boundary or landmark, and called by way of distinction, the *Great Chesnut Tree of Tamworth.* From the first year of Stephen, anno 1135, to 1762, is 627 years; so that its entire age, at that period, was 962 years. It bore nuts in 1759, from which young trees were raised. In this tree, therefore, the faculty of producing seeds remained at the age of more than 950 years ; but whether this faculty con­tinues through the entire life of such trees is not known. In annuals, we know that life ceases in the whole plant soon after reproduction has been accomplished ; but the obser­

vations of Mr. Knight seem to show that, in certain trees, as those of the apple and pear, the reproductive powers cease before those of vegetation. The death of plants at such various ages, yet occurring at the same age in plants of the same species, suggests the belief that a period, beyond which life cannot extend, was assigned to each species at the era of its creation, and that this character of duration, like the others peculiar to the species, is trans­mitted through all succeeding generations. (Q.)

VEGETIUS RENATUS, Flavius, a Latin writer, flourished towards the close of the fourth century. His treatise “ De Re Militari,” he inscribed to the emperor Va- lentinian the Second, who was assassinated in the year 393. He appears to have been a man of rank. Raphael Volaterranus styles him “ Comes Constantinopolitanus,” and some manuscripts of his own work describe him in a similar man­ner. In the older editions, his treatise is divided into four books ; but Scriverius, on the authority of certain manu­scripts, divided it into five. The authors whom Vegetius professes to follow are Cato, Celsus, Frontinus, and Pater­nus, together with Augustus, Trajan, and Hadrian, in their constitutions, or legal enactments. He has thus collected a valuable mass of materials ; but Lipsius has remarked that he confounds the customs and practices of his own with those of former ages.

An edition of his work, supposed to be the first, appear­ed under the title of “ Epitoma de Re Militari.” It is in folio, without place or date, but, according to conjecture, was printed at Utrecht about the year 1473. There is an­other undated edition in quarto, and a third in folio. After various intermediate editions appeared that of F. Modius, Colon. 1580, 8vo. It was followed by two editions con­taining the elaborate commentary of Stewechius, Antverp. 1585, 4to., Lugd. Bat. 1592, 8vo. His commentary, to­gether with that of Modius, is to be found in the edition of Scriverius, Lugd. Bat. 1607, 4to. These three, like most of the editions, include Frontinus and other ancient writers on military affairs. The text of these authors, with the notes of Scriverius, was reprinted in 12mo. at the same place in 1633 and 1644. An edition of Vegetius, containing select notes of Stewechius and Scriverius, with those of the editor, and a French translation, was published by N. Schwebelius, Norimbergæ, 1767, 4to. Another, containing the annota­tions of various critics, appeared long afterwards, Argent. 1806, 8vo. The work has been translated into several modern languages. There is an early English version by John Sadler, Lond. 1572, 4to. And a more recent trans­lation was published by Lieutenant John Clarke, Lond. 1767, 8vo.

VEGETIUS RENATUS, Publius, is sometimes con­founded with the writer noticed in the preceding article. He is the author of a work on the veterinary art ; “ Artis Veterinariæ, Sive Mulo-medicinæ, libri IV.” Basil. 1528, 4to. This is the *editio princeps;* and it was followed by the edition of Sambucus, Basil. 1574, 4to. Vegetius was inserted by Gesner among the “ Scriptores Rei Rusticæ veteres Latini.” Lipsiæ, 1735, 2 tom. 4to. There is a separate edition, of which the title bears, “ curante Jo. Maithia Gesnero.” Mannhemii, 1781, 8vo. But it merely contains a reprint of Gesner’s text, without his annotations. Of this work an English version was published “ by the author of the translation of Columella.” Lond. 1748, 8vo.

VEGLIA, an island in the Adriatic part of the Austrian province of Trieste, in the bay of Quarnaro. It is, includ­ing the small island Plaunich, about ninety square miles in extent, and contains a city, three market towns, and four­

teen villages, with 10,414 inhabitants. The island is moun­tainous and rocky, and on the north and east sides very bar­ren, but in the other parts has a fertile soil, yielding abun­dance of fruit and of wine, but not sufficient corn. Some good oil is made, and the fishing is an important source of wealth. The capital, of the same name, is the seat of a bishop, who has a palace and a cathedral. The export of wine is the chief trade. The harbour is both small and shallow. The inhabitants do not exceed 1400. Lat. 45. 3. 20. Long. 14. 32. 40.

VEII, a city of ancient Etruria, and long the powerful rival of Rome; distant about 100 stadia, or twelve miles, to the north-west, and situated on a high and steep rock. It was taken after a siege of ten years by Camillus, six years before the taking of Rome by the Gauls. The spot on which it stood lies near Isola in St.Peter’s patrimony.

VELARIUS, an officer in the court of the Roman em­perors, being a kind of usher, whose post was behind the curtain in the prince’s apartment, as that of the chancellor’s was at the entry of the ballustrade, and that of the ostiarii at the door. The velarii had a superior of the same deno­mination, who commanded them.

VELE RETE, a cluster of rocks in the eastern seas, to the south of the island of Formosa. Long. 121. 30. E. Lat. 21. 55. N.

VELITES, in the Roman army, a kind of ancient sol­diery, who were armed lightly with a javelin, a casque, cuir­ass, and shield.

VELLETRI, a city of Italy, in the papal territory, and the district of Tivoli. It stands on the declivity of the Al­banian hills, has decayed walls and dilapidated towers, but is the seat of a bishop. It is ill built, but has a fine market place, a cathedral, with several other churches, nine mo­nasteries, and two nunneries. Here is a fine museum be­longing to the family of Borgia. The inhabitants are 9740, chiefly employed in agriculture and in making oil. Lat. 41.41.16. Long. 12. 39. 25. E.

VELLORE, a celebrated town and fortress of the south of India, province of the Carnatic, formerly the capital of a small district of the same name. It was once a port of great importance, as it commanded the main road leading to the Upper Carnatic, from the valley of Peniambady, which is the most direct route to and from the Mysore. It is strongly fortified, the walls being built of very large stones, with bastions and round towers at short distances. A fausse bras lines the wall between them, and, with its embattled rampart and small overhanging square towel’s, produces a very handsome effect. The whole fort is sur­rounded by a deep and wide ditch, cut chiefly out of the solid rock, except atone entrance, where there was a cause­way. Besides the usual defence, the ditch contains curio­sities of rather an extraordinary character, namely, alliga­tors of a very large size. The fortress, though strong, is commanded by the surrounding hills. It was first taken by the Mahometans in 1646, and afterwards by Sevajee in 1677. Subsequently it came into the possession of the nabob of Arcot.∙ and in 1782 was besieged by the whole