the fore-ground, he is invested with few attributes calcu­lated to excite admiration, or awaken a vivid interest in his career. He is represented as the mere passive instrument of fate, and there is consequently little about him of heroic daring. The Romans, however, could not fail readily to recognize the intended resemblance ; and the halo thrown around the hero of the Æneid, was calculated to reconcile them to the destined sway of his descendant, which had been mysteriously announced by oracles.

We cannot enter into the details of the Æneid, or point out the manner in which the poet has accomplished his main design. As might be expected, he has availed himself of all the native, as well as foreign resources within his reach, while the whole displays that sober and chastised judgement for which he was so remarkable, and which, in his case, was so admirably combined with high poetical genius. The Æneid has been generally censured for want of variety in the characters. That this charge is well-founded, must to a certain extent be allowed ; but the fault is inseparable from the very design and structure of the work. The chief object being the exaltation of Augustus, no formidable com­petitor could be admitted on the scene. The whole atten­tion is fixed on one central figure, to which all the others are made subordinate. But although the contrasts of cha­racter are not glaring, they are frequently not indistinctly marked ; and if they are apt to elude the notice of the careless observer, they reveal themselves with sufficient clearness to the more searching and curious eye. But the great merit of the Æneid lies, not in its leading design and general conduct, but in the beauty of its details ; many of which will bear comparison with the happiest inspira­tions of the father of epic song. It may not be improper to remark, that Virgil, amid the fulsome homage and adula­tion, which, in common with the other poets of that age, he bestows on Augustus, frequently displays a truly Ro­man spirit; and, from the manner in which he represents the agents and events of the olden times, appears to sym­pathise with, and appreciate, the sterner and nobler virtues by which Rome was distinguished, while the genius of free­dom yet presided over her destinies.

In the composition of his works, Virgil drew unsparingly, not only on the poetic treasures of Greece, but on the more limited resources of his native literature. This however he did in conformity with the universal practice of his coun­trymen ; and it may with truth be affirmed, that he bor­rowed nothing which he did not adorn. His imputed pla­giarisms have sometimes been pointed out with a malicious industry ; but when properly viewed, with reference to the position and mission of the poet, they will be found to prove at once the soundness of his judgment, and the purity and refinement of his taste.

The general character of Virgil as a poet may be con­sidered as fixed by the concurring testimony of critics of all ages. That he was deficient in the highest attribute of genius, in the power of creating and bodying forth ori­ginal conceptions, must be admitted ; but, with this limi­tation, there are few qualities in which he will be found wanting. In soundness of judgment, and correctness of taste ; in depth and tenderness of feeling ; in chastened fancy and imagination ; in vivid and picturesque descrip­tion ; in the power of appreciating and pourtraying the beautiful, whether in nature or art ; of depicting passion, and touching the chords of human sympathy ; in matchless beauty of diction, and in harmony and splendour of versi­fication, he stands alone among the poets of his own coun­try, and will bear a favourable comparison with those of any other. His works have taken their place among the imperishable offspring of genius, and, while literature lasts, will continue to exercise a powerful influence on the po­etical taste of successive generations.

The *editio pnnceps* of Virgil was printed at Rome, by Sweynheym and Pannartz, *sine anno,* most probably 1469. Of the immense number of editions which have succeeded it, we must content ourselves with mentioning the follow­ing, as among the most valuable. N. Heinsii, Amst. 1676, 12mo. Ruæi, in usum Delphini, Par. 1675, 4to; often reprinted. Emmenessii, Lugd. Bat. 1680, 3 tom. 8vo. Masvicii, Leovard. 1717, 2 vols. 4to. Burmanni, Amst. 1746, 4 tom. 4to. Heynii, Lips. 1803, 4 tom. 8vo. A new edition of Heyne’s Virgil has lately appeared, with valuable critical additions by Wagner, Lips. 1830-2, 4 tom. 8vo. A fifth volume is announced to complete the work. Hunteri, Cupri Fif. 1810, 2 tom. 8vo; remarkable for the accuracy of its text. Forbigeri, Lips. 1836-9, 3 tom. 8vo.

Of the English translations of Virgil, that of Dryden is the most popular. A translation of the *Eclogues* and *Georgies* by Warton, and of the *Æneid* by Pitt, appeared in 1753, 4 vols. 8vo. These are held in high repute. The Æneid has also been translated into English verse by Symmons and Ring; and into Scotish verse by Gawin Doug­las, bishop of Dunkeld. Of this last work, an excellent edition was published by Ruddiman, Edin. 1710, fol. ; but a still more valuable edition, in 3 vols. 4to, is now print­ing for the Bannatyne Club, under the superintendence of George Dundas, Esq. Of the Georgics, Sotheby’s trans­lation is incomparably the best. d.k.

Virgil, *Polydore,* an English historian, born at Urbino in Italy, was sent in the beginning of the sixteenth cen­tury by Pope Alexander VI., as sub-collector of the papal tax called *Peter-pence* in this kingdom. He had not been long in England before he obtained preferment in the church ; for in 1503 he was presented to the rectory of Church-Langton, in the archdeaconry of Leicester. In 1507 he was collated to the prebend of Scamlesby, in the church of Lincoln ; and in the same year was made arch­deacon of Wclls, and prebendary of Hereford. In 1513, he resigned his prebend of Lincoln, and was collated to that of Oxgate in St Paul’s, London. We are told, that on his preferment to the archdeaconry of Wells, he re­signed the office of sub-collector to the pope, and deter­mined to spend the remainder of his life in England, the History of which kingdom he began in the year 1505, at the command of Henry VII. That work cost him twelve years’ labour. In 1526, he finished his treatise on Prodi­gies. Polydore continued in England during the whole reign of Henry VIII., and part of that of Edward VL, whence it is concluded that he was a moderate Papist. In 1550, being now an old man, he requested leave to revisit his native country. He was accordingly dismissed with a present of 300 crowns, together with the privilege of hold­ing his preferments to the end of his life. He died at Ur­bino in the year 1555. As an historian, he is accused by some as a malignant slanderer of the English nation ; yet Jovius remarks, that the French and Scotish accuse him of having flattered that nation too much. Besides the above work, he wrote, 1. *De Rerum Inventoribus;* of which an English translation was published by Langley in 1663. It was also translated into French and Spanish. 2. *De Pro­digiis et Sortibus.* 3. *Episcoporum Anglia catalogus.* Manuscript. 4. *De Vita perfecta,* Basil. 1546, 1553, 8vo. 5. *Epistola erudita;* and some other works.

VIRGINIA, the largest and most central state in the American Union, perhaps the most varied in its productions, and the richest in natural resources, blessed with a happy climate and a fruitful soil, exhibiting a pleasant interchange of the most romantic and lovely scenes. The state borders upon the Atlantic ocean and the river Ohio, extending from 75° 10' to 83° 25' W. Long., having Maryland on the east, and Ohio and Kentucky on the west : on the north are Maryland and Pennsylvania, and on the south Tennessee and North Carolina. Its general breadth from north to