TOPGALLANT Isle, a high and rocky island, of little extent, with three rocks near it, lying off the south­ern coast of New Holland, between 134° and 135° east longitude.

TOPOGRAPHY, a description or draught of some par­ticular place, or small tract of land, as that of a city or town, manor or tenement, field, garden, house, castle, or the like.

TOPSAILS, certain large sails extended across the top­masts, by the topsail yard above, and by the yard attached to the lower mast beneath ; being fastened to the former by robands, and to the latter by means of two great blocks fixed on its extremities, through which the topsail-sheets are inserted, passing from thence to other two blocks fixed on the inner part of the yard close by the mast ; and from these latter the sheets lead downwards to the deck, where they may be slackened or extended at pleasure.

TOPSHAM, a town of the hundred of Wonford, in the county of Devon, 170 miles from London. It stands on the river Exe, about three miles below Exeter, and is the place where the vessels to that place are anchored. The up­per part of the town is pleasant and well built, but not the lower part, which is chiefly inhabited by sea-faring people. The inhabitants amounted in 1821 to 3155, and in 1831 to 3184.

TOR, an ancient town of Arabia, near the head of the Red Sea, and once a place of importance, and a great em­porium of Indian trade. It has been supplanted by Suez, and has now sunk to a mere village. The harbour is form­ed by a reef of coral rocks, and to the northward by a low point of land, on which is placed a beacon. The popula­tion consists of Greeks and Bedouin Arabs; and here is also a convent of the monks of Mount Sinai, to which they sometimes retire. It has good water, better than any which is found on the Red Sea ; but there are no other refresh­ments nearer than Sinai. Long. 33. 28. E. Lat. 28. 19. N.

TORBAY, a fine and commodious bay on the coast of Devonshire, of great importance to the naval power of the British empire, celebrated as the place where King Wil­liam with his army landed in the year 1688. The bay is formed by two capes or promontories ; that on the east, called Hob's-nose, and that on the west, called Berry-head. It is distant from the Bill of Portland thirty-seven miles, and the circumference is about twelve miles, so that there is sufficient space for the whole British navy to ride in se­curity. Near the entrance are four islets or large rocks, called the Oristone, the Loadstone, the Thatcher, and the Shag-rock : but they present no danger, as there is a good passage between them, and a depth from six to ten fathoms of water close to them. Ships may anchor in this bay in six, seven, eight, or nine fathoms water. The ground is a strong clay, and very good for holding. Within the bay they are secure against all winds ; but a gale from the east brings in a great swell, which ships can avoid by an­choring about a mile from Brixham pier-head, in seven fa­thoms of water.

Few parts of England so powerfully strike the beholder as this bay when viewed from a ship at anchor in it. The thick foliage of the fruit and other trees which are distri­buted on the sides of the lofty hills that surround the bay, the elegant gentlemen’s seats interspersed among them, the villages with the spires of the churches on the land, the two towns of Brixham and Torquay with their handsome rows of houses, and the great number of vessels of all descriptions, from the smallest fishing-boats to the largest ships that sail on the ocean, present a picture which can scarcely be rival­led on any other spot of the globe. The mildness of the climate has gradually induced the building of large distinct mansions, and has also augmented two towns, which from hamlets have become populous places, deserving here to be noticed. Brixham, or, as it was formerly called, Brixholme, is on the south side of the bay. It is the greatest fishing place in the kingdom, and one of the finest nurseries for seamen. It has a convenient pier, and a complete watering wharf, from which a store of water can be supplied to a fleet with great facility and expedition. The parish church nt Brixham is a fine old structure ; and at a mile and a half from thence, at the quay, a church has recently been erect­ed. capable of seating 1200 persons. This place has of late been visited by strangers in the summer for sea-bath­ing, and in the winter for the benefit of enjoying a mild climate. The population of the parish of Brixham amounted in 1821 to 4503, and in 1831 to 5015. Torquay is situated in the cove of Torbay, two miles from the promontory called Hob’s-nose. It is sheltered from the waves by a ridge of rocks ; and it cannot be exceeded in romantic beauty and picturesque scenery. Here a new pier, pro­jecting southwest from the eastern cliff, affords complete protection to shipping from the southern winds. The re­gularity of the buildings raised for the accommodation of visitors adds neatness and beauty to the place ; and the park, with a new carriage-way to it, and a plantation on one side, is no small embellishment to the place.

Torquay exhibits a remarkable instance of rapid creation, and ranks as one of the most esteemed of the sea-bath­ing places ; possessing all the advantages of the mild cli­mate of the most southern part of the British islands. It is exempted from exposure to the winds from the north and the east by the lofty hill which intervenes. Though there is much bathing company in the summer, yet in the winter, if the visitors are not more numerous, they are more select ; as many invalids, or those who feel symptoms of a pulmonary kind, resort to Torquay to pass the severer months, and not only from the neighbouring counties, but from the more northerly parts of England, and even of Scotland. It has every convenience for the purpose of sanatory re­tirement that the best watering place affords. Provisions are good and cheap ; and the rides in the vicinity, though rather hilly, arc kept in good condition. This place is in two parishes. One of these is Tor-Moham, whose popula­tion amounted in 1821 to 1925, and 1831 to 3582, and it has rapidly increased since the last of these dates. The other parish is Mary Church, whose inhabitants amounted in 1821 to 1050, and in 1831 to 1204. By calculation in the present year, 1840, Torquay itself is stated to have 6000 residents, exclusively of those strangers that resort to it in the two seasons between which the parliamentary enumera­tions have been taken. The objects in the vicinity that engage the attention of visitors are, Tor Abbey, an ancient edifice ; Poole's Hole, a very curious cavern ; Kent’s Hole, one much larger, with three entrances, and a roof thirty feet high. There are several fine seats in the neighbourhood.

TOREE, a town of Hindustan, in the province of Bahar, 125 miles south from Patna. Long. 85. 2. E. Lat. 23. 42. N.

TORGAU, a city of Prussian Saxony, in the govern­ment of Merseburg, the capital of a circle of the same name, which extends over 344 square miles, and contains 36,500 inhabitants. The city stands on the river Elbe, and being strongly fortified, is in war a most important post. It is defended by two strong fortresses, and contains a lyceum, 720 houses, and 6400 inhabitants, who carry on some ma­nufactures of cloth and linen, and much trade on the river in corn, timber, salt, and other articles.

TORIES, a political party in Britain, opposed to that of the Whigs. The name of *Tories* was given to a sort of banditti in Ireland, and was thence transferred to the ad­herents of Charles I. by his enemies, under the pretence that he favoured the rebels in Ireland. His partisans, to be even with the republicans, gave them tl>e name of *Whigs,* from a word which signifies *whey,* in derision of their poor fare. The Tories, or *cavaliers,* as they were also called, had then principally in view the political inte-