

DICTIONARY OF DATES.

AARGAU.

AARGAU (Switzerland), formerly included in Berne, was made an independent canton in 1803, and settled as such in 1815. It was much disturbed by religious dissensions in 1841; and the expulsion of the Jesuits was demanded in 1844.

ABACUS, the tile on the capital of a column. That on the Corinthian column is ascribed to Callimachus, about 540 B.C.—This name is also given to a frame traversed by stiff wires, on which beads were strung, used for calculating by the Greeks, Romans, and Chinese. M. Lalanne published an **ANACRS** at Paris in 1845.—The multiplication table has been called the Pythagorean abacus.

ABANCAY, a river in Peru, on the banks of which the Spanish marshal Almagro defeated and took prisoner Alvarado, a partisan of Pizarro, 12 July, 1537.

ABATTOIRS, slaughter-houses for cattle. In 1810 Napoleon decreed that five should be erected near Paris, which were opened in 1818. One was erected at Edinburgh in 1851, and they form part of the new London metropolitan cattle-market, opened on 13 June, 1855.

ABBASSIDES, descendants of Mahomet's uncle, Abbas-Ben-Abdul-Motalleb. Merwan II., the last of the Omniades, was defeated and slain by Abul Abbas in 750, and became caliph. Thirty-seven Abbasside caliphs (including Haroun al Raschid, 786-800) reigned from 750 to 1258. They settled at Bagdad, built by Al-Mansour about 762. Their colour was black; that of the Fatimites being green, and that of the Omniades white.

ABBAYE, a military prison near St. Germain des Prés, Paris, where 164 prisoners were murdered by infuriated republicans led by Maillard, 2 and 5 Sept. 1792.

ABBEVILLE, N. France. Here Henry III. met Louis IX. of France and made peace, renouncing his right to Normandy and other provinces, 20 May, 1259.

ABBEYS, monasteries for men or women; see *Monachism* and *Convents*. The first abbey founded in England was at Bangor in 500; in France, at Poitiers, about 360; in Ireland in the fifth century; in Scotland in the sixth century. 110 alien priories were suppressed in England, 2 Henry V. 1414. *Salmun*. The gross disorders in these establishments occasioned their destruction in these estates. Visitation of inquiry, king Henry VIII. commenced the suppression of small monasteries to raise revenues for Wolsey's colleges at Oxford and Ipswich, 7 June, 1525; many small monasteries were

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suppressed in 1536; and all religious houses were suppressed throughout the realm by parliament, 1539-40:—180 large monasteries (revenue 104,919*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*), 374 less monasteries (revenue 33,479*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*), and 48 houses of the knights hospitaliers (revenue 2385*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*); total, houses, 608; estimated revenue, 140,784*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* *Tanner*. The Anglo-Norman revolt society for the publication of the early chartularies and charters of the Norman and English abbays was founded by the duke of Norfolk and others, 9 June, 1803. Abbays were suppressed in Austria (by Joseph II.) in 1780, in France in 1790, in Portugal in 1834, in Sardinia in 1855, in Mexico in 1861, in Spain in 1837 and 1868, and in Italy in July, 1866, and April, 1873.

ABBOT (from *Ab*, father), the head of an abbey. In England, mitred abbots were lords of parliament; twenty-seven abbots and two priors thus distinguished, 1329; the number reduced to twenty-five, 1396. *Coke*. The abbots of Reading, Glastonbury, and St. John's, Colechester, were executed as traitors for denying the king's supremacy, probably for not surrendering their abbays, 1539; see *Glastonbury*.

ABBOT'S RIPTON, see *Railway Accidents*, 1876.

ABC CLUB, a name adopted by certain republican enthusiasts in Paris, professing to relieve the *abaissés*, or depressed. Their insurrection 5 June, 1832, was suppressed with bloodshed, 6 June. These events are described by Victor Hugo in "*Les Misérables*" (1802).

ABDICATIONS of sovereigns, voluntary or compulsory, have been numerous:—

Sylla, Roman dictator	B.C. 79
Diocletian, Roman emperor	A.D. 305
Stephen II., of Hungary	1131
Albert, the Bear of Brandenburg	1142
Leszcy V., of Poland	1206
Uladislaus III., of Poland	1206
John Balliol, of Scotland	1299
Otho (of Bavaria), of Hungary	1439
Eric IX., of Denmark, &c.	1449
Pyre Felix V.	1555
Charles V., as emperor of Germany	1559
as Charles I. king of Spain	1604
Christina, of Sweden	1669
John Casimir, of Poland	1668
James II., of England	1704
Frederick Augustus II., of Poland	1724
Philip V. of Spain (resumed)	1730
Victor Amadeus, of Sardinia	1759
Charles, of Naples	1795
Stanislaus, of Poland	1802
Charles Emmanuel II., of Sardinia	1802