him to proceed in the study of the art under the direction of a painter who was not very eminent. The genius of ' Thornhill, however, made ample amends for the insuffi­ciency of his instructor ; and by a happy application of his talents he made so great a progress, that he gradually rose to the highest reputation. His genius was well adapted to historical and allegorical compositions ; he possessed a fer­tile and fine invention ; and he sketched his thoughts with great ease, freedom, and spirit. He equally excelled in portrait, perspective, and architecture ; showed an excel­lent taste for design, and had a free and firm pencil. He was so eminent in many parts of his profession, that he must ever be ranked among the best painters of his time ; and his performances in the dome of St Paul’s church at Lon­don, in the hospital at Greenwich, and at Hampton Court, are such public proofs of his merit as will convey his name to posterity with honour. This painter lived in general esteem: he enriched himself by the excellence of his works; was appointed state-painter to Queen Anne, from whom he received the honour of knighthood ; had the singular satis­faction to repurchase his family estate ; and was of suffi­cient importance to be elected a member of parliament. He died in 1732.

THORNHILL, a large and thriving village in the parish of Morton and county of Dumfries, is delightfully situated in a vale through which runs the river Nith. It consists of a few streets, having in the centre a cross, erected by the last duke of Queensberry. It has of late been much im­proved by the proprietor, the present duke of Buccleuch, who has had the streets levelled and paved, common sewers formed, and a good supply of water brought in. It contains two dissenting places of worship. It possesses also a branch of one of the Edinburgh banks, and a subscription library established in 1814. In 1831 the population amounted to 1373.

THOROUGH BASS (Ital. *Basso continuo).* See Music. From an edition of Emilio del Cavaliere’s musical drama, called *La Rappresentazione di Anima e di corpo,* published by Guidotti in 1600 at Bologna, it appears that Cavaliere was one of the earliest musicians who conceived the idea of writing an instrumental bass different from the vocal bass, gave it the name of *basso continuo,* and accom­panied it by numerals and signs intended to direct the instrumental performers in the improvised accompaniments which they executed. “ This fact,” says an eminent conti­nental writer, “ is proved by the instructions which Gui­dotti has given in that edition regarding those numerals and signs. *I numeri piccoli posti sopra le note del basso con­tinuato per suonare,* says Guidotti, *significαno la conso- nanzα e la dissonanza di tal numero, corne il* 3 *terza, il* 4 *quarta, e case di mano in mano.”* Thus it would seem that G. Sabbatini, who, in his work printed at Venice in 1628, claims the invention of *figured bass,* must yield the priority at least to Cavaliere. It appears however that G. Sab­batini was the first person who published the precepts of the so-called Rule of the Octave. Andrea Majer of Venice, in his *Discorso sulla Origine, Progressi, e State atruale della Musica Italiana,* says, that in the *Euridice* and Ma­drigals of Caccini, and other compositions of the sixteenth century, we find a *basso continua.* But this does not over­turn L. Viadana’s claim, set forth as about 1597, in his *cento converti,* published in 1603; since the *Euridice* was set to music by Perti and Caccini, and also performed in 1600 ; while Caccini’s *Euridice,* set to music entirely by himself, and also his Madrigals, were first published in 1615. See Music, sect. *Harmony.*

THOROUT, a market-town of the Netherlands, in the province of West Flanders and arrondissement of Bruges. It is on the chaussée leading from Menen to Bruges, and contains 5160 inhabitants.

THORVERTON, a decayed town of the county of

Devon and the hundred of Hayridge, 175 miles from Lon­don. In former years the principal occupation of the inha­bitants was making serges and other coarse woollen goods for the Spanish market, and long ells for the East India Company ; but both these branches have diminished by the competition of the north-country manufacturers. The po­pulation amounted in 1821 to 1317, and in 1831 to 1455.

THOTH, or Theut (called by the Phœnicians *Tarnst,* by the Greeks *Hermes,* and by the Romans *Mercury),* was a Phoenician of very superior talents, and one of the civi­lizers of mankind. He was prime minister to Osiris, whom, after his death, he deified ; and he was himself deified by his countrymen the Egyptians, for the benefits which he had rendered to the human race.

THRACE, a country very frequently mentioned by the Greek and Latin writers, deriving its name, according to Josephus, from Tiras, one of the sons of Japhet. It was bounded on the north by Mount Hæmus ; on the south by the Ægean Sea ; on the west by Macedon and the river Strymon ; and on the east by the Euxine Sea, the Helles­pont, and the Propontis. The Thracian Chersonesus is a peninsula enclosed on the south by the Ægean Sea, on the west by the gulf of Melas, and on the east by the Helles­pont ; being joined on the north to the continent by a neck of land about thirty-seven furlongs broad. The inland parts of Thrace are very cold and barren, the snow lying on the mountains the greater part of the year ; but the maritime provinces are productive of all sorts of grain and necessaries for life, and withal so pleasant, that Mela compares them to the most fruitful and agreeable countries of Asia.

The ancient Thracians were deemed a brave and warlike nation, but of a cruel and savage temper ; being, according to the Greek writers, strangers to all humanity and good nature. It was to the Thracians, however, that the Greeks were chiefly indebted for the polite arts that flourished among them ; for Orpheus, Linus, Musæus, Thamyris, and Eumolpus, all Thracians, were the first, as Eustathius in­forms us, who charmed the inhabitants of Greece with their eloquence and melody, and persuaded them to exchange their fierceness for a sociable life and peaceful manners ; nay, great part of Greece was anciently peopled by Thra­cians. Tereus, a Thracian, governed at Daulis in Phocis, where the tragical story of Philomela and Progne was act­ed. From thence a body of Thracians passed over to Eu- boea, and possessed themselves of that island. Of the same nation were the Aones, Tembices, and Hyanthians, who made themselves masters of Boeotia ; and great part of At­tica itself was inhabited by Thracians, under the command of the celebrated Eumolpus. Thrace was anciently divided into a number of petty states, which were first subdued by Philip of Macedon. On the decline of the Macedonian empire, it fell under the power of the Romans, and conti­nued under subjection to them till the irruption of the Turks.

THRAPSTON, a town in the hundred of Navisford and county of Northampton, seventy-five miles from Lon­don. It is built on the river Nen, by which it has some trade with Lynn and with Northampton. There is a mar­ket on Tuesday. The inhabitants amounted in 1821 to 854, and in 1831 to 1014.

THRASHING, in *Agriculture,* the operation by which corn is separated from the straw. This operation is per­formed in a variety of ways, sometimes by the feet of ani­mals, sometimes by a flail, and sometimes by a machine called a *thrashing mill.* See the article Agriculture.

THREE Hills Island, one of the Hebrides, in the South Pacific Ocean, about twelve miles in circumference. Long. 168. 35. E. Lat. 17. 7. S.

Three Hummock Island, a small island on the east coast of New Holland ; also an island on the north coast of Van Diemen’s Land. Long. 145. E. Lat. 40. 45. S.