ſometimes obscure. His Apology and Prescriptions are moſt eſteemed. The beſt editions of his works are thoſe of Rigault ; eſpecially that of Venice in 1746, folio. Pamelius and Alix, Mr Thomas, and the Sieur du Foſſe, have written his life; and Rigault, M. de l’Aube Epine, Father Petau, and other learned men, have publiſhed notes on his works.

TERUNCIUS, in antiquity, a very ſmall braſs coin in uſe among the Romans.

The inconvenience of ſuch very ſmall pieces being ſoon found, the teruncius became diſuſed, but its name is ſtill re­gained in reckoning, and thus it became a money of account. The teruncius at firſt was a quarter of the as, or libra ; hence, as the as contained twelve ounces, the teruncius con­tained three, whence the name, which is formed of the La­tin tres *uncia.* Teruncius was alſo uſed for the quarter of the denarius ; ſo that when the denarius was at ten ases, the teruncius was worth two and a half ; and when the denarius was riſen to ſixteen, the teruncius was worth four. See Denarius.

TESSELATED pavements, thoſe of rich Moſaic work made of curious ſquare marbles, bricks, or tiles, call­ed *teſſelae* from their reſembling dice.

TESSERA, in Roman antiquity, denoted in its prima­ry ſenſe a cube or dye ; ſo called from the Greek word τεσσαρα, or τεσσσερα*, four ;* reſpect: being had to its number of sides, diſtinct from the two horizontal planes above and below. And it was thus diſtinguished from the talus, which being round at each end, contained only four planes or faces on which it could ſtand ; and therefore when thrown had no more than two ſide faces in view. Hence *ludere ta­lis et ludere teſſeris* are ſpoken of by Roman writers as two different games. The ſyllable tes. occurs often in Roman inſcriptions. The word *tessera* was applied to many other things, not ſo much from a similitude in the figure, as from the relation they bore to ſome other thing of which they were the ſign or token ; as the points on the upper plane of the dye denoted the good or ill succeſs of the eaſt.

The *tessera hoſpitalis* was either public or private. As to the former, we find among the inſcriptions publiſhed by Gruter inſtances of two municipal towns which put themselves under the patronage of the Roman governor ; and the reciprocal engagement between them, engraved on two cop­per plates, in the form of an oblong ſquare, with a pediment at the top, is called in both *teſſera hospitalis.* The design of it was to cultivate or maintain a laſting friendship between private perſons and their families ; and gave a mutual claim to the contracting parties and their descendants of a recep­tion and kind treatment at each other’s houſes, as occaſion offered. For which end thoſe tesseræ were ſo contrived as beſt to preſerve the memory of that tranſaction to poſterity. And one method of doing this was by dividing one of them lengthwiſe into two equal parts; upon each of which one of the parties wrote his name, and interchanged it with the other. From this cuſtom came the prevailing expreſſion t*esseram hoſpitalem confringere,* applied to perſons who violated their engagements.

The *tessera frumentariae* were ſmall tallies given by the em­perors to the populace at Rome, entitling them to the re­ception of a quantity of corn from the public at ſtated seaſons. The perſon who had the inſpection of theſe was called *tesserarius.* They were made of wood and of ſtone.

There was another kind of teſſera which intitled perſons to a fight of the public games and other diverſions, uſually made in the form of an oblong ſquare.

The *tessera militaris* was a ſignal given by the general, or chief commander of an army, as a direction to the ſoldiers for executing any duty or ſervice required of them. This, upon urgent occaſions, was only vocal ; but, in ordinary cases, it was written on a tablet, commonly made oſ wood. Beside theſe civil and military tesseræ, there are others which relate to religious affairs, and may be called sa*cred.*

TESSON, or Teston. See Tester.

TESSOUWA, a conſiderable town in Africa, ſituated eaſt of Mourzouk, the capital of the kingdom of Fezzan. Near this town a deep and rapid ſtream is ſaid to have existed, but was overwhelmed by the moving ſands ſo frequent in Africa.

TEST, a veſſel uſed in metallurgy for absorbing the ſcoriæ of metallic bodies when melted. See Cupel.

Some of the German writers recommend, both for teſts and cupels, a sort of friable opake ſtone, called *white ſpath,* which appears to be a ſpecies of gypſum, or of the ſtones from which plaſter of Paris is prepared. The ſpath is directed to be calcined with a gentle fire, in a covered veſſel, till the slight crackling, which happens at firſt, has ceaſed, and the ſtone has fallen in part into powder : the whole is then re­duced into ſubtle powder, which is paſſed through a fine ſieve, and moiſtened with ſo much of a weak ſolution of green vitriol as is ſufficient for making it hold together. Gellert, however, finds, that if the ſtone is of the proper kind, which can be known only by trials, calcination is not neceſſary. Scheffer obſerves, that theſe kinds of teſts are liable to ſoften or fall aſunder in the fire, and that this in­convenience may be remedied by mixing with the uncalcin­ed ſtone ſomewhat leſs than equal its weight, as eight-ninths of ſuch as has been already uſed and is penetrated by the ſcoria of the lead, taking only that part of the old test which appears of a green-grey colour, and rejecting the red cruſt on the top. Teſts or cupels made of the ſpath are ſaid not to requre ſo much caution in nealing and heating them as the common ones ; it appears, however, from Schef­fer’s account, that they are leſs durable than thoſe made of the aſhes of bones, though greatly ſuperior to thoſe of wood-aſhes. Vegetable aſhes, which ſtand pretty well the teſting of silver, can ſcarcely bear any great quantity of gold, this metal requiring a conſiderably ſtronger fire than the other ; but bone-aſhes anſwer ſo effectually, and are among us ſo eaſily procurable, that it is not needful for the refiner to ſearch for any other materials ; though thoſe who work off large quantities of lead, in order to gain a little fil­ver or gold contained in it, may possibly, in places remote from populous cities, avail themſelves of ſubſtances similar to the ſpath above-mentioned.

The teſt, for its greater ſecurity, is fixed in the mould in which it was formed ; which is ſometimes a ſhallow veſſel made of crucible earth or caſt-iron, more commonly an iron hoop, with three bars arched downwards acroſs the bottom, about two inches deep, and of different widths, from three or four inches to fifteen or more, according to the quantity of metal to be teſted at once. The aſhes or earthy powder, moiſtened as for making cupels, are pressed down in the mould ſo as to completely fill it or rise a little above the sides ; with care to make the maſs equally ſolid, and to put in at once, or at leaſt after the bottom has been preſſed cloſe, as much of the matter as will be ſufficient for the whole ; for any additional quantity will not unite tho­roughly with the reſt, but be apt to part from it in the fire. The edges are pared ſmooth, and a portion cut out from the middle with a bent knife, ſo as to leave a proper cavity, which is smoothed by ſtrewing ſome dry powder on the ſurface, and rolling on it a wooden, or rather a glaſs ball.

The proceſs of teſting is often performed in the ſame