but Ned Waller. “ It is thought,” says Percival Stockdale, “ that St Evremond returned to England for the sake of Mr Cowley’s company and Mr Waller’s.”

His life passed thus agreeably away, until, in 1665, he was urged, by the desire of augmenting his income, now reduced to L.1300 a year, to petition the king for the pro­vostship of Eton College. His application to Charles was successful ; but Clarendon refused to affix his seal to the patent, upon the ground that none but clergymen were eligible to the office. Waller had no idea of private friend­ship being sacrificed to public duty, and this declaration of Clarendon’s dissolved an intimacy of ancient date. Two years afterwards, when the chancellor was impeached, Waller’s animosity was as fresh as ever, and he rushed among a crowd of assailants to strike an eager and super­fluous blow at falling greatness. After Clarendon’s banish­ment, the provostship was again vacant, and Waller again applied for the office ; but the highest legal authorities de­clared that laymen were excluded by the act of unifor­mity, and the king said that he could not reverse a law of his own making. Some trifling dramatic efforts of Wal­ler’s have yet to be noticed. He wrote anew the last act of Beaumont and Fletcher’s Maid’s Tragedy, altering the catastrophe, and distinguishing his work from that of the confederate dramatists by rhyming verse. Southerne stated to Fenton, that he had seen the Maid’s Tragedy acted about the end of Charles’s reign, but without Waller’s alterations. This is not to be wondered at ; for in the heterogeneous con­dition to which he reduced it, the play was unfit for repre­sentation. A mean version of the first act of Corneille’s Pompey, of which Lord Buckhurst translated the remainder, is attributed to Waller ; and he is said to have been associ­ated with Cowley in the original concoction of that over­praised performance, the Rehearsal.

When James ascended the throne in 1685, Waller was chosen member for Saltash in Cornwall. Being now eighty years of age, he wrote “ A Presage of the Ruin of the Turkish Empire, presented to his Majesty King James the Second, on his Birth-day.” From the perusal of Tasso, Waller had been inspired with great veneration for the champions of the cross, and feasted his imagination with the childish whimsey of a new crusade. His last poems are on sacred subjects. The chief of these are, “ Of Divine Love, a poem in six cantos “ Of the Fear of God, in two cantos;” “ Of Divine Poesy, in two cantos.” Having completed this pious task, he began to prepare for death, whose approach he contemplated with a serenity that could not have been expected from him. When life was worth preserving, Waller clung to it with the energy of despair ; but when the scene grew dark and comfortless, he quitted it with decent grace. Observing that his legs began to swell, he asked Sir Charles Scarbrough, the king’s physician, what that symptom portended. “ Why, Sir,” said he, “ your blood will run no longer.” By the appalling disclosure thus ab­ruptly made, Waller was so little terrified that he repeat­ed some lines from Virgil, and went home to await his dis­solution, which happened on the 2lst of October 1687. He was buried at Beaconsfield, where a monument was erected by the executors of his second son Edmund, who inherited the family estate, his elder brother being a sort of changeling. Besides these, Waller left other three sons.

Waller’s character may be partly discovered in his poems. He inquires what ancient bard would not have deduced the pedigree of the first Charles from heaven ; the power and piety of Cromwell he traces to the same source. The rising sun, in compassion to the weakness of mortal eyes, “ first gilds the clouds,” but the full majesty of the merry monarch burst upon his dazzled vision all at once. When this orb of glory is obscured, he pays James the Second the original and appropriate compliment of having restored the golden age. Irritable men are often good-natured, but Waller was equally peevish and malignant. His resent­ment of contradiction was not found by his associates to be a mere passing cloud ; and his conduct to Clarendon de­monstrates that revenge was welcome to him, even at the eleventh hour. Atterbury has accused him of literary envy ; and the following passage in one of his letters must have been dictated either by malice or stupidity. “ The old blind schoolmaster, John Milton, hath published a tedious poem on the fall of man ; if its length be not consider­ed as merit, it has no other.” Of his shameful timidity enough has been already said. To counterbalance these defects, Waller was a good orator, an elegant poet, and an agreeable companion. It is said that he wished every verse of his expunged that did not imply some motive to virtue. His writings, in that case, would be very much defaced ; but he cannot be denied the praise of having written with decorum in a licentious age, and with elegance and smooth­ness, when the numbers of most of his brother poets were nearly as vicious and irregular as the mode of life which they delighted to illustrate.@@1

WALLINGFORD, a market and borough town of the county of Berks and hundred of Moreton, 46 miles from London. It stands on thc river Thames, over which is a fine stone bridge of 19 arches, 300 yards in length, with drawbridges to admit the passage of barges. It is an an­cient town, once consisting of twelve parishes, now re­duced to four. The corporate body consists of a mayor, four aldermen, and eleven councillors. One member is re­turned to the House of Commons by the borough. The little trade there is depends principally on the river-navi­gation. There is a well-endowed free school, four churches, and several chapels for dissenters ; also a county-hall, in which the assizes were occasionally held. The markets are on Tuesday and Friday. The population amounted in 1821 to 2493, and in 1831 to 2467

WALLINGTON, a hamlet in the parish of Beddington and hundred of its own name in the county of Surrey, eleven miles from London. It is only remarkable for the printing and bleaching grounds within it, on the banks of the river Wandle. The great rivalry from the calico-prin­ters in the north has suspended the progress of the manufac­tures of this place. The population amounted in 1821 to 847, and in 1831 to 933.

WALLIS, John, a distinguished mathematician, logi­cian, and grammarian, was born on the 23d of November 1616, at Ashford in Kent, of which parish his father was then minister. Having been previously instructed in the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew languages, he was in 1632 sent to Emanuel College, Cambridge, where he applied himself with great success to various branches of learning. He afterwards removed to Queen’s College, of which he was chosen fellow. Having been admitted to holy orders, he left the university in 1641 to act as chaplain to Sir William Darley ; and in the following year he accepted of a similar appointment from the widow of Sir Horatio Vere. It was about this period that he displayed surprising talents in deci­phering the intercepted letters and papers of the royalists. His adherence to the parliamentary party was in 1643 re­warded by the living of St Gabriel, Fenchurch-street. In 1644 he was appointed one of the scribes or secretaries of the Assembly of Divines at Westminster. During the same year he married Susanna Glyde, and thus vacated his fellowship ; but the death of his mother had left him in pos-

@@@1 The best edition of his works bears the following title, “ The Works of Edmund Waller, Esq. in Verse and Prose : published by Mr Fenton.” Lond. 1729, 4to.