sidered among the best brought to the London market. Here many kinds of seeds are produced for the seedsmen of the metropolis; not only the seeds of clover, lucerne, sainfoin, and trefoil, but also of canary, anis, radish, spinach, cabbage, and mustard. About 4000 acres are valuable pasture, and used for the fattening of sheep and cattle. Except in the towns, there are no gentlemen’s seats in the island, most of them having been converted into farm-houses, and occupied by the holders of large farms. The people on the shore are for the most part occupied in mari­time affairs, especially in assisting ships in distress, in which they display great boldness, skill, and activity.

THANN, a city of France, in the department of the Up­per Rhine, and the arrondissement of Befort. It is situated at the foot of a mountain, upon which the castle of Engel- burg stands, on the river Thuron, and at the entrance of the valley of St Martin. The church of St Theobald is a curious object, on the model of the cathedral of Strasburg, with a tower 300 feet in height. In 1836, Thann contained 3937 inhabitants, mostly using the German language, and employed in making cotton goods, hosiery, and leather, and in working some mines of coal in the neighbourhood.

THASO, or Tasso, an island on the northern coast of Greece, the Thasos of antiquity. It stands in the Gulf of Contessa, about four miles from the mainland, and seven leagues to the eastward of Cape Karca or Kofani. It is thirteen miles long from north to south, and eleven broad from east to west. It is mountainous, particularly in the south and in the east parts, but affords excellent wine, with a quantity of honey and bees' wax. The gold mines men­tioned by ancient writers are not now known to exist, but it still supplies some fine marbles. In former times it was celebrated for its fertility, but of late years it has been much neglected. On the shore of the mainland, opposite to Thaso, is the town of Cavalla, before which is good an­chorage in from eight to ten fathoms water, under the pro­tection of a castle. On the north-east side there is a good roadstead, near the town of Tasso Paolo. The centre of the island is in long. 24. 39. E. and lat. 40. 41. N.

THATCHAM, a town of England, in the hundred of Reading and county of Berks. It stands on the great road from London to Bath and Bristol, being fifty-three miles from the former city. It is well built, and was formerly a place of some consequence. It has a parish church and an endowed school. The parish is very extensive, containing 1149 acres of well-cultivated and productive land. The chief trade is attending on the numerous travellers that pass through. Within the parish there are two hamlets, Greenham and Midgham. In 1821 the whole population amounted to 3677, and in 1831 to 3912.

THAXTED, a town of the hundred of Dunmow, in the county of Essex, forty-seven miles from London. It is a place of little trade, though formerly much cutlery was made there. It has a spacious church, built by John duke of Lancaster, and several chapels for dissenters. It was formerly a borough, and more considerable than it is at present. There is a market on Friday. The inhabitants amounted in 1821 to 2045, and in 1831 to 2293.

THEATINES, a religious order in the Romish church, so called from their principal founder John Peter Caraffa, then bishop of Theate, or Chieti, in the kingdom of Naples, and afterwards pope, under the name of Paul IV. The names of the other founders were Gaetan, Boniface, and Consiglieri. These four individuals, desiring to reform the ecclesiastical state, laid the foundation of an order of regu­lar clerks at Rome in the year 1524. Pope Clement VII. approved the institution, and permitted the brethren to make the three religious vows, to elect a superior every three years, and to draw up statutes for the regulation of the order. They were the first who endeavoured, by their example, to revive among the clergy the poverty of the

apostles and first disciples of our Saviour, and were also the first who assumed the title of *regular clerks.*

THEATRE, a place in which dramatic pieces are ex­hibited. The article Drama, besides relating the literary history of the stage, has furnished as minute an account of the plan and arrangements of the ancient theatres as the purposes of this work allow. Similar details as to the mo­dern theatres of the Continent, would lead into a field far too wide to be traversed ; and we must here confine our­selves to a brief notice of the establishments devoted to dramatic entertainments in Britain.

The earliest positive mention of professional actors in England, as a class distinctly separable from minstrels or others, occurs about the middle of the fifteenth century ; and a sumptuary law of Edward IV., passed in 1464, makes an exception in favour of “ players in their enterludes.” Richard III., when duke of Gloucester, kept a company of players and musicians in his pay. The children of the king’s chapel were trained for acting as well as singing ; and Henry VII. had two distinct sets of players, the one be­ing composed of the gentlemen of the chapel, who perform­ed regularly at certain seasons ; and the other, the “ play­ers of interludes,” being more like those strolling compa­nies whom about that time we find to have been often taken into the pay of noblemen throughout the country. In the reign of Henry VIII. the court amusements became more expensive and diversified, in this respect as in every other ; and the royal example was eagerly imitated by the wealthy nobles. Besides the annual payments from the king to the Lord of Misrule, and the large sums expended on masques and other entertainments, we find salaries to have been re­gularly paid to two companies of the “ king’s players,” in addition to the children of the chapel ; and the royal play­ers, as well as those of the nobility, travelled through all the provinces. In 1Ô28, Henry entertained the French am­bassadors at Greenwich with a Latin moral play, acted by the pupils of St Paul’s school, in which the reformation was ridiculed, and Luther and his wife were prominent charac­ters. The corporations, especially that of Chester, so cele­brated for its patronage of religious theatricals, continued to exhibit dramatic shows on occasions of festivity ; al­though the corporation of London appear, even before the middle of the sixteenth century, as decidedly opposing stage plays, and attempting to suppress them within their jurisdiction. In 1543 was passed the earliest act of parlia­ment for the regulation of the stage; and in 1546, if not earlier, was established the office of Master of the Revels, for managing and superintending the pastimes of the court. The disturbances of the two short reigns which succeeded Henry’s, checked the progress of theatrical amusements ; but their prosperity revived on the accession of Elizabeth, who lived to witness the rise of the dramatic art to its high­est literary excellence. The companies of itinerant players multiplied so excessively, and their irregularities were con­sidered so dangerous, that a statute of the queen, passed in 1572, stamped the first public brand on the profession; de­claring that all players, fencers, bearwards, not belonging to any nobleman,—and all tinkers, jugglers, pedlars, &c. not having license from two justices of the peace,—should be dealt with as rogues and vagabonds.

About the year 1570, or very little later, were erected the earliest buildings in London that were devoted exclu­sively to theatrical representation. These were two, both in Shoreditch; the one called “The Theatre,” by way of eminence, the other called “ The Curtain.” A third theatre, within the privileged precinct of the Blackfriars, was built in 1576, by Burbadge, the father of the famous player, whose company had been driven out of the city by the corporation ; and the Globe on the Bankside in South­wark (which afterwards became the summer theatre of Shakspeare’s company, while the Blackfriars was their place