and faces are broad, with flat broad noſes, great blub­ber hanging lips, and ſtaring eyes; their complexion is dark, their hair long and as black as pitch, and they have very little beards; and it is ſaid that all the Samoied women have black nipples. If they have any religion at all, it is idolatry, though there has been ſome attempts of late to convert them. Their huts are made of birch bark ſewed together, which is laid upon ſtakes ſet in the ground, and at the top is a hole to let out the ſmoke; the fire is made in the middle, and both men and women lie naked round them all night. — They have little regard to the nearneſs of kin, and take as many wives as they can keep: their only employ­ment is hunting and fiſhing.

SAMOLUS, in botany: A genus of the monogynia order, belonging to the pentandria claſs of plants; and in the natural method ranking under the 21ſt or­der, *Preciae.* The corolla is ſalver-ſhaped, the ſtamina ſurrounded by ſmall ſcales at its throat. The capſule is unilocular inferior.

SAMOS (anc. geog.), an iſland at no great diſtance from the promontory Mycale, on the continent of the Hither Aſia, and oppoſite to Epheſus; the diſtance only ſeven ſtadia (Strabo); a free iſland, in compaſs 87 miles (Pliny); or 100 (Iſidorus): with a cognominal town (Ptolemy, Horace); famous for the worſhip and a temple of Juno, with a noted aſylum (Vir­gil, Strabo, Tacitus); and hence their coin exhibited a peacock (Athenæus): The country of Pythagoras, who, to avoid the oppreſſion of tyrants, retired to Ita­ly, the land of freedom. Samos, though not ſo happy in producing wine, which Strabo wonders at, all the adjoining iſlands yielding a generous fort, yet abounds in all the neceſſaries of life. The *Vaſa Sarnia,* among earthen ware, were held in high re­pute. *Samii,* the people (Ovid). —The iſland is now in the hands of the Turks. It is about 32 miles in length, and 22 in breadth, and extremely fertile. The inhabitants live at their eaſe, their taxation by the Turks being moderate. The women are very naſty and ugly, and they never ſhift above once a month. They are clothed in the Turkiſh manner, except a red coif, and their hair hanging down their backs, with plates of ſilver or block-tin faſtened to the ends. — They have abundance of melons, lentils, kidney-beans, and excellent muſkadine grapes. They have white figs four times as big as the common fort, but not ſo well taſted. Their ſilk is very fine, and their honey and wax admirable; beſides which, their poultry are ex­cellent: they have iron mines, and moſt of the foil is of a ruſty colour: they have alſo emery ſtone, and all the mountains are of white marble. The inhabitants are about 12, 000, who are almoſt all Greeks; and the monks and prieſts occupy moſt part of the iſland. They have a biſhop who reſides at Cora. See Poly­crates.

SAMPAN, is a Chineſe boat without a keel, look­ing almoſt like a trough; they are made of different dimenſions, but are moſtly covered. Theſe boats are as long as ſloops, but broader, almoſt like a baking trough; and have at the end one or more decks of bamboo ſticks: the cover or roof is made of bamboo ſticks, arched over in the ſhape of a grater; and may be railed or lowered at pleaſure: the ſides are made of boards, with little holes, with ſhutters inſtead of win­

dows: the boards are faſtened on both ſides to polls, which have notches like ſteps on the inſides, that the roof may be let down, and reft on them: on both ends of the deck are commonly two little doors, at leaſt there is one at the hindmoſt end. A fine white ſmooth car­pet ſpread up as far as the boards make3 the floor, which in the middle conſiſts of looſe boards; but this carpet is only made uſe of to ſleep on. As theſe boats greatly differ from ours in ſhape, they are likewiſe row­ed in a different manner: for two rowers, polling themſelves at the back end of the ſampan, work it forwards very readily by the motion of two oars; and can al­moſt turn the veſſel juſt as they pleaſe: the ores, which are covered with a little hollow quadrangular iron, are laid on iron ſwivels, which are faſtened in the ſides of the ſampan: at the iron the oars are pieced, which makes them look a little bent: in common, a row­er fits before with a ſhort oar; but this he is forced to lay aſide when he comes near the city, on account of the great throng of ſampans; and this inconvenience has confirmed the Chineſe in their old way of rowing, Inſtead of pitch, they make uſe of a cement like our putty, which we call *chinam,* but the Chineſe call it *kiang.* Some authors ſay that this cement is made of lime and a reſin exuding from the tree *tong yea,* and bamboo ockam.

Beſides a couple of chairs, they have the following furniture: two oblong tables or boards on which ſome Chinefe characters are drawn; a lanthorn for the night-time, and a pot to boil rice in. They have alfo a little cover for their houſehold god, decorated with gilt paper and other ornaments: before him ſtands a pot filled with aſhes, into which the tapers are put before the idol. The candles are nothing elſe than bamboo chips, to the upper end of which ſaw-duſt of ſandalwood is ſtuck on with gum. Theſe tapers are every­where lighted before the idols in the pagodas, and be­fore the doors in the ſtreets; and, in large cities, occaſion a ſmoke very pernicious to the eyes. Before this idol ſtands ſome *ſamſo,* or Chineſe brandy, water, &c. We ought to try whether the Chineſe would not like to uſe juniper-wood inſtead of fandal-wood; which latter comes from Suratte, and has almoſt the ſame ſmell with juniper.

SAMSON, one of the judges of Iſrael, memorable for his ſupernatural ſtrength, his victories over the Philiſtines, and his tragical end, as related in the book of *Judges.*

*SAMSON's Poſt,* a fort of pillar erected in a ſhip’s hold, between the lower deck and the kelſon, under the edge of a hatchway, and furniſhed with several. notches that ſerve as ſteps to mount or deſcend, as occaſion requires. This poſt being firmly driven into its place, not only ſerves to ſupport the beam and for­tify the veſſel in that place, but alſo to prevent the car­go or materials contained in the hold, from ſhifting to the oppoſite fide, by the rolling of the ſhip in a turbu­lent and heavy ſea.

Books *of* SAMUEL, two canonical books of the Old Teſtament, as being uſually aſcribed to the pro­phet Samuel.

The books of Samuel and the books of Kings are a continued hiſtory of the reigns of the kings of Iſrael and Judah; for which reaſon the books of Samuel are likewiſe ſtyled *the first and ſecond books of Kings.* Since

@@@[mu] Oshec's Voyage to China and the East Indies