The Teutonic language is ſuppoſed to have been the lan­guage of the ancient Germane, and hence is reckoned amongſt the mother-tongues. See Philology, n⁰ 219.

*Teutonic Order,* an order of military knights, eſtabliſhed towards the cloſe of the twelfth century, on the following occasion. — When the emperor Barbaroſſa engaged in a cruſade for the recovery of the Holy Land out of the hands of Saladin, he was followed by great numbers oſ German volunteers, who from various motives enliſted under his ban­ners. After the death of Barbaroſſa, the Germans, who had signalized themſelves before Acre or Ptolemais, reſolved to chooſe another leader ; and at last fixed their choice upon Frederic duke of Suabia, ſecond ſon to the emperor, and Henry duke of Brabant. Under theſe generals they be­haved with ſo much bravery, that Henry king of Jerulalem, the patriarch, and ſeveral other princes, determined to re­ward their valour by inſtituting an order of knighthood in their favour. This was accordingly done ; and our new knights had at firſt the title of the *knights of St George ;* afterwards it was thought proper to put them under the tutelage of the Virgin Mary, to whom there was already an hospital dedicated on Mount Zion, for the relief of Ger­man pilgrims. From this time they were called *Equites Mariani,* or knights of St Mary. Laws, regulations, and statutes, were drawn up for them by the Chriſtian kings in Sy­ria and the patriarch; and among other obligations it was re­quired, that every perſon admitted to the privileges of the or­der ſhould be of noble parentage ; that the order ſhould defend the Chriſtian religion and the Holy Land ; that they ſhould exerciſe hoſpitality towards the Chriſtians in general, but par­ticularly thoſe of their own country; and that they ſhould with all their power endeavour to propagate and extend the Chri­ſtian faith and the religion of Jesus. In the year 1190, ha­ving become rich by donations from the ſuperſtitious, they elected their firſt grandmaſter, Henry Walpot, a German, who had diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his zeal and valour; and their choice was confirmed by the emperor. The following year, pope Celeſtine III. confirmed their privileges already granted, giving them the title of the *Teutonic knights of the hoſpital of St Mary the Virgin.* By the conditions of this bull, they vowed perpetual continence, obedience, and poverty ; obligations which it may well be imagined were not very ſtrictly kept. See Poland, n⁰ 59, 61, 67—69. and Prussia, n⁰ 3, 4.

TEWKESBURY, a town in Glouceſterſhire, formerly noted for its monaſtery. It is now a large handſome cor­poration, containing about 500 houſes, with a magnificent church. It is ſeated at the confluence of the rivers Severn and Avon, has a cotton manufactory, and ſends two mem­bers to parliament. W. Long. 2. 13. N. Lat. 52. 0.

TEXEL, a town of the United Provinces, in north Holland, ſeated at the mouth of the Zuyder-Zee, with a good harbour, and a ſtrong fort. It is ſeated in a fruitful island, known all over the world by the great number of ſhips that paſs this way every day from all parts ; it is about six miles long, and five broad, lying a little northward to the continent of Holland, between which and the iſland is one of the principal paſſages out of the Zuyder-Zee into the ocean. It is defended from the ſea by sand hills and ſtrong banks. Moſt of the soil is applied to feed ſheep, of which they have great flocks ; and the cheeſe made of their milk is ſaid to vie with the Parmeſan. This island con­tains ſeveral fair villages, and a town on the eaſt ſide, called *Burch,* ſtrongly fortified and garriſoned, and inhabited chiefly by fiſhermen. N. Lat. 53. 8. E. Long. 4. 51.

TEXT, a relative term, contradiſtinguiſhed to gloſs or commentary, and ſignifying an original diſcourſe excluſive of any note or interpretation. This word is particularly uſed for a certain passage of ſcripture, choſen by a preacher to be the ſubject of his ſermon.

TEXTURE, properly denotes the arrangement and coheſion of ſeveral ſlender bodies or threads interwoven or en­tangled among each other, as in the webs of ſpiders, or in the cloths, stuffs, &c.

Texture is alſo uſed in ſpeaking of any union or conſtituent particles of a concrete body, whether by weaving, hooking, knitting, tying, chaining, indenting, intruding, compreſſing, attracting, or any other way. In which ſenſe we ſay, a cloſe compact texture, a lax porous texture, a regular or irregular texture, &c.

TEWIT, in ornithology. See Tringa.

THABOR. See Tabor.

THALES, a celebrated Greek philoſopher, and the firſt of the ſeven wiſe men of Greece, was born at Miletus about 640 B. C. In order to improve himſelf in the know­ledge of the ſciences, he travelled into Egypt, where he diſcourſed with the prieſts and other learned men. Some ſay that he married ; but others obſerve, that he eluded the ſolicitations of his mother on this head, by telling her, when he was young, that it was too ſoon ; and afterwards, that it was two late. Thales acquired great reputation by his wiſdom and learning : he was the firſt among the Greeks who foretold eclipſes of the sun, and made extraordinary discoveries in aſtronomy. Thales was the author oſ the Ionian ſect of philoſophers, who were thus called from his being born at Miletus, a city of Ionia. He maintained that water was the principle of which all the bodies in the univerſe are composed ; that the world was the work of God ; and that God ſees the moſt ſecret thoughts in the heart of man. He ſaid, “ That the moſt difficult thing in the world is to know ourſelves ; the moſt eaſy to adviſe others; and the moſt ſweet to accompliſh our deſires. That, in order to live well, we ought to abſtain from what we find fault with in others. That the bodily felicity conſiſts in health, and that of the mind in knowledge. That the moſt ancient of beings is God, becauſe he is uncreated : that nothing is more beautiful than the world, becauſe it is the work of God ; nothing more extenſive than ſpace, quicker than spirit, ſtronger than neceſſity, wiſer than time.”· It was alſo one of his ſentences, “That we ought never to ſay that to any one that may be turned to our prejudice; and that we ſhould live with our friends as with perſons that may become our enemies.” He thanked God for three things ; that he was born of the human, not of the brute ſpecies ; a man, and not a woman ; a Greek, and not a barbarian. None of the ancient philoſophers ever applied themſelves more earneſtly to the ſtudy of aſtronomy than Thales. Diogenes Laertius reports, that leaving his lod­ging with an old woman to contemplate the ſtars, he fell into a ditch ; on which the good woman cried, “ How canſt thou know what is doing in the heavens, when thou canſt not perceive what is at thy feet ?” He went to ſee Croesus, who was marching with a powerful army into Cap­padocia, and enabled him to paſs the river Halys without making a bridge. Thales died ſoon after, at about 90 years of age. He compoſed ſeveral treatiſes in verſe, on meteors, the equinoxes, &c. but they are all loſt.

THALIA, in Pagan mythology, one of the nine muſes. She preſided over Comedy; and is repreſented crowned with a garland of ivy, holding a maſk in her hand, and wearing buſkins on her feet.

Th alia, in botany ; A genus of plants belonging to the claſs of *monandria,* and order of *monogynia* ; and in the na­tural ſyſtem ranging under the Sth order, *Scitamineae.* The corolla is pentapetalous and undulated ; and the drupe has a