cal. Weber however redeems his occasional faults by a profusion of beauties. His printed works are nume­rous. Besides the operas mentioned above, they consist of concertos, concertinos, pots-pourris, for the pianoforte, the clarinet, the oboe, the bassoon, and the violoncello ; sonatas, variations, polonaises, &c. ; symphonies and over­tures, among which last the overture *Der Beherrscher der Geister* (the Ruler of the Spirits) is remarkably charac­teristic of Weber’s peculiar style. Many of his songs pub­lished in collections are trifling ; but his four-part songs, with pianoforte accompaniment, named *Leger und Schwerdt* (Lyre and Sword), words by Körner, are excellent. A posthumous work of Weber’s, a Stabat Mater for two soprano voices and one alto, was in 1826 intrusted by his widow to the music-director Rungenhagen of Berlin for publication. In his autobiography, he says that the following words may with justice be inscribed upon his tombstone: “ Here lies one who meant honestly, and wish­ed to act uprightly, both towards his art and towards his fellow-men.” (g. f. g.)

WEBSTER, Alexander, D. D. was the son of James Webster, minister of the Tolbooth Church in Edinburgh, and was born in that city about the year 1707. He was only thirteen years of age at the death of his father, and of course could derive little from parental instruction or ex­ample. He studied, at the university of Edinburgh, the several branches of learning with great approbation, parti­cularly those connected with the mathematics, for which he discovered an early predilection. He afterwards attended the lectures of the professor of divinity ; and in the year 1733 he was ordained minister of the parish of Culross, and in June 1737 he was admitted as one of the ministers of the Tolbooth Church of Edinburgh. His eloquence was noble and manly, his piety conspicuous, and the discharge of his pastoral duties faithful and laborious. To these qualities he added an enlightened zeal for the external in­terests of thc church, a jealousy of corruption, a hatred of false politics and tyrannical measures, which sometimes ex­posed him to calumny from the guilty, but secured him the esteem of all who could value independence of soul and integrity of heart.

The prosperity of fortune which placed Mr Webster in the church of his father, and restored him to the polished society of his native city, was not confined to these favours. Eleven days after his settlement in Edinburgh, he obtained the hand of Mary Erskine, a young lady of considerable fortune, and nearly related to the noble family of Dun­donald. The genius of Mr Webster now began to unfold itself. Family connections extended his acquaintance with the nobility. Edinburgh then possessed a number of men, both in civil and ecclesiastical stations, who have saved or adorned their country. With these he was soon to co­operate in defending the Protestant interests from the arms and artifices of rebellion.

In the year 1733, five or six ministers seceded from the church ; and being anxious to draw away as many as pos­sible from the communion which they had renounced, they invited down to Scotland, in 1741, George Whitefield, a young preacher of great piety and extraordinary pulpit talents. On his way to Dunfermline, he was met and en­tertained at Edinburgh by Mr Webster and some of his brethren. From them he learned the state of church-parties in Scotland ; and though he kept his promise of preaching first in Fife, he declined connecting himself with any par­ticular sect. Disappointed of his influence and assistance, the Seceders ascribed the effects of his preaching to sor­cery and the devil, while Webster, in a pamphlet which he published on the occasion, attributed them to the in­fluence of the Holy Spirit, an opinion regarded by the Se­ceders as unspeakable wickedness.

In the year 1745, Webster remained in the city when it was taken by the rebels, and employed his universal popularity and vigorous eloquence in retaining the minds of the people in the interests of the house of Hanover. His exertions in this were not overlooked by most of the spirited gentlemen who acted in quelling the rebellion. He became an intimate friend of Duncan Forbes of Cul­loden, Lord Milton, and others. He preserved to the latest period of his career that activity both of mind and body which distinguished him in the prime of life, obtaining at last his frequent wish and prayer, an easy and peaceful death, after a very short indisposition, on the 25th of Janu­ary 1784.

Dr Webster’s character as a minister was popular in the extreme. To the poor he was a father and a friend, a liberal patron to poor students. In his person he was tall, and of a thin and meagre habit. His features were strongly marked, and the conformity of the whole indicated genius and in­dependence. To him the widows of the clergy are indebt­ed for the establishment of the celebrated scheme, secur­ing them in an annuity proportioned to certain rates of payment ; the plan of which he matured in his own mind soon after he was appointed a minister of the Tolbooth Church. The success of the scheme has been complete.

WEDGE, one of the mechanical powers. See Mechanics**.**

Wedge *Island,* on the south coast of New Holland, at the mouth of Spencer’s Gulf, the largest of the group call­ed by Captain Flinders Gambier's Isles. Long. 136. 29. E. Lat. 35. U.S.

WEDMORE, a town and parish of the county of So­merset, in the hundred of Bempstone, 126 miles from Lon­don and five from Axbridge. It had formerly a market, which has of late years ceased to be attended. The po­pulation of the parish amounted in 1821 to 3097, and in 1831 to 3557.

WEDNESBURY, a town of the county of Stafford, in the hundred of Offlow, 124 miles from London and seven from Birmingham. It is a place of black and gloomy ap­pearance, inhabited chiefly by persons employed in the ex­tensive and valuable coal-mines in its vicinity, or in some branches of the iron manufacture. The parish church is a fine ancient Gothic structure. A new church has been built of late years, and there are many chapels for several sects of dissenters. The town has a good market on Wed­nesday. The population amounted in 1821 to 6471, and in 1831 to 8437.

WEDNESDAY, the fourth day of the week, so called from a Saxon idol named *Woden,* supposed to be Mars, worshipped on this day.

*Ash-Wednesday,* the first day of Lent, so called from the custom observed in the ancient Christian church, of penitents expressing their humiliation at this time by ap­pearing in sackcloth and ashes.

WEEK, in chronology, a division of time comprising seven days. See Chronology.

*Passion- Week,* or the *Holy Week,* is thc last week in Lent.

WEERE, a small district of Hindustan, province of Cashmere, extending along the south side of the Jhylum, here about eighty yards across.

WEIGHING MACHINES. In this our concluding article on weighing instruments, we intend to supply such particulars as have not already been treated of under the heads of Balance and Mechanics. In doing so, we pro­pose, in the first instance, to sketch shortly, and possibly with some novelty, the early history of the invention, which claims attention from the high antiquity it holds among thc mechanical arts ; and then to furnish descriptive notices of several balances, some of them of recent date, and not de­scribed, it is believed, or at least collectively so, in any previous work.