which presented him with a flattering prospect of advance­ment in life. A number of young gentlemen were to be selected from the universities, and, at the expense of government, were to be taught foreign languages, and then sent to the secretary’s office, to be initiated into business, and trained there for the public service, as envoys, ambassadors, &c. West was one of thc few pitched upon ; and on his first introduction into that office, Lord Townshend, secretary of state, treated him with singular marks of regard, and the strongest inclinations to serve him were testified from all quarters. But Lord Cobham’s strong opposition to the measures of the government rendered these advantages en­tirely fruitless ; and the ministers honestly told Mr West that he must not expect them to distinguish his merit, as any favours conferred upon him would be imputed as done to his uncle. He now left that office, and all his views of making his fortune ; and entering into the married state, retired to Wickham in Kent, where he lived in great domestic com­fort and tranquil happiness. He was there visited by his valuable friends, who held the most delightful converse of wit, humour, and learning, supported upon the principles of virtue, sound reasoning, and solid friendship, which rendered the whole cheerful, animating, and instructive. In 1752 he was appointed one of the clerks of the privy council ; and Pitt, on becoming paymaster, nominated him treasurer of Chelsea Hospital. Towards the end of his life, he wholly applied himself to the study of the Scriptures, being ex­tremely anxious to try his utmost endeavours to reconcile the seeming inconsistencies which gave the enemies of revealed religion a handle to doubt and discredit their au­thenticity. The result of his inquiries was partly commu­nicated to the public in his “ Observations on the Resur­rection.” Lond. 1747, 8vo. This work procured him from the university of Oxford the degree of LL. D. conferred by diploma. On the evidences of the truth of the New Tes­tament he meditated another work, but did not live to ex­ecute his design. He lost his only son in 1755; and on the 26th of March in the following year, a stroke of palsy terminated his own career. He left behind him the charac­ter of an amiable and pious man. His Observations, which, it has been said, were written to confirm the wavering faith of his great friends Pitt and Lyttelton, bear ample testi­mony to his reasoning powers and the sincerity of his religion, while his translations from Pindar shew him to have been a respectable Greek scholar, and very considerable poet. His “ Dissertation on the Olympick Games” is likewise a credit­able specimen of his learning.

West Island. one of the smaller Philippine islands, near the south coast of Mindoro. Long. 121.12. E. Lat. 12.15.N.

West Island, a small island at the east entrance of the Straits of Sunda. Long. 196. 20. E. Lat. 5. 27. S.

West Island, a small island in the Eastern Seas, near the south coast of Cumbava. Long. 119.2. E. Lat. 8. 49. S. Another island on the north coast of New Holland, near the head of the Gulf of Carpentaria, about ten miles long and five broad. It is one of the three called by Captain Flinders Sir Edward Pellew’s group.

WEST-BROMWICH, a parish of the county of Staf­ford, in the hundred of Offlow, 122 miles from London. It is a very scattered place, and affords considerable occupa­tion in various branches of the iron manufacture. Besides the old parish church, two others have been recently erected. The population amounted in 1821 to 9505, and in 1831 to 15,327.

WESTBURY, a borough of the county of Wilts, in the hundred of its own name, ninety-seven miles from Lon­don. There is a church of Gothic architecture, and a town- hall, and it has a market on Thursday. The chief trade consists in making fine woollen cloths and cassimeres. It returns one member to the House of Commons. The po­pulation amounted in 1821 to 6846, and in 1831 to 7324.

WESTER AS, an internal province of thc kingdom of Sweden, formed out of a small portion of the ancient pro­vince of Upland, and the eastern part of Westmanland. It is now bounded on the north-west by Kopparberg, on the north-east by Gefleborg, on the east by Upsala, on the south by Malaren and Nykoping, and on the west by Orebro. It extends over 2772 square miles, and compre­hends four cities and 2818 villages and hamlets, with 87,600 inhabitants. It is a well-watered district, and, for the cli­mate, very fruitful, but chiefly consisting of pasture-land, and consequently rendered profitable more by its dairies and by fattening cattle than by its ploughed fields. It generally, however, grows corn sufficient for its consump­tion, and in very favourable years has a surplus. The fisheries arc productive ; but the chief demand for labour is in the mines and in their products. The silver-mine of Sala is still worked, being the only one now in Sweden ; and the iron-mines of Norberg yield the best quality of metal. The exports are wood, cattle, silver, iron, and cut­lery goods, and in some years corn. The province, for the purposes of government and law, is divided into seven baili­wicks. The capital is the city of the same name, at the mouth of the river Swartelf. It is the seat of a bishop, and is finely situated, but irregularly built. In the cathedral are monuments of two of their kings, Gustavus III. and Erick XIV. There is a gymnasium, with nine professors, and an hospital. It contains 570 houses, chiefly built of wood, and 3120 inhabitants. It has some trade by the Malaren Lake, chiefly with Stockholm. Long. 16. 22. 28. E. Lat. 59. 35. 31. N.

WESTERHAM, a market-town of the county of Kent, in the lathe of Sutton, and the hundred of the same name, twenty-two miles from London. It is on the borders of Surrey, is pleasantly situated and neatly built, with some very good houses. The market-house, though small, is an elegant building. The church contains a monument to General Wolfe, who was a native of this place. There is a market on Wednesday for corn. The population amounted in 1821 to 1742, and in 1831 to 1926.

WESTMEATH, an inland county in the province of Leinster, in Ireland, is bounded on the north by Longford and Meath, on the east by Meath and Kildare, on the south by the King’s county, and on the west by Roscom­mon. It lies between 53° 20' and 53° 47' N. lat., and 7o and 7° 55' W. long., extending forty miles in its great­est length from north to south, and forty-five in its greatest breadth from west to east, and comprehending an area of 708 square miles, or 453,468 acres, of which 431,041 are land, and the remaining 22,427 are cover­ed with water. It ranks as the twenty-sixth county in superficial extent, and the twenty-fourth in that of its cul­tivated land.

The county originally formed part of the central king­dom of Meath, when it was distinguished by the name of Eircamhoin, or the western division. Nor was it till the reign of Henry VIII. that it was formed into a separate county, including within it the district of Longford, which continued to form part of it till the reign of Elizabeth. Be­fore the English invasion, the M'Geoghegans, chieftains of Moycashel, the Malones, and the Magardleys, were the principal families. When the palatinate of Meath was granted to Hugh de Lacy by Henry II., the former proprie­tors were supplanted by English settlers, the principal of whom were the families of Petit, Tuite, Hussey, Dalton, Delamaine, Nugent, Geneville, Nangle, Ledwich, and Con­stantine. The confiscations consequent on the wars of 1641 and 1688, in both of which the landed gentry took an active part, made very great alterations in the state of property. The landing of a French force in the west of Ireland in 1798 occasioned a partial insurrection in this county, in the course of which the armed peasantry seized