VIJANAGRAM, a considerable town of Hindustan, in the Northern Arcons, twenty-five miles north by west from Vizapatam. Long. 83. 30. E. Lat. 18. 4. N.

VILLAFRANCA, a small town in the delegation of Verona in Venetian Lombardy, with a population of 2000. It is nine miles distant from Verona.

Villafranca, a town of Spain, in the province of Es­tremadura, distant from Madrid about 200 miles. It is a place of but little importance, and has a population of about 2500.

VILLACH, a circle in the Austrian government of Lai­bach in Illyria. It is bounded on the north by the Upper Ens, on the east by Klaganfort, on the south by Laibach and Venice, and on the west by Tyrol. It extends over 2200 square miles, and comprehends four cities, eleven market towns, and 1147 villages, with 112,980 inhabitants. It is mostly an alpine district, with lofty mountains covered with snow, but intermixed with valleys of great beauty and fertility, and several picturesque lakes and waterfalls. The chief occupation is mining, by which some little silver and less gold is obtained, but more considerable quantities of lead, copper, antimony, and quicksilver. There are also many va­luable quarries, yielding marbles of great beauty. The capi­tal is the city of the same name, on the river Drove. It is well built and strongly fortified, contains two churches, 360 dwelling-houses, and 4820 inhabitants, who are chiefly em­ployed in converting the minerals into common utensils. Lat. 46. 35. Long. 13. 42. E.

VILLAGE, an assemblage of houses inhabited chiefly by peasants and farmers, and having no market; a circum­stance by which it is distinguished from a town. The word is French, formed from the Latin *villa,* a country house.

VILLEFRANCHE, one of the arrondissements of the department of the Rhone, in the south of France, con­taining 584½ square miles, and divided into 9 cantons, 127 communes, with 151,980 inhabitants in 1836. The capital is the city of the same name, situated on the river Morgen, near to the left bank of the Paone, in a most fer­tile district. In 1836 it contained 7553 inhabitants, who make cotton and woollen goods, and carry on a consider­able trade in wine, corn, cattle, and other agricultural pro­ductions. Long. 4. 38. E. Lat. 48. 59∙ N.

Villerfranche, an arrondissement of the department of Aveyron in France, extending over 493½ square miles. It is divided into four cantons and forty-eight communes, having 81,130 inhabitants in 1836. The capital is the city of the same name, situated at the junction of the rivers Al- son and Aveyron. It is well built, and in 1836 contained 8738 industrious inhabitants, occupied in making linen goods, paper, hats, copper ware, and other articles. Long. 2. 3. E. Lat. 41. 24. N.

VILLENA, a city of Spain in the province of Murcia. It is situated on the north-east of the river Jumilla, in a bleak and mountainous country. Near it is a salt lake, two leagues in circumference, which supplies the neigh­bouring district with salt for culinary purposes. The whole of the surrounding country is studded with the remains of fortresses built by the Moors. From this elevated coun­try, the capital and other places on the coast draw their supplies of ice. The city contains fourteen streets, and 8000 inhabitants. It is situated in Lat. 38. 36. N.

VILLEIN, or Villain, in our ancient customs, denotes a man of servile or base condition, viz. a bondman or servant.

VILLENAGE, in *Law.* The folk-land, or estates held in villenage, was a species of tenure neither strictly feudal, Norman, nor Saxon, but mixed and compounded of them all ; and which also, on account of the heriots that usually attend it, may seem to have somewhat Danish in its com­position. Under the Saxon government, there were, as Sir William Temple speaks, a sort of people in a condition of downright servitude, used and employed in the most ser­vile works, and belonging, both they, their children, and effects, to the lord of the soil, like the rest of the cattle or stock upon it. These seem to have been those who held what was called the *folk-land,* from which they were re­moveable at the lord’s pleasure. On the arrival of the Normans. It seems not improbable that they who were strangers to any other than a feudal state, might give some measure of enfranchisement to such wretched persons as fell to their share, by admitting them, as well as others, to the oath of fealty, which conferred a right of protection, and raised the tenant to a kind of state superior to down­right slavery, but inferior to every other condition. This they called *villenage,* and the tenants *villeins.*

These villeins, belonging principally to lords of manors, were either villeins *regardant,* that is, annexed to the ma­nor or land ; or else they were *in gross,* or at large, that is, annexed to the person of the lord, and transferable by deed from one owner to another. They could not leave their lord without his permission ; but if they ran away, or were purloined from him, might be claimed and recovered by action, like beasts or other chattels. They held indeed small portions of land by way of sustaining themselves and families, but it was at the mere will of the lord, who might dispossess them whenever he pleased ; and it was upon villein services, that is, to carry out dung, to hedge and ditch the lord’s demesnes, and any other the meanest of­fices ; and their services were not only base, but uncertain both as to their time and quantity. A villein could ac­quire no property either in lands or goods ; if he purchas­ed either, the lord might seize them to his own use, un­less be contrived to dispose of them again before the lord had seized them, for the lord had then lost his opportunity

In many places a fine was also payable to the lord, if the villein presumed to marry his daughter to any one without leave from the lord ; and by the common law, the lord might also bring an action against the husband for da­mages in thus purloining his property ; for the children of villeins were also in the same state of bondage with their parents ; whence they were called in Latin *nativi,* which gave rise to the female appellation of a villein, who was called a *neife.* In case of a marriage between a freeman and a neife, or a villein and a free woman, the issue follow­ed the condition of the father, being free if he was free, and a villein if he was villein, contrary to the maxim of the civil law, *partus seguitur ventrem.* But no bastard could be born a villein, because by another maxim of our law, he is *nullius filius ;* and as he can *gain* nothing by inheritance. It were hard that he should *lose* his natural freedom by it. The law however protected the persons of villeins against atrocious injuries of the lord ; for he might not kill or maim his villein, although he might beat him with impunity.

Villeins might be enfranchised by manumission. In process of time they gained considerable ground on their birds ; and in particular they strengthened the tenure of their estates to that degree, that they came to have in them an interest in many places fully as good, in others better than their lords. For the good-nature and benevolence of many lords of manors having, time out of mind, permitted their villeins and their children to enjoy their possessions without interruption, in a regular course of descent. the common law, of which custom is the life, now gave them title to prescribe against their lords ; and, on performance of the same services, to hold their lands in spite of any de­termination of the lord’s will. For though in general they are still said to hold their estates at the will of the lord, yet it is such a will as is agreeable to the custom of the manor ; which customs are preserved and evidenced by the rolls of the several courts-baron in which they are entered, or kept on foot by the constant immemorial usage of the several manors in which the lands lie. And as such ten­ants had nothing to show for their estates but those cus­