by some families, who are almost exclusively occupied in their chase and destruction. Its shores abound in fish ; and immense flocks of birds frequent the island, whose feathers are of considerable value, and in pursuit of which many pcrsons repair to the island in the appropriate season. To the south-west of this large island are three others, called Malvijef, Dolgoi, and Bilinov, whose products are of a simi­lar kind.

Waigatz *Straits,* situated between Nova Zembla and Russia, through which the Dutch sailed to the north, as high as 75°, in order to discover a north-east passage to China and the East Indies.

WAINFLEET, a market-town in the Lindsey division of the county of Lincoln, in the hundred of Candelshoe, 132 miles from London. It is situated on a creek of the sea, only navigable for small vessels. The town compre­hends two parishes, All Saints and St Mary’s, with each a church. There is a weekly market on Saturday, and three annual fairs. The population amounted in 1821 to 1422, and in 1831 to 1795.

WAINSCOT, in building, the timber-work that serves to line the walls of a room, being usually made in panels, and painted, to serve instead of hangings.

WAKE, the track impressed by the course of a ship on the surface of the water. It is formed by the re-union of the body of water which was separated by the ship’s bot­tom while moving through it ; and may be seen to a con­siderable distance behind the stern, as smoother than the rest of the sea. Hence it is usually observed by the compass, to discover the angle of lee-way. A ship is said to be in the wake of another when she follows her on the same track, or a line supposed to be formed on the continu­ation of her keel. Two distant objects observed at sea are called in the wake of each other, when the view of the farthest is intercepted by the nearest, so that the observer’s eye and the two objects are all placed upon the same right line.

WAKEFIELD, a large market-town of the wapentake of Morley, in the west riding of the county of York, 180 miles from London and nine from Leeds. It stands on the river Calder, is well built, with wide streets, in which are many very handsome brick houses. Besides the churches, the other public buildings are, the free grammar-school, the house of correction for the county, the cloth-hall, and a theatre. The chief trade of this town formerly was the manufacture of woollen cloths, and at one period the clothing for the Russian army was fabricated here ; but that branch has been lost, and the other branches of the woollen trade have not. advanced at the same pace as in Leeds and other neighbouring towns. Wakefield has now the largest corn-market in England next to London. The com is brought mostly by canals from the south-east part of the county, and the foreign corn from Hull, which is chiefly used by the densely peopled districts near Leeds, Halifax, Huddersfield, and Barnsley, with all of which places there is *a* water-communication. The corn-market is on Friday, and there is one for wool on Thursday. The quarter-sessions for the west riding are held here. There is also a weekly petty-session. The population amounted in 1801 to 8131, in 1811 to 8593, in 1821 to 10,764, and in 1831 to 12,232. This is one of the new boroughs created by the reform act of 1832, and returns one member to the House of Commons.

WAKEFIELD, Gilbert, a commentator and critic of some celebrity, born at Nottingham on the 22d of Febru­ary 1756, was the son of the Rev. George Wakefield, rector of the parish of St Nicolas. He was observed in his earliest infancy to be of a serious turn of mind, and he made a rapid progress in the first elements of literature. At the age of seven, he was sent to a free school at Not­tingham, and remained there two years, chiefly under the tuition of Mr Beardmore, afterwards master of the Charter­house : he was then sent to a school kept by the Rev. S. Pickthall, at Wilford, an institution which seems to have been only distinguished by the regular imprisonment of the boys for no less than eleven hours a day. After this, when his father obtained the vicarage of Kingston in Surrey, with the chapelry of Richmond, he was placed under the care of his curate, who kept a school at Richmond ; he was, however, removed in 1769 to a better conducted establish­ment in the same neighbourhood, kept by the Rev. R. Wooddeson, of whom he speaks in his Memoirs with high approbation.

At sixteen he went to Jesus College, Cambridge, where his classical studies still continued to be the principal ob­ject of his attention, although he was so fortunate as to ob­tain the rank of second wrangler at the termination of his academical studies in 1776. He has indeed the candour to observe, that the year was below mediocrity with regard to the performances of the candidates in general ; and that, when he obtained the second classical medal, on the Duke of Newcastle’s foundation, he had only one competitor. Still it must not be dcnied, that to be both second wrangler and second medallist in any year implies no ordinary por­tion of application, as well as some considerable talent. Mr Wakefield was however distinguished, throughout his life, by a singular mixture of opposite habits ; and, in the midst of his studies, he confesses that “ he sometimes felt himself almost incapable of reading a single page for months together and in summer especially, he could only wander about the fields in a state of perfect inactivity. On the other hand, he says that, “ for five years he rose, almost without exception, by five o’clock, winter and summer, but never breakfasted, drank tea, or *supt* [supped],” or of course dined, “ alone half a dozen times during all that space, enjoying society, from the first, beyond measure.”

He became a fellow of Jesus College in 1776, and he gain­ed, in two successive years, the second bachelor’s prizes given by the chancellor. In 1778 he was ordained by the bishop of Peterborough, though he did not subscribe the articles without great reluctance. He obtained a curacy first at Stockport in Cheshire, and then at Liverpool. The year after, he married Miss Watson, a niece of the rector of Stockport, and thus vacated his fellowship. His domestic life appears to have been happy and harmonious, though the only merit of his wife, that he has left upon record, is the singular hereditary qualification, that her great-grand­father and great-grandmother had lived together as man and wife for seventy-five years. Soon after his marriage, he became classical tutor in the dissenting academy at Warrington, though he did not professedly unite with any specific community of dissenters as adopting all their opinions ; but he soon began openly to attack those of the established church, in a multitude of controversial writings, and especially in the notes accompanying his new translations of some parts of the Scriptures ; a work for which he had diligently laboured to prepare himself by the study of various dialects of the oriental languages. After the dissolution of the academy of Warrington, he lived at Bramcote in Nottinghamshire, at Richmond, and at Nottingham ; partly occupied in the instruction of a few pupils, and partly in pursuing his own studies and illustra­tions of antiquity. In 1786, and for two or three years after, he suffered greatly from an acute pain in his shoulder, which interfered materially with the prosecution of his theo­logical investigations.

In the year 1790, he accepted the classical professorship at Hackney. Here his lectures and instructions were ge­nerally approved and admired, but he carried his dissent from the articles of faith of any established society of Christians so much farther than any of his colleagues, that he was thought too independent to continue in his situation, and he consequently left the institution in 1791 ; and for a