the lower age; thought to have been formerly called *Novio­dunum* (Cæsar), is now called *Soiſſons.*

SUET, Sevum, or *Sebum,* in anatomy, the ſolid fat found in ſeveral animals, as ſheep, oxen, &c. but not in the human ſpecies. See the article Fat.—It is of the ſevum that tal­low is made.

SUETONIUS tranquillus (Caius), a famous Latin hiſtorian, was born at Rome, and became ſecretary to the emperor Adrian, about the 118th year of the Chriſtian era; but that poſt was taken from him three years after, when ſeveral persons fell under that prince’s diſpleaſure for not ſhowing the empreſs Sabina all the reſpect ſhe deſerved. During his diſgrace he composed many works, which are lost. Thoſe now extant are his Hiſtory of the XII firſt Emperors, and a part of his Treatiſe of the Illuſtrious Grammarians and Rhetoricians. Pliny the Younger was his intimate friend, and perſuaded him to publish his books. His Hiſtory of the XII Roman Emperors has been much commended by moſt of our polite ſcholars. He repreſents, in a continued series of curious and inteeſting particulars, without any digreſſions or reflections, the actions of the emperors, without omitting their vices, which he expoſes with all their deformity, and with the ſame freedom men­tions the good qualities of the very ſame persons ; but the horrid diſſoluteneſs and obſcene actions he relates of Tibe­rius, Caligula, Nero, &c. have made ſome ſay, that he wrote the lives of the emperors with the ſame licentiouſneſs with which they lived. The edition of this hiſtory procured by Grævius at Utrecht in 1672, with the excellent Commen­taries of Torrentius and Caſaubon, and the notes oſ ſome other learned critics, is much eſteemed. Burman alſo publiſhed an edition in two vols 4to with notes.

SUEVI, the Catti or Chatti of Cæsar (Strabo), placed on the Rhine : the reaſon of Caeſar’s calling them thus does not appear, though conſiderably diſtant from the proper Suevi or Alemanni.

Suevi (Tacitus), a common name of the people ſituated between the Elbe and the Viſtula, diſtinguished otherwise by particular names ; as in Ptolemy, *Suevi Angeli, Sue­vi Sennones.*

SUEVUS (anc. geog.), a river of Germany, thought to be the ſame with the Viadrus or Oder, emptying itſelf at three mouths into the Baltic, the middlemoſt of which is called *Swine* or *Swene ;* which laſt comes nearer the name *Suevus.*

SUEZ, a ſmall ſea-port town, ſituated near the northern extremity of the Red Sea, and about 30 hours journey eaſt from Cairo. The country around it is a ſandy plain, with­out the ſmalleſt ſpot of verdure. The only water which can be drunk is brought from El-Naba, or the ſpring, at the diſtance of three hours journey ; and it is ſo brackiſh, that without a mixture of rum it is inſupportable to Euro­peans. The town itſelf is a collection of miſerable ruins, the khans being the only solid buildings ; yet from March till June, the seaſon when the Jidda and Yambo fleet arrives, the town becomes crowded ; but after its departure nobody remains except the governor, who is a Mamlouk, 12 or 14 persons who form his houſehold, and the garrison. The fortreſs is a defenceleſs heap of ruins, which the Arabs conſider as a citadel, becauſe it contains six braſs lour pounders, and two Greek gunners, who turn their heads aside when they fire. The harbour is a wretched quay, where the ſmalleſt boats are unable to reach the ſhore, except at the higheſt tides. There, however, the merchandiſe is embark­ed, to convey it over the banks of sand to the vessels which anchor in the road. This road, ſituated a league from the town, is ſeparated from it by a ſhore which is left dry at low water; *it* has no works for its defence, ſo that the vessels which Μ. Volney tells us he has ſeen there, to the number of 28 at a time, might be attacked without oppoſition ; for the ships themſelves are incapable of reſiſtance, none having any other artillery than four ruſty ſwivels.

Suez has always been, notwithſtanding its local diſadvantages, a place of great trade, on account of its geographi­cal ſituation. It was by the gulph of Suez that the com­modities of India were formerly conveyed to Europe, till the diſcovery of the paſſage by the Cape of Good Hope converted that trade into a new channel. As the iſthmus of Suez, which ſeparates the Red Sea from the Mediterra­nean, is not more than 57 miles, it has been frequently propoſed to join theſe two ſeas together by a canal. As there are no mountains nor remarkable inequalities of ſurface, this plan would at firſt view appear eaſy to be executed. But though the difference of levels would not prevent a junction, the great difficulty ariſes from the nature of the correſponding coasts of the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, which are of a low and ſandy soil, where the waters form lakes, ſhoals, and moraſſes, ſo that vessels cannot approach within a conſiderable diſtance. It will therefore be found ſcarcely poſſible to dig a permanent canal amid theſe ſhifting sands : not to mention, that the ſhore is deſtitute of harbours, which muſt be entirely the work of art. The country beſides has not a drop of freſh water, and to ſupply the inhabitants, it muſt be brought as far as from the Nile.

The beſt and only method therefore of effecting this junction, is that which has been already ſucceſsfully practiſed at different times ; which is, by making the river itſelf the medium of communication, for which the ground is per­fectly well calculated ; for Mount Mokattam ſuddenly ter­minating in the latitude of Cairo, forms only a low and ſemicircular mound, round which is a continued plain from the banks of the Nile as far as the point of the Red Sea. The ancients, who early underſtood the advantage to be de­rived from this ſituation, adopted the idea of joining the two ſeas by a canal connected with the river. Strabo @@\* observes, that this was firſt executed under Sesoſtris, who reigned about the time of the Trojan war ; and this work was ſo con­ſiderable as to occaſion it to be remarked, “ that it was 100 cubits (or 170 feet) wide, and deep enough for large veſſels.” After the Greeks conquered the country, it was reſtored by the Ptolemies, and again renewed by Trajan. In ſhort, even the Arabs themſelves followed theſe examples. “ In the time of Omar ebn el Kattab (says the hiſtorian El Makin), the cities of Mecca and Medina ſuffering from famine, the Calif ordered Amrou governor of Egypt to cut a canal from the Nile to Kolzoum, that the contributions of corn and barley appointed for Arabia might be conveyed that way.”

This canal is the ſame which runs at preſent to Cairo,and loſes itſelf in the country to the north-eaſt of Berket-el- Hadj, or the Lake of the Pilgrims.

The place on the west coast of the gulph of Suez, where the children of Iſrael are ſuppoſed to have entered it, is called B*adua,* about six miles to the north of Cape Korondel, on the other ſide of the gulph, as we are informed in a letter from the ingenious Edward Wortley Montague, F. R. S. to Dr Watfon, containing an account of his journey from Cairo to the Written Mountains in the desert of Sinai. Oppoſite to Badea is a ſtrong current which ſets to the oppoſite ſhore, about ſouth-eaſt, with a whirlpool called *Binque Pheraone,* the *well* or *pool of Pharaoh,* being the place where his hoſt is ſaid to have been deſtroyed. We are told by the ſame gentleman, that the Egyptian ſhore from Suez to Badea is ſo rocky and ſteep, that there was no entering upon the gulph but at one of theſe two places.

@@@[m]\* Lib. xvii.