their reſpective merits. His paſtorals ought to be con­ſidered as the foundation of his credit ; upon this claim he will be admitted for the finiſher as well as the inventor of his art, and will be acknowledged to have excelled all his imitators as much as originals uſually do their copies.

The works of this poet were firſt publiſhed in folio by Aldus Manutius at Venice in 1495. A more elegant and correct edition was printed by Henry Stephens at Paris in 1566. An edition was publiſhed at Leipſic in 1765, with valuable notes by the learned Reiſke. But what will moſt highly gratify the admirers of paſtoral poetry, is an edition publiſhed in 1770,2 vols 4to, by Mr Thomas Warton. It is accompanied by the ſcholia of the beſt editors, and the different readings of 15 MSS.

THEODOLITE, a mathematical infiniment for meaſuring heights and distances. See Geometry, p. 679.

THEODORE, king of Corſica, baron Nieuhoff in the county of La Marc in Westphalia. He had his education in the French ſervice, and afterwards went to Spain, where he received ſome marks of regard from the duke of Riperda and cardinal Alberoni ; but being of an unsettled diſpoſition, he quitted Spain, and travelled into Italy, England, and Holland, in ſearch of ſome new adventure. He at laſt fixed his attention on Corſica, and formed the ſcheme of rendering himſelf ſovereign of that iſland. He was a man of abilities and addreſs ; and having fully informed himſelf of every thing relating to Corſica, went to Tunis, where he fell upon means to procure ſome money and arms; and then went to Leghorn, from whence he wrote a letter to the Corſican chiefs Giafferi and Paoli, offering conſiderable aſſistance to the nation if they would elect him as their ſove­reign. This letter was conſigned to Count Domenico Rivarola, who acted as Corſican plenipotentiary in Tuſcany ; and he gave for anſwer, that if Theodore brought the aſſiſtance he promiſed to the Corſicans, they would very willing­ly make him king.

Upon this he, without loſs of time, ſet sail, and landed at Tavagna in the ſpring of the, year 1736. He was a man of a very stately appearance, and the Turkiſh dreſs he wore added to the dignity of his mien. He had a few attendants with him ; and his manners were ſo engaging, and his of­fers ſo plauſible, that he was proclaimed king of Corſica before Count Rivarola’s diſpatches arrived to inform the chiefs of the terms upon which he had agreed. He brought with him about 1000 zequins of Tunis, beſide ſome arms and ammunition, and made magnificent promises of foreign aſſiſtance ; whence the Corſicans, who were glad of any ſupport, willingly gave into his ſchemes. Theodore instantly affirmed every mark of royal dignity. He had his guards and his officers of ſtate ; he conferred titles of ho­nour, and ſtruck money both of ſilver and copper. The silver pieces were few in number, and can now hardly be met with ; the copper coins have on one side T. R. that is, “ Theodorus Rex,” with a double branch croſſed, and round it this inſcription, Probono publico Re. Co. that is, “ For the public good of the kingdom of Corſica :” on the other side is the value oſ the piece; *Cinque ſolidi,* or five sous.

The Genoeſe were not a little confounded with this un­expected adventurer. They publiſhed a violent manifeſto againſt Theodore, treating him with great contempt ; but at the ſame time ſhowing they were alarmed at his appear­ance. Theodore replied, in a maniſeſto, with all the calmness and dignity of a monarch ; but after being about eight months in Corſica perceiving that the people began to cool in their affections towards him, he assembled his chiefs, and declared he would keep them no longer in a ſtate of uncer­tainty, being determined to ſeek in perſon the ſupport he ſo long expected. He settled an adminiſtration during his absence, recommended unity in the ſtrongeſt terms, and left the iſland with reciprocal aſſurances of fidelity and affection. He went to Holland, where he was ſo ſucceſsſul as to ob­tain credit from ſeveral rich merchants, particularly Jews, who trusted him with cannon and other warlike ſtores to **a** great value, under the charge of a ſupercargo. With theſe: he returned to Corſica in 1739; but by this time the French, as auxiliaries to the Genoeſe, had become ſo power­ful in the iſland, that though Theodore threw in his ſupply of warlike ſtores, he did not incline to venture his per­ſon, the Genoeſe having ſet a high price on his head. He therefore again departed ; and after many unavailing at­tempts to recover his crown, at length choſe for retirement **a** country where he might enjoy the participation of that liberty which he had ſo vainly endeavoured to give his Cor­ſicans ; but his ſituation in England by degrees grew wretched, and he was reduced ſo low as to be ſeveral years before his death a priſoner for debt in the King’s Bench. At length, to the honour of ſome gentlemen of rank, **a** charitable contribution was ſet on foot for him in the year 1753. Mr Boſwell obſerves, that Mr Horace Walpole generouſly exerted himſelf for the unhappy Theodore, and wrote a paper in *The World* with great elegance and hu­mour, ſoliciting a contribution for the unhappy monarch in diſtreſs, to be paid to Mr Robert Dodſley bookſeller, as lord high treaſurer. This brought him a very handſome firm, and he was ſet at liberty. That gentleman adds, that Mr Walpole has the original deed, by which Theodore made over the kingdom of Corſica in ſecurity to his credi­tors, and that he has alſo the great ſeal of the kingdom. Theodore died in 1756, and was buried in St Anne’s churchyard, Weſtminſter; where, in 1757, a ſimple una­dorned monument of marble was erected to his memory by a gentleman, with an inſcription ; which, after mentioning ſome of the above particulars, concludes with the following lines :

The grave, great teacher, to a level brings

Heroes and beggars, galley-ſlaves and kings ;

But Theodore this moral learn’d ere dead,

Fate pour’d its lesson on his living head,

Bellow’d a kingdom and deny’d him bread.

Theodore left a ſon, who was an accompliſhed gentleman. THEODORET, biſhop of St Cyricus in Syria, in the 4th century, and one of the moſt learned fathers of the church, was born in the year 386, and was the diſciple of Theodorus Mopſueſtia and St John Chryſoſtom. Having received holy orders, he was with difficulty perſuaded to accept of the biſhopric of St Cyricus, about the year 420. He diſcovered great frugality in the expences of his table, dreſs, and furniture, but ſpent conſiderable sums in impro­ving and adorning the city of Cyricus. He erected two large bridges, public baths, fountains, and aqueducts, and laboured with great zeal and ſucceſs in his dioceſe. Yet his zeal was not confined to his own church: he went to preach at Antioch and the neighbouring towns ; where he became admired for his eloquence and learning, and had the happineſs to convert multitudes of people. He wrote in favour of John of Antioch and the Neſtorians, againſt Cyril’s Twelve Anathemas ; he afterwards attacked the opinions of Neſtorius, and was depoſed in the ſynod held by the Eutychians at Epheſus ; but was again reſtored by the general coun­cil of Chalcedon, in which he was preſent, in 451. It is thought that he died ſoon after ; though others say that he lived till the year 43 7. There are ſtill extant Theodoret’s excellent Commentary on St Paul’s Epiſtles, and on ſeveral other books of the Holy Scriptures. 2. His Eccleſiaſtical Hiſtory from the time of Arius to Theodoſius