Shortly before the king’s death, he remitted the whole of the sentence on Bacon, who, however, did not again sit in parliament. His health was already broken ; and in De­cember of that year, 1625, he made his will, in which, al­though his affairs were really in extreme confusion, he writes as if he considered himself a wealthy man. In the spring of 1626, on his way from Gray’s Inn to Gorhambury, he ex­posed himself to a sudden chill, by performing in a cottage an experiment which had suggested itself to him, regarding the fitness of snow or ice as a substitute for salt in preserv­ing dead flesh. Unable to travel home, he was carried to the earl of Arundel’s house at Highgate, where, after seven days’ illness, he died early in the morning of Easter Sunday, the 9th of April, in the sixty-sixth year of his age. In obe­dience to his will, he was buried in the same grave with his mother, in St. Michael’s church, near St. Albans.

It is sad beyond expression to turn to those reflections which are suggested by the life of this great man, however leniently one may be disposed to regard his weaknesses. He who founded the philosophy of modern Europe, he who brought down philosophy from heaven to earth, disentang­ling it from airy abstractions, and anchoring it on practical truths,—he who aided science alike by his improvements on its procedure, and his enlarged views of its end and aim, indicating observation of individual truths as the only sure guide to universal conclusions, and practical utility as the only quality which makes such conclusions worth the la­bour they cost,—he who did all this, was destined to furnish by his own pitiable example, a pregnant illustration of the great principles which his writings taught. A slave to the world and its vanities, he was betrayed by the evil genius whom he served. Unable to subject reason, and passion, and imagination, to the stern control of the moral sense, he expiated, by a life of discomfort and dependence, ending in an old age of sorrow and disgrace, the sin of having mis­apprehended the mighty rule, which alone can save the em­pire of the mind from becoming a scene like ancient chaos.

Bacon’s philosophy has been analysed in other parts of this work, and on his literary character we have left our­selves no space to enlarge. We can only remark the power­ful effect which his singular versatility of talents exercised over the dissemination of his scientific views. “ The re­putation which Bacon had acquired from his Essays," says a late writer, “ a work early translated into various foreign languages,—his splendid talents as an orator,—and his pro­minent place in public life,—were circumstances strongly calculated to attract the curiosity of the learned world to his philosophical writings.” And these writings in themselves partake admirably of the character belonging to their au­thor’s works of a different class. Philosophy has seldom made herself more attractive ; never has she made herself equally so in communicating lessons of such sterling value. If the works of this wonderful man were worthless as repositories of scientific thought and knowledge, they would still demand reverential study. A masterly eloquence, a union of diver­sified qualities of style in the highest sense of the word, dis­tinguished even the earlier among them, and entitled those which were produced in tne writer’s maturer years, to rank, notwithstanding the faults they share with all prose com­positions of their time, as monuments nowhere excelled in the compass of English literature.@@1 (b. l.)

VERVEIERS, a circle of the province of Liege, in the Netherlands, containing six cantons, divided into twenty- nine communes. The capital is the city of the same name, finely situated on the river Besdre, partly in a valley, and partly on the declivity of some hills. It is well built, and a place of the most active industry in the kingdom. The chief trade is that of making fine woollen cloths, which are celebrated in every part of the continent, especially from the brilliant colours, to which the quality of the water is said greatly to contribute. There are also some chemical ma­nufactures, producing aquafortis, vitriol, and soaps. The wealth and number of the inhabitants have rapidly increased since the peace of 1814. The population then was 9960, and in 1831 was 19,592.

VESALIUS, Andreas, a celebrated physician and ana­tomist, was bom at Brussels in the year 1514. He studied physic at Paris under Sylvius, but applied himself chiefly to anatomy, which was then very little known, dissections be­ing esteemed unlawful and impious ; and it appears from his work “ De Humani Corporis Fabrica,” that he perfected himself in this useful knowledge very early. About the year 1537, the republic of Venice made him professor in the university of Padua, where he taught anatomy for seven years. Charles V. called him to be his physician, as he was afterwards to Philip II., king of Spain. Vesalius was now at the height of his glory, when all of a sudden he formed the design of taking a journey to Palestine ; con­cerning which journey we are told the following story. A young Spanish nobleman whom he had attended was sup­posed to be dead. Vesalius obtained leave to open him, in order to explore the true cause of his illness ; but when he opened the breast, he perceived symptoms of life, and saw the heart beat. The parent, not satisfied with prosecuting him for murder, accused him of impiety to the inquisition, in hopes that tribunal would punish him with greater ri­gour ; but the king interposing, saved him on condition of his making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. He was ship-wrecked on his return, and thrown upon the island of Zante, where he perished on the 15th of October 1564. He was the author of several works, the principal of which is en­titled “De Humani Corporis Fabrica, libri vu.” Basil. 1543, fol. This first edition contains excellent wood-cuts.

VESOUL, a city of France, the capital of an arrondisse­ment of the same name in the department of the Saone. It stands on the river Drugeon, is well built, and is surrounded with hills, whose sides are covered with vineyards yielding very good wine. Around it are some beautiful promenades. In 1836 it contained 5583 inhabitants. Lat. 47.37.50. Long. 7. 4. 31. E.

VESPER, a small island in the Pacific ocean, thirty-six miles in circumference, discovered by Roggewin in 1722.

VESPERS, in the church of Rome, denote the afternoon service ; answering in some measure to the evening prayers of the church of England.

VESPUCCI, AMERIGO, was born at Florence, 9th March, 1451, of a distinguished family, and was educated by his uncle, a man of great scientific reputation, and made great proficiency, especially in astronomy and geo­graphy, and the sciences connected with navigation. He was destined by his family to commercial pursuits, which had at this time contributed so greatly to the prosperity of the republic. In 1493 he left Florence, and arrived at Se­ville at the time that Columbus was preparing to set out on his first voyage of discovery; the success of which awaken­ed the emulation of Amerigo, and determined him to ex­change the pursuits of commerce for the fascinating pros­pects of discoveries in the New World.

On the 10th of May, 1497, (according to the account of Bandini, but Spanish writers place the date two years later, he commenced his first voyage, and left Cadiz with five vessels under the orders of D’Ojead. He reached America af­ter thirty-seven days’ sailing, and coasted along the conti­nent more than 400 leagues. After a voyage of thirteen

@@@1 Montagu’s Life of Bacon, Works, vol. xvi. parts 1 and 2, 1834. Edinburgh Review, vol. lxv. No. 132. article I. Stewart and Playfair, in the Preliminary Dissertations to this Encyclopædia. Napier on the Scope and Influence of the Philosophical Writings of Lord Bacon; in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, vol. viii. part 2, 1818.