and 139 towns and villages, with 114,400 inhabitants. The capital is a city of the same name on the river Stoffora. It is fortified, is well built, and contains seven religious houses for monks and nuns. The inhabitants, 12,047 in number, carry on considerable trade in wine, corn, and other agricultural productions. Lat. 46. 1. Long. 8. 39∙ east.

VOICE, a sound produced in the throat and mouth of an animal, by peculiar organs.

Voices are either articulate or inarticulate. Articulate voices are those whereof several conspire together to form some assemblage or little system of sounds ; such are the voices expressing the letters of an alphabet, numbers of which joined together form words. Inarticulate voices are such as are not organized, or assembled into words ; such as the barking of dogs, the braying of asses, the hissing of serpents, the singing of birds, &c.

For a description of the organs of the voice, see Ανατομυ and Physiology.

Voice, in *Grammar,* a circumstance in verbs, by which they come to be considered as either active or passive, *i.e.* either expressing an action impressed on another subject, as *I beat ;* or receiving it from another, as *I am beaten.* See Grammar.

VOIGHTLAND, a province or circle of the kingdom of Saxony, which was diminished by the peace of 1814. It is bounded on the north-east by Erzgeberge, on the south­east by Bohemia, on the south-west by Bavaria, and on the north-west by Reus. The province is divided into three bailiwicks, comprehending eighteen cities or towns and 294 villages, with 102,890 inhabitants. It is 303 square miles in extent, and occupies the side or the top of a mountain­ous range. It is a raw and cold district and mostly a stoney soil, and on the higher parts no other corn than oats will ripen. It yields abundance of potatoes, which form the chief sustenance, much fruit, and in some portion tolerable pasture. The woods are extensive and furnish charcoal and some pitch. The chief occupation is in the muslin manufacture, which employs more than 25,000 persons. There are mines of iron and of copper, and the converting those metals into domestic articles affords considerable em­ployment. The capital of the province is the city of Plauen on the river E1ster.

VOIRON, a city of France in the department of Lozere and arrondissement of Grenoble. It stands on the river Morges, and is remarkable as the central point for the ex­tensive trade in hempen cloth which is made in the sur­rounding district. There is also a fabric of sword blades highly esteemed, and there are several paper mills. The inhabitants amount to 6700.

VOLCONDA, a town and fortress of the South of In­dia, province of the Carnatic. The port is situated on a rock 200 feet high, and a mile in circumference at the bot­tom. It was taken by the Mahratta chief, Sevagee, in 1677 ; and during the Carnatic wars of the last century, was a strong post. Long. 79∙5. E. Lat. 11. 10. N.

VOLERY, a bird-cage of such a size that the birds have room in it to fly up and down.

VOLGA, the largest river in Europe, derives its origin from two small lakes in the forest of Volkonski about 80 miles from Tver, a town in Russia. It is navigable a few miles above that town. This noble river waters some of the finest provinces in the Russian empire, and at last falls into the Caspian sea, by several mouths, below Astracan. The Volga is subject to annual inundations. In the year 1774, the inundations exceeded the lowest water mark by nearly 40 feet, since which period they have been rather on the decline; for in 1775, they rose only to 39 feet 2 inches above that mark ; in 1782, they rose to 26 feet ; in 1785, to 25 feet 2 inches; and in the year 1791, their r>eight was the same. Pallas is of opinion that this pheno­menon may have originated from the diminished quantity of snow and rain which had fallen in the higher countries ; from the greater evaporation of the Caspian sea, and the gradual extension of the different mouths of the river, or perhaps from the joint operation of all these causes.

VOLHYNIA, or Wolhynia, a government, or stad- holderate, of the Russian empire, extending in north latitude from 49’ 28' to 52° 3', and in east longitude from 23° 30' to 29° 14'. It is bounded on the north-west by Grodno, on the north by Minsh, on the east by Kieu, on the south by the Austrian kingdom of Gallicia, and on the west by the kingdom of Poland. This province belong­ed to Poland till the great dismemberment of that king­dom by Russia, Austria, and Prussia, when it was transfer­red to the first of those powers. It extends over 30,660 square miles, divided into twelve circles, and containing 139 cities and towns, and 2591 villages, with 1,394,600 inhabitants. The nobility and traders are for the most part of the Polish nation, but many of the peasants are of a Russian origin, and there are also many Jews. The major part of the population adheres to the Greek church, at whose head is a bishop of that sect. The Catholics are next in number, and mostly Poles, who have a bishop at Luzk as head of their church, and they still have many monasteries. The Jews have their own synagogues and their separate schools.

The face of the country is a high level plain, which ex­tends northward from the Carpathian mountains. At the north there are few or no hills, but many morasses, and the elevated land between them is covered with woods of ex­cellent timber. The southern part is undulating, and has many spurs projecting from the Carpathians, though few of them exceed 400 feet in height. Their summits are mostly covered with trees.

The soil is cither a loam or clay, occasionally sandy, but generally mixed with marl, and covered with a thick coating of vegetable mould. Although in the north there are large tracts of moors and marshes, yet, by draining, they are converted into profitable meadows and com fields. Although the process of cultivation is little better conduct­ed than in Poland, yet there are fewer unproductive sea­sons, and none in which a surplus of corn is not produced. Flax, hemp, rape, and tobacco are cultivated ; and some oil is made from the seed, but merely for home consumption. Hops, saffron, mustard, and capsicum are grown, but on a limited scale. The converting the forests into timber and charcoal affords considerable occupation to the labouring classes. The manufactures are solely for domestic use, and consist of linen and woollen cloth, the spinning of which is performed by hand by the females ; and families buy the yarn and have weavers who go from house to execute their part of the work. Though Volhynia is nearly equal in ex­tent to Ireland and has a better soil, yet, from want of that stimulus which access to good markets gives. It is enabled to support, and that in a wretched manner, scarcely one- fifth of the same number of human beings. The little trade that exists is in the hands of the Jews, who, by legal means, or by smuggling, send into the Austrian and Prus­sian territory, corn, brandy, live cattle, especially horses, and some salted meat, and also honey and bees’ wax.

VOLITION, an act of willing. See Metaphysics.

VOLONES, slaves who, in the Punic war, voluntarily offered their services to the state, which is the reason of the appellation ; upon which they were admitted to citizen­ship, as none but freemen could be soldiers.

VOLT, in the manege, a round or circular tread, hence, by the phrase *to make volts,* is understood a gate of two treads, made by a horse going sidewise round a centre, in such a manner that these two treads make parallel tracks ; one larger, made by the fore-feet, and another smaller, made by the hind-feet ; the croup approaching towards the centre, and the shoulders bearing out.