man, and not a woman ; a Greek, and not a barbarian. None of the ancient philosophers ever applied himself more ear­nestly to the study of astronomy than Thales. Diogenes Laertius reports, that leaving his lodging with an old wo­man to contemplate the stars, he fell into a ditch ; on which the good woman cried, “ How canst thou know what is do­ing in the heavens, when thou canst not perceive what is at thy feet ?” He went to see Croesus, who was marching with a powerful army into Cappadocia, and enabled him to pass the river Halys without making a bridge. Thales died soon afterwards, at the age of about ninety. He composed se­veral treatises in verse, on meteors, the equinoxes, &c. but they are all lost.

THALIA, in Pagan mythology, one of the nine Muses. She presided over comedy ; and is represented crowned with a garland of ivy, holding a mask in her hand, and wear­ing buskins on her feet.

THAME, a town of the hundred of the same name, in the county of Oxford, forty-six miles from London. It stands on a rising ground on the banks of the Thames, con­sists of one long street, and has a fine Gothic church, a free school, and alms-houses. The river is navigable to the town. There is a market on Tuesday. The inhabitants amounted in 1821 to 2479, and in 1831 to 2885.

THAMES, a river of England. As this river passes through the metropolis, the reader will find, under the article London, a description of the most important cir­cumstances relating to it in that part of its progress which is under the superintendence of the magistracy of Lon­don. Without entering into the disputes as to the origin of the river, which are prolix, and give no definite re­sult, we take it up, where several of the streams meet, at Lechlade, where it first becomes navigable to London, at a distance by water of 138 miles. It passes by Bamp- ton on its left to Oxford, bearing the name of the Isis, which it there loses, and adopts that of a smaller stream coming from Thame, and assumes the name of that place. It receives the water of the Windrush and the Evenlode above Oxford, and that of the Charwell as it leaves the city. It then proceeds to Abingdon and Dorchester, and enters the county of Berks at Wallingford, and in its course is augmented by small streams. From Wallingford it pro­ceeds to Reading, where the Kennet joins its copious stream. It then washes the towns of Henley, Marlow, Maidenhead, Windsor, and Eton, and forms the boundary between the counties of Buckingham and Berks. At Colnbrook it re­ceives the waters of the Coln, and soon becomes the boun­dary between the counties of Surrey and Middlesex, in which latter county, just above the bridge, is the London stone marking the boundary of the city’s jurisdiction. It afterwards has its body of water augmented by the streams of the Wey, the Wandle, the Lea, the Roding, the Darent, and the Medway, when it is lost in the great estuary at the Nore.

Thames, a river of New Zealand, which, about fourteen miles from its entrance, is as wide as the Thames at Green­wich. The course is from south to north.

THANASIR, or Tannesar, a town of Hindustan, pro­vince of Delhi, which formerly contained the celebrated temple of Jug Soom, which was held in the highest esti­mation by the Hindus, and innumerable pilgrims flocked to it from all parts of India. It now belongs to the Sikhs, and is principally inhabited by that race and by Hindus. Long. 76. 48. E. Lat. 29. 55. N.

THANE, or Thanus, a name given to the nobility in Britain before the time of William the Conqueror. It sig­nifies a minister or honourable retainer, from the verb *thenian,* to minister. There were several degrees of nobi­lity among the Anglo-Saxons ; but those most commonly mentioned are the king’s thanes and the alderman’s thanes. The king’s thanes seem to have been of three different de­grees, according to their different degrees of wealth or fa­vour at court. The alderman’s thanes seem to have been of the lowest degree of nobility, and next to them those who were promoted to that dignity from their advancement in the church, from their valour, success in agriculture, or commerce ; for if a ceorl or farmer applied to learning, and attained to priest’s orders ; if he acquitted himself so well as to obtain from a nobleman five hythes of land, or a gilt sword, helmet, and breast-plate, the reward of his valour ; or if by his industry he had acquired the property of five hythes of land ; or if he applied to trade, and made three voyages beyond sea in a ship of his own, and a cargo be­longing to himself, he was denominated a *thane.*

The thanes, who were the only nobility among the Anglo- Saxons, were a very numerous body of men, comprehend­ing all the considerable landholders in England, and fill­ing up that space in society between the ceorls or yeoman­ry on the one hand, and the royal family on the other ; a space which is now occupied both by the nobility and gen­try. In times of war, they constituted the flower of the armies, and in times of peace they swelled the trains of the kings, and added greatly to the splendour of their courts, especially at the three great festivals of Christmas, Easter, and Whitsuntide. From this body all the chief officers, both civil and military, as aldermen, greeves, earls, hereto- gens, &c. were taken ; and to obtain some of these offices was the great object of their ambition. Before they ob­tained an office, their lands were their only support ; and they lived in greater or less affluence, according to the ex­tent of their estates. These they divided into two parts ; one of which they called their *inlands,* and the other their *outlands.* Their inlands they kept in their own immediate possession, and cultivated them by the hands of their slaves and villains, in order to raise provisions for their families ; their outlands they granted to ceorls or farmers, either for one year, or for a term of years, for which they received a certain stipulated proportion of their produce annually. These customs had long prevailed among their ancestors in Germany, and were adhered to by their posterity in Eng­land till the conquest. The thanes were under no obliga­tions on account of their lands, except the three following, which were indispensably necessary to the defence and im­provement of their country ; to attend the king with their followers in military expeditions, to assist in building and defending the royal castles, and in keeping the bridges and highways in proper repair. To these obligations all pro­prietors of land (even the churchmen for a long time not excepted) were subjected ; and these services were consi­dered as due to their country, rather than to the persons of their kings, and were agreed to by all as being necessary to their own preservation and convenience. This title of thane was abolished in England at the conquest.

THANET, or Isle of Τηανετ, a part of the county of Kent, in the north corner of it, surrounded by the sea, ex­cept at one part, where the river Stour, which was once a large estuary, divides it from the rest of the county. It extends nine miles from east to west, and eight miles from north to south, and contains 24,880 acres of fertile land, with a population in 1831 of 26,090 persons. It com­prises eight parishes, and three other divisions called Villa. Within it are the towns of Margate, Ramsgate, and Broad-stairs, which have rapidly increased in extent, in the num­ber of good houses, as well as in inhabitants ; and from the number of persons who resort to them for the purpose of sea-bathing, a continued increase may with certainty be an­ticipated. The soil of the island is remarkably fertile, and is perhaps better cultivated than any other district of the same extent in England. Besides the corn consumed at home, it is enabled to supply the city of London with 30,000 quarters annually, which is forwarded by means of water-carriage. The wheat and barley sent from hence is com-