took place at his house in Whitehall, on the 26th of March 1726. His widow survived till the year 1776, when she died at the age of ninety. Their only son, an ensign in the second regiment of foot guards, died in 1745 of the wounds which he had received in a battle fought near Tournay.

The Provoked Husband was admirably finished by Cib­ber, and is still a favourite piece ; every comic actress of any eminence including Lady Townly in her list of parts. Upon the revival of the Provoked Wife, Vanbrugh had already exhibited some regard to decency, by divesting Sir John Brute of his clerical costume in a scene of the fourth act, and providing him with the habiliments of a fashionable demirep. In his prologue to the Provoked Husband, Cibber informs us that the departed dramatist designed, if his life had been prolonged, to have made still more important sacrifices at the shrine of decorum.

As an architect, Sir John Vanbrugh is accused by Swift of stealing his plans from the edifices erected by children with cards or mud; and after he had built St. John's Church in Westminster, some Pasquin of the time suggested the fol­lowing retaliation :

Lie heavy on him, eartb, for he

Laid many a heavy load on thee.

When Pope remonstrated with Swift upon his speaking with such unmeasured contempt of one of the most remarkable men of his time, the dean said that Vanbrugh was a puppy and a coxcomb, although he knew nothing of him but that he was neither a Tory nor a high-churchman. At last he became ashamed of his injustice ; and in the preface to the Miscel­lanies, collected by Pope and himself, an ample apology is made for his unseasonable merriment at the expense of “ a man of wit and honour.”

Vanbrugh is now to be viewed in the character of a drama­tic writer. In assimilating remote ideas, which is the proper province of wit, he is only inferior to Congreve, who was so pro­digal in his use of this faculty, that Pope is induced to inquire “ if Congreve’s fools are fools indeed.” The personages of Congreve’s scenes are reproductions of the obsolete charac­ters of the old comedy, and his dialogue is a perpetual blaze of wit. The wit of the fine gentleman, and that of his lackey, are no doubt discriminated with great nicety; but both utter such brilliant things, every time they have occa­sion to speak, as perhaps no man but Congreve himself could have devised. If this is a fault. It is one which modern dramatists, Sheridan alone excepted, have avoided with sin­gular success. Although Vanbrugh is less liberal than Con­greve in his expenditure of wit, he was a more faithful painter of the manners of the age in which he lived ; his characters are the men and women of the time, and appropriate language is put in the mouth of each. And if he is deficient in refine­ment, he is never deficient in wit and vivacity. “ There is something so catching to the ear,” says Cibber, “ so “ easy to the memory in all he wrote, that it has been observed by all the actors of my time, that the style of no author whatsoever gave their memory less trouble than that of Sir John Vanbrugh; which I myself, who have been charg­ed with several of his strongest characters, can confirm by a pleasing experience.” Had Vanbrugh lived a few years longer, he would probably have enriched the stage with scenes of equal purity and elegance, and his easy and har­monious lines, which are too often but a captivating garb for maxims of depravity, might have been a graceful vehicle for sentiments of virtue, and instructed the understanding, while they improved the heart.

VAN DIEMEN’S LAND, or Tasmania. This island was long considered to form the southern termination of the great island of New Holland ; and it was only as­certained to be an island in 1798, by Surgeon Bass and Lieutenant Flinders. It is situated between the paral­lels of 41° 20’ and 43° 40' S., and the meridians of 144° 40' and 148° 20' E. It is of an irregular shape, somewhat in the form of a heart. Its broadest part toward the north. Its greatest extent from north to south is estimated at about 210 miles, and from east to west 150 miles. It is nearly about the size of Ireland, covering an area of about 24,000 square miles. This country was first discovered by Tas­man in 1642. In 1773 it was visited by Captain Furneaux, and by Captain Cook in 1777, since which period it has been visited by different navigators. Among others, Bruny d’Entrecasteaux made this coast in 1792, and afterwards revisited it in 1793. He entered a channel, which he spent some time in exploring, and which is since known by the name of D’Entrecasteaux’s channel. These discoveries were fur­ther prosecuted by subsequent navigators, and particularly by Lieutenants Bass and Flinders, who, in different voyages, in which they were occupied from 1795 to 1803, made a complete survey of this coast, and also a great part of the coast of New Holland.

In 1803, a detachment of troops under Lieutenant Bowen arrived here from Sydney, for the purpose of establishing a penal settlement ; but nothing appears to have been effected at that time beyond the selection of a spot for that purpose. Early in 1804, Lieutenant-Governor Collins, having in view a settlement on the southern coast of New Holland, arrived from England with a more considerable ex­pedition ; and having altered his determination, he directed bis course to the river Derwent, when the island was formal­ly taken possession of in the name of his Britannic Majesty. After various surveys of the Derwent, the present site of Hobart-Town was decided upon for head-quarters. Be­sides several individuals of respectability, he had with him about 400 pensioners, with about fifty prisoners. The co­lony being thus planted, continued to take r∞t, although at times suffering great hardship. For the first three years the inhabitants were wholly dependent on foreign supplies of food, and were occasionally reduced to great straits, in­somuch that kangaroo meat was purchased at 1s. 6d. per lb., and sea-weed, or any other vegetable substance fit for food, likewise at a high price. About this time sheep and cattle began first to be imported into the colony ; and fresh arrivals of prisoners increased the population, which still preserved the character of a penal settlement for con­victed felons. In 1810 Governor Collins died, and was succeeded by his second in command, and by other three provisional governors. In 1813 Lieutenant-Colonel Da­vey arrived from England as lieutenant-governor ; and about this period the rising importance of the colony began to be gradually developed, and its prosperity was greatly favoured by its port, from which hitherto all merchant ves­sels, except those from England and New South Wales, had been interdicted, being declared free to the ships of all na­tions. This wise and necessary measure was followed by the most beneficial effects ; trade began to improve. Its surplus produce was freely exported, and such returns were received as were calculated greatly to increase the wealth of the colony. Society began to assume the appearance of civilization ; and although the stream of emigration from home had not begun to flow in this direction, yet the officers of the different regiments which had been stationed in the colonv, and so remained in it, with the settlers brought from Norfolk Island on its evacuation, besides occasional arrivals from New South Wales, and emancipated convicts, formed a considerable addition to the population. A greater quantity of land was cultivated, houses multiplied in diffe­rent quarters, farms were inclosed, and symptoms of grow­ing wealth and prosperity began daily to appear. Colonel Davey’s administration lasted till the year 1817. He was succeeded by Colonel Sorell, who was intent on the inter­nal improvement of the colony, and who directed the for­mation of new roads, the erection of bridges, and the esta­blishment of schools and other institutions. In 1821 emi-