it has continued ever since.

Tobago consists of a mass of rocks, the highest part of which is towards the north-eastern extremity, where it rises to about 900 feet ; it gradually descends towards the south-west, with small and delightful valleys interspersed. It is well cultivated where the rocks are not too steep. It has several good harbours, chiefly on the northern coast. The climate is considered unhealthy, the average mortality of the white troops having been ascertained to be at the rate of fifteen per cent. annually. The principal town is Scar­borough, which is situated at the sea-shore, on the south coast.

By the census of 1835, the population consisted of,—

Males. Females. Total. Whites 250 30 280

Free coloured and blacks ... 3,000

Apprenticed labourers 4,515 5,290 9,805

13,085

The experts of Tobago amounted in 1836 to L.196,974, of which L.166,333 were for sugar and molasses, and L.29,960 for rum ; thus showing that the sugar-cane produces almost the sole exportable commodities of the island. The im­ports during the same period amounted to L.73,947, con­sisting chiefly of wood and lumber, fish, corn, and British manufactures.

In 1836 there were four free schools in the island, with 347 scholars ; and four private schools, one of which is con­nected with the Moravians, and two with the Methodists. The local legislature consists of the lieutenant-governor, a legislative council of nine, and a house of assembly of six­teen members.

TOBERMORY. See Mull.

TOBOL, a considerable river of Asiatic Russia, which has its rise near the northern extremity of the Oural Moun­tains. It joins the Irtysch near Tobolsk, after a course of nearly 400 miles. Its shores are generally flat, and liable to inundation. Its upper course is traversed by wandering bands of Tartars, but in its lower course the country is more cultivated.

TOBOLSK, the name of one of the two great govern­ments into which Asiatic Russia is divided, being the west­ern division of that immense territory. Irkoutsk is the east­ern division. Tobolsk is bounded on the west by the Oural chain of mountains, which separates it from European Rus­sia ; on the north by the Northern Ocean, the coast, broken by many deep bays, extending from the mouth of the Obi to that of the Olenek. It is separated from Chinese and Inde­pendent Tartary by an extensive frontier, partly of moun­tains and partly of desert plains; and from the contiguous ter­ritory of the Irkoutsk by no very definite boundary. Within the Bounds of this government are included three extensive districts, which are watered by the great rivers, the Obi, the Irtysch, and the Yenisei, which include the most culti­vated parts of Siberia. But the country, on the whole, is far from productive. From the northern shore of the Frozen Ocean, as far as latitude 58° north, it presents one uni­form aspect of the most dismal sterility, with only a few pines and stunted shrubs, or bare moss ; and a great por­tion of the southern parts consists of steppes or plains, covered with saline lakes or marshes. Some of these how­ever, as the steppe of Barabinski towards the east, are covered with the most luxuriant pasturage, and would be susceptible of high cultivation, if the inhabitants had skill and industry. The agricultural districts are those on the west, on the Tobol and its tributaries, which in the lower part of their course yield most luxuriant crops ; also in the east, the middle parts of the Yenisei and Obi. The rivers in those parts of Siberia abound in fish, which, notwith­standing the indolence of the inhabitants, has become a considerable article of traffic. The mountains on its west­ern and southern frontier abound in mineral wealth. The wastes and forests are filled with innumerable wild ani­mals, many of which are rendered valuable by their furs. But the country still labours under natural disadvantages, which render its communications difficult, and the trans­mission of its surplus produce to the proper market ex­pensive. Its northern shores are inaccessible to traffic; and its vast rivers, taking their course to that ocean, lead only to the seats of poverty and barbarism. By the census of 1801, its inhabitants amounted to 622,422. These are composed of Mongols, Ostiaks, Tschuwashes, Bucharians, Tungouses, Yakoutes, Samoiedes, besides 20,000 Cossacs, and several other tribes of wandering Tartars.

TobolsK, the capital of the above government, and of all Asiatic Russia, is a large city, and is situated at the con­fluence of the river Irtysch with the Tobol. It was origi­nally, in 1587, a wooden fort, which was burned to the ground in 1643, and in its stead was erected the present city, which is composed of two parts, the high and the low town ; the former built on an elevated ridge running pa­rallel to the Irtysch at a little distance, while the latter fills the level space between it and the river. The high town contains the residence of the governor, the tribunals, pub­lic offices, and the magazine of foreign merchandise. These, along with two churches and a convent, are built of stone; the remainder are of wood. The elevated situation of the town, the whiteness of the buildings, and the gilded cupo­las, give it a fine appearance from a distance. There was formerly the Kremlin, built of stone, and flanked with towers, now gone to ruin ; while to the south of it is the great market-square, enclosed by atone buildings, forming two stories of merchants’ shops. This part of the town, from its elevation, is secured from the risk of inundations; but seldom a year passes without the low town being overflowed. This may be considered a sort of suburb, and is built entirely of wood; and it is connected with another large suburb, for­merly inhabited by Tartars, who have been removed to an­other and a separate quarter. The crowded manner in which they built their bouses renders them extremely liable to fire. These Tartars consist of the original inhabitants, mixed with some Bucharians. The other residents are descended from exiles sent thither by the Russian govern­ment. The largest colony ever transported thither con­sisted of Swedish prisoners taken at the battle of Pultawa, who, being much better informed and more polished than the European Russians, greatly improved the Siberian society of Tobolsk, by opening seminaries of education, in which were taught ancient and modern languages, geography, ma­thematics, and drawing. Provisions are extremely cheap in this city ; and the neighbouring woods and rivers afford the finest hunting and fishing in the world. Society and manners are also greatly improved, so as, according to Dr Clarke, to equal these in any other Russian city. Tobolsk is the commercial emporium of Siberia, in which centres all the trade that is carried on in this quarter. The most im­portant brandi of it is that which traverses an immense