When the disaffection of the Americans to the British government had become pretty general, and had at last spread to the colony of Virginia, Colonel Washington was appointed a delegate from that state to the congress which met at Philadelphia on the 26th October 1774 ; and soon after he was appointed to the command of the American army, which had assembled in the provinces of New Eng­land. The conduct of Washington during the whole of the war, as well as during the period when he presided in the government of the United States, has been so fully detail­ed in other parts of this work, that it would be unnecessary repetition even to give a general outline of it in this place.

Washington resigned the presidency in 1796, after hav­ing published a farewell address to his countrymen. This address was remarkably distinguished for the simplicity and ingenuousness, moderation and sobriety, the good sense, prudence, and honesty, as well as sincere affection for his country and for mankind, which the author of it had al­ways exhibited. It seemed to be a perfect picture of his whole life. From the time of his resignation till the month of July 1798, he lived in retirement at his seat of Mount Vernon. At this period, when the unprincipled actors in the French revolution were carrying on their wicked ma­chinations in every part of the world to which their in­fluence extended, the United States resolved to arm by land and sea in their own defence. General Washington was called from his retirement, and the command of the army was bestowed upon him. This he accepted, because he considered, as he himself expressed it, “ every thing we hold dear and sacred was seriously threatened, although he had flattered himself that he had quitted for ever the boundless field of public action, incessant trouble, and high responsibility, in which he had long acted so conspicuous a part.” In this situation he continued during the remain­ing short period of his life. On Thursday the 12th of De­cember 1799, he was seized with an inflammation in the throat, and was carried off on Saturday the 14th of the same month, in the sixty-eighth year of his age. In his dying moments he displayed the same calmness, simplicity, and regularity, which had uniformly marked his conduct through life. He saw the approaches of death without fear, and he met them without parade. The well-ordered state of his private affairs bore the stamp of that constant authority of prudence and practical reason over his actions which was always the most prominent feature of his character. His name will ever be remembered by, and precious to, all well- wishers of mankind and of liberty, as that of the most pru­dent commander and the most virtuous ruler that history has recorded. His life has been written by Marshall, chief justice of America, and by Mr Sparks ; and his state-papers have been published, with an eloquent eloge, by Μ. Guizot.

WASIL, a circle of the Russian government of Nishe- gorod, extending in north latitude from 55° 52' to 56°

40., and in east longitude from 45° 5' to 46° 22'. It is watered by the rivers Wolga, Sura, and Wetluga, is of mo­derate fertility, yielding corn, but more pasturage. The population is 110,000, who find much employment in mak­ing mats from the bark of the trees. The capital is a town of the same name, situated on the river Sura, where it falls into the Wolga. It is chiefly built of wood, and contains 1500 inhabitants.' It is 881 miles from St Petersburg. Long. 46. 6. E. Lat. 63. 52. N.

WASILKOW, a circle in the Russian government of Kiew, extending in north latitude from 49° 39' to 50°

13', and in east longitude from 31° 47' to 32° 23'. It has the river Dnieper as its eastern boundary, and the banks are both fertile and picturesque. It has good meadows, exten­sive woods, and yields a surplus of corn. The capital is of the same name. Though called a city, it does not contain 1000 inhabitants, who are mostly Jews. It stands on the river Stugena, and is 881 miles from St Petersburg. Long. 32. 55. E. Lat. 50. 12. N.

WASSAH, a town of Hindustan, in the province of Gu­jerat, eighteen miles north by east from Cambay. Long. 72. 52. E. Lat. 22. 39. N.

WASSOTA, a celebrated fortress of Hindustan, in the province of Bejapore and district of the Concan. There are two forts, situated on rocks nearly perpendicular, and 3000 feet high. They were surrendered in 1818 to a Bri­tish force, notwithstanding their strength.

WATCH. See Clock **AND** Watch Work.

WATCHET, a market-town of the county of Somerset, in the hundred of Willerton and Freemanners, 158 miles from London. It is a seaport, situated on the Bristol Channel, but its harbour has been much neglected; and though means have been taken to improve it, small vessels only can enter it. Watchet was formerly a place of repute for making a kind of coarse cloth, well known in the western counties by the name of the place. It is in summer visited for the purpose of sea-bathing. It is within and forms the chief part of the parish of St Deucemans, whose population amounted in 1821 to 1865, and in 1831 to 2120.

WATEEHOO, an island in the South Pacific Ocean, about six miles long and four broad, discovered by Captain Cook in 1777. Long. 158. 15. W. Lat. 20. 1. S.

W ATER, a well-known fluid, diffused through the at­mosphere, and over the surface of the globe, and abound­ing in a certain proportion in animals, vegetables, and mi­nerals. See Physical Geography.

Water, *Holy,* is used in the church of Rome, as also by the Greeks, and by the other Christians of the east of all denominations ; and it consists of water with a mix­ture of salt, blessed by a priest according to a set form of benediction. It is used in the blessing of persons, things, and places ; and is likewise considered as tending to excite pious thoughts in the minds of the faithful. The priest, in blessing it, first, in the name of God, commands the devils not to hurt the persons who shall be sprinkled with it, or to abuse the things, or disquiet the places, which shall likewise be so sprinkled. He then prays that health, safety, and the favour of heaven, may be en­joyed by such persons, and by those who shall use such things, or dwell in such places. Vestments, vessels, and other such things that are set apart for divine service, are sprinkled with it. It is sometimes sprinkled on cattle, with an intention to free or preserve them from diabolical en­chantments ; and in some spiritual books there are prayers to be said on such occasions, by which the safety of such animals, as being a temporal blessing to the possessors, is begged of God, whose providential care is extended to all his creatures. As a ceremony, says the Catholic, water brings to our remembrance our baptism, in which, by water, we were cleansed from original sin. It also puts us in mind of that purity of conscience which we ought to endeavour always to have, but especially when we are to worship our God. The salt, which is put into the water to pre­serve it from corrupting, is also a figure of divine grace, which preserves our souls from the corruption of sin ; and is likewise an emblem of that wisdom and discretion which ought to season every action that a Christian does, and every word that he says. It is wont to be blessed and sprinkled in churches on Sundays, in the beginning of the solemn office. It is kept in vessels at the doors of the same churches, that it may be taken by the faithful as they enter in. It is also often kept in private houses and chambers.

Water-Spout, an extraordinary meteor, consisting of a large mass of water collected into a sort of column, and moved with rapidity along the surface of the sea. See **PHYSICAL** Geography.