sum necessary to build a school-house, to contribute the remaining two-fifths. They are also empowered to pay a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars towards a teacher’s salary, provided the inhabitants of the district contribute an equal sum towards the same object ; and every white child in such district is to be gratuitously taught in such school. There are about fifty-five academies in the state. The higher educational institutions are the university of Virginia at Charlottesville ; the college of William and Mary at Williamsburg ; Washington college at Lexington, Bockbridge county ; Hampden-Sydney college in Prince Edward county ; Randolph-Macon college at Boydton, Mecklenburg county ; the Union theological seminary in Prince Edward county ; the Episcopal theological semi­nary near Alexandria ; and the Virginia Baptist seminary near Richmond. In 1839 there were fifty-two newspapers published in Virginia.

The legislature, styled the General Assembly, consists of two houses ; a house of delegates of 134 members, chosen annually ; and a senate of thirty-two members, chosen for the term of thirty-four years. Senators and delegates must be resident freeholders ; the latter of the age of twenty-five years, the former of thirty. All laws must originate in the house of delegates. The governor and the council of state, of three members, are chosen by the joint vote of both houses of the assembly, for the term of three years, the senior councillor being lieutenant-governor. The superior judges are chosen by the same bodies, and hold office dur­ing good behaviour. The justices of the peace are ap­pointed by the governor on nomination, by the existing justices of the respective counties, and one of their num­ber performs the duties of sheriff. A small property quali­fication is required to confer the right of suffrage on white male citizens ; and at all elections “ the votes must be given openly, or *viva voce,* and not by ballot.”

The revenue of the state for the year 1834, was 403,335 dollars, of which 291,581 dollars were derived from taxes on land, slaves, horses, and carriages, and 101,283 from licences, making, with the balance of 185,221 dollars in the treasury at the close of 1833, a total of 588,556 dol­lars. The expenditure, during the same year, amount­ed to 472,337 dollars ; some of the principal items, ex­clusive of payments from literary and other funds, being as follows :

General assembly...90,141

Officers’ salaries .78,815

Judiciary 22,625

Criminal charges....32,240

Revolutionary half-pay officers...12,166

Transported and exe­cuted slaves...14,412

Public guard 19,225

Penitentiaries 23,911

Lunatic asylum 34,500

General appropriations...24,417

VIRGIN ISLANDS, situate between 17° 40', and 80°40' N. lat., and between 64° 30' W. long. Sir Francis Drake is said to have called them the Virgin islands in honour of Queen Elizabeth ; but this is a mistake, for they were called Las Virgines by Columbus, in honour of the eleven thousand virgins in the Romish ritual. The princi­pal of these is Santa Cruz, a Danish possession about twenty- one miles long, and about five broad, which has an area of more than 100 square miles. It is one of the best cultivated islands in the West Indies. Sugar is its staple commodity. The population of the island is reckoned at 32,000. St Thomas, another Danish island, about twelve miles long, with an area of about fifty square miles, possesses a safe and capacious harbour, and carries on a considerable trade. The population amounts to about 8000. St John’s is the only other possession of Denmark in this group of any import­ance. Its population is about 2500.

The principal British islands are Tortola, Virgingorda, and Anegada. The exportable products chiefly consist of sugar and molasses. Tortola is about twelve miles long and

four broad. Anegada and Virgingorda are each about tcn miles long. Besides a number of very small islands, Cule­bra or Passage island, and Vieque or Crab island, belong to Britain. The latter is sixteen miles long and four broad, but is uninhabited. The British, Danes, and Spaniards have the right of cutting wood in it, and fishing on its coasts. The climate is more healthy than in the average of the West India islands. Excepting Tortola, the other islands contain a very small number of inhabitants.

The population of these three islands in 1835, consisted of

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Free persons, white and coloured Apprentices, | **Males.** | **Females.** | **Total.** |
| 1678 | 1902 | 3580 |
| 1944 | 2207 | 4151 |
| 3622 | 4109 | 7731 |

VIRGO, one of the signs or constellations of the zodiac. VIRNANGH, a village of Hindustan, in the province of Cashmere, thirty-seven miles south-east from the city of Cashmere. Long. 74. 13. E. Lat. 34. N.

VIRTUAL, or Ροτεντιαl, something that has a power or virtue of acting or doing. The term is chiefly under­stood of something that acts by a secret invisible cause, in opposition to actual and sensible.

VIRTUE, a term used in various significations. In its general sense it denotes power, or the perfection of any thing, whether natural or supernatural, animate or inani­mate, essential or accessory. But, in its more proper or re­strained sense, virtue signifies a habit, which improves and perfects the possessor and his actions.

VIRTUOSO, an Italian term introduced into English, signifying a man of curiosity and learning, or one who loves and promotes the arts and sciences. But among us the term seems to be appropriated to those who apply themselves to some curious and quaint rather than imme­diately useful art or study ; as antiquaries, collectors of ra­rities of any kind, microscopical observers, &c.

VISCOUNT *(Vice comes),* was anciently an officer un­der an earl, to whom, during his attendance at court, he acted as deputy to look after the affairs of the county. But the name was afterwards employed as an arbitrary title of honour, without any shadow of office pertaining to it, by Henry VI. ; when, in the eighteenth year of his reign, he created John Beaumont a peer by the name of Viscount Beaumont, which was the first instance of the kind. A vis­count is created by patent. His mantle is two doublings and a half of plain fur, and his coronet has only a row of pearls close to the circle.

VISHNOU, that person in the triad of the Brahmins who is considered as the *preserver* of the universe. *Brahma* is the creator, and *Siva* the destroyer ; and these two, with Vishnou, united in some inexplicable manner, constitute *Brahme,* or the supreme numen of the Hindus.

VISIER, an officer or dignitary in the Ottoman empire. The *Visier-azam,* that is, “ grand visier,” is the prime mi­nister of state in the whole empire. He commands the army in chief, and presides in the divan or great council. Next to him are six other subordinate visiers, called *visiers of the bench,* who officiate as his counsellors or assessors in the divan.

VISTULA, or Weisel, a large river of Poland, which, taking its rise in the mountains south of Silesia, visits Cra­cow, Warsaw, &c. and continuing its course northward, falls into the Baltic sea below Dantzig.

VITERBO, a delegation or province of the papal do­minions, formed out of a part of Orvieto, the duchy of Castro, and the countship of Ronaglione. It is bounded on the north by Perugia, on the north-east by Spoletto, on the east by Rieta, on the south-east by Rome, and on the south and south-west by the sea, and on the west by a part of Tuscany. The face of the country is in the north moun­tainous, in the middle undulating, and on the west a level