ZOROASTER, or Zerdusht, a celebrated ancient philosopher, said to have been the reformer or the founder of the religion of the Magi. It is wholly uncertain to how many eminent men the name of Zoroaster belonged. Some have maintained that there was but one Zoroaster, and that he was a Persian ; others have said that there were six emi­nent founders of philosophy of this name. Ham the son of Noah, Moses, Osiris. Mithras, and others, both gods and men, have by different writers been asserted to have been the same with Zoroaster. Many different opinions have also been ad­vanced concerning the time when he flourished. Aristotle and Pliny fix the date at so remote a period as 6000 years before the death of Plato. According to Dionysius Laer­tius, he flourished 600 years before the Trojan war ; accord­ing to Suidas, 500. If, in the midst of so much uncertainty, any thing can be advanced with the appearance of proba­bility, it seems to be this, that there was a Zoroaster, a Perso-Median, who flourished about the time of Darius Hystaspes ; and that besides him there was another Zoro­aster, who lived at a much more remote period among the Babylonians, and taught them astronomy. The Greek and Arabian writers are agreed concerning the existence of the Persian Zoroaster ; and the ancients unanimously ascribe to a philosopher whom they call Zoroaster, the origin of the Chaldean astronomy, which is certainly of much earlier date than the time of Hystaspes. It seems therefore necessary to suppose a Chaldean Zoroaster dis­tinct from the Persian. Concerning this Zoroaster how­ever nothing more is known than that he flourished to­wards the beginning of the Babylonish empire, and was the father of the Chaldean astrology and magic. All the writings that have been ascribed to Zoroaster are unques­tionably spurious.

ZOSIMUS, a historian of Constantinople, who has had various editors, is supposed to have written in the fifth cen­tury. He is described as “ comes et exadvocatus fisci and from his own work it is evident that he was not a Christian. He wrote the history of the Roman empire from the reign of Augustus to the year 410. The first book contains brief notices of the earlier emperors, ending with Diocletian ; but in the other five books his details are more ample. A Latin version of this history was published by Leunclavius in 1576 ; and in 1581 H. Stephanus added the Greek text of the first two books to his edition of Herodian. All the six books were published by Sylburgius in the third volume of his “ Romanæ Historiæ Scriptores Græci Minores.” Francof. 1590, fol. This was followed by other editions, of which the best is that of Reitemeier, Lipsiæ, 1784, 8vo; Bonnæ, 1837, 8vo. The latter impression, forming a volume of Nie­buhr’s “ Corpus Scriptorum Historiæ Byzantinæ,” was su­perintended by Bekker, who has corrected the errors of the former edition, and has omitted such critical notes as he did not approve. In both these impressions, some an­notations of Heyne are added to those of Reitemeier.

ZUG, a canton of Switzerland, the smallest of the whole confederacy. It is bounded on the north by Zürich, on the east and south-east by Schwytz, on the south-west by Lu­cerne, and on the west by Aargau. It is only 110 square miles in extent ; and is divided into two parts, the inner and the outer amt or bailiwick. It contains 1876 dwellings, with 14,710 inhabitants. They are all of the German race, and speak that language. The religion is that of the Ro­mish church, and the canton contains nine parish churches, with three monasteries, all under the bishop of Constance. The constitution is a pure democracy. All the males who have completed the age of nineteen must become soldiers, and must be regimented in the militia. An as­sembly of the whole inhabitants is held on the first Sun­day in May, when the several officers are chosen for the year. The chief, called the Landamann, is elected for two years, and from the two bailiwicks alternately. The officers of the militia are nominated for life. The council consists of thirty-four members, and in ordinary times assembles three times in the year, and at such other periods as the chief may deem it necessary ; but a committee of that body is permanent, and superintends the police, and forms à court of appeal from the ordinary tribunals. There are inferior authorities in each of the two bailiwicks, who rule in local affairs. The taxes are collected on liquids consumed, whether wine, beer, or spirits ; besides which there are stamp-taxes, and payments for licenses to carry on trade ; but the whole burdens are very light. The contribution of the canton to the general confederacy is 1250 francs, and the contingent of men 250.

The face of the country is alpine, but the highest moun­tain, the Ruffi, does not exceed 4830 feet. The other mountains, as the Rossberg, the Zugerberg, the Morgarten, and the Dreilanderstein, are lower. The river Reuss is the principal stream, which runs to the lake of Zug, and re­ceives the smaller brooks. It forms the boundary with the