**from Old Caſtile.** W. Long. 1. 59**.** N. Lat. 43. 23.— The capital of Braſil in South America is likewiſe call­ed *Sebaſtian.*

SEB ASTJANO, called *Del Piombo,* from an office in the lead mines given him by Pope Clement VII. was an eminent Venetian painter, born in 1485. He was firſt a diſciple of old Giovanni Bellino; continued his ſtudies under Giorgione; and having attained an excellent manner of colouring, went to Rome, where he inſinuated himſelf into the favour of Michael Ange­lo. He has the name of being the firſt who invented the art of preparing plaſter-walls for oil-painting; but was ſo ſlow and lazy in his work, that other hands were often employed to finiſh what he began. He died in 1547.

SEBESTEN, in botany. See Cordia.

SEBUÆI, a ſect among the ancient Samaritans, whom St Epiphanius accuſes of changing the time expreſſed in the law, for the celebration of the great an­nual feaſts of the Jews,

SEBURAI, **Seburæi,** a name which the Jews give to ſuch of their rabbins or doctors as lived and taught ſome time after the finiſhing of the Talmud.

SECACUL, in the materia medica of the ancients, a name given by Avicenna, Serapion, and others, to a root which was like ginger, and was brought from the Eaſt Indies, and uſed as a provocative to venery. The interpreters of their works have rendered this word *iringo;* and hence ſome have ſuppoſed that our *eryngium* or *eryngo* was the root meant by it: but this does not appear to be the caſe on a ſtrict inquiry, and there is ſome reaſon to believe that the famous root, at this time called *gin*ſ*eng,* was what they meant.

SECALE, **Rye,** in botany: A genus of the digynia order, belonging to the triandria claſs of plants; and in the natural method ranking under the 4th order, *Gra­mina.* The calyx is a glume of two leaves, which are oppoſite to one another, erect, linear, pointed, and leſs than the corolla. The corolla conſiſts of two valves, the exterior of which ends in a beard. There are four ſpecies, the *villoſum, orientale, creticum,* and *cereale*. The *villoſum,* or wood rye-graſs, is diſtinguiſhed by a calyx with wedge-ſhaped ſcales, and by the fringe of the glume being wooly. The glumes of the *orientale* are ſhaggy, and the ſcales of the calyx ſhaped like an awl. The glumes of the *creticum* are fringed on the outſide. The *cereale,* or common rye, has glumes with rough fringes. It is a native of the iſland of Candia, was introduced into England many ages ago, and is the only ſpecies of rye cultivated in this kingdom. There are, however, two varieties, the winter and ſpring rye.

The winter rye, which is larger in the grain than the ſpring rye, is ſown in autumn at the ſame time with wheat, and ſometimes mixed with it; but as the rye ripens ſooner than the wheat, this method muſt be very exceptionable. The ſpring rye is ſown along with the oats, and uſually ripens as ſoon as the winter rye; but the grain produced is lighter, and it is therefore ſeldom ſown except where the autumnal crop has failed.

Rye is commonly ſown on poor, dry, limeſtone, or

ſandy ſoils, where wheat will not thrive. By continu­ing to ſow it on ſuch a ſoil for two or three years, it will at length ripen a month earlier than that which has been raiſed for years on ſtrong cold ground.

Rye is commonly uſed for bread either alone or mix­ed with wheat. This mixture is called *meſlin,* and was formerly a very common crop in ſome parts of Britain. Mr Marſhall tells us, that the farmers in Yorkſhire be­lieve that this mixed crop is never affected by mildew, and that a ſmall quantity of rye ſown among wheat will prevent this deſtructive diſeaſe. Rye is much uſed for bread in ſome parts of Sweden and Norway by the poor people. About a century ago rye-bread was alſo much uſed in England; but being made of a black kind of rye, it was of the ſame colour, clammy, very detergent, and conſequently not ſo nouriſhing as wheat.

Rye is ſubject to a diſeaſe which the French call *er­got,* and the Engliſh *horned rye;* which ſometimes happens when a very hot ſummer ſucceeds a rainy ſpring. According to Tiſſot, horned rye is ſuch as ſuffers an irregular vegetation in the middle ſubſtance between the grain and the leaf, producing an excreſcence of a browniſh colour, about an inch and a half long, and two-tenths of an inch broad. Bread made of this kind of rye has a nauſeous acrid taſte, and produces ſpaſmodic and gangrenous diſorders. In 1596, an epidemic diſeaſe prevailed in Heſſe, which the phyſicians aſcribed to bread made of horned rye. Some, we are told, were ſeized with an epilepſy, and theſe ſeldom ever re­covered; others became lunatic, and continued ſtupid the reſt of their lives: thoſe who apparently-recovered had annual returns of their diſorder in January and Fe­bruary; and the diſeaſe was ſaid to be contagious at lead in a certain degree. The facts which we have now mentioned are taken from a work of Tiffot, which was never printed. The ſame diſeaſe was occaſioned by the uſe of this bread in ſeveral parts of the conti­nent in the years 1648, 1675, 1702, 1716, 1722, and 1736; and has been very minutely deſcribed by Hoff­man, A. O. Goelicke, Vater Burghart, and J. A. Srink.

In the year 1709, one fourth part of all the rye raiſed in the province of Salonia in France was horn­ed, and the ſurgeon to the hoſpital of Orleans had no leſs than 500 patients under his care that were diſtempered by eating it: They were called *ergots,* from *er­got @@***(a),** the French name for horned rye; they confin­ed chiefly of men and boys, the number of women and girls being very ſmall. The firſt ſymptom was a kind of drunkenneſs, then the local diſorder began in the toes, and thence extended ſometimes to the thigh, and the trunk itſelf, even after amputation, which is a good argument againſt that operation before the gan­grene is ſtopped.

In the year 1710, the celebrated Fontenelle deſcribes a caſe in the Hiſtory of the Academy of Sciences of France, which exactly reſembles that of the poor fa­mily at Wattiſham. A peaſant at Blois, who had eaten horned rye in bread, was ſeized with a mortification, which firſt cauſed all the toes of one foot to fall off,

**@@@(a)** *Ergot* is French for a cock’s ſpur, and horned rye was called *ergot* from the reſemblance of its excreſcence to that pact,