situated on the canal of Santhia, not far from the river Lesia. It is the seat of a bishop, with a cathedral of modern style ; and contains nine parish churches, ten monasteries, and seven nunneries, some of the first remarkable for their architecture. There is also an episcopal seminary, and a grammar school. It contains a population of 16,500 per­sons, who are chiefly occupied in raising silk, and in culti­vating rice and other grain. Among the inhabitants are many noble families, who, though poor, still retain magnifi­cent palaces. Lat. 46. 20. Long. 7. 43. E.

VERCHAIR ALSK, a small town of Asiatic Russia, in the province of Onfa on the Oural, 120 miles S.E. of Onfa.

VERCHATURIA, a town on the western frontier of Siberia, where is established the custom-house of Siberia, which levies a duty of 10 per cent. on all goods passing through it. This town is situated near extensive mines, and contains 450 houses, four churches, and two convents. It is 120 miles north of Catherinenburg. Long. 60. 14. E. Lat. 53. 45. N.

VERCHOLENSK, a small town of Asiatic Russia, in the government of Irkoutsk, on the Lena, 120 miles north of Irkoutsk.

VERD, CAPE, a promontory on the west coast of Africa, forty miles north-west of the mouth of the river Gambia, in 14° 45' north lat, and 14° 40' west long. The Cape Verd islands are situate about 400 miles west of the Cape ; they consist of ten islands beside islets and rocks, and belong to Portugal. The principal is San Jago, the barren and melancholy appearance of which is in unison with the wretchedness of the inhabitants. The island of Mayo produces cattle and cotton ; the island of Fuego (or Fire), so called from its active volcano, is abundant in fruits. Brava, or St. John’s, produces excellent wine and saltpetre. These four islands form a chain, running from east to west. The island Boa-Vista, which is fertile in cot­ton and indigo, forms, with the island Sel, or Do Sal, a line north and south. The four remaining islands form part of a chain in the direction of south-east to north-west, and succeed each other in the following order : St. Nicholas, one of the largest and best governed of the archipelago ; Santa Lucia, high and wooded, with only brackish water ; San Vincente, wooded and abounding in tortoises ; and San Antonia, the mountains of which are said to equal the peak of Teneriffe in height. All these islands are subject to de­structive droughts ; but their natural produce might render them of considerable value under an intelligent government. Their population is reckoned at about 42,000.

VERDUN, a city of France, the capital of the arron­dissement of the same name, in the department of the Meuse, and standing on that river. It is strongly fortified, and has a most powerful citadel, and is considered one of the most important defences on that side of the kingdom. In 1836 it contained 9978 inhabitants, exclusive of the military. It has woollen manufactories, and tanneries, and is celebrated for its liqueurs. Lat. 40. 9. Long. 5. 12. E.

VEREJA, a city of Russia, the capital of a circle of the same name, in the government of Moscow, 513 miles from Petersburg. It stands on the river Protwa, whose water can be used to fill the trenches that surround the walls. The town has considerable trade in corn, hemp, flax, honey, wax, tallow, and wool. It contains 760 houses, 6450 inhabi­tants, of whom 930 are registered as merchants.

VERGE, in *Law,* signifies the compass of the king’s court, which bounds the jurisdiction of the lord steward of the household. It is supposed to have been twelve miles round.

VERGERS, officers of the courts of queen's bench and common pleas, whose business it is to carry white wands be­fore the judges. There are also vergers of cathedrals, who carry a rod tipped with silver before the bishop, dean, &c.

VERMICELLI, a composition of flour, cheese, yolks of eggs, sugar, and saffron, reduced to a paste, and formed, in­

to long slender pieces like worms, by forcing it with a pis­ton through a number of little holes.

VERMILION, a bright and beautiful red colour com­posed of quicksilver and sulphur, in great esteem among the ancients, under the name of *minium.*

VERMIN is a general term, denoting those animals which are either directly or indirectly injurious to mankind, the inferior animals, or the fruits of the earth ; as fleas, ca­terpillars, flies, worms, &c.

As we propose in this article to point out the means of destroying some of those animals, we shall employ the term vermin in a more extended sense, including also under it, mice, rats, moles, &c.

*Rats and Mice.—*Various methods have been proposed for the destruction of these vermin. The following prepar­ation has been recommended as very effectual. Take of the seeds of stavesacre (*delphinium staphisagria),* or of lousewort (*pedicularis palustris),* powdered, more or less as the occasion requires, one part ; of oatmeal, three parts ; mix them well, and make them up into a paste with honey. Lay pieces of this paste in the holes, and on the places where mice and rats frequent ; and it will effectually kill or rid the places of those vermin by their eating it.

The Society for Encouraging Arts proposed a premium of L.50 for a preparation capable of alluring or fascinating rats, so that they might be taken alive. In consequence of this, a great number of new traps, &c*.* were invented, and the following methods of alluring the rats to a certain place were divulged. One of the methods which is most easily and ef­ficaciously practised, is the trailing of some pieces of their most favourite food, which should be of the kind that has the strongest scent. such as toasted cheese or boiled red herrings, from the holes or entrances of the closet to their recesses in every part of the house or contiguous building. At the extremities, and at different parts of the course of this trailed track, small quantities of meal, or any other kind of their food, should be laid, to bring the greater number in­to the tracks, and to encourage them to pursue it to the place where they are intended to be taken. At that place, when time admits of it, a more plentiful repast is laid for them, and the trailing is repeated for two or three nights. Besides this trailing and way-baiting, some of the most expert of the rat-catchers have a shorter, and perhaps more effectual method of bringing them together ; which is the calling them, by making such a whistling noise as resembles their own call; and by this means, with the assistance of the way-baits, they bring them out of their holes, and lead them to the repast previously prepared for them at the places designed for taking them. But this is much more difficult to be prac­tised than the art of trailing ; for the learning of the exact notes or cries of any kind of beasts or birds, so as to deceive them, is a peculiar talent which is attained only by few.

In practising either of these methods of trailing or call­ing, great caution must be used by the operator to suppress and prevent the scent of his feet and body from being per­ceived ; which is done by overpowering that scent by others of a stronger nature. In order to do this, the feet are to be covered with cloths rubbed over with assafoetida, or other strong smelling substances; and even oil of rhodium is sometimes used for this purpose, but sparingly, on ac­count of its high price, though it has a very alluring as well as disgusting effect. If this caution of avoiding the scent of the operator’s feet, near the track, and in the place where the rats are proposed to be collected, be not properly ob­served. It will very much obstruct the success of the attempt to take them ; for they are very shy of coming where the scent of human feet lies very fresh, as it intimates to their sagacious instinct the presence of human creatures, whom they naturally dread. To the above-mentioned means of al­luring by trailing, way-baiting, and calling, is added another of very material efficacy, which is the use of oil of rhodium.