ſtates-general, governor-general and ſupreme director of the Eaſt and West India companies ; dignities which give him a great deal of authority and power, and which bad never been conferred upon any oſ his predeceſſors, nor have they hitherto been made hereditary. He has his repreſentatives in the ſeveral chambers of the compa­ny, and chooſes their directors out of a nomination of three qualified perſons. The prince enjoyed this pre­rogative in Zealand from the time of his elevation to the ſtadtholderate.

The revenues of the ſtadtholderate of the ſeven United Provinces are reckoned (including the 25,000 guilders which the prince enjoys annually as the firſt member of the council of ſtate, and what he has from the India company’s dividends) to amount to 300,000 guilders a-year. As captain-general of the union, his serene highnecſs has 120,000 guilders *per annum,* besides 24,000 from Frieſland, and 12,000 from Groningen, in quality of captain-general of thoſe provinces. In times of war the ſtate allows extraordinary ſums to the captain­general for the expence of every campaign.

To all theſe powers and privileges the prince of Orange has a legal and conſtitutional right ; but he has been diveſted of them by a faction which ſeems deter­mined to fell to the cruel and arbitrary republic of France that country which his anceſtors redeemed from Auſtrian ſlavery, at the hazard of loſing every thing dear to them but liberty and honour.

STÆHELINA, in botany : A genus of plants be­longing to the claſs of *ſyngenſia,* and order of *polygamia aqualis ;* and in the natural ſyſtem arranged under the 49th order, *Compositae.* The receptacle is paleaceous, the chaff being very ſhort ; the pappus is branchy, and the antheræ caudated. There are eight ſpecies, the gnaphaloides, dubia, arboreſcens, fruticosa, ilicifolia, corymboſa, chamæpeuce, and imbricata.

STAFF, an inſtrument ordinarily uſed to rest on in walking. The ſtaff is alſo ſrequently uſed as a kind of natural weapon both of offence and defence ; and for ſe­veral other purpoſes.

Staff, a light pole erected in different parts of a ſhip, whereon to hoiſt and diſplay the colours.

The principal of theſe is reared immediately over the ſtern, to diſplay the ensign ; another is fixed on the bowſprit, to extend the jack ; three more are erected at the three maſt heads, or formed by their upper ends, to ſhow the flag or pendant of the reſpective ſquadron or division to which the ſhip is appropriated. See En­sign, Mast, Jack, and Pendant.

Staff, in military matters, conſiſts of a quarter- maſter-general, adjutant-general, and majors of brigade. The ſtaff properly exiſts only in time of war. See QUARTER-*Master General, &c.*

*Regimental Staff,* conſiſts in the adjutant, quarter- maſter, chaplain, ſurgeon, &c.

Staff, in muſic, five lines, on which, with the in­termediate ſpaces, the notes of a ſong or piece of muſic are marked.

*Fore-STAFF.* See *FOREST-Staff.*

STAFFA, one of the Hebrides or Weſtern Iſlands of Scotland, remarkable for its baſaltic pillars. It was visited by Sir Joſeph Banks, who communicated the following account of it to Mr Pennant.

“ The little iſland of Staſſa lies on the weſt coaſt of Mull, about three leagues north-eaſt from Iona, or Icolumbkill : its greateſt length is about an Engliſh mile, and its breadth about half a one. On the weſt side of the iſland is a ſmall bay where boats generally land ; a little to the ſouthward of which the firſt ap­pearance of pillars are to be obſerved : they are ſrnall ; and inſtead of being placed upright, lie down on their ſides, each forming a ſegment of a circle. From thence you paſs a ſmall cave, above which the pillars, now grown a little larger, are inclining in all directions ; in one place in particular, a ſmall maſs of them very much reſembles the ribs of a ſhip. From hence having paſſed the cave, which, if it is not low-water, you must do in a boat, you come to the first ranges of pillars, which are ſtill not above half as large as thoſe a little beyond. Over againſt this place is a ſmall iſland, call­ed in Erſe *Boo-ſha-la,* ſeparated from the main by a channel not many fathoms wide. This whole iſland is compoſed of pillars without any ſtratum above them ; they are ſtill small, but by much the neateſt formed of any about the place.

“ The firſt division of the iſland, for at high water it is divided into two, makes a kind of a cone, the pil­lars converging together towards the centre : on the other they are in general laid down flat ; and in the front next to the main, you see how beautifully they are packed together, their ends coming out ſquare with the bank which they form. All theſe have their tranſverſe ſections exact, and their ſurfaces ſmooth ; which is by no means the case with the large ones, which are cracked in all directions. I much queſtion, however, if any part of this whole iſland of Boo-ſha-la is two feet in diameter.

“ The main iſland oppoſite to Boo-ſha-la, and farther towards the north-weſt, is ſupported by ranges of pil­lars pretty erect, and, though not tall (as they are not uncovered to the baſe), of large diameters; and at their feet is an irregular pavement, made by the upper ſides of ſuch as have been broken off, which extends as far under water as the eye can reach. Here the forms of the pillars are apparent : theſe are of three, four, five, six, and ſeven sides ; but the number of five and six are by much the moſt prevalent. The largeſt I meaſured was of ſeven ; it was four feet five inches in diameter.

“ The ſurfaces of theſe large pillars, in general, are rough and uneven, full of cracks in all directions ; the tranſverſe figures in the upright ones never fail to run in their true directions. The ſurfaces upon which we walked were often flat, having neither concavity nor convexity ; the larger number, however, were concave, though ſome were very evidently convex. In ſome pla­ces, the interſtices within the perpendicular figures were filled up with a yellow ſpar : in one place, a vein paſſed in among the maſs oſ pillars, carrying here and there ſmall threads of ſpar. Though they were broken and cracked through in all directions, yet their perpendicu­lar figures might eaſily be traced : from whence it is eaſy to infer, that whatever the accident might have been that cauſed the diſlocation, it happened after the formation of the pillars.

“ From hence proceeding along ſhore, you arrive at Fingal’s cave. Its dimensions I have given in the form of a table :