than that of any of the physicians his contemporaries. He died at his house in St Martin’s, on the 11th of November 1675, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. He was justly admired for his deep insight into natural and experi­mental philosophy, anatomy, and chemistry, for his suc­cessful practice, and for the elegance and purity of his Latin style. He wrote in English “ A plain and easy Method for preserving those that are well from the Infec­tion of the Plague, and for curing such as are infected.” All his Latin works were printed in two vols. 4to, at Geneva in 1676, and at Amsterdam in 1682. His grand­son, Browne Willis, LL. D., was the author of several anti­quarian works.

WILLOUGHBY Cape, the eastern point of Kangarou island, on the south coast of New Holland. Long. 138. 13. E. Lat. 35. 48. S.

WILLUGHBY, Francis, a celebrated natural historian, was the only son of Sir Francis Willughby, and was born in 1635. He was fond of study from his childhood, and held idleness in abhorrence ; being so great an economist with regard to his time, as not willingly to lose or misapply the least part of it ; by which means he attained great skill in all branches of learning, and particularly in the mathematics. But to the history of animals, which was in a great measure neglected by his countrymen, he particularly applied him­self ; and for this purpose carefully read over what had been written on that subject by others. He prosecuted his studies in Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took the degree of A. B. in 1656, and of A. Μ. in 1659. In the following year we find him residing at Oxford for the benefit of the public library. He then travelled in search of natural knowledge, several times over his native country, and afterwards into France, Spain. Italy, Germany, and the Low Countries, at­tended by his ingenious friend John Ray. It is remarkable that, notwithstanding the advantages of birth, fortune, and parts, he was as humble as any man of the meanest fortune ; was sober, temperate, and chaste ; scrupulously just ; so true to his word and promise that a man might venture his estate and life upon it ; so faithful and constant to his friend as never to desert him when fortune frowned upon him ; and remarkably pious, patient, and submissive to the divine will. This is the character given of him by Mr Ray, whose vera­city none will doubt. This ingenious and learned gentle­man died on the 3d of July 1672, at the age of thirty-seven, having impaired his health by his application. He wrote, 1. Ornithologie libri tres, 1676, fol. It was afterwards translated into English, with an appendix, by Mr Ray. 2. Historiæ Piscium libri quatuor, 1686, fol. 3. Letters of Francis Willughby, Esq., added to Philosophical Letters between the learned Mr Ray and several of his correspon­dents, and published by Dr Derham. 4. Several ingenious papers in the Philosophical Transactions.

WILMOT, John, earl of Rochester, a great wit in the reign of Charles IL, the son of Henry earl of Rochester, was born on the 10th of April 1647, at Ditchley in Oxfordshire. He was instructed in classical learning at the free-school at Burford, where he obtained a quick relish of the beauties of the Latin tongue, and afterwards became well versed in the authors of the Augustan age. In 1659, he was admit­ted a nobleman of Wadham College, Oxford, where he was created A. M. He afterwards travelled through France and Italy, and at his return was made one of the gentlemen of the bedchamber to the king, and comptroller of Wood- stock Park. In 1665, he went to sea, and was in the Re­venge, commanded by Sir Thomas Tiddiman, when an attack was made on the port of Bergen in Norway. During the whole action he shewed the greatest resolution, and gained a high reputation for courage, which he supported in a second expedition, but afterwards lost it in a private ad­venture with Lord Mulgrave.

Before the earl of Rochester travelled, he had indulged

in the most disorderly and intemperate way of living: at his return however he seemed to have got the better of it entirely. But falling into the company of the courtiers, who continually practised these excesses, he became so sunk in debauchery that he was for five years together so addicted to drinking that during all that time he was never cool enough to be master of himself. His violent love of pleasure, and his disposition to extravagant mirth, carτied him to great excesses. The first involved him in sensuality, and the other led him into many adventures and ridiculous frolics. Once disguising himself so that he could not be known by his nearest friends, he set up in Tower-street for an Italian mountebank, and there dispersed his nos­trums for some weeks. He often disguised himself as a porter, or as a beggar, sometimes to follow a mean amour ; at other times he would go about merely for diversion in odd shapes, and acted his part so naturally that he could not be known even by his friends. In short, by his con­stant excesses, he entirely wore out an excellent constitu­tion before he was thirty years of age. In October 1679, when recovering from a violent disease which ended in a consumption, he was visited by Dr Burnet, upon an intima­tion that such a visit would be agreeable to him. Burnet published their conferences in “ Some Passages of the Life and Death of John Earl of Rochester;” from which it ap­pears, that though he had lived the life of a libertine and atheist, he died the death of a penitent Christian. His death happened on the 26th of July 1680. His Poems have been several times printed ; but when once he ob­tained the character of a lewd and obscene writer, every thing in that strain was ascribed to him ; and thus many pieces not of his writing have crept into the later editions of his works. The earl of Oxford observes, that he was “ a man whom the Muses were fond to inspire and ashamed to avow, and who practised without the least reserve that secret which can make verses more read for their defects than their merits. Lord Rochester’s poems have much more obscenity than wit, more wit than poetry, and more poetry than politeness.” Besides three daughters, the earl left an only son, Charles, who died in 1681, and thus the title became extinct.

WILNA, a government of the division called West Russia, of the Russian empire in Europe. It was formerly a portion of Lithuania, till the first division of Poland. In its present state, it extends in north latitude from 53° 32' to 56° 24', and in east longitude from 20° 54' to 26° 33'. It is bounded on the north by Courland, on the north-east by Witebsk, on the east by Minsk, on the south by Grodno, on the south-west by the kingdom of Poland, on the west by Prussia, and on the north-west by the Baltic Sea. It comprehends 23,782 square miles, divided into thirteen circles, in which are eleven large cities, 156 smaller cities or market-towns, and 1536 villages, with 1,357,400 inhabi­tants. These being of Polish origin, for the most part ad­here to the Romish faith ; but there are a few Protestant churches both of the Lutheran and Calvinist confession. Jews are numerous, and constitute the greater part of the middle classes in all the cities and towns. They are esti­mated to form one seventh part of the whole population.

The face of the country is generally level, with but few undulations, none of the hills rising to the height of 300 feet above the level of the sea. The lower portions are for the most part swamps and morasses, and the higher portions chiefly covered with forests. The Baltic Sea has no ports within this government, and the sand-banks on the shore nearly render it inaccessible to ships. The river Duna touches one part, by which there is a communication with the sea, as well as by the Niemen. These two rivers re­ceive the waters of the several small streams with which the province abounds. All these rivers have a slow course, and some of them in their progress form extensive morasses,