The beſt edition of Thucydides is that of Oxford, publiſhed in 1696, folio, and that of Duker, publiſhed at Amſterdam in 1731, folio.

THUJA, the arbor vitæ, in botany : A genus of plants belonging to the claſs of *monodelphia,* and order of *monœcia;* and in the natural system ranging under the 51st order, Co*niſerae.* There are four ſpecies known ; the orientalis, oc­cidentalis, apylla, and dolabrata ; of which the two first are moſt remarkable.

The *occidentalis,* or common arbor vitæ, grows naturally in Canada, Siberia, and other northern countries. In ſome of the Engliſh gardens a few of theſe trees are to be met with of a large ſize : it has a ſtrong woody trunk, which riſes to the height of 40 feet or more. The bark, while young, is ſmooth, and of a dark brown colour ; but as the trees advance, the bark becomes cracked, and leſs ſmooth. The branches are produced irregularly on every side, ſtanding almoſt horizontal, and the young ſlender ſhoots fre­quently hang downward, thinly garniſhed with leaves ; ſo that when the trees are grown large they make but an in­different appearance. The young branches are flat, and their ſmall leaves lie imbricated over each other like the ſcales of a fiſh ; the flowers are produced from the side of the young branches pretty near to the foot-ſtalk ; the male flowers grow in oblong catkins, and between theſe the fe­male flowers are collected in form of cones. When the former have ſhed their farina, they ſoon after drop off ; but the female flowers are ſucceeded by oblong cones, having obtuſe ſmooth ſcales, containing one or two oblong seeds. The leaves of this tree have a rank oily ſcent when bruiſed.

2. The *orientalis,* or China arbor vitæ, grows naturally in the northern parts of China, where it riſes to a conſiderable height ; but this has not been long enough in Europe to have any trees of large ſize. The seeds of this sort were first ſent to Paris by ſome of the miſſionaries ; and there are ſome of the trees growing in the gardens of the curious there, which are more than 20 feet high. The branches of this sort grow cloſer together, and are much better adorned with leaves, which are of a brighter green colour, ſo make a much better appearance than the other, and be­ing very hardy, it is eſteemed preferable to moſt of the ever­green trees with ſmall leaves, for ornament in gardens. The branches of this tree croſs each other at right angles : the leaves are flat ; but the ſingle diviſions of the leaves are ſlen­der, and the ſcales are ſmaller and lie cloſer over each other than thoſe of the first sort. The cones are alſo much larger, and of a beautiful grey colour ; their ſcales end in acute re­flexed points.

Theſe trees are propagated by seeds, layers, or cut­tings.

THULE, or Thylæ, (anc. geog.), an iſland in the moſt northern parts of the German Ocean. Its ſituation was never accurately aſcertained by the ancients, hence its preſent name is unknown by modern hiſtorians. Some ſuppoſe that it is the iſland now called Iceland, or part of Greenland, and others that it was *Foula.* See Foula.

THUMB, in anatomy, one of the extremities of the hand.

*THUMB-Cap,* an iſland in the South Sea, lies about ſeven leagues north-weſt of Lagoon-iſland ; it is a low, woody iſland, of a circular form, and not much above a mile in compaſs. There was no appearance of inhabitants ; the land was covered with verdure of many hues,

THUMMIM. See Urim.

THUNBERGIA, in botany; a genus of plants be­longing to the claſs of *didynami a,* and order of *angioſpermia.* The calyx is double; the exterior one is diphyllous, and the interior one multipartite. The capsule is globose, beaked, and bilocular. There is only one ſpecies known, the *capensis*

THUNDER, the noiſe occaſioned by the exploſion of a flash of lightning echoed back from the inequalities on the ſurface of the earth, in like manner as the noiſe of a cannon is echoed, and in particular circumſtances forms a rolling lengthened ſound.

Although *thunder,* properly ſpeaking, is only a mere ſound, capable of producing very little effect, yet the word is generally ſuppoſed to include the phenomena of lightning alſo ; and electrified clouds are by univerſal conſent called *thunder-clouds,* and the exploſions of many flaſhes of lightning proceeding from them are generally called *thun­der-storms.* Though the phenomena of lightning, therefore, have been at a great length explained and accounted for un­der the articles Electricity and Lightning, and though the immediate cauſe of electrical exploſions from clouds is explained under the article Rain ; yet the ultimate cauſe remains ſtill to be shown, and properly belongs to the pre­ſent article.

It is univerſally allowed, that the variation of the elec­tricity in different parts of the atmoſphere is the cauſe of thunder. Under the article Electricity, it has been ſhown why lightning explodes after the thunder-clouds are charged. Under the article Lightning, it is ſhown why that meteor puts on the various forms in which we ſee it, why it ſometimes ſtrikes houſes or animals, and ſometimes not, &c. ; and under the article Rain, why the atmoſphere in ſome caſes parts with the vapours which at other times it ſo obſtinately retains. It remains therefore only to men­tion the theory by which ſome philoſophers explain the reaſon why rains are ſometimes attended with thunder, and ſometimes not ; which, to thoſe who attentively peruſe the articles above-mentioned, may be done in few words.

In this part of Great Britain, and for a conſiderable way along the eaſtern coaſt, although thunder may happen at any time of the year, yet the month of July is that in which it may almoſt certainly be expected. Its duration is of very uncertain continuance ; ſometimes only a few peals will be heard at any particular place during the whole ſeaſon ; at other times the ſtorm will return at the interval of three or four days for a month, six weeks, or even longer ; not that we have violent thunder in this country directly vertical in any one place ſo frequently in any year, but in many ſeaſons it will be perceptible that thunder-clouds are formed in the neighbourhood even at theſe ſhort intervals. Hence it appears, that during this particular period there muſt be ſome natural cauſe operating for the production of this phenomenon, which does not take place at other times. This cannot be the mere heat of the weather, for we have often a long tract of hot weather without any thunder ; and beſides, though not common, thunder is ſometimes heard in the winter alſo. As therefore the heat of the weather is common to the whole ſummer, whether there be thunder or not, we muſt look for the cauſes of it in thoſe phenomena, whatever they are, which are peculiar to the months of July, Auguſt, and the beginning of September. Now it is generally obſerved, in the tract of country of which we now ſpeak, that from the month of April an eaſt or ſouth- eaſt wind generally takes place, and continues with little in­terruption till towards the end of June. At that time, ſometimes ſooner and ſometimes later, a weſterly wind takes place ; but as the cauſes producing the eaſt wind are not re­moved, the latter oppoſes the weſt wind with its whole force. At the place of meeting, there is naturally a moſt vehement pressure of the atmoſphere, and friction of its parts againſt one another ; a calm enſues, and the vapours brought by both winds begin to collect and form dark clouds, which