from Dooshak, lies the city of Kubbees, about fifteen days’ inarch from Kerman and sixteen from Yezd. Couriers tra­vel this desert from Kerman to Herat in eighteen days; but the risk of perishing is so great, that a courier demanded two hundred rupees from Mr Pottinger to carry a letter to Captain Christie. Seistan is now entirely independent of Persia, and is ruled by one of its own chiefs, who cannot raise a revenue of above 80,000 rupees, nor bring more than 3000 troops into the field.

SEIZE, in nautical language, is to make fast or bind, par­ticularly to fasten two ropes together with rope-yam. The seizing of a boat is a rope tied to a ring or little chain in the fore-ship of the boat, by which means it is fastened to the side of the ship.

SEIZURE, in commerce, an arrest of some merchandise, moveable, or other matter, either in consequence of some law, or some express order of the sovereign. Contraband goods, those fraudulently entered, or landed without enter­ing at all, or at wrong places, are subject to seizure.

SEJANT, a term used in heraldry, when a lion or other beast is drawn in an escutcheon sitting like a cat with his fore-feet straight.

SEJANUS, Æuus, a native of Vulsinum, in Tuscany, who distinguished himself in the court of Tiberius, against whom he formed a conspiracy, and was by the senate con­demned to death, and strangled.

SEJUR, a small river of Syria, which rises a little to the north of Antakia, and, after a course of about thirty miles, loses itself in the ground. It is also the name of a small town in Syria, fifteen miles south of Antakia.

SELAME, a cluster of small islands near the coast of Arabia, of which Selame is the chief, at the entrance of the Persian Gulf, near Cape Mussendoon.

SELANG, an island in the Eastern Seas, of inconsiderable size, flat and low. It lies off the southern coast of the island of Batchian, one of the Moluccas. The straits which it forms with this island are narrow, and not five feet in depth. The island forms two harbours with the mainland. Long. 124. 10. E. Lat. 0. 50. S.

SELBISTAN, a town of Persia, in the eastern part of the province of Fars, in a well-peopled and cultivated coun­try, bordering on Kerman.

SELBY, a town of the wapentake of Barton Ash, in the west riding of the county of York, 178 miles from Lon­don. It is situated in a level country on the banks of the Ouse, and having a canal which unites that river with the Aire and Calder, has a considerable trade carried on by in­land navigation. It has a fine bridge over the Ouse, con­structed so as not to impede the vessels. There are some establishments for building large trading ships. The church is a conventual edifice, formerly belonging to the Bene­dictine monks. There is a good market, which is held on Wednesdays. The population in 1821 amounted to 4097, and in 1831 to 4600.

SELDEN, **John,** called by Grotius “ the glory of Eng­land,’- was born at Salvington, in Sussex, in the year 1584. He was educated at the free school at Chichester, whence he was sent to Hart Hall, in the university of Oxford, where he staid four years. In 1612, he entered himself at Clif­ford’s Inn, in order to study the law ; and about two years afterwards removed to the Inner Temple, where he soon acquired great reputation by his learning. He had already published several of his works ; and this year he wrote verses in Latin, in Greek, and in English. In 1614, he published his Titles of Honour; and in 1616 his Notes on Sir John Fortescue’s book, *De Laudibus Legum Anglia.* In 1618, he published his History of Tythes, which gave great offence to the clergy, and was animadverted upon by several writers; and for this book he was called before the High Commis­sion Court, and obliged to make a public acknowledgment of his sorrow for having published it. In 1621, being sent

for by the parliament, though he was not then a member of that house, and giving his opinion very strongly in favour of their privileges, in opposition to the court, he was com­mitted to the custody of the sheriff of London, but was set at liberty after five weeks’ confinement. In 1623, he was chosen burgess for Lancaster ; but amidst all the divisions of the nation, he kept himself neutral, prosecuting his stu­dies with such application, that though he was the next year chosen reader of Lyon’s Inn, he refused to perform that office. In 1625, he was chosen burgess for Great Bedwin, in Wiltshire, to serve in the first parliament of Charles I.,in which he declared himself warmly against the Duke of Buckingham ; and on his Grace’s being impeached by the House of Commons, he was appointed one of the managers of the articles against him. In 1627 and 1628, he opposed the court party with great vigour. The parliament being prorogued to the 20th of January 1629, Mr Selden retired to the Earl of Kent's house at Wrest, in Bedfordshire, where he finished his *Marmora Arundeliana.* The parliament being met, he, among others, again distinguished himself by his zeal against the court ; when the king dissolving the parliament, ordered several of the members to be brought before the King’s Bench bar, and committed to the Tower. Among these was Mr Selden, who insisting on the benefit of the laws, and refusing to make his submission, was re­moved to the King’s Bench prison. Being here in danger of his life on account of the plague then raging in South­wark, he petitioned the lord high treasurer, at the end of Trinity term, to intercede with his majesty that he might be removed to the Gate-house, Westminster, which was granted. But in Michaelmas term following, the judges ob­jecting to the lord treasurer’s warrant, by which he had been removed to the Gate-house, an order was made for convey­ing him back to the King’s Bench, whence he was released in the latter end of the same year ; but fifteen years after­wards the parliament ordered him five thousand pounds for the losses he had sustained on this occasion. He was after­wards committed, with several other gentlemen, for dispers­ing a libel ; but the author, who was abroad, being disco­vered, they were at length set at liberty. In 1634, a dis­pute having arisen between the English and Dutch concern­ing the herring-fishery on the British coast, he was prevailed upon by Archbishop Laud to draw up his *Mare clausum,* in answer to Grotius’s *Mare Liberum ;* which greatly re­commended him to the favour of the court. In 1640, he was chosen member for the university of Oxford ; when he again opposed the court, though he might, by compliance, have raised himself to very considerable posts. In 1643, he was appointed one of the lay members to sit in the as­sembly of divines at Westminster, and was the same year appointed keeper of the records in the Tower. Whilst he attended his duty in the assembly, a warm debate arose re­specting the distance of Jericho from Jerusalem. The party which contended for the shortest distance urged, as a proof of their opinion being well founded, that fishes were car­ried from the one city to the other, and sold in the market. Their adversaries were ready to yield to the force of this conclusive argument, when Selden, who despised both par­ties, as well as the frivolousness of their dispute, exclaimed, “ Perhaps the fishes were salted.” This unexpected remark left the victory doubtful, and renewed the debate ; and our author, who was sick of such trifling, soon found employment more suited to his genius ; for, in the year 1645, he was made one of the commissioners of the admiralty. The same year he was unanimously elected master of Trinity College, Cam­bridge, but declined accepting. He died in 1654, and was interred in the Temple-church, where a monument is erect­ed to his memory. Dr Wilkes observes, that he was a man of uncommon gravity and greatness of soul, averse to flat­tery, liberal to scholars, charitable to the poor ; and though he had great latitude in his principles with regard to .eccle∙