wards the east the valleys are widest, and run from east to west. Along the whole coast are chalky cliffs from 150 to 700 feet in height, but interrupted in places by the bays and harbours. The soil is on the whole the most fertile in France, though there are portions of it very unproductive of corn, and generally covered with wood, which woods comprehend one seventh of the whole department. The agriculture is tolerably conducted, but the greater part of it is on the ancient system of a fallow succeeded by two crops of grain. About 340,000 acres are sown with wheat, and about 250,000 with oats, which is a large portion out of the 1,372,302 acres ; yet it appears that the corn produced is scarcely equal to the consumption. The best lands are the meadows in the valleys through which the Seine and the other rivers run, and these afford nourishment for nu­merous herds of cows, which supply both meat and the pro­ducts of the dairy. It is, however, in the interior of the department that the best breed of cows are to be seen, which are a mixture of the Flanders race, whereas on the coast they are commonly of a much smaller size.

The breed of the ancient Norman horses is now nearly extinct. Those now bred are of a mixed race, and more re­markable for their strength than for their beauty, and are well adapted for the plough, for which they are almost ex­clusively used. The sheep are numerous, and those of the fine woolled kind have of late years been rapidly on the in­crease. In the valleys of Arques and of Pouville the mut­ton is highly valued. In the more woody portions of the department are kept very great numbers of swine, in which the acorns are found of great benefit. Most kinds of fruit are abundant, with the exception of vines ; but the defi­ciency of them is counterbalanced by the great quantity of apples, which are converted into cider, and form a good substitute for wine. The fishery on the sea-coast affords considerable occupation, and a great additional supply of food. The herring-fishery is extensively practised from Dieppe and Fecamp ; and from other places on the shore enormous quantities of mackerel are taken, whilst the oys­ter-fishery employs many hands. The manufacturing in­dustry is very active, especially in the arrondissement of Rouen. Woollen and cotton goods of every kind are made, and the best kinds of machinery are in full exercise. Large establishments exist which provide paper, glass, pottery, and china ware ; and on the coast much linen is spun and woven. There are many ship and boat builders ; and the cordage and equipments contribute their share to furnish occupation to labourers. There is much internal trade, es­pecially with Paris, by the river Seine. The principal places within the department are Rouen, Havre de Grace, Dieppe, Fecamp, and Yvetot.

Seine *and Marne,* a department of the north of France. It has been formed out of parts of the ancient provinces of the Isle of France and of Champagne, called French Ga- tinois, and the Upper and Lower Brie. It is bounded on the north by the department of the Oise, on the east by the Aisne and the Marne and Aube, on the south by the Yonne and Loiret, and on the west by the Seine and Oise. It extends over 1981 square miles, is divided into five ar­rondissements, twenty-nine cantons, and 556 communes, and in 1836 contained 325,881 inhabitants. The capital of the department is the city of Melun, with a population of 6846 inhabitants in 1836. Besides the two rivers from which it is named, it is watered by the Great and Little Morin, the Bouzie, the Yonne, the Essonne, the Yres, the Therouanne, the Beuvronne, and the Otrin, all of whose waters reach the sea through the Seine. The surface is a plain, but intersected by some hills of very moderate height. The soil is fruitful, especially near the principal rivers ; and though woods cover more than one tenth of the depart­ment, it is the chief granary from whence the capital draws its supply of corn, flour, garden-fruits, and fattened cattle.

The rivers abound with fish, and the woods with game. The meadows are of great fertility, yielding abundance of hay and other fodder, and supporting numerous cows, whose dairies supply Paris with the greater part of its milk, butter, and veal, whilst the cheese of Brie lias attained great cele­brity. It yields some wine, but its quality is only moderate, and does not equal the consumption. There is much manu­facturing industry applied to the making of glass, of paper of the best kind, of leather, of steel articles, of hosiery, of linen goods, and of various smaller articles. The chief towns are Coulommiers, Meaux, Fontainebleau, and Provins.

Seine *and Oise,* a department in the north of France. It is bounded on the north by the Eure and the Oise, on the east by the Seine-Marne, on the south by the Loiret, and on the west by the Eure and Loire. It extends over 1970 square miles, is divided into six arrondissements, thir­ty-six cantons, and 687 communes, and in 1836 contained 449,582 inhabitants, who elect four deputies to the legisla­tive chamber; The chief river is the Seine, with which the Oise is united, and then it receives the waters of the Marne, the Essonne, the Juine, the Ept, and the Maudre, and of the various tributary streams which empty themselves into these rivers. It is generally a level district, with a few ranges of hills of moderate height. The soil is not naturally fertile, but has been rendered productive by careful cultivation, and the abundance of manure, arising from its vicinity to the metropolis. It surrounds the department of the Seine on every side, has easy water-communication with Paris, and, besides, contains within it the city of Versailles and some other populous places. There is much fruit raised, and some wine, not of the best quality. It breeds many sheep; and of late years the race of the merinos and other fine-woolled sheep has prodigiously increased. There are in many parts manufactures of linen, woollen, and cotton goods, and they are on the increase.

SEISIN, in *Law,* signifies possession. In this sense we say, *premier seisin,* for the first possession. Seisin is di­vided into that in deed or in fact, and that in law. A seisin in deed is where a possession is actually taken ; but a seisin in law is where lands descend, and the party has not entered thereon ; or it is where a person has a right to lands, and is by wrong disseised of them. A seisin in law is held to be sufficient to avow on, though to the bringing of an assize, actual seisin is required ; and where seisin is alleged, the person pleading it must show of what estate he is seised.

*Livery of Seisin,* in *Law,* an essential ceremony in the conveyance of landed property, being no other than the pure feudal investiture, or delivery of corporal possession, of the land or tenement. This was held absolutely neces­sary to complete the donation, *Nam feudam sine investi­tura nullo modo constitui potuit ;* and an estate was then only perfect when, as Fleta expresses it in our law, *fit juris et seisinæ conjunctio.*

Investitures, in their original rise, were probably intend­ed to demonstrate in conquered countries the actual pos­session of the lord ; and that he did not grant a bare liti­gious right, which the soldier was ill qualified to prosecute, but a peaceable and firm possession. And, at a time when writing was seldom practised, a mere oral gift, at a dis­tance from the spot that was given, was unlikely to be either long or accurately retained in the memory of by­standers, who were very little interested in the grant. Afterwards they were retained as a public and notorious act, that the country might take notice of and testify the transfer of the estate, and that such as claimed title by other means might know against whom to bring their ac­tions.

In all well-governed nations, some notoriety of this kind lias ever been held requisite, in order to acquire and as­certain the property of lands. In the Roman law, *plenum*