was to cultivate or maintain a lasting friendship between private persons and their families, and gave a mutual claim to the contracting parties and their descendants, of a recep­tion and kind treatment at each other’s houses, as occasion offered ; for which end those tesseræ were so contrived as best to preserve the memory of that transaction to posteri­ty. And one method of doing this was by dividing one of them lengthwise into two equal parts, upon each of which one of the parties wrote his name, and interchanged it with the other. From this custom came the prevailing expres­sion “ tesseram hospitalem confringere,” applied to persons who had violated their engagements.

The *tesseræ frumentariœ* were small tallies given by the emperors to the populace at Rome, entitling them to the reception of a quantity of corn from the public at stated seasons. The person who had the inspection of these was called *tesserarius.* They were made of wood and of stone. There was another kind of tessera, which entitled persons to a sight of the public games and other diversions, usually made in an oblong form.

The *tessera militaris* was a signal given by the general or chief commander of an army, as a direction to the sol­diers for executing any duty or service required of them. This, upon urgent occasions, was only vocal ; but in ordinary cases it was written on a tablet, commonly made of wood. Besides these civil and military tesseræ, there are others which relate to religious affairs, and may be called *sacred.*

TESSIN or Τιcινο, a canton of Switzerland, in the most southern part of the confederation, extending in longitude from 8° 5' to 8° 58' east, and in latitude from 45° 46' to 46° 33' north. It is bounded on the north by Uri, on the north-east by the Greybunden, on the south-east and south by Venetian Lombardy, and on the south-west and west by the Sardinian dominions. It is 781 geographical square miles in extent, contains twelve market-towns and 212 villages, thirteen monasteries, and seven nunneries, with 113,923 inhabitants in 1838, who all adhere to the Ro­mish church. They are all of the Italian race, and speak that language, except about a thousand, who use a cor­rupted German, and live in one of the valleys, unconnect­ed with their fellow-citizens. The contingent to the force of the confederation is fixed at 1804, and the pecuniary contribution at L.1127. 10s. It has lately received a new constitution of the representative kind, with a president changed monthly, and an assembly of 114, with another of eleven members. It is a most delightful and picturesque district, where, especially on the southern side, nature is exhibited in the wildest and most fantastic forms, inter­mingled with the valleys, which present less rugged beau­ty, and many of them a high degree of fertility. From St Gothard, 9000 feet high, the southern side displays the lakes scattered on the declivities. Although on the mountains there is little or no cultivation, with scarcely any productions except timber, anil in a few summer months some butter, yet, on the declivities towards Italy, agricul­ture is carried on with great success. In some of the val­leys prodigious crops of maize are gathered, in others the mulberry trees abound, and much silk is collected ; and in most of them wine is extensively produced, though it is not well managed. Hemp, flax, tobacco, and all kinds of fruit, are likewise abundant. By the construction of roads, this canton has recently become more easily accessible, and the inns are much improved.

TESSOUWA, a considerable town in Africa, situated east of Mourzouk, the capital of the kingdom of Fezzan. Near this town a deep and rapid stream is said to have existed, but was overwhelmed by the moving sands so fre­quent in Africa.

TEST Act is the statute 25 Car. II. cap. 2, which di­rects all officers, civil and military, to take the oaths, and make the declaration against transubstantiation, in the court of King’s Bench, or Chancery, the next term, or at the next quarter-sessions, or (by subsequent statutes) within six months after their admission ; and also within the same time to receive the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper accord­ing to the usage of the church of England, in some public church, immediately after divine service or sermon, and to deliver into court a certificate thereof signed by the minis­ter and churchwarden, and also to prove the same by two credible witnesses, upon forfeiture of L.500, and disability to hold the said office. This act, so incompatible with the principles of toleration, and injurious to the rights of dis­senters, has happily been repealed by 9 Geo. IV. cap. 17.

TESTAMENT, or Last Will. Testaments, both Jus­tinian and Coke agree, are so called, because they are *testatio mentis ;* an etymon which seems to savour too much of conceit, it being plainly a substantive derived from the verb *testari,* in like manner as *juramentum, incrementum,* and others, from other verbs. The definition of the old Roman lawyers is much better than their etymology : ‘vo­luntatis nostra: justa sententia de eo, quod quis post mortem suam fieri velit which may be thus rendered into Eng­lish : “ the legal declaration of a man’s intentions, which he wills to be performed after his death.” It is called *sententia,* to denote the circumspection and prudence with which it is supposed to be made ; it is “ voluntatis nostræ sententia,” because its efficacy depends on its declaring the testator’s intention, whence in English it is emphatically styled his *will ;* it is *justa sententia,* that is, drawn, attested, and published, with all due solemnities and forms of law ; it is “ de eo, quod quis post mortem suam fieri velit,” because a testament is of no force till after the death of the testa­tor. Testaments are divided into two kinds ; written, and verbal or nuncupative ; of which the former is committed to writing ; the latter depends merely upon oral evidence, being declared by the testator *in extremis,* before a sufficient number of witnesses, and afterwards reduced to writing.

TESTUDO, in the military art of the ancients, was a kind of cover or screen which the soldiers formed with their bucklers, by holding them up over their heads, and stand­ing close to each other. This expedient served to shelter them from darts and other missiles, especially those thrown from above, when they went to the assault. The same name was also applied to a large wooden tower which moved on several wheels, and was covered with bullock-hides, serving to shelter the soldiers when they approached the walls to mine them, or to batter them with rams. It was called *testudo,* from the strength of its roof, which covered the workmen as the shell does the tortoise.

TETBURY, a town of the hundred of Longtrees and county of Gloucester, ninety-nine miles from London. It is on an elevated spot on the borders of Wiltshire. There arc manufactures of woollen cloths. It is moderately well built, and has a good market-house well attended. The in­habitants amounted in 1821 to 2734, and in 1831 to 2939.

TETHUROA, a small island in the South Pacific Ocean, subject to Otaheite, twenty-four miles north-west of Point Venus. Long. 149. 30. W. Lat. 17. 4. S.

TETRACHORD (*τετgάχοgδον*), a group of four sounds in melodic succession, and belonging to the ancient Greek system of music.

TETRARCH, a prince who holds and governs a fourth part of a kingdom. Such originally was the import of the title *tetrarch ;* but it was afterwards applied to any petty king or sovereign, and became synonymous with ethnarch, as appears from the following considerations. Pliny makes mention of six tetrarchies within the city of Decapolis ; Herod’s kingdom was only divided into three parts, which yet were called *tetrarchies,* and the sovereigns, Luke iii. 1, *tetrarchs ;* Josephus tells us, that, after the battle of Phi­lippi, Antony, going into Syria, constituted Herod *tetrarch ;* and on medals the same Herod is called *ethnarch.*