writings or otherwiſe. He took no part in the political ſquabbles of his time, and was therefore reſpected and left undiſturbed by both ſides. Theſe amiable virtues did not fail of their due reward; the applauſe of the public attended all his productions, and his friends loved him with an enthuſiaſtic ardour.

“ As a writer (ſays Dr Johnſon), he is intitled to one praise of the higheſt kind ; his mode of thinking, and of expreſſing his thoughts, is original. His blank verſe is no more the blank verſe of Milton, or of any other poet, than the rhymes of Prior are the rhymes of Cowley. His num­bers, his pauſes, his diction, are of his own growth, with­out tranſcription, without imitation@@. He thinks in a pe­culiar train, and he thinks always as a man of genius ; he looks round on Nature and on life with the eye which Nature beſtows only on a poet; the eye that diſtinguiſhes, in every thing represented to its view, whatever there is on which ima­gination can delight to be detained, and with a mind that at once comprehends the vaſt, and attends to the minute. The reader of the Seaſons wonders that he never ſaw before what Thomson ſhews him, and that he never yet has felt what Thomſon impresses.”

His teſtamentary executors were the lord Lyttelton, whoſe care of our poet’s fortune and fame ceaſed not with his life; and Mr Mitchell, a gentleman equally noted for the truth and conſtancy of his private friendship, and for his addreſs and ſpirit as a public miniſter. By their united intereſts, the or­phan play oſ Coriolanus was brought on the ſtage to the beſt advantage ; from the profits of which, and the ſale of manuſcripts and other effects, a handſome sum was remitted to his sisters. His remains were depoſited in the church of Richmond, under a plain ſtone, without any inſcription. A handſome monument was erected to him in Weſtminſter abbey in the year 1762, the charge of which was defrayed by the profits ariſing from a ſplendid edition of all his works in 4t0 ; Mr Millar the bookſeller, who had purchaſed all Mr Thomſon’s copies, giving up his property on this grate­ful occaſion. A monument has alſo been erected to him at the place of his birth.

THOR, the eldeſt and braveſt of the ſons of Odin and Frea, was, after his parents, the greateſt god of the Saxons and Danes while they continued heathens@@. They believed, that Thor reigned over all the aerial regions, which composed his immenſe palace, conſiſting of 540 halls ; that he launched the thunder, pointed the lightening, and directed the meteors, winds, and ſtorms. To him they addressed their prayers for favourable winds, refreſhing rains, and fruitful ſeaſons ; and to him the fifth day of the week, which ſtill bears his name, was conſecrated.

THORAX. See Anatomy.

White or haw THORN. See Cratægus.

Thorn, a town of Poland, in Regal Pruſſia, and in the palatinate of Culm. It was formerly a Hanſeatic town, and ſtill enjoys great privileges ; is large and well fortified ; but part of the fortifications, and a great number of houſes, were ruined by the Swedes in 1703. It is ſeated on the Viſtula, and contains 10,000 inhabitants. E. Long. 18. 42. N. Lat 53. 6.

THORNBACK, in ichthyology. See Raia.

THORNHILL (Sir James), an eminent Engliſh paint­er, was born in Dorſetſhire in 1 676, of an ancient family ; but was conſtrained to apply to ſome profession by the diſtreſſes of his father, who had been reduced to the neceſſity of selling his family-eſtate. His inclination directed him to the art of painting; and on his arrival at London he applied to his uncle, the famous Dr Sydenham, who enabled him to proceed in the ſtudy of the art under the direction of a painter who was not very eminent. However, the genius oſ Thornhill made ample amends for the insufficiency of his inſtructor, and by an happy application of his talents he made ſo great a progreſs, that he gradually roſe to the high­eſt reputation.

His genius was well adapted to hiſtorical and allegorical compoſitions ; he poſſeſſed a fertile and fine invention ; and he ſketched his thoughts with great eaſe, freedom, and ſpirit. He excelled alſo equally in portrait, perſpective, and architecture ; ſhewed an excellent taſte for design, and had a free and firm pencil. Had he been ſo fortunate as to have ſtudied at Rome and Venice, to acquire greater correctneſs at the one, and a more exact knowledge of the perfection of colouring at the other, no artiſt among the moderns might perhaps have been his ſuperior. Nevertheleſs, he was ſo eminent in many parts of his profeſſion, that he muſt for ever be ranked among the beſt painters of his time ; and his performances in the dome of St Paul’s church at Lon­don, in the hoſpital at Greenwich, and at Hampton-court, are ſuch public proofs of his merit as will convey his name to poſterity with great honour.

This painter lived in general eſteem ; he enriched himſelf by the excellence of his works ; was appointed ſtate painter to Queen Anne, from whom he received the honour of knighthood ; had the ſingular ſatisfaction to repurchaſe his family eſtate ; and was ſo much diſtinguiſhed as to be elec­ted one of the members of parliament. He died in 1732.

THOROUGH-wax, in botany. See Bupleurum.

THOTH, or Theut, (called by the Phoenicians *Taaut,* by the Greeks *Hermes,* and by the Romans *Mercury),* was a Phoenician of very ſuperior talents, and one of the civilizers of mankind. He was prime miniſter to Oſiris, whom, after his death, he deified ; and he was himſelf dei­fied by his countrymen the Egyptians, for the benefits that he had rendered to the human race. See Mercury, My­thology, n⁰ 34, and Polytheism, n⁰ 18.

THOUGHT, a general name for all the ideas conſequent on the operations of the mind, and even on the opera­tions themſelves. See Metaphysics.

Thought, in compoſition. See Oratory, Part I. and II.

THOUINIA, in botany; a genus of plants belonging to the claſs of *diandria,* and order of *monogynia.* The co­rolla is quadripetalous ; the calyx quadripartite, and the antheræ ſeſſile. There is only one ſpecies diſcovered, the *nu­tans.*

THRACE, a country very frequently mentioned by the Greek and Latin writers, deriving its name, according to Joſephus, from Tiras one of the sons of Japhet. It was bounded on the north by mount Hæmus; on the ſouth, by the Ægean Sea ; on the west, by Macedon and the river Strymon ; and on the eaſt, by the Euxine Sea, the Hellespont, and the Propontis.—The Thracian Cherſoneſus is a peninſula incloſed on the ſouth by the Ægean Sea, on the west by the gulf of Melas, and on the eaſt by the Helleſpont ; being joined on the north to the continent by a neck of land about 37 furlongs broad. The inland parts of Thrace are very cold and barren, the ſnow lying on the mountains the greateſt part of the year ; but the maritime provinces are productive of all sorts of grain and necessaries for life ; and withal ſo pleaſant, that Mela compares them to the moſt fruitful and agreeable countries of Asia.

The ancient Thracians were deemed a brave and warlike nation, but of a cruel and savage temper ; being, accord­ing to the Greek writers, ſtrangers to all humanity and good nature. It was to the Thracians, however, that the Greeks were chiefly indebted for the polite arts that flouriſhed among them ; for Orphæus, Linus, Muſaeus, Thamyris, and Eumolpus, all Thracians, were the first, as Euſtathius in­forms us, who charmed the inhabitants of Greece with their

@@@[mu] Johnson's Lives of the Poets.

@@@[mu] Henry's History of Great Britain, vol. ii. part 4.