tary of state, who presented him to the rectory of Middle­ton Keynes, in Bucks, and to whom he dedicated his “ Reflections upon Ancient and Modern Learning.” Lond. 1694, 8vo. In 1705, Bishop Burnet gave him a prebend in the church of Salisbury ; and in 1707, Archbishop Teni- son conferred upon him the degree of D. D. In 1714, the difficulties under which he laboured with respect to his pri­vate fortune obliged him to retire into South Wales, where he was treated with great kindness and humanity by the gentlemen of that country. He then wrote the “ Memoirs of the Cathedral Churches of St David’s and Llandaff,” and his “ Miscellaneous Discourses relating to the Traditions and Usages of the Scribes and Pharisees which were afterwards printed. He died on the 13th of February 1726. Dr Wotton was remarkable for his humanity and friendliness of temper ; the narrowness of a party spirit ne­ver broke in upon any of his friendships ; and his time and abilities were at the service of any person who was making advances in real learning. He wrote, besides the above works, 1. A History of Rome; 2. A Defence of his Reflec­tions upon Ancient and Modem Learning ; 3. A Discourse concerning the Languages of Babel ; 4. Advice to a Young Student, with a Method of Study for the first four Years ; and other learned pieces.

WOUNDS, in *Surgery.* See Surgery.

WOW, a fortified town of Hindustan, province of Guje­rat, district of Neycr, of which it may be considered as the capital. It is the residence of 1000 Rajpoot families. Long. 71. 23. E. Lat. 24. 11. N.

WOWAMIA, a town of Hindustan, province of Gujerat, on the eastern shore of the Runn, where there is a ferry for conveying travellers to the district of Cutch. Long. 70. 47. E. Lat. 22. 50. N.

WREATH, in *Heraldry,* a roll of fine linen or silk (like that of a Turkish turban), consisting of the colours borne in the escutcheon, placed in an achievement between the helmet and the crest, and immediately supporting the crest.

WREN, Sir Christopher, one of the most learned, scientific, and eminent architects of his age, was the son of Dr Christopher Wren, dean of Windsor, and was born on the 20th of October 1632. He studied at Wadham College, Oxford; where he took the degree of A. M. in 1653, and was chosen fellow of All Souls College. When very young he discovered a surprising genius for the mathematics ; in which science he made great advances before he was six­teen years old. In 1657, he was made professor of astro­nomy at Gresham College, London ; but he resigned this office in 1660, on his being chosen to the Savilian pro­fessorship of astronomy in Oxford. He was next year created LL. D., and in 1663 was elected fellow of the Royal Society. He was one of the commissioners for the repara­tion of St Paul’s ; and in 1665 travelled into France to exa­mine the most beautiful edifices there, when he made many curious observations. At his return to England, he drew a noble plan for rebuilding the city of London after the fire. This plan he presented to parliament ; and upon the decease of Sir John Denham in 1668, was made surveyor­general of his majesty’s works. From that time he had the direction of a great number of public edifices, by which he acquired the highest reputation. He built the magnificent theatre at Oxford, St Paul’s Cathedral, the churches of St Stephen Walbrook and St Mary-le-Bow ; the Monument, the modern part of the palace of Hampton Court, Chelsea College, one of the wings of Greenwich Hospital, and many other beautiful edifices. He was president of the Royal Society, one of the commissioners of Chelsea College, and twice member of parliament, first for Plymouth in Devon­shire, and then for Melcombe Regis in the same county. In 1718 he was removed from his place of surveyor-gene­ral. He died on the 2lst of February 1723, in the ninety- first year of his age, and was interred in the vault under St Paul’s. This eminent man also distinguished himself by many curious inventions and discoveries in natural phi­losophy ; and, among many others, contrived an instrument for measuring the quantity of rain that falls on any space of land for a year. He devised various methods of rendering astronomical observations more accurate and easy ; and was the first author of the anatomical experiment of injecting liquors into the veins of animals, &c. He translated into Latin Mr Oughtred’s *Horologiographia Geometrica ;* and wrote a Survey of the Cathedral Church of Salisbury, and other pieces. After his death his posthumous Works and draughts were published by his son.

WRESTLING, a kind of combat or engagement be­tween two persons unarmed, body to body, to prove their strength and dexterity, and try which can throw his oppo­nent to the ground. Wrestling is an exercise of very great antiquity and fame. It was in use in the heroic age ; wit­ness Hercules, who wrestled with Antæus. It continued a long time in the highest repute, and had considerable re­wards and honours assigned to it at the Olympic games. It was the custom for the athletæ to anoint their bodies with oil, to give the less hold to their antagonists.

WREXHAM, a market-town of the county of Denbigh, in North Wales, in the hundred of the same name, 188 miles from London and ten from Chester. It is finely si­tuated on a rising ground, and has a church, in elegance and beauty surpassing many of the cathedrals of the king­dom, and richly adorned with images and curious carved work, and many handsome monuments. It has a neat town-hall, and a well-endowed free-school. What little trade there is consists in making flannels, but in the vici­nity are considerable iron-works. It is a borough, and, con­jointly with Denbigh, Holt, and Ruthin, returns one member to the House of Commons. There are markets on Mon­day and Thursday. The town consists of two parts, called Wrexham Abbot and Wrexham Regis, whose population amounted in 1821 to 4795, and in 1831 to 5484.

WRINGTON, a market-town of the county of Somer­set, in the hundred of Brent and Wrington, 125 miles from London. It is chiefly noted as the birth-place of that great philosopher John Locke. It has a small market on Tues­day. The population amounted in 1821 to 1349, and in 1831 to 1540.

WRIT, in *Law,* signifies, in general, the king’s precept in writing under seal, issuing out of some court, directed to the sheriff or other officer, and commanding something to be done in relation to a suit or action, or giving commission to have the same done. And, according to Fitzherbert, a writ is said to be a formal letter of the king in parchment, sealed with his seal, and directed to some judge, officer, or minister, &c. at the suit of a subject, for the cause briefly expressed, which is to be determined in the proper court according to law.

Writs, in civil actions, are either original or judicial. Original are such as are issued out of the court of chancery for the summoning of a defendant to appear, and are granted before the suit is commenced, in order to begin the same ; and judicial writs issue out of the court where the original is returned, after the suit is begun.

WRITING, the art or act of signifying and conveying our ideas to others, by letters or characters visible to the eye.

The most ancient remains of writing which have been transmitted to us are upon hard substances, such as stones and metals, which were used by the ancients for edicts and matters of public notoriety. The decalogue was written on two tables of stone ; but this practice was not peculiar to the Jews, for it was used by most of the eastern nations, as well as by the Greeks and Romans ; and therefore the ridicule which Voltaire attempts to cast upon that part of the book of Genesis, where the people are commanded to write the