W, or w, is the twenty-second letter of our alphabet; and is composed, as its name implies, of two v’s. It was not in use among the Hebrews, Greeks, or Romans, but chiefly among the northern nations, the Teutones, Saxons, Britons, &c. It is not employed by the French, Italians, Spaniards, or Portuguese, except in proper names, and other terms borrowed from languages in which it is originally used, and even then it is sounded like the single v. This letter is of an ambiguous nature ; being a conso­nant at the beginning of words, and a vowel at the end. It may stand before all the vowels except *u ;* as *water, wedge, winter, wonder :* it may also follow the vowels *a, e, o,* and unites with them into a kind of double vowel, or diphthong ; as in *saw, few, cow.* It also goes before *r,* and follows *s* and *th;* as in *wrath, swear, thwart :* it goes before *h* also, though in reality it is sounded after it ; as in *when, what.* In some words it is obscure, as in *shadow, widow.*

WAAG, a river of Hungary, which rises in the Carpa­thian Mountains, and falls into the Danube opposite to the island of Schut.

WAAL, a river of the Netherlands, being one of the branches of the Rhine. Running from east to west through Guelderland, passing by Nimeguen, Tiel, Bommel, and Gorcum, and uniting with the Maes, it falls into the Ger­man Sea below the Briel.

WADEY Abassi, a small river of Arabia, which falls into the Red Sea ten miles south-south-east of Hodeida.

Wadey *el Arkik,* a small river of Arabia, which waters the city of Medina.

Wadey *el Kebir,* a small river in Arabia, which in rainy seasons reaches the Red Sea near Mocha.

Wadey *Elmahan,* a small river of Arabia, which loses itself in the sands, unless in the wet season, when it reaches the Red Sea twenty-five miles south-south-east of Hodeida.

Wadey *Faran,* a small river of Arabia, which falls into the Red Sea twenty-five miles north-west of Tor.

Wadey *Zebid,* a river of Arabia, which passes by Zebid, and at a particular season overflows and fertilizes its banks. It finally loses itself in the sands.

WADJO, or Waju, a state or confederacy in the island of Celebes, situated to the north of the Buggess territories named Boni.

W AFERS, or *Sealing Wafers,* are made thus. Take very fine flour, mix it with glair of eggs, isinglass, and a little yeast ; mingle the materials ; beat them well together; spread the batter, being mode thin with gum-water, on even tin plates, and dry them in a stove ; then cut them out for use. You may make them of what colour you please, by tinging the paste with Brazil or vermilion for red ; indigo or verditer, &c., for blue ; saffron, turmeric, or gamboge, &c., for yellow.

WAFTIB, a small low island in the Eastern Seas, on the west coast of the island of Waygiou, covered with trees.

WAGEEO, or Waygiou, one of the Papuan islands, separated by Dampier’s Strait from New Guinea to the south. It may be estimated in length at ninety miles, by twenty-two miles in average breadth. The island is throughout mountainous at a small distance from the coast, and very woody, being covered with an immense forest reaching to the water’s edge. The trees grow to an im­mense height ; and vegetables are in great variety, namely, oranges, cocoa-nuts, sugar-canes, sago, and pimento. On the north coast of this island is a harbour formed by the island of Rawak, on which grows the ambong tree, the heart of which is an excellent cabbage. On the north-west coast of Waygiou there is another harbour named Piapis, situated in latitude 0° 5' south, long 130° 15' east. It is formed by two capacious bays, where there is fresh water, and abun­dance of tall timber fit for masts. Both bays have good mud soundings; and on a small island named Sisipa is a pond of fresh water, with sago trees growing close to it. Here the cabbage tree also abounds. The gigantic Kima cockle is found in plenty among the coral reefs. Turtles of large size are found on the shore, and numbers of wild hogs in the woods. Here are seen many rare and beautiful birds, namely, the black cockatoo, the bird of paradise, &c. The natives are of a very suspicious disposition, probably from their being trepanned as slaves. They are barbarous in their habits, going almost entirely naked. The chiefs only have jackets and trousers of Chinese stuffs, and wear a bat and turban. The colour of their skins is not black ; their hair is thick and curled, and grows to a considerable length. Their houses, which are built on posts, consist of bamboo, and are elevated above the ground. The aborigines inha­bit the interior, the Mahommedans the sea-coast. The island is situatcd about the 131st degree of east longitude, and within the 12th degree of south latitude.

WAGES. See Τaχατιον.

WAGGON, a wheel-carriage, of which there are various forms, accommodated to the different uses for which they are intended. The common waggon consists of the shafts or rods, being the two pieces which the hind horse bears up ; the welds ; the slotes, or cross pieces, which hold the shafts together ; the bolster, being that part on which the fore-wheels and the axle-tree turn in wheeling the waggon across the road ; the chest or body of the waggon, having the staves or rails fixed thereon ; the bales, or hoops which compose the top ; the tilt, the place covered with cloth, at the end of the waggon. See MecHANIcs.

WAGNAGUR, a town of Hindustan, possessed by in­dependent native chiefs, on the sea-coast of the Gujerat peninsula. Long. 71. 58. E. Lat. 21. 3. N.

WAGUR, a district of Hindustan, in the province of Cutch, of which it forms the eastern boundary. The inha­bitants are Mahommedans, and predatory in their habits ; and the country is elevated and woody, and intersected by a number of streams which fall into the Runn.

WAHI, a town of Hindustan, in the province of Beja­poor, long the residence of an illustrious Mahratta family, about fifty miles south of Poonah.

WAIFS, Βονα Waviata, are goods stolen, and waived or thrown away by the thief in his flight, for fear of being apprehended. These by the law are given to the king, as a punishment upon the owner for not himself pursuing the felon, and taking away his goods from him. And therefore if the party robbed do his diligence immediately to follow and apprehend the thief (which is called *making fresh suit),* or convict him afterwards, or procure evidence to con­vict him, he shall have his goods again.

WAIGATZ, a large island belonging to the Russian government of Archangel. It is situated between 69° 26'and 70° 5' north latitude, and between 47° 20' and 50° 13' east longitude. It is separated from the mainland by the straits of its name. It is low, stony, destitute of woods, and almost of vegetation; but being well stocked with wild animals, especially such as yield valuable furs, it is inhabited