privileges though both its colleges were levelled with the duſt.

In every university with which we are acquainted, there are four faculties, viz. *Theology, Law, Physιc,* and the *Arts and Sciences,* comprehending mathematics, natural and mo­ral philoſophy, &c. ; and in Oxford, Cambridge, and ſome other univerſities, *Music* is conſidered as a fifth faculty. In each of theſe there are two degrees, thoſe of *Bachelor* and *Doctor ;* for though in the univerſities of Great Britain and Ireland we have no ſuch degree as *Doctor in Arts and Sci­ences,* our *Master of Arts* anſwers to the degree of *Doctor in Philosophy,* which is conferred by many of the univerſities on the continent.

Univerſities in their preſent form, and with their preſent privileges, are inſtitutions comparatively modern. They ſprang from the convents of regular clergy, or from the chapters of cathedrals in the church of Rome, where young men were educated for holy orders, in that dark period when the clergy poſſeſſed all the little erudition which was left in Europe. Theſe convents were ſeminaries of learning pro­bably from their firſt inſtitution ; and we know with cer­tainty, that in Old Aberdeen there was a monaſtery in which youth were inſtructed in *theology,* the *canon law,* and the s*chool philosophy,* at leaſt 200 years before the univerſity and King’s College were founded. The ſame was doubtleſs the caſe in Oxford and Cambridge, and probably in eve­ry town in Europe where there is now a univerſity, which has any claim to be called ancient ; for it was not till the more eminent of the laity began to ſee the importance of literature and ſcience, that univerſities diſtinct from convents were founded, with the privilege of admitting to degrees, which conferred ſome rank in civil ſociety. Theſe univer­ſities have long been conſidered as lay corporations ; but as a proof that they had the eccleſiaſtical origin which we have aſſigned to them, it will be ſufficient to obſerve, that the Pope arrogated to himſelf the right of veiling them with all their privileges ; and that, prior to the Reformation, every univerſity in Europe conferred its degrees in all the facul­ties by authority derived from a papal bull.

It is perhaps no improbable conjecture, that the church of Rome derived her idea of academical honours from the Jews, among whom literary diſtinctions extremely ſimilar subſiſted before the nativity of our Saviour. Among them, the young ſtudent, with reſpect to his learning, was called a *diſciple* ; from his minority a *junior* ; and the *chosen* or *elec­ted,* on account of his election into the number of diſciples. When he had made ſome progreſs in knowledge, and was deemed worthy of a degree, he was by imposition of hands made חבד, *a companion* to a *Rabbi,* the perſon who officiates using this form, *I officiate thee,* or, *Be thou officiated* ; and as soon afterwards as he was thought worthy to teach others, the *aſſociate* was raiſed to the rank of *Rabbi.* Whether this proceſs ſuggeſted the idea or not, it has certainly ſome resemblance to that by which a young man in our univerſities paſſes through the degree of *Bachelor* to that of *Master of Arts* or *Doctor.*

The moſt ancient univerſities in Europe are thoſe oſ Ox­ford, Cambridge, Paris, Salamanca, and Bologna ; and in the two Engliſh univerſities, the firſt founded colle­ges are thoſe of *University, Baliol,* and *Merton,* in the for­mer, and *St Peter's* in the latter. Oxford and Cambridge, however, were univerſities, or, as they were then called, st*udies,* ſome hundreds of years before colleges or ſchools were built in them ; for the former flouriſhed as a ſeminary of learning in the reign of Alfred the Great, and the other, could we believe its partial partizans, at a period ſtill earlier. The univerſities of Scotland are four, St Andrew’s, Glas­gow, Aberdeen, and Edinburgh, In Ireland there is but one univerſity, viz. that of Dublin, founded by Queen Elizabeth, and very richly endowed.

An idle controversy has been agitated, whether the conſtitution of the Engliſh or of the Scotch univerſities be beſt adapted to anſwer the ends of their inſtitution ; and, as might be expected, it has been differently decided, accord­ing to the partialities of thoſe who have written on the ſub­ject. Were we to hazard our own opinion, we ſhould say, that each has its advantages and disadvantages ; and that while the Engliſh univerſities, aided by their great ſchools, to which we have nothing that can be compared, are unqueſtionably fitted to carry their young members fartheſt in the knowledge of the learned languages, the mode of teach­ing in our own univerſities is better adapted to the promotion of arts and ſciences, and the communication of that knowledge which is of moſt importance in active life.

*University-Courts*, in England. The two universities enjoy the ſole juriſdiction, in excluſion of the king’s courts, over all civil actions and ſuits whatſoever, where a ſcholar or privileged perſon is one of the parties ; excepting in ſuch cases where the right of freehold is concerned. And then by the univerſity charter they are at liberty to try and de­termine, either according to the common law of the land, or according to their own local cuſtoms, at their diſcretion ; which has generally led them to carry on their proceſs in a courſe much conformed to the civil law.

This privilege, ſo far as it relates to civil cauſes, is exerciſed at Oxford in the chancellor’s court ; the judge of which is the vice-chancellor, his deputy, or aſſeſſor. From his sentence an appeal lies to delegates appointed by the congrega­tion ; from thence to other delegates of the houſe of convo­cation ; and if they all three concur in the ſame ſentence, it is final, at leaſt by the ſtatutes of the univerſity, according to the rule of the civil law. But if there be any diſcordance or variation in any of the three ſentences, an appeal lies in the laſt reſort to judges delegates appointed by the crown, under the great ſeal in chancery.

As to the juriſdiction of the univerſity courts in criminal matters, the chancellor’s court at Oxford, and probably alſo that of Cambridge, hath authority to try all offences or miſdemeanors under the degree of treaſon, felony, or mayhem ; and the trial of treaſon, felony, and mayhem, by a particu­lar charter, is committed to the univerſity juriſdiction in ano­ther court, namely, the court of the lord high ſteward of the univerſity.

The proceſs of the trial is this. The high ſteward iſſues one precept to the ſheriff of the county, who thereupon re­turns a panel of 18 freeholders ; and another precept to the bedells of the univerſity, who thereupon return a panel of 18 matriculated laymen, l*aicos privilegio universitatis gau­dentes:* and by a jury formed *de medietate,* half of freehold­ers and half matriculated perſons, is the indictment to be tried ; and that in the guildhall of the city of Oxford. And if execution be neceſſary to be awarded in conſequence of finding the party guilty, the ſheriff of the county muſt exe­cute the univerſity proceſs ; to which he is annually bound by an oath.

VOCABULARY, in grammar, denotes the collection of the words of a language, with their significations, otherwiſe called a *dictionary, lexicon,* or *nomenclature.* See Dic­tionary.

A vocabulary is properly a ſmaller kind of dictionary, which does not enter ſo minutely into the origin and diffe­rent acceptations of words.

VOCAL, ſomething that relates to the voice or ſpeech ; thus vocal muſic is that ſet to words, eſpecially verſes, and