higher than from 2400 to 3000 feet. These mountains are all calcareous, and for the most part sterile ; but the valleys between them have a soil, partly of sand or of clay, covered with vegetable mould, which, when cultivated, is highly productive. The best soil is in the vicinity of the river Durance and of the Rhone, both of which streams deposit a rich muddy compost in their passage. The dis­trict between Carpentras and Avignon is almost covered with a mixture of pebbles.

The chief river is the Rhone, which enters the depart­ment from the Gard, and in it receives the waters of the Louzon, the Aigues, the Meyne, the Lorgues, and the Du­rance. The Durance, which flows from the Lower Alps, receives the waters of the Jabron and of the Cavallon before it joins the Rhone. The Rhone is the only stream that is navigable ; but there are many small arti­ficial canals, which, though chiefly designed for the pur­pose of irrigation, are made available for the transport of heavy goods.

The climate is mild and healthy, but subject to great changes. The trees in some seasons begin to blossom in Feb­ruary, but are often checked by severe cold and showers. The husbandry is in an imperfect state ; green crops and even clover are not known, though lucerne is cultivated in some parts. The chief grains are wheat, barley, rye, buck wheat, and maize. The whole growth of these is annually 65,000 quarters, which is not sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants. The chief product for sale is wine. The olive trees yield some oil, which, with dried fruits and saf­fron, forms the chief object with which are exchanged the few foreign luxuries that are consumed. Silk worms are kept in some districts. The spinning and weaving of silk is the chief occupation of the inhabitants ; and the weaving is said to employ 2600 looms. These goods form a part of the exports, to which may be added madder, which is raised and prepared for the dyers. Some springs of saline water furnish culinary salt. This department returns two members to the representative chamber. The capital is the city of Avignon, with a population, in 1836, amounting to 31,786.

VAUD or Waadt, a canton of Switzerland, in the west­ernmost part of it, extending in north latitude from 46° 17' to 47°5',and in east longitude from 5° 54' to 7° 1’. It is bound­ed on the north by the canton and lake of Neuchâtel, on the east by Freyburg, on the south-east by Berne and Va­lais, on the south by the lake of Geneva, on the south-west by Geneva, and on the west by the kingdom of France. It is 893 square geographical miles in extent, and is divided, under a new constitution introduced in 1831, into nineteen districts, and subdivided into sixty circles, each of which comprehends either one or two, and a few three, communes or parishes. The population in 1838 amounted to 183,582 persons, of whom 175,000 are of French extraction, and speak that language; the remainder are of the German race. The prevalent religion is the Calvinistic, which possesses 167 parish churches; but in the district of Eschallans, the Catholic worship is established over seven parishes, and it is tolerated in all other parts of the canton. By the new con­stitution a simple democracy has been established. The legislative body consists of 184 deputies, who are chosen every fifth year by all the inhabitants. The executive and administrative power is vested in a council of seven members, selected from the members of the legislature, and appointed for six ycars. The judicial power is in a state of transition. The military administration is in a board, and it superintends the army, or rather militia, which comprehends horse, foot, and artillery. The force mustered exceeds 24,000 men of all arms ; and there are at Lausanne and at Morges institutions for the education of military students. The civil and moral education is con­ducted in two academies, seven colleges, and 613 primary

or parish schools. The annual revenue is derived from a land tax, a tax on patents or licenses to trade, a salt tax, a stamp tax, and some smaller items. It amounts to about one million francs, and the expenditure is nearly equal to it. The contribution to the general confederation is 59,280 francs, and the contingent of troops is fixed at 2964 men.

The face of the country in Vaud is generally undulating, with hills of moderate height and pleasing vales, but in­closed by chains of mountains, which in the south reach the highest point among the Alps. The greater part of the can­ton is the finest part of Switzerland. It presents to the view rich and beautiful plains, valleys varying in extent, gentle acclivities, verdant meadows, and delightful shores around the most wonderful lakes of this romantic division of Europe. It must however be acknowledged, that in these plains the soil is generally so heavy and difficult to work, and that in the more elevated spots so thinly covered with vegetablemould, that agriculture is by no means a profitable pursuit, and the inhabitants are mostly occupied in the breeding of cattle and the cultivation of the vine. The best wine, called Vaud wine or Ryff wine, is made between Vevay and Lausanne. Those called Vins de la Cote, made between the latter city and Geneva, are all white, while the best red wine is that made on the lake of Neuchâtel ; but much is made in other districts. The growth of fruit is very extensive, and there are many extensive woods of chesnuts. 'tobacco is raised of good quality, and in some parts hemp and flax. The main object of rural husbandry is however the breeding of cattle.

In the mountains of Aigle and Bex is the only salt spring in Switzerland. There is very little manufacturing indus­try, except for domestic utensils. Some leather is tanned, and a few cutlery articles are made at Vallorbe ; and there is a little porcelain and some coarse pottery ware prepared in different districts. The commerce consists chiefly of the transport of French wares to the interior of Switzerland and to Germany, and in the export of wine and cheese, and of live cattle. The imports consist of French brandy, snuff, sugar, coffee, woollen and cotton cloths, iron, leather. The corn grown is seldom equal to the consumption, and in most seasons wheat and barley form a part of the im­port articles.

VAUDOTS, or Valpenses. See Waldenses.

VAULT, in *Architecture,* an arched roof, so contrived that the stones which form it sustain each other. Vaults are on many occasions to be preferred to soffits or flat ceil­ings, as they give a greater height and elevation, and are besides more firm and durable.

VAVAO or Vavon, one of the Friendly islands, in the South Pacific ocean, seen by Perouse in 1787. It is near­ly equal to the size of Tongataboo. Lat. of the western point 18. 34. S.

VAYPEN, a small town in the territories of the Cochin rajah, standing upon a narrow island of the same name, which extends along the coast thirteen miles, and is only one mile in breadth. Long. 76. 7. E. Lat. 9. 58. N.

VAZIRABAD, a town of the Seik territories, in the province of Lahore, situated on the cast side of the Chinaub river, forty-seven miles N.N.W. from the city of Lahore. Long. 73. 28. E. Lat. 32. 25. N.

VEDAS, the sacred books of the Hindus believed tn he revealed by God, and called *immortal.* They are consider­ed as the fountain of all knowledge human and divine, and are four in number; of which we have the following account in the first volume of the Asiatic Researches. The *Rigue- da* consists of five sections; the *Yajurveda* of eighty-six; the *Sαmaveda* of a thousand; and the *Atharvaveda* of nine; with eleven hundred *sac'hu's,* or brunches in various divisions and subdivisions. The *Vedas* in truth are infi­nite; but have been long reduced to this number and order;