he narrowly escaped being burnt to death by the treachery of his brother, who was Danaus of Greece. He brought home a large body of captives, whom he employed in the erection of public works, and more particularly in construct­ing canals. He erected two statues representing himself and his wife before the temple of Hephæstos, which were forty-five feet high ; and four representing his sons, which were thirty feet high. At his death he was succeeded by his son Pheros.

SESQUI, a Latin particle, signifying a whole and a half. When joined with *altera, terza, quarta, &c.* it is much used in the Italian music to express a kind of ratios, particularly several species of triples.

SESQUIALTER, in *Music,* the ratio of 3 : 2 in the nu­merical calculation of musical intervals. This, and many other old pedantic terms, such as *super-particular* and *super- partient,* &c., employed to express ratios very simple, and easily intelligible under other terms, had better be aban­doned entirely in musical nomenclature, which has long been overloaded with such jargon.

Sesqui-alterate, in *Geometry* and *Arithmetic,* is a ratio between two lines, two numbers, or the like, where one of them contains the other once, with the addition of a half.

Thus 6 and 9 are in a sesqui-alterate ratio, since 9 con­tains 6 once, and 3, which is half of 6, over ; and 20 and 30 are in the same, as 30 contains 20 and half 20, or 10.

Sesqui-Duplicate *Ratio* is when of two terms the greater contains the less twice, and half the less remains ; as 15 and 6, 50 and 20.

Sesqui-Tertional*Proportion* is when any number or quantity contains another once and one third.

SESSION, in general, denotes each sitting or assembly of a council, or other body.

SesskjN *of Parliament* is the season or space from its meeting to its prorogation.

*Kirk-Session,* the name of a petty ecclesiastical court in Scotland.

Sessions for weights and measures. In London, four justices, from among the mayor, recorder, and aldermen, may hold a session to inquire into the offences of selling by false weights and measures, contrary to the statutes ; and to receive indictments and punish offenders.

*Court of Session.* See Scotland. *court of Quarter-Sessions,* an English court that must be held in every county once in every quarter of a year.

SESTERCE, Sestertius, a silver coin in use among the ancient Romans, called also simply *nummus,* and some­times *nummus sestertius.* The sestertius was the fourth part of the denarius, and originally contained two asses and a half. It was at first denoted by LLS, the two Ls signi­fying two librte, and the S half. But the librarii, after­wards converting the two Ls into an H, expressed the ses­tertius by HS. The word *sestertius* was first introduced by way of abbreviation for *semistertius,* which signifies two and a half of a third, **qr,** literally, only half a third ; for in ex­pressing half a third it was understood that there were two before.

Some authors make two kinds of sesterces, the less, call­ed *sestertius,* in the masculine gender, and the great one, called *sestertium,* in the neuter ; the former we have already described, the latter containing a thousand of the other. Others maintain that any such distinction of great and little sesterces was unknown to the Romans. *Sestertius,* say they, was an adjective, and signified, *as sestertius,* or two asses and a half; and when used in the plural, as in *quinqua­ginta sestertium,* or *sestertia,* it was only by way of abbre­viation, and there was also understood *centena millia,* &c.

This matter has been accurately stated by Mr Raper, in the following manner. The substantive to which sestertius referred is either *as or pondus ;* and *sestertius as* is two asses and a half ; *sestertium pondus,* two pondera and a half,

or two hundred and fifty denarii. When the denarius pass­ed for ten asses, the sestertius of two asses and a half was the quarter of it ; and the Romans continued to keep their accounts in these sesterces long after the denarius passed for sixteen asses, till, growing rich, they found it more con­venient to reckon by quarters of the denarius, which they called *nummi,* and used the words *nummus* and *sestertius* indifferently, as synonymous terms, and sometimes both together, as *sestertius nummus.* In this case the word *ses­tertius,* having lost its original signification, was used as a substantive ; for *sestertius nummus* was not two nummi and a half, but a single nummus of four asses. They called any sum under two thousand sesterces so many *sestertii* in the masculine gender ; two thousand sesterces they called *duo* or *bina sestertia,* in the neuter, so many quarters mak­ing five hundred denarii, which was twice the sestertium ; and they said *dena, vicena, &c., sestertia,* till the sum amounted to a thousand sestertia, which was a million of sesterces. But, to avoid ambiguity, they did not use the neuter *sestertium* in the singular number when the whole sum amounted to no more than a thousand sesterces, or one sestertium. They called a million of sesterces *decies num­mum,* or *decies sestertium,* for *decies centena millia nummo­rum, or sestertiorum,* in the masculine gender, omitting *centena millia* for the sake of brevity. They likewise call­ed the same sum *decies sestertium,* in the neuter gender, for *decies centies sestertium,* omitting *centies* for the same rea­son ; or simply *decies,* omitting *centena millia sestertium,* or *centies sestertium ;* and with the numeral adverbs *decies, vicies, centies, millies,* and the like, either *centena mil­lia* or *centies* was always understood. These were their most usual forms of expression, though for *bina, dena, vi­cena sestertia,* they frequently said *bina, dena, vicena millia nummum.* If the consular denarius contained sixty troy grains of fine silver, it was worth something more than eightpence farthing and a half sterling ; and the as, of six­teen to the denarius, a little more than a halfpenny. To reduce the ancient sesterces of two asses and a half, when the denarius passed for sixteen, to pounds sterling, multi­ply the given number by 5454, and cut off six figures on the right hand for decimals. To reduce *nurnmi sestertii,* or quarters of the denarius, to pounds sterling ; if the given sum be consular money, multiply it by 8727, and cut off six figures on the right hand for decimals ; but for imperial money diminish the said product by one eighth of itself. To be qualified for a Roman knight, an estate of 400,000 *sesterces* was required ; and for a senator, one of 800,000.

SESTET, Italian *Sestetto,* a piece of vocal or instru­mental music for six voices or six instruments.

SESTOS, a fortress of European Turkey, situated at the entrance of the Hellespont or Dardanelles, twenty-four miles south-west of Gallipoli. This place is famous for the loves of Hero and Leander, sung by the poet Musæus.

SET, or Sets, a term used by the farmers and gardeners to express the young plants of the white thorn and other shrubs, with which they used to raise their quick or quick- set hedges. The white thorn is the best of all trees for this purpose ; and, under proper regulations, its sets seldom fail to answer the farmer’s utmost expectations.

SETCHEOU, a city of China, of the first rank, in the province of Koeitchoo. The inhabitants are extremely rude and ignorant. Long. 108. E. Lat. 27. 10. N.

SETCHING, a city of China, of the first rank, in the province of Quangsee, bordering on Yunan. Long. 105. 54. E. Lat. 24. 17. N.

SETCHUEN, a province of China, on the western fron­tier. It has on the north Chen-si, on the east and south Houquang and Yunan, and on the west Thibet. It is mountainous, but is fertilized by the great river Yang-tse- kiang. It produces the sugar-cane, silk, orange and lemon trees, and the best rhubarb in China ; while in the moan-