army of Hyder, when it was relieved by Sir Eyre Coote. After the capture of Seringapatam in 1799. It was fixed upon as the state-prison of Tippoo’s family, consisting, besides his brother, of twelve sons and eight daughters, with a nume­rous progeny, and an innumerable crowd of women. On the 10th July 1806, a serious mutiny took place among the garrison, principally composed of native troops, who endeavoured to murder all the Europeans they could find. The ostensible cause of the mutiny was a change of dress ; but it was strongly suspected that it was instigated by the sons of Tippoo, who were in consequence removed to Ben­gal, where they remain under a liberal restraint. Since the conquest of Mysore, this fortress has lost much of its consequence, and its fortifications will probably be allowed to fall to decay. The district is included in the collector­ship of Arcot. Travelling distance from Madras 88 miles west by south ; from Seringapatam 202 miles. Long. 79∙ 13. E. Lat. 12. 55. N.

VELLUM, a town in the Southern Carnatic, seven miles south-west from Tanjore. Long. 79. 7. E. Lat. 10. 40. N.

VELLUM, is a kind of parchment, that is finer, evener, and more white than the common parchment. The word is formed from the French *velin,* of the Latin *vitulinus,* “ belonging to a calf.”

VELOCITY, in *Mechanics,* swiftness; that affection of motion whereby a moveable is disposed to run over a cer­tain space in a certain time. It is also called *celerity,* and is always proportional to the space moved.

VELVET, a rich kind of stuff, all silk, covered on the outside with a close, short, fine, soft shag, the other side being a very strong close tissue. The nap or shag, called also the *velveting,* of this stuff, is formed of part of the threads of the warp, which the workman puts on a long nar­row-channelled ruler or needle, which he afterwards cuts, by drawing a sharp steel tool along the channel of the needle to the ends of the warp.

VENCATIGHERRY, a town in the province of the Carnatic, eighty-two miles north-west from Madras. Long. 79. 32. E. , Lat. 13. 56. N.

VENDEE, a department of the south-west of France, formed out of the western part of the ancient Lower Poitou. It extends in north latitude from 46° 19’ to 47° 7', and in east longitude from 0° 44' to 2° 32'. It is bounded on the north by the departments of the Lower Loire and Mayenne- Loire, on the east by that of the two Sèvres, on the south by the Lower Charente, and on the west and south-west by the ocean. Its shape is nearly a square, and it extends over 2662 square miles. It is divided into three arrondissements ; and those into thirty cantons, comprehending 294 communes, and contained in 1836 a population of 341,312 persons, who, with the exception of a few scattered families, adhere to the Catholic church. They have been commonly described as hospitable, good tempered, faithful to their engagements, simple and antique in their manners, averse to any changes in their customs, and attached almost to superstition to the doctrines and observances of the Romish religion. The noble families, the ancient chief proprietors of the land, were only distinguished from the rest of the inhabitants, their feudal tenants, by a greater degree of cleanliness in their dwellings, their clothing, and their food ; but were equally resolute in their opposition to the changes operated by the Revolution, and the whole were alike distinguished by their bravery, their perseverance, and their endurance of those hardships which they brought on themselves by the political party they embraced. The civil war whose name was derived from this department, extended to all the dis­trict round it, in a greater or less degree ; and its long con­tinuation may be attributed to the peculiarities of the coun­try, and its capabilities for defensive warfare, as much as to the resolute courage of the population.

The surface of this department is an extensive plain, un­interrupted by any hills except by two chains in the eastern part, separated from each other by a valley about two miles in breadth, none of the points of which exceed 400 feet in height. This more hilly part is distinguished by the name of the *Boccage,* on account of the great number of trees and bushes with which it is covered, and it was the chief theatre of the long and bloody civil war, whose traces are even now far from extinct. The western and southern parts consist of the *Marais* or marsh land, which contains excellent pas­ture land, protected by embankments and drained by arti­ficial canals. Another part along the coast, including the islands Bouen, Dieu, and Noirmoutier, contains much fer­tile soil, of which about two-thirds are used as pasture, and one-third produces corn.

The rivers are of no great importance. The chief of them, from which the department takes its name, is a moderate stream issuing from the Sèvres, and falling into the Mor­taise. It supplies water to several small canals, and is navigable for barges carrying sixteen or eighteen tons from Fontenoy, where it is about 120 feet in breadth. The Mortaise is navigable through its whole extent for small vessels, and enters the sea through several marshes near to the city of Aiguillon, in the bay of that name. The other streams, the Lay, the Isle, the Ausance, and the Pairay, with some others, are navigable but a short distance from their respective mouths.

The agriculture is in a low state. Little of the land is cultivated by the proprietors, but chiefly by metayers, who divide the gross product in equal parts with their lords. Except in the lands on the three principal streams, the common rotation of grain is, two corn crops after a year’s clear fallow. The ploughing is performed almost exclusively by oxen. The wheat is good, and much of it is converted into flour for exportation to the French West India islands. The other kinds of corn produce good crops, and of late years the cultivation of potatoes has been introduced and extended. The breed of horses is of an indifferent kind, but many of them are used to mount the hussar troops. The black cattle are numerous, but the sheep very few and not good, though of late years attempts have been made to improve the race, as regards the fineness of the wool, by crosses with Spanish rams. Silk was once a part of the agricultural pursuits; but during the disturbed state of the country, the planting of mulberry trees was neglected, and some years must pass before the produce can amount to its former quantity. Wine is extensively made, the quality is good, and much of it will bear to be kept a long time without the aid of brandy. The manufac­tures are few. The most considerable are those of linen, but some woollen cloths for home use are made. The depart­ment furnishes two deputies to the Chamber of Represen­tatives. It is included in the tenth military division, and is in the diocese of Montauban.

VENDOLA, the most eastern of the Admiralty Islands, about three miles in circuit, covered with cocoa trees, and very populous. It is so surrounded by rocks, that it is almost inaccessible to boats. Long 148. 9∙ E. Lat. 2. 14. S.

VENDOME, an arrondissement of France, in the depart­ment of the Loire and Cher. It is 655½ square miles in extent, comprehends eight cantons divided into 110 com­munes, and in 1836 contained 77,760 inhabitants. The capital, a city of the same name, stands on two islands in the river Loire. In 1836 it contained 8206 inhabitants, employed in making gloves, hosiery, cotton goods, paper, and the several kinds of leather. Lat. 47. 47. 19. Long. 1. 1. 38. E.

VENEERING, Vaneering, or *Fineering,* a kind of marquetry, or inlaying, by which several thin slices or leaves of fine wood, of different kinds, are applied and fastened on