Z, the twenty-fifth and last letter, and the nineteenth consonant, of our alphabet; the sound of which is formed by a motion of the tongue from the palate down-wards and upwards to it again, with a shutting and open­ing of the teeth at the same time. This letter has been reputed a double consonant, having the sound *ds ;* but, some think, with very little reason ; and, as if we thought otherwise, we often double it, as in *puzzle, muzzle,* &c. Among the ancients, Z was a numeral letter, signifying 2000 ; and with a dash over it thus, Z̄, signified 2000 times 2000, or 4,000,000.

In abbreviations this letter formerly stood as a mark for several sorts of weights : sometimes it signified an ounce and a half, and very frequently it stood for half an ounce ; sometimes for the eighth part of an ounce, or a dram troy weight ; and it has in earlier times been used to express the third part of an ounce, or eight scruples. ZZ were used by some of the ancient physicians to express myrrh, and at present they are often used to signify zinziber or ginger.

ZAARA, Zahara, or *the Desert.* See Sahara.

ZAB, a river of Kurdistan, which rises in the mountain­ous country to the east of the Tigris. It falls into the Al- tun Su, or Golden Water, about 150 miles north of Bagdad, on the road to Mosul, and the united streams afterwards reach the Tigris.

ZABULON, one of the twelve tribes of Israel ; bounded on the north by the tribes of Asher and Naphthali ; on the east by the Sea of Galilee ; on the south by the tribe of Is- sachar or the brook Cison, which ran between both ; on the west by the Mediterranean ; so that it touched two seas, or was bimarous.

ZAFRA, a small town of Asiatic Turkey, in the govern­ment of Marasch, fifteen miles west of Tarsus. There is another town of the same name in the government of Tre­bisond, fifty miles north-west of Trebisond.

ZAIRE, a river of Southern Africa, likewise called Congo. See Congo.

ZALEUCUS, a famous legislator of the Locrians, and the disciple of Pythagoras, flourished 500 years b. c. He made a law, by which he punished adulterers with the loss of both their eyes ; and his son offending, was not absolved from this punishment ; yet, to shew the father as well as the just lawgiver, he put out his own right, and his son’s left eye. This example of justice and severity made so strong an impression on the minds of his subjects, that no instance was found of the commission of that crime during the reign of the legislator. It is added, that Zaleucus forbade any wine being given to the sick, on pain of death, unless it was prescribed by the physicians ; and that he was so jealous of his laws, that he ordered, that whoever was desirous of changing them, should be obliged, when he made the pro­posal, to have a cord about his neck, in order that he might be immediately strangled if those alterations were esteemed no better than the laws already established. Diodorus Si­culus attributes the same thing to Charondas, legislator of the Sybarites.

ZAMA, an ancient town of Chamane, a district of Cap­padocia, of unknown situation. Another Zama, of Meso­potamia, on the Saocoras, to the south of Nisibis. A third, of Numidia, distant five days’ journey to the west of Car­thage. It was the other royal residence of the kings of Nu­midia, hence called *Zama Regia.* It stood in a plain, was stronger by art than nature, richly supplied with every

necessary, and abounding in men, and every weapon both of defence and annoyance. This town is remarkable for the decisive battle fought between the two greatest com­manders in the ancient world, Hannibal the Carthaginian, and Scipio Africanus.

ZANGUEBAR, a region of Africa, lying on the east­ern coast, between three degrees of north latitude, and eighteen south. It includes several petty kingdoms, in which the Portuguese have various settlements. The inhabitants, except those converted by the Portuguese, are all Mahom­medans or idolaters ; and the latter much the more nume­rous. The names of the principal territories are, Mombaza, Lamon, Melinda, Quiola, and Mozambique. The Portu­guese built several forts in Mombaza and Mozambique, and there settled several colonies.

ZANTE. See Ιονιαν Islands.

ZAPATA, a kind of feast or ceremony held in Italy in the courts of certain princes, on St Nicholas’s day. People hide presents in the shoes or slippers of those to whom they would do honour, in such a manner as may surprise them on the morrow when they come to dress. This is done in imitation of the practice of St Nicholas, who used in the night-time to throw purses of money in at the windows to furnish marriage-portions to poor maidens.

ZARAGOZA, a city of Spain, in the corregimiento of that name, and the capital of the ancient kingdom of Aragon, It was built by the Roman colonists, and bore the name of Cæsar Augusta. It is about 175 miles from Madrid, and the same distance from Valencia. It stands on the right bank of the Ebro, over which are two bridges connecting the city with the suburbs. The streets are narrow, except one, the Cozo or Cosso, which runs the whole length of the town ; and the houses are old, and, though not lofty, are high­ly ornamented. Zaragoza is the seat of an archbishop, and, besides a cathedral, had seventeen churches, and forty re­ligious houses of different orders, for males and for females. One of the churches, called Our Lady of the Pillar, was the most celebrated in Spain, and, except that of Loretto, in Europe, from the number of pilgrims that every year re­sorted to it for devotional purposes. On a lofty pillar of jasper is an image of the holy virgin, the great object of adoration, and excitement to delusive feelings of devotion. In the rich and highly cultivated plain that surrounds the city, stand the ancient palace of the Alguferia, the resi­dence of the kings of Aragon, and several monasteries.

A little below the city, that magnificent work the Canal of Aragon joins the river Ebro, which runs about 100 miles parallel to that river, and connects the provinces of Ara­gon and Navarre with the Mediterranean Sea. It is designed to assist commerce as a means of conveyance, and to sup­ply to agriculture water for irrigating the fields. This ca­nal has been constructed by the eminent civil engineer Don Ramon Pignatelli, and 3,250,000 livres had been ex­pended when it was stopped. Had it been continued to Bis­cay, it would have brought the Mediterranean and the At­lantic Seas into commercial contact.

The great celebrity of this city arises from the firm de­fences made during two sieges, in the years 1808 and 1809, when the courageous and enduring spirit of an undisciplined and ill-armed population was assailed by two successive French armies, furnished with all that science could con­tribute to the art of war, and commanded by some of the most distinguished officers belonging to the armies of France.