and 36° 53' N. lat. It was founded in 1566 by the cele­brated grandmaster of the same name, and received muni­ficent contributions from the pope, and from the kings of Spain, France, and Portugal, and it is now one of the finest towns in Europe. It consists of five parts, La Va­letta or Citta Nuova, Citta Vittoriosa, Senleya or the isle of St. Michael, Barmola, and Cottonera. The situation of the town is beautiful, the streets are regular, and well paved with lava. The public buildings and private houses are of a very superior order ; they are built of stone, with flat or terraced roofs. Water is supplied by means of an aqueduct seventeen thousand yards long, conveying fifty-eight gallons per minute. The city contains above twenty churches, great and small, besides the cathedral. The princi­pal edifices are the cathedral, the palace of the grandmasters, the lodges of the different languages, the conservatory, the university, the treasury, the palace of justice, the hospital, the Monte di Pieta, the barracks, the theatre, and the ex­change. These buildings are distinguished by the elegance and chasteness of their architecture. The public library contains about 100,000 volumes, and there is also an ex­tensive museum. The total population of the island in 1836, including the troops, amounted to 106,614, of which about 40,000 resided in the capital.

VALLADOLID, one of the provinces into which the kingdom of Leon in Spain is divided. It extends over 271 square leagues, and has a population of 187,390 souls. It is situated in a country destitute of trees, except an occasional mixture of fir woods in some of the more sandy soils. From being thus denuded of trees. It appears more barren than it in reality is; for it produces good crops of corn, especially of wheat, when the summer is moist, and on all those spots where either natural or artificial irrigation is practised; but like all the plains of Castile and Leon. It suffers most severely in dry seasons. The canal of Castile runs through a portion of this department, and as it is designed for irrigation, as well as for navigation. It is very beneficial as far as it ex­tends ; and if ever it should be completed, so as to unite the river Santander with the Ebro and the Douro. It will be of incalculable advantage to the whole of Valladolid.

Valladolid, a city of Spain in the province of Leon, and the capital of a district of the same name. It is situ­ated on a plain at the spot where the rivers Pisuerga and Esquiva form a junction ; and the waters of the latter, di­vided into two branches, pass through a part of the city. The country around it is not productive, but might be made highly fertile by a small expense in irrigation. The city is large, and contains a population of about 30,000 souls. The streets are narrow and crooked, and exhibit signs of decay, but the principal square is very magnificent, and has many remains of that ancient grandeur which belonged to it when this place was a royal residence, and the palace, now hastening to ruin, was occupied by the court of Philip the Third. The convent of the Dominicans is a fine Go­thic pile, and some other ecclesiastical edifices are both large and venerable ; but the university, which was once flourish­ing, is hastening to decay, and has very few students, and these are constantly diminishing in number. Valladolid is situated in Lat. 41. 42.

VALOGNES, an arrondisement of the department of Manche in France. It extends over 406 square miles, and comprehends seven cantons, which are divided into 118 communes, with 95,950 inhabitants in 1836. The capital is the city of the same name, nine miles from the sea, on the banks of the river Werderet. It is a place of manufac­turing industry, in which cloths called *draps de Valognes,* are extensively made. In 1836 it contained 1050 houses, and 6555 inhabitants. Near to it are the remains of an an­cient city and an amphitheatre. Lat. 49. 30. 26. Long. 1. 33. 45. W.

VALLEGGIO, a city of Italy, in the delegation of Ve­rona, and under the Austrian government of Milan. It stands on the river Mincio, and contains 5350 inhabitants, chiefly employed in the culture of silk. Near to it is Borghetto, where, in 1796, the Austrian army was defeated by Bona­parte.

VALVE, in *Hydraulics, Pneumatics,* &c. is a kind of lid or cover of a tube or vessel, so contrived as to open one way, but which, the more forcibly it is pressed the other way, the closer it shuts the aperture ; so that it either ad­mits the entrance of a fluid into the tube or vessel, and pre­vents its return ; or admits its escape, and prevents its re­entrance.

VANBRUGH, Sir John, a very eminent dramatic writer, descended from a family originally of Ghent in Flan­ders. The persecution of the protestants by the duke of Alva drove his grandfather to London, where he established himself as a merchant. His son Giles went to reside in the city of Chester ; and there it is supposed that he carried on the business of a sugar-baker. He is mentioned as one of those worthy citizens of Chester, who, although in commu­nion with the church of England, attended the week-day lectures of Matthew Henry, “ and always treated him with great and sincere respect.”@@1 Whatever was his trade, he became rich by it, and married the youngest daughter of Sir Dudley Carleton. By that lady he had eight sons, of whom John was the second. The precise period of his birth, though it probably happened soon after the Restoration, is not known ; and we are also left to conjecture what may have been the variety and extent of his early studies. His father’s wealth, and the evidence of his own writings, would lead us to suppose that his education was not neglected. At an early age, he served as an ensign in the army, but after a short trial abandoned the military profession. What led to this precipitate retirement does not appear; but it is easy to imagine a thousand causes of disgust to a service, in which “ preferment goes by letter and affection.” Vanbrugh was a younger brother ; and being in all likelihood attracted to the profession of arms by no higher motives than a juvenile fondness for feathers and scarlet cloth, which soon become objects of indifference to the silliest person that wears them, he resolved to pursue some mode of life which might be favourably contrasted with the glittering penury of a subaltern.

In the absence of other resources, he thought of writing for the stage ; an occupation usually productive of more vexation than emolument. In those days, however, dra­matic writing, if the most precarious, was also the most profitable species of literary labour. And the dramatist has this advantage over every other man of letters, that he is either greeted by sudden applause, or relieved from the horrors of suspense by immediate condemnation. In some provincial town where his regiment was stationed, Van­brugh formed the acquaintance of Sir Thomas Skipwith, from whom, Cibber, in his Apology for his Life, states that “ he happened to receive a particular obligation,” of what nature he does not explain. By way of showing his grati­tude to Sir Thomas, who had some share in the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, he wrote for that house the comedy of the Relapse, or Virtue in Danger. This play, which is a sequel to Cibber’s Love’s Last Shift, was acted in 1697, with complete success. The Relapse was a very seasonable acquisition to the company, whose affairs were in great disorder, owing to the secession of Betterton and the prin­cipal comedians, who had been provoked by the tyranny of the patentees to erect an independent standard in Lincoln’s­

@@@, Tong’s Account of the Life and Death of Mr. Matthew Henry, p. 63.