tests, when they rise to a certain height, are quelled by the Chinese. All these rude tribes are devoted to the religion of the Lamas.

The Mantchoo Tartars inhabit the most eastern extre­mity of Tartary, bordering on the Pacific, which, in conse­quence of having given a conquering dynasty to China, now forms a province of that empire. They resemble the Mongoles in person, but have a fairer complexion. They have adopted only to a limited extent the religion of Fo or Boodh, so universally established over the east of Asia ; they have an ancient superstition of their own, to which they are greatly attached. They have also a peculiar language, which differs materially from that of the Chinese, Coreans, and Mongoles. It is rude in structure, but is said to be copi­ous. Their country is in general mountainous and woody ; the mountains are lofty, and the forests are of great depth. The cold is in proportion to the altitude ; and though the latitude be only that of the south of France, the climate is cold, and the rivers begin to freeze in September. (f.)

TARTAS, a river of Asiatic Russia, in the government of Tobolsk, falls into the Om near Tartaskoi.

TARTASKOI, a small town of Asiatic Russia, in To­bolsk, situated at the junction of the Om and Tartas. It is forty miles west-south-west of Kainsk.

TARVEN or Tarvin, a town in the hundred of Eddis- bury and county of Chester, four miles from the city of Chester, and 177 from London. The church is a well-built structure. The parish comprehends, besides the town, eleven small townships, whose population amounted in 1821 to 3486, and in 1831 to 3415 ; but the town contains only 1020.

TASAPAN, a small island in the Eastern Seas, near Junkseylon. Long. 98. 14. E. Lat. 8. 20. N.

TASHKUND, or Ταsηκεντ, formerly a considerable city of Independent Tartary, situated on the Sihon or Jax- artes. It has suffered much from the devastations of war. It is 210 miles north of Samarcand. Long. 64. 48. E. Lat. 42. 40. N.

TASIEVA, a river of Asiatic Russia, in the province of Tobolsk, which falls into the Tchulim about twenty miles north-west of Tasieuskoi. The latter place is situated on this river, 820 miles of Tobolsk.

TASMAN’S Head, the most southern point of Bruny’s Island, on the north-east coast of Van Diemen’s Laud.

Tasman's *Island,* a great peninsula connected with Van Diemen’s Land by an isthmus 600 feet broad by about 1800 long. At the southern extremity is a small island, called Tasman’s Island.

TASSISUDON, a city of Northern Hindustan, province of Bootan, of which it is the capital. It is the residence of the Deb rajah. It is situated in a highly cultivated valley, about three miles in length by one in breadth, intersected by the Tchintchieu river. The climate is esteemed ex­ceedingly salubrious. The castle or palace is in the centre of the valley, built of stone of a quadrangular form, the walls thirty feet high, pierced with very small windows. The citadel consists of seven stories, each from fifteen to twenty feet high, and is a very lofty building. From the centre rises a square piece of masonry, which supports a canopy of copper richly gilt. The town is of considerable extent, and is populous. Its chief manufactures are brazen images, and paper made from the bark of a tree. Long. 89. 30. E. Lat. 27. 50. N.

TASSO, Torquato, one of the most celebrated of mo­dem poets, was the son of Bernardo Tasso, himself eminent ill the same path of literature. Bernardo, a native of Ber­gamo, noble but poor, published in 1560 his chivalrous poem of the Amadigi, which forms the link between the wild and half-burlesque school in which Ariosto was the chief, and the serious epic given to Italy by his own son.

Torquato was born in 1544, at the beautifully situated town of Sorrento, on the southern shore of the Bay of Na­ples ; but, his father having been involved in the misfortunes and exile of a distinguished patron, the son’s education was conducted in the north. At Padua, when he had scarcely completed his eighteenth year, he published his romantic poem called Rinaldo, which, aided by other compositions, soon spread his fame over the peninsula, and introduced him into the service of the house of Este, princes of Fer­rara. His next work of importance was the Aminta, a pas­toral drama, in which, although having no claim to rank as the inventor of that faulty species of poetry, he exhibited it in a height of excellence neither attained before nor since. But, in the midst of studies, minor compositions, and travels which carried him as far as Paris, his mind was mainly occupied in elaborating his great work, the “ Gieru- salemme Liberata,” which he had planned and partly exe­cuted before leaving the university. Though the youthful sketch is still extant, the work was afterwards rewritten, and did not reach its close till 1575. The poet, now more than thirty years old, had already displayed those infirmi­ties of character which made him, during the remainder of his life, the helpless victim of envious enemies, or of mean and heartless patrons. The tale which Goethe and Byron have made the theme of poetical invention, represents Tasso as the lover of Leonora d’Este, or, according to some bio­graphers, of Lucretia her sister ; but the story is neither sufficiently vouched, nor in itself either probable or con­sistent ; and the real cause of the persecution to which he was subjected remains, after all investigations, as obscure as ever. We know, however, enough to show that his mind was but ill qualified to stand the shock and tumult of the world. That exquieite sensibility which reigns in his poetry was never dormant in any action of his life : deficient in moral courage, and acutely sensitive in taste, he hesi­tated for years to give his great poem to the public ; his imagination, overwrought and undisciplined, filled him with exaggerated suspicions of all who were around him, and su- perstitious terrors completed his misery. He surrendered himself to the Inquisition, confessing, as heretical doubts, what the inquisitors had sense enough to consider as illu­sions of hypochondria ; and, after an unlucky quarrel had brought on him a temporary imprisonment at Ferrara, he fled secretly from that city in 1577, and, crossing the cen­tral Appenines by unfrequented paths, sought refuge with his sister at Sorrento. For a year and a half after this period he wandered through Italy, alternately abandoning himself to fanciful despondence, and arousing his mind to the com­position of some of his minor works. In 1579, returning to Ferrara for the second time since his flight, he was treated with neglect by the duke and his sisters, and insulted by the retainers of the court : he broke out, it is said, into vio­lent reproaches against his alienated patrons ; and, seized by order of the Duke Alfonso, he was immured in the hos­pital of Sant’ Anna, a public madhouse. In this prison he remained more than seven years, receiving at one time per­mission to see his friends, and even to pay visits in the city, but treated during the greater part of the period with all the severities which in those days fell to the lot of ordinary maniacs. In the earlier years of his imprisonment, his mind seems to have gathered, from solitude and reflection, a strength of resolution which it had not before possessed, while his literary genius was undecayed and constantly ac­tive ; but at length the horrors of his situation increased his constitutional tendency to mental disease, and there is little ground for doubting that, in the later period of his confine­ment, he laboured under a partial alienation of reason.

At length, however, the solicitation of powerful friends procured his release, which took place in 1586; and, al­though his after years present us with several stories of new misfortune and neglect, he found some patrons both kind