S or s, the eighteenth letter and fourteenth consonant of our alphabet. The sound of it is formed by driving the breath through a narrow passage between the palate and the tongue elevated near it, together with a mo­tion of the lower jaw and teeth towards the upper, the lips being a little way open, with such a configuration of every part of the mouth and larynx as renders the voice some­what sibilous and hissing. Its sound, however, varies·, being strong in some words, as *this, thus,* and soft in words which have a final *e,* as *muse, wise.* It is generally doubled at the end of words, by which they become hard and harsh, as in *kiss, loss.* In some words it is silent, as *isle, island, viscount.*

In abbreviation, S. stands for *societas* or *socius ;* as R. S. S. for *regiœ societatis socius,* fellow of the royal society. In medicinal prescriptions, S. A. signifies *secundum artem,* ac­cording to the rules of art. And in the notes of the ancients, S. stands for *Sextus ;* S. P. for *Spurius ;* S. C. for *senatus consultum ;* S. P. Q. R. for *senatus populusque Romanns ;* S. S. S. for *stratum superstrαtum,* one layer above another alternately ; S. V. B. E. E. Q. V. for *si vales bene est, ego quoque valeo,* a form used in Cicero’s time in the beginning of letters. Used as a numeral, S. anciently denoted seven ; in the Italian music, S. signifies *solo ;* and in books of navi­gation, S. stands for south, S. E. for south-east, S. W. for south-west, S. S. E. for south-south-east, S. S. W. for south- south-west, &c.

SAADE, a town of the mountainous district of Yemen, in Arabia, and the most important in the district. It is the residence of an imam or chief, whose power is limited, and his territories small ; and he is often so hard pressed by his highland neighbours that he finds it difficult to maintain his ground. He imposes a duty on all goods passing from Ye­men into the interior of Arabia, and from this source his revenue chiefly arises. It is 368 miles north-north-east of Mocha.

SAARBRUCK, a city of the Prussian government of

Treves, the capital of a circle of the same name, and 215 square miles in extent. It stands on the river Saar, over which is a bridge connecting it with the large suburb of St John’s. It is old and strongly built, and the suburb con­tains 1070 houses, with 6740 inhabitants, who carry on some iron-works, and have barges navigating the river, which is navigable up to the bridge.

SAAR-LOUIS, a city of the Prussian government of Treves, and the capital of a circle of the same name, of 189 square miles in extent. It is situated on the river Saar, and celebrated for the strength of its fortifications, which were constructed by Vauban, under Louis XIV. It is well and regularly built, and contains three churches, 550 houses, and 5800 inhabitants, who are employed in iron-works, chiefly in making weapons. Long. 6. 43. E. Lat. 49.14. N.

SAASA, a village of Palestine, in the district which is said, on the authority of tradition, to have been the burial-place of Nimrod. It is forty miles north-west of Sarchad.

SAATZ, a city of the Austrian kingdom of Bohemia, the capital of a circle of the same name, which extends over 921 square miles, and contains 126,500 inhabitants. The river Eger runs by the town. It has a collegiate church, a gymnasium, and 640 houses, with 4180 inhabitants. Long. 14.10. E. Lat. 50. 18. 35. N.

SAAVEDRA, Micbae de Cervantes, a celebrated Spanish writer, and the inimitable author of Don Quixote, was born at Madrid in the year 1541. From his infancy he was very fond of books ; but he applied himself wholly to books of entertainment, such as novels and poetry of all kinds, especially Spanish and Italian authors. From Spain he went to Italy, either to serve Cardinal Aquaviva, to whom he was chamberlain at Rome, or else to follow the pro­fession of a soldier, as he did for some years under the vic­torious banners of Marco Antonio Colonna. He was pre­sent at the battle of Lepanto, in the year 1571 ; in which he cither lost his left hand by the shot of an harquebus, or had it so maimed that he lost the use of it. After this he