nology, according to which, the satire that contains this passage was written in the year 37 b. c., he infers that Varro did not exceed the age of forty-five. The conjec­ture is not devoid of plausibility, but cannot be admitted as certain.

Varro Atacinus is extolled by several of the ancient writers. Velleius Paterculus classes him with Lucretius and Catullus. Quintilian mentions him as a poet who had ac­quired a name. He is likewise mentioned by Ovid, Proper­tius, and Statius.@@1 Virgil adopted several of his verses with little or no alteration. It is however to be regretted that, with the exception of a few fragments, all his works have perished. These fragments are to be found in various collections, and, among the rest, in Wernsdorfs “ Poetae Latini Minores.” Altenburgi, 1788-99, 6 tom. 8vo. They are incorporated in Wüllner’s learned dissertation on the life und writings of the author.@@' One of his works was a version of the Argonautica of Apollonius Rhodius; but from the fragments which remain. It does not appear to have been a close version. Another of his works, “ Bellum Sequanicum," was an epic or historical poem in celebra­tion of Cæsar’s recent victories. A third was a metri­cal *chorographia ;* of which Ruhnkenius supposes his *Eu­ropa,* quoted by Festus, to have formed a part.@@3 The rest of his works, so far as they are enumerated, consisted of elegies, satires, and epigrams. (x.)

VARSHAH, a town in the Affghan territories, in the province of Lahore, thirty-eight miles east from the Indus. Long. 71. 40. E. Lat. 31. 47. N.

VASE, a term frequently used for ancient vessels dug from under ground, or otherwise found, and preserved in the cabinets of the curious. In architecture, the appellation *vase* is also given to those ornaments placed on corniches, fochles, or pedestals, representing the vessels of the ancients, particularly those used in sacrifice, as incense-pots, flower­pots, &c.

VASSAL, in our ancient customs, signified a tenant or feudatory; or person who vowed fidelity and homage to a lord, on account of some land, &c. held of him in fee; also a slave or servant, and especially a domestic of a prince. See Feudal System.

VATNA, or Fatsa, a small sea-port of Asia Minor, in the Black sea, at the end of a fine bay. It is now a poor village, with an old palace, and a large khan for the ac­commodation of merchants trading with the Crimea. It is tcn miles south-east of Unieh.

VATTEL, Emmerich de, an eminent jurist, was the son of a protestant minister, and was born at Couret in the prin­cipality of Neuchâtel, in the month of April 1714. His academical studies he prosecuted at Basel and Geneva. During his early years, his favourite pursuit was philosophy ; and having carefully examined the works of Leibnitz and Wolf, he exhibited a specimen of his talents for metaphysi­cal investigation, by publishing a defence of Leibnitz’s sys­tem against Crousaz. It was printed in 1741 ; and in the course of the same year, he repaired to Berlin in the hope of obtaining some public employent from the king; but this hope was so long deferred, that in 1743 he proceeded to Dresden with similar views,' and experienced a very fa­vourable reception from Count Bruhl. Some private affairs required his presence in his native country; but he return­ed to the court of Saxony in 1746, and obtained from the elector, Augustus the Third, the title of counsellor of em­bassy, accompanied with a pension. He was sent to Berne in the capacity of the elector’s minister to that republic; and as his diplomatic functions did not require constant re­

sidence, he passed some portion of his time with his own family. Much of his leisure was devoted to literature and jurisprudence. Among other works, he published “ Mé­langes de Littérature, de Morale, et de Politique,” and “ Loisirs Philosophiques.” But his best efforts were direct­ed to a more elaborate work, on which his reputation is chiefly founded. It appeared under the title of "Droit des Gens; ou, Principes de la Loi Naturelle appliqués à la Con­duite et aux Affaires des Nations et des Souverains.” Neuchâ­tel, 1758, 2 tom. 4to. During the same year, having been recalled from Switzerland, he was employed in the cabinet of Dresden, and was soon afterwards honoured with the title of privy-counsellor. Although his constitution had origi­nally been robust, his labours now became so intense as to exhaust bis strength. Having tried the effects of relaxa­tion and of his native air, he thought himself sufficiently recovered to resume his place in the cabinet. He accord­ingly returned to Dresden in 1766; but his renewed exer­tions soon produced a relapse, and he made another excur­sion to Neuchâtel, where he died on the 20th of December 1767, in the fifty-fourth year of his age. He left a son, who was recently a member of the council of that principality. The last of bis literary labours was a work entitled, “ Ques­tions de Droit Naturel; ou, Observations sur le Traité du Droit de la Nature, par Wolf.” Vattel’s *Droit des Gens* continues to be studied and quoted as a book of authority. It has passed through many editions, and has been transla­ted into various languages. An English translation was published in the year 1760.

VAUBAN, Sebastian le Prestre de, marshal of France, and the greatest engineer that country ever pro­duced. was born in 1633. He displayed his knowledge of fortification in the course of many sieges, and his services were rewarded with the first military honours. He was made governor of Lisle in 1668, commissary-general of the fortifications of France in 1678, governor of the maritime parts of Flanders in 1689, and a marshal of France in 1703. He died in 1707, after having brought the arts of attacking and defending fortified places to a degree of perfection un­known before. His writings on these subjects are in great esteem.

VAUCLUSE, a department in the south-east division of France. It has been formed out of the ancient province of Avignon, of the county of Venassin, of the principality of Orange, and of a portion of Upper Provence. It extends in north latitude from 43° 41' to 44° 26', and in east longi­tude from 4° 34' to 5° 38'. It is bounded on the north by the department of the Drome, on the east by that of the Lower Alps, on the south by the mouths of the Rhone, on the west by that of the Gard, and on a small part of the north-west by the Ardeche. Its extent is 1357 square miles. It comprehends four arrondisements, divided into twenty- two cantons, and those subdivided into 148 communes. In 1836 the population amounted to 246,071 persons, chiefly adhering to the Catholic church ; but there are about 4000 Protestants, who have their own consistory to regulate their religious affairs. The inhabitants are of dark complexion, with penetrating eyes, spirited countenances, and are gay and lively in their appearance and manners. The face of the country in the whole of the eastern division is moun­tainous, and in the west is an extensive plain, which may be considered as a prolongation of the valley of the Rhone. the mountains in the eastern part may be viewed as a part of the Alps, or of spurs projected from that range. The highest point of these elevations is 6300 feet ; but the main chain of the mountains can be scarcely estimated

@@@1 With respect to the allusion of Statius, see Vossius de Histories Latinis. p. 77.

@@@‘ De P. Terentii Varronis Atacini Vita et Scriptis Commentario. Scripsit Dr. Franciscus Wüllner. Monastfrii, 1829, 4to.

@@@• Ruhnkenii Epistula Critica, ii. μ. 286. Opuscuia, tom. ii. p. 605.