From thence, deſcending in the ſame latitude to the Miſſiſſippi, the change reverſes ; and, if we may believe travellers, it becomes warmer there than it is in the ſame latitude on the ſea-ſide. Their teſtimony is ſtrengthened by the vege­tables and animals which ſubſiſt and multiply there naturally, and do not on the ſea-coaſt. Thus catalpas grow ſpontaneouſly on the Miſſiſſippi as far as the latitude of 37, and reeds as far as 38, degrees. Perroquets even winter on the Sioto in the 39th degree of latitude. In the ſummer of 1779, when the thermometer was at 90 degrees at Monticello, and 96 degrees at Williamſburg, it was 110 degrees at Kaſkaskia. Perhaps the mountain, which overhangs this village on the north side, may by its reflection have contributed ſomewhat to produce this heat.

The number of free inhabitants in this ſtate in 1782 was 296,852, ſlaves 270,762. The number of free inhabitants were to the number of ſlaves nearly as 11 to 10.

The college of William and Mary is the only public ſummary of learning in Virginia. It was founded in the time of king William and queen Mary, who granted to it 20,000 acres of land, and a penny a pound duty on certain tobaccoes exported from Virginia and Maryland. The aſſembly alſo gave it by temporary law a duty on liquors imported, and ſkins and furs exported. From theſe reſources it received upwards of 3000l. *communibus annis.* The buildings are of brick, ſufficient for an indifferent accommodation of perhaps 100 ſtudents. By its charter it was to be under the go­vernment of 20 viſitors, who were to be its legiſlators ; and to have a preſident and six professorſhips, which at preſent stand thus : A professorſhip for Law and Police ; Anato­my and Medicine ; Natural Philoſophy and Mathematics ; Moral Philoſophy, the Law of Nature and Nations, the Fine Arts; Modern Languages. For the Brafferton. The col­lege edifice is a huge, miſhapen pile, which, but that it has a roof, would be taken for a brick-kiln. In 1787, there were about 30 young gentlemen members of this college, a large proportion of which were law ſtudents. There are a number of flouriſhing academies in Virginia ; one in Prince Edward county, one at Alexandria, one at Norfolk, one at Hanover, and others in other places.

The preſent denominations of Chriſtians in Virginia are Preſbyterians, who are the moſt numerous, and inhabit the western parts of the ſtate ; Epiſcopalians, who are the moſt ancient ſettlers, and occupy the eaſtern and firſt settled parts of the ſtate. Intermingled with theſe are great numbers of Baptiſts and Methodiſts. The bulk of theſe laſt mentioned religious ſects are of the poorer sort of people, and many of them are very ignorant (as is indeed the case with the other denominations), but they are generally a virtuous well-mean­ing set of people.

Virginia has produced ſome of the moſt diſtinguiſhed men that have been active in effecting the two late important re­volutions in America, whoſe political and military character will rank among the firſt in the page of hiſtory. The great body of the people do not concern themſelves with politics; so that their government, though nominally republican, is in fact oligarchical or ariſtocratical. The Virginians who are rich, are in general ſenſible, polite, and hoſpitable and of an indepen­dent ſpirit. The poor are ignorant and abject; all are of an inquiſitive turn, and in many other reſpects very much refera­ble the people in the eaſtern ſtates. There is a much greater diſparity between the rich and the poor in Virginia than in any of the northern ſtates. A ſpirit for literary inquiries, if not altogether confined to a few, is, among the body of the people, evidently ſubordinate to a ſpirit of gaming and barbarous ſports. At almoſt every tavern or ordinary on the public road there is a billiard table, a backgammon table, cards, and other implements for various games. To theſe public houſes the gambling gentry in the neighbour­hood retort to kill time which hangs heavily upon them; and at this buſineſs they are extremely expert, having been accuſtomed to it from their earlieſt youth. The paſſion for cock- fighting, a diverſion not only inhumanly barbarous, but in­finitely beneath the dignity of a man of senſe, is ſo predo­minant, that they even advertiſe their matches in the public newſpapers.

The executive powers are lodged in the hands of a go­vernor choſen annually, and incapable of acting more than three years in ſeven. He is aſſisted by a council of eight members. The judiciary powers are divided among ſeveral courts. Legiſlation is exerciſed by two houſes of aſſembly, the one called the *Houſe of Delegates,* compoſed of two mem­bers from each county, choſen annually by the citizens posſeſſing an eſtate for life in 100 acres or uninhabited land, or 25 acres with a houſe on it, or in a houſe or lot in ſome town. The other called the *Senate,* consisting of 24 members, choſen quadrennially by the ſame electors, who for this purpoſe are diſtributed into 24 districts. The concurrence of both houſes is neceſſary to the passage of a law. They have the appoint­ment of the governor and council, the judges of the ſuperior courts, auditors, attorney-general, treaſurer, regiſter of the land office, and delegates to Congreſs.

Before the preſent war, there was exported from this ſtate, *communibus annis*, nearly as follows :

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Articles. | Quantity. |
| Tobacco, | 55,000 hhds. of 1000 lb. |
| Wheat, | 800,000 business |
| Indian Corn, | 600,000 bushels |
| Shipping·, |  |
| Masts, planks, skantling, shingles, slaves, |  |
| Tar; pitch, turpentine, | 30,000 barrels |
| Peltry, viz. skins of deer, beavers, otters, 7 muik-rats, racoons, foxes, | 180 hhds. of 600 lb. |
| Pork, | 4,000 barrels |
| Flax seed, hemp, cotton, |  |
| Pit coal, pig iron, |  |
| Pease, | 5,000 bushels |
| *Beef,* | 1,000 barrels |
| Sturgeon, white shad, herring, |  |
| Brandy from peaches and apples, whisky, |  |
| Horses, |  |
| The amount of the above articles is 850,000l. Virginia money, or 607.142 guineas. | |
|

The whole country before it was planted was one conti­nued foreſt interſperſed with marſhes, which in the West In­dies they call *ſwamps.* No country now produces greater quantities of excellent tobacco ; and the ſoil is generally ſo ſandy and ſhallow, that after they have cleared a freſh piece of ground out of the woods, it will not bear tobacco after two or three years unleſs cow-penned and well dunged. The forests yield oaks, poplars, pines, cedars, cypreſſes, ſweet myrtles, cheſnuts, hickery, live oak, walnut, dog-wood, alder, hazel, chinkapins, locuſt-trees, ſaſſafras, elm, aſh, beech, with a great variety of ſweet gums and incenſe, which diſtil from ſeveral trees ; pitch, tar, roſin, turpentine, plank-timber, maſts, and yards. Virginia yields alſo rice, hemp, Indian corn, plenty of paſture, with coal, quarries of stone, and lead and iron ore.

VIRGO, in aſtronomy, one of the ſigns or conſtellations of the zodiac.

VIRGULA Divinitoria, divining rod. See Mine, Vol. XII. p. 41.

VIRTUAL, or Potential; ſomething that has a power or virtue of acting or doing. The term is chiefly underſtood of ſomething that acts by a ſecret invisible cauſe, in opposition to actual and ſenſible.

VIRTUE, a term used in various ſignifications. In the