

NEW BOOKS.

Military Antiquities respecting a History of the English Army, from the Conquest to the present Time. By Francis Grose, Esq. F. A. S. 2 vols. 4to. 4l. 4s. Hooper.

THE high degree of estimation in which the literature of Great-Britain is held in all the polished nations of Europe, must make every well-wisher to this country sincerely rejoice, when any new acquisition of distinguished importance adds fresh reputation to the British press. It is therefore with peculiar satisfaction that we enter upon a general review of this useful and entertaining work, the completion of which must have required the constant and combined exertions of ingenuity, unremitted application, and determined perseverance.

We consider it as a new acquisition, because we know of no regular history of the military art in Britain, traced from its origin under the first permanent establishment of civil government, and carried down to the present time, in due chronological order, prior to this valuable publication. In general, the labours of the most studious and learned Antiquaries have been but little attended to by the bulk of mankind; the science to which they have perhaps devoted the greatest part of a long life, being considered as abstruse, uncertain, and for the most part unprofitable to the community: And, to say the truth, this popular opinion seems to have been well founded, while the most painful researches into the remote periods of Antiquity served only to gratify idle curiosity, to propagate speculative ideas, and to uphold endless controversies concerning frivolous and uninteresting objects.

But when the diligent enquiries and accurate observations of the judicious and well informed Antiquary are directed to subjects of the first magnitude, such as the illustration of any art or science in which the great body of the nation is deeply interested, and when both information and instruction are the result of his labours, society may be as much benefited by this branch of literature as by any other.

With this view Capt. Grose seems to have formed a general plan to bring forward the Antiquities of his native country, for the purpose of throwing new lights on its civil history; and that part of his design which he has long since successfully executed, is a convincing proof of the utility of such an undertaking.

In the work now under consideration, the scheme is extended to such military Antiquities as serve for the basis and illustration of a history of the English army.

An advertisement prefixed to Vol. I. gives a satisfactory account of the methodical arrangement and contents of the two volumes, from which we have taken the following heads.

A brief account of the Anglo-Saxon army before the battle of Hastings. The general outlines of that part of the feudal system which respects military service, instituted by William I. The constitutional force of this kingdom shortly after the Norman invasion, with the subsequent regulations relative thereto. Of stipendiary, or mercenary troops. Of troops, provision, and munition, levied by the Royal Prerogative.

The modes of summoning the military tenants. The forms of assembling the *posse comitatus*. Of embodying and arming the clergy. Commissions of array. Methods of engaging for troops by indenture, and other occasional expedients practised for levying soldiers in cases of emergency.

The different kinds of troops of which our armies have from time to time been composed. Their arms offensive and defensive, the division of the ancient forces into troops and companies, the number and denomination of their officers, with the successive alterations to the present time.

The general field and staff officers of different ranks. The ancient manner of mustering the troops, and appreciating the horses of the cavalry, with the prices allowed for them.

The pay of the officers and soldiers at different periods. Cloathing, quarters, castrametation, colours, standards, and military music, exercise, evolutions and manœuvres.

Administration of justice, and the various manners of trying military delinquents. The military laws and ordonnances of different reigns. Observations on the present articles of war. Military rewards and punishments.

ARTILLERY.—The ancient machines used for projecting darts and stones, their construction, power and ranges. The machines impelled by human force. Those contrived for covering troops employed in a siege. The Greek fire, and other artificial fire works.

GUNPOWDER, with an investigation of the time when, and by whom it was invented. Proportions observed at differ-