Vaillant, dreading the miseries of a fresh slavery, reſolved, however, to ſecure the medals which he had received at Algiers, and in order thereto ſwallowed them. But a ſudden turn of the wind freed them from this adverſary, and Cast them upon the coasts of Catalonia ; where, after expecting to run aground every moment, they at length fell among the ſands at the mouth of the Rhone. Mr Vaillant got to shore in a skiff, but felt himſelf extremely incommoded with the medals he had ſwallowed, which might weigh al­together five or six ounces, and therefore did not pass like Scarborough waters. He had recourſe to a couple of physicians, who were a little puzzled with the singularity of his case; however, nature relieved him from time to time, and he found himſelf in possession of the greatest part of his treaſure when he got to Lyons. Here he explained, with much pleaſure to his friends, thoſe medals which were al­ready come to hand, as well as thoſe which were daily ex­pected ; among which last was an Otho, valuable for its ra­rity.—He was much caressed on his return ; and when Louis XIV. gave a new form to the academy of inſcriptions in 1701, Mr Vaillant was first made associate, and then pensionary. He wrote ſeveral works relating to ancient coins, and died in 1706.

VAIR, or Vaire, a kind of fur, formerly uſed for lining the garments of great men and knignts of renown. It is repreſented in engraving by the figures of little bells revetted, ranged in a line. See Heraldry, Chap. II. Sect. 2.

VAIRY, in heraldry, expresses a coat, or the bearings of a coat, when charged or chequered with vairs.

VALAIS, a valley in Swisserland, which extends from the ſource of the river Rhone to the lake of Geneva. It is near 100 miles in length, but the breadth is very unequal. It is bounded on the north by the Alps, which ſeparate it from the cantons of Bern and Uri, on the east by the moun­tains of Forche, on the ſouth by the duchy of Milan and the Val d’Aoste, and on the west by Savoy and the republic of Geneva. The inhabitants profess the Roman Catholic reli­gion, and are subject to the ſwelling of the throat called *bronchocele;* and idiots are ſaid to abound among them more than in any other place of the globe. They are naturally hardy, enterprising, and good-natured. It is ſurrounded on all sides by very high mountains, most of which are covered with ſnow and ice that never thaw. However, the soil is fertile in corn, wine, and good fruit. The muſcat-wine, which is produced here, is excellent, and well known all over Europe. There are mineral waters, plenty of game, and ſome mines. This country comprehends 55 large parishes, to which one biſhop only belongs, whoſe see is at Sion the capital. The mountains afford good pasture for their cattle in ſummer, and their harvest continues from May to October ; it being ſooner or later according to the situation of the place.

VALANTIA, in botany : A genus of plants in the or­der *monœcia,* of the claſs *polygamia,* and in the natural ſyſtem arranged under the 41st order, the *aſperifoliae.* There is scarcely any calyx ; the corolla is monopetalous, flat, four- parted ; the stamina four, with ſmall antheræ : the herma­phrodite flowers have a pistillum with a large germen, a bifid style, the length of the calyx, and one seed; the pistilla of the male flowers are hardly diſcernible. There are eight ſpecies, only one of which is a native of Britain, the *cruciata ;* the stalks of which are ſquare, the whole plant hairy, the leaves oval and verticillate, four in a whirl ; the flowers are yellow, and grow on ſhort peduncles out of the alæ of the leaves. The roots, like thoſe of the galiums, to which it is nearly re­lated, will dye red. It is astringent, and was once uſed as a vulnerary.

VALENCIA, a province of Spain, which has the title of a kingdom ; and is bounded on the east and ſouth by the Mediterranean ſea, on the north by Catalonia and Arragon, and on the west by New Castile and the kingdom of Murcia. It is about 165 miles in length, and 63 in breadth. It is one of the most populous and agreeable parts of Spain, and where they enjoy almost a perpetual ſpring. The great number of rivers wherewith it is watered renders it extreme­ly fertile, particularly in fruits and wine. There are very rugged mountains in it, which contain mines of alum and other minerals.

Valencia, a city of Spun, and capital of the kingdom of the same name. It contains about 12,000 houles, besides thoſe of the ſuburbs and the ſummer-houses round it. It has an university, and an archbishop’s see ; and was taken from the Moors by the Christians in the 13th century. The town is handſome, and adorned with very fine structures. It is not very strong, though there are some bastions along the sides of the walls. They have manufactures in wool and silk, which bring in great ſums to the inhabitants. It is ſeated on the river Guadalaviar, over which there are five handſome bridges; and it is about three miles from the ſea, where there is a harbour, 110 miles north of Murcia, and 165 east by ſouth of Madrid. This city ſurrendered to the earl of Pe­terborough in the year 1705 ; but it was lost again in 1707. W. Long. 0. 10. N. Lat. 39. 23.

VALENCIENNES, an ancient, strong, and considerable city of France, in the department of the North and late pro­vince of Hainault. It contains about 20,000 souls. The Scheid divides it into two parts. It is a very important place : the citadel and fortifications, the work of Vauban,were constructed by order of Louis XIV. who took this town from the Spaniards. It was confirmed to him by the treaty of Nimeguen, in 1678. In 1793, it ſurrendered to the allies after a ſevere siege, but was afterwards abandoned and is now in the possession of the French republicans. Besides lace, this city is noted for manufactories of woollen stuffs and very fine linens. It is 20 miles west-ſouth-west of Mons, 17 north-east of Cambray, and 120 north-east by north of Paris. E. Long. 3. 37. N. Lat. 50. 21.

VALENS (Flavius), emperor of the East, a great patron of the Arians. Killed by the Goths in the year 379. See Constantinople, n⁰ 76.

VALENTINIAN I. emperor of the West, a renowned warrior, but a tyrant over his subjects. See Rome, n⁰ 523.

Valentinian II. emperor of the West, a prince celebra­ted for his virtues, and above all for his moderation ; yet a conſpiracy was formed against him by Arbogastes, the com­mander in chief of his armies ; and he was strangled in the year 392. See Rome, n⁰ 536.

VALENTINI ANS, in church-history, a ſect of Christian heretics, who ſprung up in the second century, and were ſo called from their leader Valentinus.

The Valentinians were only a branch of the Gnostics, who realized or perſonified the Platonic ideas concerning the Deity, whom they called *Pleroma* or *Plenitude.* Their ſystem was this : the first principle is Bythos, *i. e.* Depth, which remained many ages unknown, having with it Ennoe or Thought, and Sige or Silence; from these ſpring the Nous or Intelligence, which is the only ſon, equal to and alone ca­pable of comprehending the Bythos; the sister of Nous they called *Aletheia* or *Truth ;* and theſe constituted the first quaternity of æons, which were the ſource and original of all the rest : for Nous and Aletheia produced the World and Life ; and from theſe two proceeded Man and the Church. But besides theſe 8 principal æons, there were 22 more; the last of which, called *Sophia,* being desirous to arrive at the knowledge of Bythos, gave herſelf a great deal of uneasiness,