sermon was preached by Dr Lloyd, afterwards bishop of Worcester, who was himself a man of distinguished learning. His papers were left to the disposal of Tillotson, who pre­pared for the press his treatise *“ Of* the Principles and Duties of Natural Religion, two books.” Lond. 1675, 8vo. This work was very favourably received, and it reached a fifth edition in 1704. The same editor afterwards published a volume containing fifteen of the bishop’s Sermons. Lond. 1682, 8vo. In the preface he vindicated the character of this excellent prelate from some of the malignant aspersions to which it had been exposed. Wilkins was a man of a liberal and generous mind, and was as much distinguished by his amiable disposition as by his intellectual endowments. But he was the brother-in-law of Oliver Cromwell, and had subscribed the covenant ; and after the church again became triumphant, he was disposed to treat dissenters with a de­gree of Christian moderation and charity which the indo­mitable bigotry of too many churchmen could not but re­gard as truly scandalous. If the other prelates of that age had been animated with the same spirit, the church of Eng­land would not so speedily have been felt as a grievous scourge by a great proportion of its most pious and exem­plary ministers. Richard Baxter would not have been sub­jected to persecution merely for preaching the gospel with a degree of zeal and fervour scarcely equalled in that secu­larized establishment from which he had found himself compelled to separate.

WILL, that faculty of the mind by which it embraces or rejects any thing offered to it. See Metaphysics.

WILLANMEZ’S Isle, a small island off the north coast of New Britain, high in the centre, and low and wooded at the sides. Long. 149. 39. E. Lat. 5. 15. S.

WILLIAM *of* Malmesbury, an historian of considerable merit in the reign of King Stephen, but of whose life few particulars are known. According to Bale and Pitts, he was surnamed Somersetus, from the county in which he was born. From his own preface to his second book “ De Regibus Anglorum,” it appears that he was addicted to learning from his youth ; that he applied himself to the study of logic, physic, ethics, and particularly to history. He re­tired to the Benedictine convent at Malmesbury, became a monk, and was made precentor and librarian ; a situation which much favoured his intention of writing the history of the kingdom. In this monastery he spent the remainder of his life, and died in the year 1142. He is one of our most ancient and most faithful historians. His principal work is that entitled “ De Regibus Anglorum,” in five books ; with an appendix, which he styles “ Historiæ No­vell®,” in two more. It is a judicious collection of what­ever he found on record relative to England, from the inva­sion of the Saxons to his own times.

William *of* Newbury, so called from a monastery in Yorkshire, of which he was a member, wrote a history which begins at the Conquest and ends at the year 1197. His Latin style is preferred to that of Matthew Paris ; and he is entitled to particular praise for his honest regard to truth in treating the fables of Geoffrey of Monmouth with the contempt they deserve, as well as for expressing his ap­probation of Henry II.'s design of reforming the clergy, by bringing them under the regulation of the secular power.

William *of* Wykeham shop of Winchester, was born in the village of Wykeham in Hampshire in 1324. He was educated at Winchester school ; and his patron Nicholas Uvedale, governor of Winchester castle, afterwards took him into bis family, and appointed him his counsellor and secretary. He could not have made choice of a fitter per­son for that employment, no man in that age writing or speaking more politely than Wykeham. For this reason, Edington, bishop of Winchester, lord high treasurer of the kingdom, appointed him his secretary three years after, and also recommended him to King Edward III. who took him

into his service. Being skilled in geometry and architecture, he was appointed surveyor of the royal buildings, and also chief justice in evre. He superintended the building of Windsor Castle. He was afterwards chief secretary of state, and keeper of the privy seal, and in 1367 succeeded Eding­ton in the see of Winchester. A little after he was ap­pointed lord high chancellor and president of the privy council. That he might well discharge the several func­tions of his employments, both ecclesiastical and civil, he endeavoured on one hand to regulate his own life according to the strictest maxims, and to promote such parish priests only as were able to give due instructions to their parish­ioners, and at the same time led exemplary lives : on the other hand, he did all in his power to cause justice to be impartially administered. In 1371 he resigned his chan­cellorship. Edward returning to England, after having carried on a very successful war in France, found his ex­chequer in great disorder. The duke of Lancaster, one of his sons, at the head of several lords, having brought com­plaints against the clergy, who then enjoyed the chief places in the kingdom, the king removed them from their em­ployments. But the laymen who were raised to them be­haved so ill that the king was forced to restore the eccle­siastics. The duke of Lancaster showed strong animosity to the clergy, and set every engine at work to ruin Wyke­ham. He impeached him of extortion, and obliged him to appear at the King’s Bench. He got such judges ap­pointed as condemned him ; and not satisfied with depriving him of all the temporalities of his bishopric, he advised Ed­ward to banish him ; but this prince rejected the proposal and afterwards restored to Wykeham all that he had been divested of. Richard II. was but eleven years old when Edward died, so that the duke of Lancaster had an easy opportunity of reviving the accusations against the bishop of Winchester ; nevertheless Wykeham vindicated himself. He now founded two noble colleges, the one in Oxford, called New College, the other in Winchester. While he was exerting his utmost endeavours to improve these foun­dations, he was recalled to court, and in a manner forced to accept of the office of lord high chancellor in 1389. Hav­ing excellently discharged the duties of that employment for three years, he obtained leave to resign it, foreseeing the disturbances that were about to break out. Having returned to his diocese, he finished his college at Winchester, and there built so magnificent a cathedral that it almost equals that of St Paul’s in London. He laid out several sums in things advantageous to the public and to the poor, notwith­standing which, in 1397 he was in great danger, for he and some others were impeached of high treason in open parlia­ment ; however he was again fully cleared. From that time till his death he kept quiet in his diocese, and there employed himself in all the duties of a good prelate. He died in 1404, in the eighty-first year of his age.

WILLIS, Thomas, a celebrated English physician, was born at Great Bedwin, in Wiltshire, on the 27th of January 1621, and studied at Christ Church, Oxford. When that city was garrisoned for the king, he, among other scholars, bore arms for his majesty ; and he devoted his leisure hours to the study of physic. The garrison of Oxford at length sur rendering to the parliament, he applied himself to the prac­tice of his profession, and soon rendered himself famous by his care and skill. He appropriated a room as an oratory for divine service according to the church of England, whither most of the loyalists in Oxford daily resorted. In 1660, he became Sedleian professor of natural philosophy, and the same year took the degree of doctor of physic. In 1664, he discovered the famous medicinal spring at Alstrop, near Brackley. He was one of the first members of the Royal Society, and soon made his name illustrious by his excellent writings. In 1666, after the fire of London, he removed to Westminster ; and his practice became greater