and even of all abbots. There were five subordinate priories belonging to St Andrews ; namely, those of St Serf in the *inch* or isle of Lochleven, Portmoak on the northern bank of the same lake, both in the county of Kinross, Pitten- weem in the neighbouring county of Fife, the isle of May near the termination of the Firth of Forth, and Monymusk in the county of Aberdeen. In the isle of Lochleven there was a very ancient religious house belonging to the Cul­dees, for whom the canons regular of St Augustin were afterwards substituted by the bishop of St Andrews. The beautiful and romantic situation of this priory furnished a very suitable abode for a poet ; and here Winton must chiefly have resided during a considerable part of his life. In the Chartulary of the Priory of St Andrews, which is now printed, there are several documents bearing the name of Andrew Winton as prior of Lochleven between the years 1395 and 1413 ; but his life must have been prolonged se­veral years after this last date, for he mentions the death of Robert duke of Albany, an event which happened in 1420. In the prologue to the last book of his chronicle, he expresses his anticipation of a speedy dissolution.

His Orygynale Cronykil of Scotland was undertaken at the suggestion of Sir John Wemyss, ancestor of the noble family of that name.

This tretys sympylly

I made at the instans of a larde That hade my serwys in his warde, Schyr Jhone of the Wemya be rycht name, Ane honest knycht and of gude fame.

Winton’s chronicle, while it yet remained in manuscript, was not entirely neglected by more curious enquirers : it was quoted by Selden, a writer of prodigious research, who was not however acquainted with the author’s name ; it afforded some useful information to Ruddiman for his edi­tion of Buchanan, and to Innes for his Critical Essay on the Ancient Inhabitants of Scotland ; nor was it completely overlooked by Lord Hailes and Mr Pinkerton. Of that portion which relates more immediately to Scotish affairs, a splendid edition was at length published by the late David Macpherson, who has added a copious glossary, a series of valuable annotations, and other useful appendages.@@1 It may safely be affirmed that none of our ancient writers has yet been edited in a more faithful and judicious man­ner. The basis of his text is the Royal MS. in the British Museum : this appears to have been transcribed for George Barclay of Achrody, and its date is supposed to be at least as early as the year 1430; but he likewise had recourse to several other manuscripts, belonging to the same insti­tution and to the Advocates Library.@@®

The chronicle of Winton is valuable as a specimen of the literary taste and attainments of our ancestors at a very remote period, but it is still more valuable as a repository of historical information, and as a delineation of ancient manners. His simple pages present to our view many cu­rious prospects of society ; and with a perseverance of in­dustry which had numerous difficulties to encounter, he has collected and preserved many anecdotes that tend to illus­trate the history of his native country. He divides his work into nine books, “ in honour of the orders nine of holy angels.” Although he merely professes to wτite an original chronicle of Scotland, yet, like other Gothic chro­niclers, he presents his readers with an outline of the an­cient history of the world. Towards the beginning of his work, he treats of the nature of angels, the creation of the world, the death of Abel, the generations of Cain and Seth,

the primeval race of giants, the situation of India, Egypt, Africa, Europe, Britain, Ireland, and divers other countries, the confusion of tongues, and the origin of poetry and idolatry. One chapter he devotes to the history of the Amazons, and another to that of Samson. After com­mencing in so hopeful a manner, he continues to amass an immense pile of lumber, till having completed five books in this pantographical spirit, he at last confines himself more soberly to his proper subject. The adoption of such a plan is not to be considered as peculiar to the author : Winton follows the models which at that period were generally ap­proved ; and the Latin chronicle of Fordun, who was near­ly contemporary, is composed of the same heterogeneous materials. (x.)

WIRE, a piece of metal drawn through the hole of an iron into a thread of a fineness answering to the hole it passed through. Wires are frequently drawn so fine as to be wrought along with other threads of silk, wool, flax, &c. The metals most commonly drawn into wire are gold, silver, copper, and iron. Gold wire is made of cylindrical ingots of silver, covered over with a skin of gold, and thus drawn successively through a vast number of holes, each smaller and smaller, till at last it is brought to a fineness exceeding that of a hair. That admirable ductility which makes one of the distinguishing characters of gold, is nowhere more con­spicuous than in this gilt wire. A cylinder of forty-eight ounces of silver, covered with a coat of gold only weighing one ounce, as Dr Halley informs us, is usually drawn into a wire, two yards of which weigh no more than one grain ; whence ninety-eight yards of the wire weigh no more than forty-nine grains, and one single grain of gold covers the ninety-eight yards ; so that the ten thousandth part of a grain is above one eighth of an inch long.

WIRSWORTH, a market-town of the county of Derby, in the hundred of its own name, 139 miles from London and twelve from the town of Derby. It is situated in a mining district, where it is the chief object to procure lead ore, and the silver frequently combined with it. The prin­cipal occupation is connected with the various processes of preparing these metals for use. There are laws regulating the mining, which are here administered by a court con­sisting of a steward and bar-mast, which has two sessions annually. In the neighbourhood, many millstones and grindstones are drawn from the quarries. Here are two springs, one hot, the other cold, so near together that a man may put a hand in each at the same time. There is a good market on Tuesday, and two fairs yearly. The population amounted in 1821 to 3787, and in 1831 to 4082; but the parish comprehends ten hamlets and townships be­sides, whose inhabitants amounted in 1831 to 7754.

WISBEACH, a town of the county of Cambridge, in the Isle of Ely, eighty-nine miles from London. It is a port, standing on a branch of the Ouse communicating with Lynn. The country around is rich, producing much corn, a great part of which is sold at the market, and after­wards shipped to other parts of the kingdom. The sessions for the Isle of Ely, which is an exempt jurisdiction, are held at this place. It is deemed unhealthy. The population amounted in 1821 to 6515, and in 1831 to 7253.

WISBY, a city of Sweden, the capital of the province and island of that name, or, as it is sometimes called, Gott- land. It is situated on the western side of the island, was formerly a Hanse town, and a place of great trade. It is for­tified, is rather irregularly built, but of stone, and in the style of the ancient German seaports. The harbour is not

@@@, The orygynale Cronykil of Scotland, be Λndrow of Wyntown, Priowr of Sanct Serfis Yncbe in Loch Levyn, &c. Lond. 1795, 2 vols. 4to & 8vo.

@@@s Of Winton's chronicle a considerable number of MSS. is mentioned by Macpherson, but several others are known to be preserved. There is one in the Lansdowne collection, lately added to the British Museum, another in the library of the university of St Andrews, and a third in that of Captain Wemyss of Wemyss.