especially on the east and south-east part of the province. In some cases they form lakes, such as the lake of Norosetz near the city of Wilna, and those of Drissewatty and of Braslau. The climate is not the mildest ; the winters, though short, are severely cold, the spring and autumn moist and foggy, and even the summer, though warm, is by no means unclouded. It is however tolerably healthy, with no peculiar diseases, unless the Plica Polonica can be called peculiar, a complaint to be found in all parts of Po­land, though everywhere now diminishing in frequency of occurrence.

The chief occupation is agriculture, and from it the in­habitants obtain rather more grain than they consume, and increase the quantity yearly by clearing the woods and con­verting them into arable land. The chief corn is rye, the next in quantity are wheat and barley, besides which oats, buck-wheat, and pulse are grown. Hemp and flax succeed well, and hops are cultivated sifficient for the breweries. The implements of agriculture are of the rudest kind. Manure is but little applied, but when the land becomes exhausted it is suffered to rest for a few years, and new land is broken up. The horses are a small and weak race, and the horned cattle, the goats, the sheep, and the swine are equally bad. The forests supply much timber for commerce, and yield pitch, tar, and charcoal, and the furs of wolves, bears, martens, and other wild animals. There are no mines, or at least there is none worked, but there are valuable quarries, yield­ing granite, limestone, agates, flints, chalcedony, and some marble.

The manufactures are almost exclusively of the domestic kind ; but the distilleries are numerous and on a large scale, and some of the spirits which they yield is smuggled over the Prussian frontier. The commerce is merely the export of a small portion of the product of the soil, and the import of a few foreign luxuries.

The capital is the city of Wilna, in the circle of its name. It stands on the river Wilia, where that stream falls into the Wileija. It is surrounded with walls, is the seat of the governor, of a catholic bishop, and of the Lutheran con­sistory and superintendent. It has also a university, which had the power of granting degrees in the four faculties of divinity, law, philosophy, and medicine, but, since the late insurrection, has been restricted to the last of these branches. It was before that period frequented by 400 students. Wil­na is built in the ancient fashion, with narrow and crookcd streets ; but has still some magnificent palaces of the noble fa­milies of the province, who usually passed the winters there. It contains thirty-five Catholic churches, including an old cathedral, and the palace chapel, a most expensive building, and highly admired for one altar in it, dedicated to St Ka­simir. It has also three churches for the Greeks, and one each for Lutherans and Calvinists, besides a mosque and Jews’ synagogue. It contained, before the calamitous events of 1831 and 1832, nearly 30,000 inhabitants. A very large proportion of them were and still are Jews. The trade and manufactures are inconsiderable, although the river Wileija is navigable to the Baltic Sea. It is 624 miles from St Petersburg. Long. 25. 11. 22. E. Lat. 54. 41. 2. N.

WILSON, Alexander, the American ornithologist, was born at Paisley, in Scotland, on the 6th of July 1766. His father was a hand-loom weaver, and he himself followed the same trade. His education was more liberal than that of many in similar circumstances. Some poems which he published, especially those written in the Scotish dialect, possess great merit. In 1794 he emigrated to the United States, where, after working for some time as a weaver, he betook himself to the not less laborious but more refined employment of schoolmaster. For *a* series of years his time was occupied in that country with various studies, such as mathematics, the German language, music, draw­ing, and, above all, natural history. At length he resolved to devote himself entirely to ornithology, and, at whatever hazard, to form a collection of all the birds of the United States. For this he was eminently qualified. In the words of his American biographer, “ he was not only an enthusi­astic admirer of the works of creation, but he was consistent in research, and permitted no dangers or fatigues to abate his ardour or relax his exertions. He inured himself to hardships by frequent and laborious exercise, and was never more happy than when employed in some enterprise which promised, from its difficulties, the novelties of discovery. Whatever was obtained with ease appeared to him com­paratively uninteresting : the acquisitions of labour alone seemed worthy of his ambition. He was no closet philoso­pher ; he was indebted for his ideas, not to books, but to nature....His powers of observation were acute, and his judgment seldom erred. That his industry was great, his work will ever testify ; and our astonishment may well be excited that so much should have been performed in so short a time. A single individual, without patron, fortune, or recompense, accomplished, in the short space of seven years, as much as the combined body of Euro­pean naturalists have taken a century to achieve. The col­lection and discovery of these birds were the fruits of many months of unwearied research amongst forests, swamps, and morasses, exposed to all the dangers, privations, and fatigues incident to such an undertaking. What but a remarkable passion for the pursuit, joined with an ardent desire of fame, could have supported a solitary individual in labours of body and mind, compared to which the bustling avocations of common life are mere holiday activity or recreation ?” With regard to the literary merit of his “ American Ornithology,” passages occur in the prefaces and descriptions, which, for elegance of language, graceful ease, and graphic power, can scarcely be surpassed. In America he composed various poetical pieces. The longest of these, “ The Foresters,” a narrative in verse of a pedestrian journey performed by himself and two friends to the Falls of Niagara, is decidedly superior to any of a descriptive kind which he had written in Scotland, manifesting great improvement both in his taste and his power of composition. In personal appear­ance Wilson was tall, handsome, and vigorous ; but adapted as his frame was for a life of activity, it gradually gave way under the accumulated and harassing toils to which he was subjected, and he died of dysentery at Philadelphia on the 23d of August 1813, in the forty-eighth year of his age, when the publication of his great work, which appeared in volumes, was nearly completed. Strong good sense, high moral worth, and a lofty spirit of independence, were the characteristic features of his mind. With the feelings of a poet, he had few of the defects that often cling to the poetic character.

Wilson, *Florence,* better known by his classical ap­pellation of *Florentius Volusenus,* was born about the year 1500. He is supposed to have been born on the banks of the river Lossie, near Elgin, and to have received a part of his education in the university of Aberdeen. He afterwards prosecuted his studies at Paris, and was there employed as tutor to a son of Cardinal Wolsey’s brother. Such an appointment might have led to much higher honour and emolument ; but the death of the cardinal, which took place in 1530, compelled him to search for new employment. Another cardinal, Jean de Lorraine, encouraged him in the pursuit of learning, by assigning to him an annual pension, of which however the amount was probably small, nor does it appear to have been punctually paid. He likewise ob­tained the favour of Jean du Bellay, bishop of Paris ; and in the year 1534, when that prelate was employed on an embassy to Rome, Wilson was included in his train, and had proceeded as far as Avignon, when he was detained by a malady which compelled him to relinquish his engage­ment. In addition to his bodily ailments, he had now to