

fake of their monastery, were made denisons of all England (London excepted) by King John.

ABERDEEN, the name of two cities in Scotland, called the *Old* and *New Towns*, situated on the German Ocean, in 1 45. W. lon. and 57. 11. N. lat.

The old town lies about a mile to the north of the new, at the mouth of the river Don, over which is a fine bridge, of a single arch, which rests at both sides on two rocks. The old town was formerly the seat of the bishop, and had a large cathedral church, commonly called *St Machers*. This cathedral had anciently two rows of stone pillars across the church, and three turrets; the steeple, which was the largest of these turrets, rested upon an arch, supported by four pillars. In this cathedral there was a fine library; but about the year 1560 it was almost totally destroyed.

But the capital building is the King's-college, on the fourth side of the town, which is a large and stately fabric. The steeple is vaulted with a double cross arch, above which is an imperial crown, supported by eight stone pillars, and closed with a globe and two gilded crosses. In the year 1631 this steeple was thrown down by a storm, but was soon after rebuilt in a more stately form. This college was founded by Bishop Elphinston in the year 1500; but James IV. claimed the patronage of it, and it has since been called the *King's College*. This college, and the Marishall-college in the new town, form one university, called the *University of King Charles*.

The new town is the capital of the shire of Aberdeen. For largeness, trade, and beauty, it greatly exceeds any town in the North. It stands upon a hill or rising ground. The buildings are generally four stories high, and have, for the most part, gardens behind them, which gives it a beautiful appearance. On the high street is a large church, which formerly belonged to the Franciscans. This church was begun by Bp William Elphinston, and finished by Gavinus Dunbar, Bishop of Aberdeen, about the 1500. Bp Dunbar is said likewise to have built the bridge over the Dee, which consists of seven arches. The chief public building in the new town is the Marishall-college, founded by George Keith Earl of Marshall, in the year 1593; but has since been greatly augmented with additional buildings. In both the Marishall and King's-college the languages, mathematics, natural philosophy, divinity, &c. are taught by very able professors.

ABERDOUR, a small town in Fifeshire, Scotland, on the frith of Forth, about ten miles N. W. of Edinburgh.

ABERGAVENY, in Monmouthshire, England, a well-built town, lying 142 miles W. by N. of London, in 51. 50. N. lat. and 36. 5. W. lon. This town consists of about 500 houses, has a weekly market on the Tuesdays, and another on the Fridays; and three fairs for horses, sheep, and black cattle.

ABERMURDER, an old law-term for murder, proved in a judicial manner, which could not be atoned for with money.

ABERRATION, in astronomy, a small apparent motion of the fixed stars, first discovered by Dr Bradley

and Mr Mollineux, and found to be owing to the progressive motion of light, and the earth's annual motion in its orbit. If a lucid object be fixed, and the eye of the observer moving along in any other direction than that of a straight line from the eye to the object, it is plain, that the object must have an apparent motion, greater or less, according to the velocity with which the eye is moved, and the distance of the object from the eye. See **ASTRONOMY**.

ABERRATION, in optics, a deviation of the rays of light which prevents their uniting in the same focal point, and is occasioned by their being refracted by a spherical lens, or reflected by a spherical speculum. See **OPTICS**.

ABERYSWITH, a market-town in Wales, lying 199 miles W. S. W. of London, in 52. 30. N. lat. and 40. 15. W. long.

ABESTA, the name of one of the sacred books of the Persian magi, which they ascribe to their great founder Zoroaster. The abesta is a commentary on two others of their religious books called *Zend* and *Pazend*; the three together including the whole system of the Ignicold, or worshippers of fire.

ABESTON, a blundering way of writing Abestus. See **ABESTUS**.

ABETTOR, a law-term, implying one who encourages another to the performance of some criminal action, or who is art and part in the performance itself. Treason is the only crime in which abettors are excluded by law, every individual concerned being considered as a principal. It is the same with *art and part* in the Scots law.

ABEVACUATION, in medicine, a gentle evacuation. See **EVACUATION**.

ABEX, the name of a large tract of land, lying along the west coast of the Red-sea, south of Egypt, subject to the Ottoman Porte.

ABEYANCE, in law, the expectancy of an estate. Thus if lands be leased to one person for life, with reversion to another for years, the remainder for years is an abeyance till the death of the lessee.

ABHEL, in botany, an obsolete name of the fabina or savin. See **JUNIPER** and **SABINA**.

ABIB, signifying an ear of corn, a name given by the Jews to the first month of their ecclesiastical year, afterwards called *Nisan*. It commenced at the vernal equinox, and, according to the course of the moon, by which their months were regulated, answered to the latter part of our March, and beginning of April.

ABIDING by a writing, in Scots law: When a person founds upon a writing alledged to be false, he may be obliged to declare judicially, whether he will stand or abide by it as a true deed. As to the consequences of abiding by, or passing from, a false deed, see **SCOTS LAW**, title, *Crimes*.

ABIES, the fir-tree, in botany, belongs to the monœcia monadelphia class of Linnæus. For its characters, see **Pinus**, of which it is a species.

ABIGEAT, an old law-term, denoting the crime of stealing cattle by droves or herds. This crime was more severely punished than *furtum*, the delinquent being