veyors of lands : as a field is defined and diſtinguiſhed by its *termini,* or limits, ſo is a thing or matter ſpoken of by the word or term it is denoted by.

*Term in the Arts,* or *Term of Art,* is a word which, beſides the literal and popular meaning which it has or may have in common language, bears a further and peculiar meaning in ſome art or ſcience.

Terms, the ſeveral times or ſeaſons of the year, wherein the tribunals, or courts of judicature, are open to all who think fit to complain of wrong, or to ſeek their rights by due courſe of law, or action ; and during which the courts in Weſtminſter-hall sit and give judgment. But the high court of parliament, the chancery, and inferior courts, do not obſerve the terms ; only the courts of king’s-bench, common-pleas, and exchequer, which are the higheſt courts at common law. In contradiſtinction to theſe, the rest of the year is called *vacation.*

Of theſe terms there are four in every year, during which time matters of juſtice are diſpatched. *Hilary-term,* which, at London, begins the 23d day of January, or if that be Sunday, the next day after ; and ends the 12th of February following. East*er-term,* which begins the Wedneſday fort­night after Eaſter-day, and ends the Monday next after Aſcenſion day. *Trinity-term,* beginning the Friday next after Trinity-Sunday, and ending the Wedneſday fortnight after. *Michaelmas term,* which begins the ſixth day of No­vember, and ends the 28th of November following. Each of theſe terms have alſo their returns. Theſe terms are ſup­poſed by Mr Selden to have been inſtituted by William the Conqueror; but Sir H. Spelman hath ſhewn, that they were gradually formed from the canonical conſtitutions of the church ; being no other than thoſe leiſure ſeaſons of the year which were not occupied by the great feſtivals or faſts, or which were not liable to the general avocations of rural buſineſs. Throughout all Chriſtendom, in very early times, the whole year was one continual term for hearing and de­ciding cauſes. For the Chriſtian magiſtrates, in order to diſtinguiſh themſelves from the heathens, who were very ſuperſtitious in the obſervation of their *dies fasti* and fasti*,* adminiſtered juſtice upon all days alike ; till at length the church interpoſed, and exempted certain holy ſeaſons from being profaned by the tumult of forensic litigations ; as, particularly, the time of Advent and Chriſtmas, which gave riſe to the winter vacation ; the time of Lent and Eaſter, which created that in the ſpring ; the time of Pente­coſt, which produced the third ; and the long vacation, be­tween midſummer and Michaelmas, which was allowed for the hay-time and harveſt. All Sundays alſo, and ſome pe­culiar feſtivals, as the days of the purification, aſcenſion, &c. were included in the ſame prohibition, which was eſtabliſhed by a canon of the church, A. D. 517, and fortified by an imperial conſtitution of the younger Theodosius, comprized in the Theodoſian code. Afterwards, when our own legal conſtitution was eſtabliſhed, the commencement and dura­tion of our law terms were appointed, with a view to theſe canonical prohibitions ; and it was ordered by the laws of king Edward the Confessor, that from Advent to the octave of the Epiphany, from Septuageſima to the octave of Eaſter, from the Aſcenſion to the octave of Pentecoſt, and from three in the afternoon of all Saturdays till Monday morn­ing, the peace of God and holy church ſhall be kept through­out the whole kingdom.

And ſo extravagant was afterwards the regard paid to theſe holy times, that though the author of the Mirror men­tions only one vacation of conſiderable length, containing the months of Auguſt and September, yet Britton ſays, that in the reignof king Edward I. no ſecular plea could be held, nor any man ſworn on the Evangelists, in the time of Advent, Lent, Pentecoſt, harveſt, and vintage, the days of the great litanies, and all ſolemn feſtivals. He adds, that the biſhops and prelates granted diſpenſations for ta­king aſſizes and juries in ſome of theſe holy ſeaſons, upon reaſonable occaſions ; and ſoon after a general diſpenſation was eſtabliſhed in parliament by ſtat. Weſtm. 1. 3 Edw. I. cap. 51. that aſſizes of novel disseisin, *mort d'ancestor,* and darrein preſentment, ſhould be taken in Advent, Septuage­ſima, and Lent, as well as inqueſts ; at the ſpecial requeſt of the king to the biſhops. The portions of time that were not included within theſe prohibited ſeaſons fell naturally into a fourfold diviſion ; and from ſome feſtival, or ſaint’s day. that immediately preceded their commencement, were denominated the terms of *St Hilary,* of East*er,* of the *Holy Trinity,* and of *St Michael:* which terms have been ſince re­gulated and abbreviated by ſeveral acts of parliament ; par­ticularly Trinity-term by ſtat. 32 Hen. VHI. cap. 2. and Michaelmas-term by ſtat. 16 Car. I. cap. 6. and again by ſtat. 24 Geo. II. cap. 48.

Terms, *Oxford.* Hilary or Lent-term begins January 14th, and ends the Saturday before Palm-Sunday. Eaſter-term begins the tenth day after Eaſter, and ends the Thurſday before Whitſunday. Trinity-term begins the Wednesday after Trinity-Sunday, and ends after the act, or 6th of July, ſooner or later, as the vice chancellor and convocation pleaſe. Michaelmas-term begins October the 10th, and ends December the 17th.

Terms, *Cambridge.* Lent-term begins January the 14th, and ends Friday before Palm-Sunday. Eaſter-term begins the Wedneſday after Eaſter-week, and ends the week before Whitſunday. Trinity-term begins the Wedneſday after Trinity-Sunday, and ends the Friday after the commence­ment, or 2d of July. Michaelmas-term begins October the 10th, and ends December the 16th.

Terms, *Scottiſh.* The court of ſession has two terms, the winter and ſummer. The winter begins on 12th No­vember, and ends 11th March, only there is a receſs of three weeks at Chriſtmas. The ſummer term commences 12th May, and ends 11th July. The court of exchequer has four terms: 1. Candlemas term begins 15th January, and ends 3d February ; 2. Whitſuntide term begins 12th May, and ends 2d June; 3. Lammas term begins 17th June, and ends 5th July ; 4. Martinmas term begins 24th No­vember, and ends 20th December.

Terms, *Irish.* In Ireland the terms are the ſame as at London, except Michaclmas term, which begins October the 13th, and adjourns to November the 3d, and thence to the 6th.

TERMES, in entomology ; a genus of infects belonging to the order of *optera,* according to Linnæus, but by others it is arranged more properly under the *neuroptera.* The mouth has two horny jaws ; the lip is horny and quadrifid, the laciniæ being linear and acute : there are four feelers, which are equal and filiform. The antennæ are moniliform in moſt ſpecies, and the eyes two. There are eight ſpecies, according to Gmelin ; the f*atale, destructor, arda, mordax, capense, fatidicum, pulſatorium,* and *divinatorium.* But as Gmelin has followed the claſſification of Linnæus in ar­ranging the termes under the order of aptera, it is not improbable that ſeveral of theſe which are mentioned as ſpecies of the termes may belong to a different genus. It will be ſufficient, in the preſent article, to deſcribe the fatale, which we are enabled to do from very accurate information.

The *termes fatale, bellicoſus,* or white ant, is of a yellow colour above ; the wings alſo yellowiſh ; the coſta is fer­ruginous ; the ſtemmata are near the eyes, the central point being ſomewhat prominent. Of the white ant we have a very curious and intereſting deſcription, in the Philo-