URBINO and Pesaro, a delegation or province of the papal dominion in Italy, formed out of the ancient dukedom of Urbino. It is bounded on the north by Forli and the republic of St Marino, on the north-east by the Adriatic Sea, on the south-east by Ancona, on the south­west by Perugia, and on the west by Tuscany. It ex­tends over 1733 square miles, comprehending twelve cities, sixteen market-towns, and 410 hamlets and villages. The population amounts to 216,071 persons. As it extends over a great portion of the Apennines, it is necessarily mountainous. It produces, on the sides of the hills and in the valleys, silk, wine, corn, hemp, flax, fruit, cattle, wax, and honey. The capital is the city of Urbino, which is situated on a hill, and is surrounded with ancient walls and towers. Being the seat of a bishop, it has a cathedral and also seve­ral other churches, ten monasteries, and six nunneries. A university was founded here by Pope Clement X., but it has disappeared, though a college is still left, and one of the oldest academies of Italy. The population amounts to 12,200 persons. This city is remarkable as the birth-place of the celebrated artist Raphael. Long. 12. 31. 5. E. Lat. 43. 43. 36. N.

URGUNGE, or Urghenz, an extensive tract of terri­tory situated on the Lower Oxus, near its junction with the Aral, and between the lake and the Caspian. It is a wild and desolate tract, traversed by wandering and pre­datory hordes of Turkomans. The bulk of the population is collected in fortified towns, and is maintained by a few fertile spots. The principal of these is called the “ region,” and is about four miles in circuit, surrounded by walls of earth ; and the houses are built of the same material. A market is formed by one long street, which is covered above, and here the little trade of the surrounding country is carried on. It has been almost ruined by the devasta­tions of war.

URI, a canton of Switzerland, one of the smallest of the whole confederacy. It is one of the oldest, having gained its independence in the year 1307. It is bounded on the north by the canton of Schwytz, on the east by those of Glarus and the Grisons, on the south by Ticino, and on the west by Berne and Unterwalden. The extent of it is 318 geographical square miles, and the population, which has not, like that of most of the other divisions of Switzerland, increased of late years, amounted in 1838 to 40,650 indi­viduals. It contains the capital, Altorf, with 1620 inhabi­tants, and eleven divisions, genossamen, or communes. The government is a pure democracy. Every male who has at­tained his twentieth year is a member of the assembly, in which all laws are made and revenues granted, and where the chief, called the landammann, and the other executive officers, are chosen. As the whole male population are voters, so they are also soldiers ; all are drilled and exer­cised, and formed into militia battalions. The inhabitants are all of German origin, and use a corrupt patois of that language. The courts of law are as popular as the legis­lature ; but there are appeals from inferior to superior tri­bunals, and, if common report may be trusted, the deci­sions are more directed by bribery and popularity, than by any fixed or just principles. The only religion is that of the church of Rome, and the bishop of Constance is the ecclesiastical superior, having under him fifteen curates and three monasteries. In no part of Switzerland are the people so miserably fed, clothed, and lodged ; in no part are the beggars so numerous and so importunate. The tax paid to the confederative government is 1180 francs, and the contingent of troops is 236 men. The canton contains some of the higlrest mountains of Switzerland. In the northern part of the Alps are the Galenstock, 11,330 feet in height ; the Sustenshorn, 10,910; and the Spitzleberg, 10,680. In the south is St Gothard, with the points, viz. Fibia, 9800 ; Fiendo, 9550 ; and Prosa, 9250 feet. On the east­ern side are to be seen the Scheerhorn, 10,100 feet high ; the Windgelle. 9300 feet; and the Bristenstock, 9500. These are almost all surrounded with glaciers, the most re­markable of which is that of St Gothard, over which is one of the great roads to Italy. It is to be supposed that in such an inhospitable region there can be but little cultivation. In the valley of Reuss, the plough is used, but its adop­tion extends but a little way from the vale. In some other of the vales potatoes are grown, and a few other of the more hardy esculents, but rather in gardens than in farms. Poor as the sustenance of the people is, it is scarcely suffi­cient for their support ; and hence corn is wanted every year from other districts. The chief husbandry is breed­ing cattle, and the dairy. With cheese, cattle, hides, and some wood, the inhabitants are enabled to pay for the small portions of corn, iron, tobacco, wine, and colonial articles which they consume ; and there is now scarcely any other trade. Till lately the road by St Gothard was much used for the transport of goods to and from Italy, and then it was filled with waggons, pack-horses, and their attend­ants, by which some money was brought into the canton ; but the opening of new roads over the Simplon and by the Splugen has attracted much of that commerce into other channels. There are no manufactures, except some of articles which each family prepares for itself.

URIM and Thummim, among the ancient Hebrews, denoted a certain oracular consultation by the high priest, dressed in his robes, and wearing his pectoral or breast­plate. Various have been the sentiments of commentators concerning the Urim and Thummim. Josephus and se­veral others maintain that it meant the precious stones set in the high priest’s breastplate, which, by extraordi­nary lustre, made known the will of God to those who con­sulted him. Dr Spencer believes that the Urim and Thum­mim were two little golden figures shut up in the pectoral, as in a purse, which gave responses with an articulate voice. In short, there are as many opinions concerning the Urim and Thummim as there arg particular authors that have written about them. The safest opinion, ac­cording to Broughton, seems to be, that the words Urim and Thummim signify some divine virtue and power an­nexed to the breastplate of the high priest, by which an oracular answer was obtained from God when he was thus consulted ; and that this was called Urim and Thummim, to express the clearness and perfection which these oracu­lar answers always carried with them ; for Urim signifies “ light,” and Thummim “ perfection these answers not being imperfect and ambiguous, like the heathen oracles, but clear and evident. The use made of the Urim and Thummim was, to consult God in difficult cases relating to the whole state of Israel, and sometimes in cases relating to the king, the sanhedrim, the general of the army, or some other great personage.

URN, a kind of vase, of a roundish form, but swelling in the middle, like the common pitchers ; now seldom used but in the way of ornament over chimney pieces, in buffets, &c. The great use of urns among the ancients was to preserve the ashes of the dead after they were burnt; for which reason they were called *cineraria,* and *urnoe cine­raria,* and were placed sometimes under the tombstone on which the epitaph was engraved, and sometimes in vaults in their own houses.

URSA, the name of two constellations in the northern hemisphere.

URSULINES, an order of nuns, founded by St Angela of Brescia, in the year 1537, and so called from St Ursula, to w hom they were dedicated.

URUMEA. See Ouroomia.

USANCE is a determined time fixed for the payment of bills of exchange, reckoned either from the day of the bills being accepted, or from the day of their date ; and thus