of working for some time as a common labourer at St. Pe­ter’s church in Rome. He died on the 23d of October 1706, in the seventy-fifth year of his age.

Vaillant possessed great knowledge and skill as an an­tiquary, and published various works, of which the follow­ing are the most important. Numismata Imperatorum Ro­manorum præstantiora, a Julio Cæsare ad Posthumum et Tyrannos. Paris. 1674, 4to. Paris, 1694, 2 tom. 4to. Romæ, 1743, 3 tom. 4to. This last edition contains addi­tions and improvements by Baldini ; and a supplement was published under the title of Jos. Khell ad Numismata Im­peratorum Romanorum a Vaillantio edita Supplementum. Viennæ, 1757, 4to. Seleucidarum Imperium : sive, His­toria Regum Syriæ, ad fidem Numismatum accommodata. Paris. 1681, 4to. Hag. Com. 1732, fol. Numismata Ærea Imperatorum, Augustorum, et Caesarum, in Coloniis, Muni­cipiis, et Urbibus jure Latino donatis, ex omni modulo per­cussa. Paris. 1688, fol. Numismata Imperatorum, Au­gustorum, et Cæsarum, a Populis Romanæ ditionis Græce loquentibus ex omni modulo percussa. Paris. 1695, 4to. Amst. 1700, fol. Historia Ptolemaeorum Ægypti Regum, ad fidem Numismatum accommodata. Amet. 1701, fol. Nummi Antiqui Familiarum Romanarum, perpetuis inter­pretationibus illustrati. Amst. 1703, 2 part. fol. Arsaci­darum Imperium : sive, Regum Parthorum Historia, ad fidem Numismatum accommodata. Achaemcnidanim Im­perium: sive, Regum Ponti, Bosphori, et Bithyniae Historia, ad fidem Numismatum accommodata. Paris. 1725, 2 torn. 4to. This posthumous work was published by Charles de Valois, of the Académie des Inscriptions.

VAIR, or Vaire, a kind of fur, formerly used for lin­ing the garments of great men. It is represented in en­graving by the figures of little bells reversed, ranged in a line.

VAIRY, in *Heraldry,* expresses a coat, or the bearings of a coat, when charged or chequered with vairs.

VALAISE, or Wallis, a canton of Switzerland, in the south-western part, a district comprehending a large portion of the Alps and the land between them and Italy. It ex­tends in north latitude from 45° 55' to 46° 30', and in east longitude from 6° 35' to 8° 9', containing 1254 square geo­graphical miles. It is bounded on the north-west by the Lake of Geneva and the canton of Vaud, on the north by Berne, on the north-east by Uri and Tecino, on the east, south-east, and south-west by the states of the king of Sar­dinia.

This canton is on every side surrounded by lofty moun­tains, so close to each other that the passes between them are few and very narrow. These ranges on the boundaries present some of the loftiest pinnacles of the Alps, such as Monte Rosa 14,580 feet in height, the Matterhorn orCervin 13,380 feet, St. Bernard’s 10,380 feet, the Grimsel 8580 feet, the Col de Baume 7080 feet, and the Simplon 6174 feet. The most practicable passes through these ranges, which, however, are often dangerous in winter, though kept open at a vast expense, are that by the Gemmi, the Grimsel, the Furca, and the Antonierberg, to the interior of Switzer­land; that by the St. Bernard and the Simplon into Italy; and that by St. Maurice into the canton of Vaud. In the interior there are lower ranges of Alps, generally running from north to south, and thus dividing the whole surface into small vales. These vales differ much in their character; some of them are stoney and marshy, and others sterile, but others of them have valuable meadows, and land, which, when cultivated, yields profitable crops.

The climate is excessively variable. The lofty Alps protect the canton from the north wind, but the raw east wind brings frost and snow. The west wind brings heat, and the sudden changes are prejudicial to health. To these sudden and violent changes are attributed the fevers which are so prevalent; and in part is attributed to them, though in part to the Tuffa water, the great number of cretins that are to be found in the canton.

The chief products of the country are cattle, and the butter and cheese which they yield. Much of the cheese is made from the milk of goats, which are much more numerous than sheep. Horses are but rarely seen except on the great road ; but many mules are used for riding as well as for purposes of husbandry. The com grown is principally barley and oats. In some of the southern valleys wine is made to a considerable extent. The growth of various fruits gives much occupation to the inhabitants. In many districts chesnuts are used as a substitute for bread. There is abundance of wood in the forests, but it is chiefly used at home for fuel or building. There are no manu­factures except those of the domestic kind, which each family must manage for itself as well as it can.

The only export articles are wine, cattle, cheese, hides, wool, and dried fruits, which are sold to purchase salt, corn, iron, colonial goods, and clothing for the very few who can afford better dresses than their neighbours. In fact the com­monest gratifications which in other countries have become almost necessaries, must be dispensed with, as the mass of the people are too poor to purchase any thing, and there­fore must rest satisfied with what their own hands, with native materials, can provide.

The population of the canton in 1838 amounted to 75,798 persons, of whom 25,000 were of German origin, 46,000 of French, and 4750 of Italian, all speaking corrupt dialects of the several races from which they are derived. They are of the Catholic church, and no other public worship is permitted to be exercised. The ecclesiastical divisions are forty-eight parishes, and there are eight monasteries or nunneries. The bishop of Sitten, or Sion, is the head of the church under the pope.

The constitution is a pure democracy. Each male that has completed his eighteenth year has a vote; when he has completed his twenty-first may be chosen a representative, and after his twenty-fifth may become one of the executive council. The legislature assembles twice in the year, but a committee of it is permanent, and assists the landamman or governor. All the public officers are appointed for two years. Every man is enrolled in the militia. The canton is bound to furnish a contingent of 1280 men to the gene­ral confederation, and to pay a contribution to the same of 9600 francs. The whole revenue is 133,100 francs, and the annual expenditure 114,820 francs. The capital is Sitten, a small city, with 2500 inhabitants, on the Simplon road.

VALANGIN, a market town, the capital of a county of the same name in the canton of Neufchâtel, in Switzerland. It stands on a narrow pass between mountains, on the river Seyon. It is the seat of a court of justice over a large dis­trict, with three towns in it, and it contains 5640 inhabitants. Near to it is a very large cotton manufactory. Lat. 47.0.42. Long. 6. 48. E.

VALCKENAER, Lewis Caspar, one of the ablest scholars of the eighteenth century, was born at Leeuwarden in Friesland, in the year 1715. He prosecuted his acade­mical studies at Franeker and Leyden, and at an early age distinguished himself by his uncommon skill in ancient li­terature. The first appointment which his learning pro­cured him was that of conrector of the gymnasium of Cam­pen ; and in 1741, after he had recommended himself by some very erudite publications, he succeeded Hemsterhu sius in the Greek chair at Franeker. With this, in 1755, was united the professorship of Greek antiquities. In 1766 he was called to the university of Leyden ; where, with the chair of the Greek language and Greek antiquities, he also held that of the history of his native country. In this ho­nourable station he continued for nearly twenty years, in the enjoyment of a very high and well-earned reputation. He formed many excellent scholars, and eminently contri­