jected to the inconveniences of a ſiege. Yet, in caſe this ſhould happen, a meaſure has been taken, which will prevent the neceſſity of deſtroying the ſuburbs ; namely, no houses without the walls are allowed to be built nearer to the glacis than 600 yards ; ſo that there is a circular field of that breadth all round the town, which, excluſive of the advan­tage above-mentioned, has a very beautiful and ſalutary effect. Theſe magnificent ſuburbs, and the town together, are ſaid to contain above 300,000 inhabitants ; yet the former are not near ſo populous, in proportion to their ſize, as the town ; becauſe many houses in the ſuburbs have extenſive gardens belonging to them, and many families, who live du­ring the winter within the fortifications, ſpend the ſummer in the ſuburbs. The cathedral is built of free-ſtone, is 114 yards long, and 48 broad, and the ſteeple is 447 feet high. Inſtead of a weather-cock there was a Turkiſh creſcent, in memory of the ſiege in 1589 ; but, after the second siege in 1683, they changed it for a golden croſs, which three months after was thrown down by a ſtorm. At preſent there is a black ſpread eagle, over which is a gilded croſs. Joining to this church is the archbiſhop’s palace, the front of which is very fine. The univerſity had ſeveral thouſand ſtudents, who, when this city was beſieged, mounted guard, as they did alſo in 1741. Beſide this, there is the academy of Lower Auſtria ; and the archducal library is much frequented by foreigners, as it contains above 100,000 printed books, and 10,000 manuſcripts. The academy of painting is remark­able for the fine pictures it produces. The archducal treasury, and a cabinet of curioſities of the houſe of Auſtria, are great rarities. The inhabitants, in general, live in a splendid manner ; and people of diſtinction have all sorts of wines at their tables, which they are very free with to foreigners. There is a sort of harbour on the Danube, where there are magazines of naval flores, and ſhips have been fitted out to ſerve on that river againſt the Turks. Vienna is an archbiſhop’s fee. It is ſeated at the place where the river Vienna, or Wien, falls into the Danube, 30 miles west of Preſhurgh, 350 north-north-eaſt of Rome, 520 ſouth-eaſt by ſouth of Amſterdam, 565 eaſt of Paris, and 680 eaſt-ſouth- eaſt of London, E. Long. 16. 28. N. Lat. 48. 13.

VIGIL, in church-hiſtory, is the eve or next day before any solemn feaſt ; becauſe then Chriſtians were wont to watch, faſt, and pray, in their churches.

Vigils *of Plants,* a term under which botaniſts compre­hend the preciſe time of the day in which the flowers of different plants open, expand, and ſhut.

As all plants do not flower in the same ſeason, or month ; in like manner, thoſe which flower the ſame day, in the ſame place, do not open and ſhut preciſely at the same hour. Some open in the morning, as the lip flowers, and com­pound flowers with flat ſpreading petals ; others at noon, as the mallows ; and a third ſet in the evening, or after ſun- set, as ſome geraniums and opuntias : the hour of ſhutting is equally determined. Of thoſe which open in the morn­ing, ſome ſhut ſoon after, while others remain expanded till night.

The hours of opening, like the time of flowering, ſeem to vary, according to the ſpecies of the plant, the temperature of the climate, and that of the ſeason. Flowers, whose ex­treme delicacy would be hurt by the ſtrong impreſſions of on ardent sun, do not open till night ; those which require a moderate degree of heat to elevate their juices; in other words, whoſe juices do not rise but in the morning or evening, do not expand till then ; whilſt thoſe which need a more lively heat for the ſame purpoſe, expand at noon, when the sun is in his meridian ſtrength. Hence it is, that the heat of the air being greater betwixt the tropics than elſe- where, plants which are tranſported from thoſe climates into the cold or temperate climates of Europe, expand their flowers much later than in their native soil. Thus, a flower which opens in ſummer at six o’clock in the morning at Se­negal, will not open at the same ſeason in France and Eng­land till eight or nine, nor in Sweden till ten.

Linnæus diſtinguiſhes by the general name of *ſolar (flores solares)* all thoſe flowers which obſerve a determinate time in opening and ſhutting. Theſe flowers are again divided, from certain circumſtances, into three ſpecies, or kinds :

Equinoctial flowers *(flores aequinoctiales)* are ſuch as open and ſhut at all ſeasons, at a certain fixed or determinate hour.

Tropical flowers *(flores tropici)* are ſuch whoſe hour of opening is not fixed at all ſeasons, but accelerated or retarded according as the length of the day is increaſed or diminiſhed.

Meteorous flowers *(flores meteorici)* are ſuch whoſe hour of expanſion depends upon the dry or humid ſtate of the air, and the greater or leſs pressure of the atmoſphere. Of this kind is the Siberian ſow-thiſtle, which ſhuts at night if the enſuing day is to be clear and ſerene, and opens if it is to be cloudy and rainy. In like manner the African marigold, wſhich in dry ſerene weather opens at six or ſeven in the morning, and ſhuts at four o’clock in the afternoon, is a ſure indication that rain will fall during the courſe of the day, when it continues ſhut after ſeven.

VIGO, a ſea-port town of Spain, in Galicia, with an old caſtle and a fort. It is ſeated in a fertile country by the ſea-ſide. It was rendered famous by a ſea-fight between the confederate fleet commanded by Sir George Rook, and a ſquadron of French men of war, while the duke of Ormond with a body of land-forces drove the Spaniards from the caſtles which defended the harbour. Admiral Hopson ha­ving with infinite danger broke through the boom made acroſs the mouth of the harbour, the Engliſh took four galleons and five large men of war, and the Dutch five gal­leons and one man of war. Four galleons, with 14 men of war, were deſtroyed, with abundance of plate and other rich effects. W. Long. 8. 21. N. Lat. 42. 3.

VILLA franca, the name of ſeveral towns ; one in Piedmont, three miles eaſt of Nice ; another of Catalonia, 18 miles west of Barcelona ; a third, the capital of St Mi­chael, one of the Azores ; and a fourth, a town of Eſtre- madura in Spain, 57 miles ſouth-eaſt of Salamanca.

VILLAGE, an assemblage of houſes inhabited chiefly by peasants and farmers, and having no market, whereby it is diſtinguiſhed from a town. The word is French, formed of *vil,* or *vilis,* “ low, mean, contemptible :” or rather, from the Latin *villa,* a country-houſe or farm.

VILLAIN, or Villein, in our ancient cuſtoms, denotes a man of ſervile or baſe Condition, viz. a bond-man or servant.

VILLARS (Lewis Hector, duke de), marſhal of France, grandee of Spain, &c. and a very brave general, was the son of Peter marquis de Villars, of a noble and ancient family. He was at firſt aid de-camp to marſhal de Bellesons, his couſin ; and diſtinguiſhed himſelf in ſeveral ſieges and battles till the year 1702, when having obtained the victory at Fredlinghem from the prince of Baden, he was made marſhal of France. The marſhal de Villars took the fort of Kell the year following, and gained a battle at Hochſtet in concert with the elector of Bavaria. In 1706 he forced the lines of Stolhoffen, and raised large contribu­tions from the enemy : but in 1709, he, in conjunction with marſhal Bouflers, was entirely defeated by the duke of Marl­borough, at the battle of Malplaquet, when marſhal Villara was wounded at the beginning of the action. In 1712 he gained much glory by forcing the intrenchments at Denain on the Scheid ; which was followed by the taking of Marchiennes, Douay, Bouchain, Landau, Friburg, &c and by the peace concluded at Raſtat between the emperor and