made gentleman of the horse in Queen Anne’s reign, and died in 1708. He was the friend of Dryden and of Pope, the former of whom esteemed him the best critic then living ; and Pope has celebrated his character in the Essay on Criticism.

WALSHAM, Νοrth, a market-town of Norfolk, in the hundred of Tunstead, 124 miles from London, and twelve from Norwich. It is about six miles from the sea-shore, and consists of three streets, diverging from a central area, in which is built the church. It has a well-supplied market on Tuesday, and two annual fairs. There is an endowed free school, and several dissenting places of worship. The population amounted in 1821 to 2303, and in 1831 to 2615.

WALSINGHAM, a market-town of the county of Nor­folk, in the hundred of North Greenhoe, 117 miles from London, and four miles from the sea. It was formerly a large place, when the abbey, whose ruins remain to attest its former magnificence, contained an image of the Virgin Mary, much venerated, and visited by numerous pilgrims, and to which Henry VIII. once repaired barefooted, with the present of a valuable necklace. The reformation caused the town to decline. It has now a handsome church, and a good market on Friday. The country around it is highly fertile, and especially yields abundance of saffron. The po­pulation amounted in 1821 to 1067, and in 1831 to 1004.

Walsingham, *Thomas,* an English Benedictine monk of the monastery of St Alban’s, who lived about the year 1440. He applied himself to the history and antiquity of his country, in quality of historiographer to the king, and composed the History of King Henry VI., with other works.

Walsingham, *Sir Francis,* secretary of state during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was descended from an an­cient family in Norfolk, but was born at Chislehurst in Kent, in the year 1536. After having made great pro­gress in his studies at Cambridge, he was twice sent am­bassador to France, and at his return to England was em­ployed in the most important affairs, became secretary of state, and was one of the commissioners for the trial of Mary queen of Scotland. Sir Francis was undoubtedly one of the most refined politicians and most penetrating statesmen that any age has produced. He had an admi­rable talent, both in discovering and managing the secret recesses of the heart. He had his spies in most courts in Christendom, and allowed them a liberal maintenance ; for it was bis maxim, that knowledge cannot be bought too dear. In 1587, the king of Spain having made vast pre­parations, which surprised and kept all Europe in suspense, Walsingham employed his utmost endeavours for the dis­covery of that important secret ; and accordingly procured intelligence from Madrid that the king had informed his council of his having despatched an express to Rome, with a letter written with his own hand to the pope, acquainting him with the true design of his preparations, and begging his blessings upon him ; which design for some reasons he could not disclose till the return of the courier. The secret be­ing thus lodged with the pope, Walsingham, by means of a Venetian priest, whom he retained at Rome as a spy, got a copy of the original letter, which was stolen out of the pope’s cabinet by a gentleman of the bed-chamber, who took the key out of the pope’s pocket while he slept. After this, by his dexterous management, he caused the Span­iards’ bills to be protested at Genoa, which should have supplied them with money for their extraordinary prepara­tions ; and by this means he happily retarded this formi­dable invasion for a whole year. In short, he spent his whole time and faculties in the service of Queen Elizabeth, on which account her majesty was heard to say, “ that in diligence and sagacity he exceeded her expectations.” However, after ail his eminent services to his country, this man gave a remarkable proof at his death, which hap­pened on the 6th of April 1590, how far he preferred the public interest to his own ; he being so poor, that, except­ing his library, which was a very fine one, he had scarcely effects enough to defray the expense of his funeral.

WALTHAM ABBEY, a market-town of the county of Essex, in the hundred of Waltham, eleven miles from Lon­don. It takes its name from the stately abbey erected there by Harold, son of Earl Godwin, and afterwards fur­ther endowed by Henry II. The present church was formed out of a part of the ancient building. The town has a mar­ket on Tuesday, and three annual fairs. An establishment has been formed by government for the manufacture of gunpowder. The population amounted in 1821 to 1883, and in 1831 to 2013.

WALTHAMSTOW, a large parish, with a town of the same name, in the county of Essex, in the hundred of Be- contree, five miles from London. It is situated near the river Lea, in a rich district, and consists mostly of country houses belonging to the rich class of traders of the metro­polis. There is a large church, an endowed school, and several dissenting chapels. The population amounted in 1821 to 4304, and in 1831 to 4258.

WALTON, Isaac, an early writer of great popularity, was born on the 9th of August 1593, in the parish of St Mary and town of Stafford. The condition of his father is not mentioned, but his mother is described as the daughter of Edmund Cranmer, archdeacon of Canterbury, and the niece of the archbishop. His own occupation was that of a shopkeeper ; but his love of literature, as well as bis up­right and amiable simplicity of character, recommended him to the favour and friendship of many individuals dis­tinguished by their talents and station. In 1624 we find him residing on the north side of Fleet-street, two doors west of Chancery-lane ; and in 1632 he had removed to a house in the lane. The tradition of his family represented him as a Hamburg merchant, or wholesale linen-draper ; but, according to Anthony Wood, he followed the occupa­tion of a sempster. He married Anne the sister of Thomas Ken, afterwards bishop of Bath and Wells. While an in­habitant of St Dunstan’s in the West, he was a regular at­tendant on the ministrations of Dr Donne, then vicar of the parish ; and with this witty poet and divine he con­tracted a friendship, which was only terminated by death. Walton visited him in his last sickness, and wrote a cir­cumstantial account of his life, which in 1640 accompanied a collection of the dean’s Sermons. Another of his distin­guished friends was Sir Henry Wotton, whose life he also undertook to write, and finished it about the year 1644. It was prefixed to the “ Reliquiæ Wottonianæ,” which he edited in 1651. It is to be regretted that he did not exe­cute his design of writing the lives of other two individuals connected with Eton, Sir Henry Savile and John Hales, both very eminent in their generation. About the year 1643, we are informed, he left London, and, with a fortune very far short of what would now be called a competency, seems to have retired altogether from business. While he resided in the metropolis, angling had been his favourite recreation, and in that art he arrived at great skill and pro­ficiency. The result of his experience he embodied in a very pleasing volume, entitled “ The complete Angler, or contemplative Man’s Recreation.” Lond. 1653, 8vo. This work was so favourably received, that other four editions were published during the author’s lifetime, namely, in 1655, 1664, 1668, and 1676. To this last impression a second part, containing instructions how to angle for trout or grayling, was added by his friend Charles Cotton. Of both parts there are many subsequent editions, and the popularity of the work continues unimpaired. An elabo­rate edition, with a life of the author, was published by Sir John Hawkins in the year 1760. Walton having resumed his biographical labours, published the life of Hooker in 1662, that of Herbert in 1670, and that of Sanderson in