

- Valmy**, a village, dep. Marne, N.E. Chalons-sur-Marne. The Generals Dumouriez and Kellermann, September 20, 1792, gained there an important victory over the Prussians.
- Vannes**, a French seaport town, cap. dep. Morbihan (prov. Brittany).
- Varennés** (en Argonne), dep. Meuse, 16 m. W.N.W. of Verdun; here Louis XVI. and his family were detected and seized in their attempted flight, June 20, 1791.
- Vauban** (the Count of), a French Royalist; was a descendant of the Marquis of Vauban, the great military engineer under Louis XIV.; took part in the expedition against Quiberon; died in 1816.
- Vendée**, formerly a division of the prov. Poitou, in the W., now a maritime dep. on the Atlantic; it was during the Republic the stronghold of the Royalists.
- Verdun**, a fortified town, dep. Meuse, 28 m. N. of Bar-le-Duc, on the Meuse, which here becomes navigable; it was taken by the Prussians in 1792.
- Vergniaud**, one of the chiefs of the Girondist Party; a brilliant orator; with Gensonné and Guadet he opposed the sanguinary violence of Robespierre and the Jacobins; sentenced to death by the Revolutionary Tribunal; was executed October 31, 1793, with Gensonné and twenty other Girondists. *The Girondists* (Girondins) were a moderate Republican Party; they struggled against the Jacobins and Montagnards (Marat and Robespierre), who formed a party of fanatic demagogues; in spite of their bravery and eloquence, they were overwhelmed by their enemies; the name "Girondins" was given them from the fact that several of their leaders were deputies from the dep. Gironde, cap. Bordeaux.
- Vérone** (Verona), a fortified city in Venetia, N. Italy, on the river Adige.
- Versailles**, cap. dep. of Seine-et-Oise, 10 m. S.W. Paris; was but a village till Louis XIV. spent immense sums of money to make it his residence, 1672; Leveau, Jules Hardouin-Mansard, Lebrun, Lenôtre, &c., &c., contributed to make it worthy of the magnificence of their master; it has been since the "Commune," 1871, the seat of the Government. In the Place Hoche is to be seen the bronze statue of Lazare Hoche, by Lemaire, with the following inscription:—"Hoche—né à Versailles le 24 juin, 1768—soldat à 16 ans, général en chef à 25 ans, mort à 29 ans,—pacificateur de la Vendée."
- Villaret de Joyeuse**, a French seaman; fought under the Bailli de Suffren; was defeated before Brest by Admiral Howe; was at the head of the expedition against San Domingo; died in 1812.
- Vosges**, a range of mountains N.E. France; commences on the limits of the depts. Haute-Saône, Haut-Rhine, and Doubs, and ends in Germany on the left bank of the Rhine, near Mainz (Mayence).
- Warren** (Sir John Borlase), an eminent English naval officer; captured some French ships which had been sent by Hoche with troops to land in Ireland; was appointed Admiral in 1810; died in 1822.