volved him in the party squabbles of the place, he found it necessary to quit the republic ; and he purchased the castle of Ferney in France, about a league from the lake of Geneva. It was here that he undertook the defence of the well- known family of Calas ; and not long after he had a second opportunity of vindicating the innocence of another con­demned family of the name of Sirven. It is somewhat re­markable, that in the year 1774, he had the third time a singular opportunity of employing that same zeal which he had displayed in the fatal catastrophe of the families of Calas and Sirven.

From this retreat he poured out an exhaustless variety of works, which were extensively circulated and eagerly read. They generally breathed a spirit of hostility to civil and ecclesiastical tyranny ; but his attacks on priestly domination too often degenerated into insidious and flagi­tious attacks on revealed religion, and pure morality. Here Voltaire long continued to enjoy the pleasures of a rural life, and the admiration of the wits and philosophers of Europe. He could number among his correspondents and pupils some of the greatest sovereigns of the age. The king of Prussia renewed his correspondence with him, and Catherine II. of Russia sent him valuable presents. Paris was filled with his admirers, and his principles were daily making progress in that capital. Wearied at length with his isolated situation, or yielding to the importunities of friends, he came to Paris about the beginning of the year 1778. On his arrival, the French Academy deputed three of their members to congratulate him, and placed his bust beside that of Corneille. His bust was also crowned in the theatre on the sixth representation of his new tragedy of *Irene.* He did not long survive this farce : for having overheated himself with receiving visits, and exhausted his spirits by supplying a perpetual fund of conversation, he was first seized with a spitting of blood ; and at last becoming restless in the night-time, he was obliged to use a soporific medicine. Of this he one night took so large a dose, that he slept thirty-six hours, and expired a very short time after awakening from it. He died on the 30th of May 1778, in the eighty-fifth year of his age.

When near his end, the marquis of Vilette, with whom he resided, sent for the rector of St Sulpice to visit him. Of this interview various very contradictory accounts have been published ; but it is certain that he did not receive the last ceremonies of the catholic church. In conse­quence, it is said, of the refusal of the archbishop of Paris to allow him Christian burial, he was interred secretly at Sellices, a Benedictine abbey between Nogent and Troyes, whence his remains were in 1791 removed by order of the national assembly, and interred in St Ge­nevieve.

The following is a sketch of his character as drawn by Marmontel : “ He had sought glory by all the roads that are open to genius, and had deserved it by immense labours and brilliant successes. The arm of ridicule was the instrument of his vengeance, and he wielded it most fearfully and cruelly. But the greatest of blessings, repose, was unknown to him. It is true that envy at last appeared tired of the pursuit, and began to spare him on the brink of the grave. On his return to Paris, after a long exile, he enjoyed his renown, and the enthusiasm of a whole peo­ple, grateful for the pleasures that he had afforded them. The weak and last effort that he made to amuse them. *Irene,* was applauded as *Zaire* had been ; and this repre­sentation, at which he was crowned, was for him the most delightful triumph. But at what moment did this tardy consolation reach him, the recompense of much watching? The next day I saw him in his hed. ‘ Well,’ said I, ‘are you at last satiated with glory ?’ ‘Ah! my good friend,’ he replied, ‘ you talk to me of glory, and I am dying in frightful torture.’ ”

The works of this extraordinary man are very numerous and various. Voltaire is beyond dispute the most popu­lar writer in the French language ; and his genius and wit are at least equalled by his levity and profaneness. As an author, he was most anxious for his reputation as a drama­tist and a poet. His *Henriade* is probably the best epic in the French language, though little distinguished by fancy or invention. As a dramatist he ranks after Cor­neille and Racine. In comedy he was not very success­ful. In history he is rather agreeable and ingenious than accurate and profound. His style in prose is lively, pointed, and unaffected, admirably adapted for the nume­rous smaller works that came from his pen in the form of tales, romances, dialogues, and pasquinades. His raillery was of the most poignant character, and his power of exciting ridicule unbounded. Scarcely any writer ever launched into the world publications so voluminous and various, which followed one another with unexampled ra­pidity. The first collective edition of his works was pub­lished at Geneva in 1763, in 30 volumes 4to. A more complete collection appeared at Basel, 1784-9, 71 tom. 8vo. Of his more popular works, editions are continually multi­plying at all prices and in all sizes.

VOLTERRA, a city of Italy in the Grand Duchy of Tus­cany, the capital of a circle called a vicarate, of the same name, and the seat of a bishop. It stands on a hill, and is surrounded with walls of Etruscan construction. It has a cathedral and several churches, and contains 6200 inha­bitants. Volterra is celebrated for its salt springs, from which culinary salt is manufactured. Near the city are quarries of marble and of alabaster, and some mines of fossil coal.

VOLUME, a book or writing of a just bulk to be bound by itself. The name is derived from the Latin *volvere,* “ to roll up the ancient manner of making up a book being in rolls of bark or parchment. See Bibliography.

VOLUNTARY, in *Music,* means properly an extempore composition played upon the organ, or some other instru­ment. In Great Britain, from want of thorough musical education, there are very few performers who can safely at­tempt any thing of this kind. In Germany there are many.

VOLUTE, in *Architecture,* a kind of spiral scroll used in Ionic and Composite capitals, whereof it makes the principal characteristic and ornament.

VOMITING, a retrograde spasmodic motion of the muscular fibres of the œsophagus, stomach, and intestines, attended with strong convulsions of the muscles of the ab­domen and diaphragm ; which when gentle create a nausea, when violent a vomiting.

VORALBERG, a circle of the Austrian province of Tyrol, which touches on the lake of Constance. This lo­cality renders it of some importance to the imperial do­minions. It extends over 1628 square miles, and compre­hends three cities, seven market towns, and 412 villages, with 79,600 inhabitants. It is a mountainous and highly picturesque district, yielding little besides Alpine pasture for cattle. The capital is the city of Bregentz, built on a hill overlooking the lake of Constance.

VORSTIUS, Conrad, bom at Cologne on the 19th of July 1569, was the son of a dyer who had secretly adopted the Protestant faith. Having received a good preliminary education, he in 1587 entered the College of St Lawrence at Cologne. After lecturing at Geneva, he was appointed professor of theology at Steinfurt, where he continued till 1610, when he succeeded Arminius in the professorship of theology at Leyden. Here he composed his “ Trac­tatus Theologicus de Deo, sive de Natura et Attributis Dei.” This brought on him the accusation of heresy, and engaged both individuals and universities in the contro­versy. James the First drew up a large catalogue of the heresies which it contained, and caused the work to be