duces very few things, yet almoſt all the products and commodities of the globe may be found here, nearly as cheap as in the countries where they are made or produced. A vast variety of manufactures are carried on in the pro­vinces, and with extraordinary still and diligence ; and a great number of hands are employed, and much wealth ac­quired, by the herring, cod, and whale fiſheries. No na­tion has hitherto equalled them in the curing of herrings ; thoſe cured at Glaſgow, in Scotland, are thought to come neareſt to them. About 150 sail were annually employed in the whale-fiſhery, and about 200 in the herring. The pro­fits of the latter, in a good year, after all deductions, were thought to amount to 200,000 Holland guilders. The prin­cipal manufactures here are thoſe of linen, paper, and earthen ware of all sorts. Ship-building alſo employs vaſt numbers of hands. The trade of this country, however, upon the whole, has long been declining; owing partly to a decline of their ancient parſimony and industry ; but chiefly to the im­provement of manufactures, trade, and navigation, in other countries; and at preſent (1796) it is almoſt annihilated.

The late conſtitution was ſomewhat singular. Moſt of the towns in the ſeveral provinces are little republics, whoſe deputies, with the nobility, compoſed the ſtates thereof ; and the deputies of the provinces, in like manner, compoſed the States-general. Every town or province might ſend as many deputies as they pleaſed to the assemblies of the pro­vincial ſtates, or States-general ; but thoſe of each town or province had but one voice, and preſided by turns. No reſolution taken by the States-general was of any force till confirmed by the ſeveral provinces. The legiſlative power in the towns was veſted in the ſenates ; and the executive in the burgomaſters, ſyndics, &c. The ſtates of the provinces were ſtyled, Noble and Mighty Lords ; but thoſe of Hol­land, Noble and Moſt Mighty Lords: and the States general, High and Mighty Lords, or the Lords the States-general of the United Netherlands, or their High Mightineſſes. Beſides the States-general, there was alſo a council of ſtate, conſiſting of deputies from the ſeveral provinces, making twelve in all ; of which Holland ſent three ; Guelderland, Zealand, and Utrecht, two a-piece ; and Frieſland, Gronin­gen, and Overyssel, one. In this council every deputy pre­ſided a week by turns, and the ſtadtholder had a decisive voice when the votes happened to be equal. The principal affairs that came under their deliberation, were thoſe rela­ting to the army and finances. The ſtadtholder was alſo president of the ſtates in every province, but had no seat in the States general. One dissenting voice in the provincial ſtates prevented their coming to any reſolution. See Stadt- holder.

Such was the conſtitution of the ſeven United Provinces. They are now employed in framing for themſelves a new ne, upon the plan dictated to them by their maſters the French.

With reſpect to the adminiſtration of juſtice in this coun­try, every province has its tribunal, to which, except in criminal cases, appeals lie from the petty and country courts; and it is ſaid, that juſtice is nowhere diſtributed with more impartiality.

The taxes in theſe provinces are ſo many, and ſo heavy, eſpecially in Holland, that it is not without reaſon asserted, that the only thing that has eſcaped taxation there is the air they breathe. The ordinary revenues of the republic are computed at between two and three millions Sterling annually. Out of 100 guilders, the province of Holland contributes 58 ; and conſequently above one half of the whole public expences. For the encouragement of trade, the duties on goods and merchandiſe are ſaid to be exceed­ing low.

With reſpect to their land-forces in time of peace, they ſeldom exceed 40,000, and very often fall short of that num­ber. They employ a great many foreigners in their ſervice ; and in time of war hire whole regiments of Germans. Their navy, were they to enter heartily into any war, could ſoon be made formidable, as they have always vaſt quantities of timber prepared for building ſhips, and great numbers of ſhip carpenters and mariners. It is finder the direction of the five admiralty colleges, who, to defray the charges thereof, levy the duties on exports and imports.

As to the character of the Dutch, the boors or huſbandmen are induſtrious enough, but heavy, and slow of underſtanding. The ſeamen are a plain, blunt, but rough, surly,and ill-mannered sort of people. Their tradeſmen are ſomething ſharper, and make uſe of all their still to take advan­tage of thoſe they deal with. Every claſs of men is ex­tremely frugal. All appetites and paſſions run lower and cooler here than in other countries, avarice excepted. Quar­rels are very rare ; revenge is ſeldom heard of ; and jealouſy scarcely ever known. It is very uncommon for any of them to be really in love, or even to pretend to it ; nor do the women ſeem to care whether they are or not. People con­verse pretty much upon a level here ; nor is it eaſy to diſtinguish the man from the maſter, or the maid from the miſtreſs, ſuch liberties do they allow their ſervants, or rather are obliged to allow them ; for they may not be ſtruck or cor­rected by them, but the diſpute muſt be left to the magiſtrate. The Dutch are tall and ſtrong built ; but both men and women have the grosseſt ſhapes that are to be met with anywhere. Their garb, except among the officers of the army and some few others, is exceeding plain, and the fashions change as ſeldom as in Spain. The men are addicted to drinking, which ſome think necessary in this foggy air, both for their health and the improvement of their understandings. Among their diverſions, that of ſkating in winter is one of the chief. It is amazing to see the crowds in a hard froſt upon the ice, and their great dexterity in ſkating ; both men and women darting along with inconceivable ve­locity. The Dutch are remarkable for their cleanlineſs : nothing can exceed the neatneſs of their houses, towns, and villages. Many of them have diſtinguiſhed themſelves by their learning, and ſome even by their wit and ingenuity ; witneſs Erasmus, Grotius, &c. The Dutch excel alſo in painting and engraving ; and ſome of them have been no contemptible ſtatuaries.

UNITY, in poetry. There are three unities to be obſerved, viz. the unity of action, that of time, and that of place. In the epic poem, the great, and almoſt the only, unity, is that of the action. Some regard indeed ought to be had to that of time ; for that of place there is no room. The unity of character is not reckoned among the unities. See Poetry, Part II. Sect. 3.

UNIVERSAL, ſomething that is common to many things ; or it is one thing belonging to many or all things.

UNIVERSE, a collective name, ſignifying the whole world ; or the assemblage of heaven and earth, with all things therein. See Astronomy and Geography.

UNIVERSITY, is the name of a corporation formed for the education of youth in the liberal arts and ſciences, and authorized to admit ſuch as have ſtudied in it, to cer­tain *degrees* in different faculties, which not only ſerved as certificates of proficiency in ſcience, but alſo confer on thoſe who obtain them considerable privileges within the univerſity, as well as ſome rank in the ſtate without it. Univerſities generally comprehend within them one or more col­leges : but this is not always the case ; for the univerſity of St Andrew’s was in being before either of its colleges was founded, and it would continue in being with all its