able preservation, and especially the water-works, the ex­hibition of which on Sundays and holidays, still draws to Versailles a large proportion of the more vulgar of the Parisians. In 1836, the inhabitants of Versailles amounted to 29,209, among whom are many English and other foreign families, drawn to it by the cheapness with which the orna­mental parts of education can be obtained. Some manu­factures have been introduced, especially for fire-arms of the most luxurious kind ; besides which many watches are made, some cotton goods, and many smaller articles. It is the place where, in 1783, was signed the peace with Eng­land, by which the independence of America was established. Lat. 48. 48. 21. Long. 2. 1. 17. E.

VERSE, in *Poetry,* a line consisting of a number of long and short syllables, which run with an agreeable ca­dence.

VERSETZ, a city of Hungary, the capital of a circle of the same name in the province of Hither Theiss. It is the seat of a Greek bishop, and a place of great industry, having large silk mills, and an extensive trade in wine, corn, rice, silk, and other commodities. Here are extensive barracks for cavalry. It contains many churches, 2600 houses, and 16,200 inhabitants. Lat. 45. 4.6. Long. 21. 13. 40. E.

VERT, in *Heraldry,* the term for a green colour. It is called *vert* in the blazon of the coats of all under the de­gree of nobles ; but in coats of nobility it is called *emerald;* and in those of kings *venus*. In engraving it is expressed by diagonals, or lines drawn athwart from right to left, from the dexter chief corner to the sinister base.

VERTEX denotes the crown of the head. Hence ver­tex is also used figuratively for the top of other things ; thus we say, the vertex of a cone, pyramid, &c.

Vertex is also used in *Astronomy* for the point of the heaven directly over our heads, properly called the *zenith.*

VERTICILLUS, a mode of flowering, in which the flowers are produced in rings at each joint of the stem, with very short foot-stalks. The term is exemplified in mint, horehound, and other plants.

VERTICITY, is that property of the loadstone whereby it turns or directs itself to one particular point.

VERTOT, Rene Aubert De, a lively and elegant, though not a very profound or accurate historian, was born at the castle of Benetot in Normandy, on the 25th of No­vember 1655. He was the second son of a gentleman al­lied to several distinguished families, but possessed of little or no fortune. He was educated in the College of the Je­suits at Rouen ; and having made choice of the ecclesiasti­cal profession, he secretly withdrew from this seminary, and, after an interval of ten months, his family ascertained that he had betaken himself to the convent of the Capuchins, at Argentan. He was not however to be diverted from his design ; and having made his profession, he assumed the name of Brother Zachary. But the austerities of this or­der were so prejudicial to his health, that he was induced to exchange it for one of milder rules. Having obtained a brief from the pope, he entered the abbey of the Præmon- stratenses at Valsery in 1677. He became secretary to Col­bert, general of the order, who nominated him prior of Joyenval. The canon law prohibits a person who has quitted one order, from obtaining any office or benefice in another ; and although he had procured a dispensation in due form, he yet encountered so much opposition, that he was induced to exchange his priory for a cure, depending on the order, at Croissy-la-Garenne, near Marly. Here, at the age of thirty-four, he produced his earliest work, “ His­toire des Révolutions de Portugal.” Paris, 1689, 12mo. He afterwards obtained another cure in his native district of Caux ; and this he exchanged for a third, in the immediate vicinity of Rouen. His last benefice was amply endowed, and rendered him very easy in his circumstances. He continued his historical labours with new ardour, and produced various other works. His next work bears the title of “ His­toire des Révolutions de Suede.” 1696, 2 tom. 12mo. In 1710, he published his “ Traité de la Mouvance de Bre­tagne.” A more elaborate work is his “ Histoire des Ré­volutions arrivés dans le Gouvernment de la République Ro­maine.” 1719, 3 tom. 12mo. The grand-master of Malta had appointed him historiographer of the order, with the privilege of wearing its cross. In order to evince himself worthy of the honour which had thus been conferred upon him, he produced a copious work, entitled “ Histoire des Che­valiers Hospitaliers de S. Jean de Jerusalem, appeliéz, depuis les Chevaliers de Rhodes, et anjourd’hui les Chevaliers de Malte.” 1726, 4 tom. 4to. Other honours had likewise been bestowed upon him. He became an associate of the Aca­démie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres. He was appointed “ Secrétaire-interprète,” and afterwards “ Secrétaire des com­mandements,” to the duchess of Orleans. He had apart­ments in the royal palace, and received a considerable sa­lary. But these honours and emoluments could not secure the enjoyment of good health, and the latter years of his life were passed in much bodily infirmity. He died on the 15th of June 1735, in the eightieth year of his age. Some of his dissertations are to be found among the *Mémoires* of the Academy. A posthumous publication of Vertot appeared under the title of “ Origine de la Grandeur de la Cour de Rome ; et de la Nomination aux Evechés et aux Abbaies.” Lausanne, 1745, l2mo. On the constitution of the Roman senate, he bad been consulted by Lord Stanhope ; and in 1758 his answer was published by Hooke, who added his own observations.

VERTUMNUS, in *Mythology,* a god who presided over gardens and orchards, honoured among the Etruscans, from whom the worship of this deity was transmitted to the Ro­mans. Vertumnus had a temple near the market-place at Rome, being represented as one of the tutelary deities of the merchants. The commentators on Ovid say, that he was an ancient king of Hetruria, who, by his diligent and suc­cessful cultivation of fruit and gardens, obtained the honour of being ranked among the gods.

VERULAM. Francis Bαcον, Viscount St. Albans, and Baron Verulam. This illustrious man was born in London, on the 22d day of January 1561. His father, Sir Nicholas Bacon, a courtier, a lawyer, and a man of erudition, stood high in the favour of Queen Elizabeth, and was lord-keeper during twenty years of her reign. Anne, the second wife of Sir Nicholas, and the philosopher’s mother, was the daughter of Sir Anthony Cooke, Edward the Sixth’s tutor, and was herself distinguished among the learned females of the time. One of her sisters became the wife of Eliza­beth’s celebrated treasurer, Lord Burleigh. Delicate in health, and devoted to sedentary employment, Francis Ba­con exhibited in early boyhood the dawning of those powers whose versatility afterwards became not less remarkable than their strength. As a child he delighted the queen with his precocious gravity and readiness of speech ; and before he had completed his twelfth year we see him investigating the cause of a singular echo in a conduit, and endeavouring to penetrate the mystery of a juggler who performed in his father’s house. At the age of thirteen he was matriculated at Trinity College, Cambridge, of which Whitgift was then master ; but his residence at the university lasted scarcely three years, and his writings contain many expressions of dissatisfaction with the current system of academical edu­cation. In his sixteenth year he was sent abroad, and lived for some time at Paris, under the charge of the English ambassador, Sir Amias Paulett ; after which he visited the French provinces, and added to his literary and philosophi­cal studies an acquaintance with foreign policy and statis­tics, the fruit of which soon appeared in his tract upon the State of Europe. In February 1580, his father died, and he immediately returned to England.