us, containing the 3d part of a dram, or 20 grains. Among goldſmiths it is 24 grains.

Scruple, in Chaldean chronology, is 1/1080 part of an hour, called by the Hebrews *helakin.* Theſe ſcruples are much uſed by the Jews, Arabs, and other eaſtern people, in computations of time.

*Scruples of half Duration,* an arch of the moon’s orbit, which the moon’s centre deſcribes from the begin­ning of an eclipſe to its middle.

*Scruples oſ Immersion* or *Incidence,* an arch of the moon’s orbit, which her centre deſcribes from the be­ginning of the eclipſe to the time when its centre falls into the ſhadow.

*Scruples of Emersion,* an arch of the moon’s orbit, which her centre deſcribes in the time from the firſt emerſion of the moon’s limb to the end of the eclipſe.

SCRUTINY, *(Scrutinium),* in the primitive church, an examination or probation practiſed in the laſt week of Lent, on the catechumens, who were to receive baptiſm on the Eaſter-day. The ſcrutiny was performed with a great many ceremonies. Exorciſms and prayers were made over the heads of the catechumens; and on Palm Sunday, the Lord’s Prayer and Creed were given them, which they were afterwards made to rehearſe. This cuſtom was more in uſe in the church of Rome than anywhere elſe; though it appears, by ſome miſſals, to have been likewiſe uſed, though much later, in the Gallican church. It is ſuppoſed to have ceaſed about the year 860. Some traces of this practice ſtill re­main at Vienne, in Dauphiné, and at Liage.

Scrutiny is alſo uſed, in the canon law, for a tick­et or little paper billet, wherein at elections the electors write their votes privately, ſo as it may not be known for whom they vote. Among us the term *ſcrutiny* is chiefly uſed for a ſtrict peruſal and examination of the ſeveral votes haſtily taken at an election; in order to find out any irregularities committed therein, by un­qualified voters, &c.

SCRUTORE, or Scrutoir (from the French *escritoire)* a kind of cabinet, with a door or lid opening downwards, for conveniency of writing on, &c.

SCRY, in falconry, denotes a large flock of fowl.

SCUDDING, the movement by which a ſhip is car­ried precipitately before a tempeſt. As a ſhip flies with amazing rapidity through the water whenever this ex­pedient is put in practice, it is never attempted in a contrary wind, unleſs when her condition renders her incapable of ſuſtaining the mutual effort of the wind and waves any longer on her ſide, without being expoſed to the moſt imminent danger of being overſet.

A ſhip either ſcuds with a ſail extended on her foremaſt, or, if the ſtorm is exceſſive, without any ſail: which, in the ſea-phraſe, is called *ſcudding under bare poles.* In ſloops and ſchooners, and other ſmall veſſels; the ſail employed for this purpoſe is called the *ſquare-* ſ*ail.* In large ſhips, it is either the foreſail at large, reefed, or with its gooſe-wings-extended, according to the degree of the tempeſt; or it is the fore-top fail, cloſe reefed, and lowered on the cap; which laſt is particularly uſed when the ſea runs ſo high as to be­calm the foreſail occaſionally, a circumſtance which expoſes the ſhip to the danger of broaching-to. The prin­cipal hazards incident to ſcudding are generally, a poop­ing ſea; the difficulty of fleering, which expoſes the veffel perpetually to the riſk of broaching-to; and the want of ſufficient ſea-room. A ſea ſtriking the ſhip violently on the ſtern may daſh it inwards, by which ſhe muſt inevitably founder. In broaching-to (that is, inclining ſuddenly to windward), ſhe is threatened with being immediately overturned; and, for want of ſea- room, ſhe is endangered by ſhipwreck on a lee-ſhore, a circumſtance too dreadful to require explanation.

SCULPONEÆ, among the Romans, a kind of ſhoes worn by ſlaves of both ſexes. Theſe ſhoes were only blocks of wood made hollow, like the French ſa-

IS the art of carving wood or hewing ſtone into ima­ges. It is an art of the moſt remote antiquity, being practiſed, as there is reaſon to believe, before the general deluge. We are induced to aſſign to it this early origin, by conſidering the expedients by which, in the firſt ſtages of ſociety, men have everywhere ſupplied the place of alphabetic characters. Theſe, it is univerſally known, have been picture-writing, ſuch as that of the Mexicans, which, in the progreſs of refine­ment and knowledge, was gradually improved into the hieroglyphics of the Egyptians and other ancient na­tions. See Hieroglyphics.

That mankind ſhould have lived near 1700 years, from the creation of the world to the flood of Noah, without falling upon any method to make their concep­tions permanent, or to communicate them to a diſtance, is extremely improbable; eſpecially when we call to mind that ſuch methods of writing have been found, in modern times, among people much leſs enlightened than thoſe muſt have been who were capable of building

ſuch a veſſel as the ark. But if the antediluvians were acquainted with any kind of writing, there can be little doubt of its being hieroglyphical writing. Mr Bryant has proved that the Chaldeans were poſſeffed of that art before the Egyptians; and Beroſus @@\* informs us, that a delineation of all the monſtrous forms which inhabit­ed the chaos, when this earth was in that ſtate, was to be ſeen in the temple of Belus in Babylon. This deli­neation, as he deſcribes it, muſt have been a hiſtory in hieroglyphical characters; for it conſiſted of human fi­gures with wings, with two heads, and ſome with the horns and legs of goats. This is exactly ſimilar to the hieroglyphical writing of the Egyptians; and it was preſerved, our author fays, both in drawings and *engra­vings* in the temple of the god of Babylon. As Chal­dee was the firſt peopled region of the earth after the flood, and as it appears from Pliny @@†, as well as from Beroſus, that the art of engraving upon bricks baked in the fun was there carried to a conſiderable degree of perfection at a very early period, the probability cer-

@@@[m]\* Apud Syncellum, p. 37.

@@@[m]† Hist. Nat. lib. 7. cap. 56.