X, or x, is the twenty third letter of our alphabet, and a double consonant. It was not used by the Hebrews or ancient Greeks; for as it is a compound letter, the ancients, who used great simplicity in their writings, ex­pressed this letter by its component letters *c* *s*. Neither have the Italians this letter, but express it by *ss*. X scarcely begins any word in our language but such as are of Greek origin ; and is in few others but what are of Latin derivation, as *perplex, reflexion, defluxion,* &c. We often express this sound by single letters, as *cks,* in *backs, necks ;* by *ks,* in *books, breaks ;* by *cc* in *access, accident ;* by *ct,* in *action, unction,* &c. The English and French pronounce it like *cs* or *ks ;* the Spaniards like *c* before *a,* viz. *Alexan­dro,* as it were *Alecandro.* In numerals it expresses 10, whence in old Roman manuscripts it is used for *denarius ;* and as such seems to be made of two V’s placed one over the other. When a dash is added over it, thus, x̄, it signi­fies 10,000.

XATIVA, a government of Spain, in the kingdom of Valencia, extending from the river Alcia to the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. It is now more commonly called St Felipe, its ancient name having been changed by law since the expulsion of the Moors. The capital of the par­tido of the same name was founded by the Romans, and called by them Setabis. It is situated on the declivity of a calcareous mountain, overlooking a plain not very fruit­ful, though watered by the river Albayda, one of the tribu­tary streams of the Xucar. The city is surrounded with ancient walls, partly of Roman and partly of Moorish con­struction, on which are thirty towers. It has also double ditches, and a strong citadel ; but all have alike fallen into decay. It is supplied with water by two ancient aqueducts. Before the recent changes, this city contained four parish churches, thirteen monasteries, nine chapels, and eight poor-houses or hospitals. The inhabitants are estimated at 14,000 souls, some of whom are employed in making linen and silk goods, and some writing paper. Near to it are twenty-two warm medicinal springs of various curative power. This place gave birth to a celebrated painter named Ribero, but better known by the assumed name of Spannoletto.

XEBEC or Zebec, a small three-masted vessel, navigat­ed in the Mediterranean Sea, and on thc coasts of Spain, Portugal, and Barbary. See Ship-Building.

XENOCRATES, a celebrated ancient Grecian philoso­pher, was born at Chalcedon in the ninety-fifth Olympiad. At first he attached himself to Æschines, but afterwards became a disciple of Plato, who took much pains in culti­vating his genius, which was naturally heavy. His temper was gloomy, his aspect severe, and his manners little tinc­tured with urbanity. These material defects his master took great pains to correct, frequently advising him to sa­crifice to the Graces ; and the pupil was patient of instruc­tion, and knew how to value the kindness of his preceptor. As long as Plato lived, Xenocrates was one of his most esteemed disciples ; after his death he closely adhered to his doctrine; and in the second year of the 110th Olym­piad, he took the chair in the academy, as the successor of Speusippus. Xenocrates was celebrated among the Atheni­ans, not only for his wisdom, but likewise for his virtues. So eminent was his reputation for integrity, that when he was called upon to give evidence in a judicial transaction, in which an oath was usually required, the judges unani­mously agreed that his simple asseveration should be taken, as a public testimony to his merit. Even Philip of Mace­don found it impossible to corrupt him. So abstemious was he with respect to food, that his provision was frequently spoiled before it was consumed. His chastity was invin­cible. Phryne, a celebrated Athenian courtezan, attempt­ed without success to seduce him. Of his humanity the following pathetic incident is a sufficient proof. A sparrow, which was pursued by a hawk, flew into his bosom ; he af­forded it protection till its enemy was out of sight, and then let it go, saying that he would never betray a suppliant. He was fond of retirement, and was seldom seen in the city. He was discreet in the use of his time, and carefully allotted a certain portion of each day to its proper business. One of these he employed in silent meditation. He was an admirer of the mathematical sciences ; and was so fully convinced of their utility, that when a young man, who was unacquainted with geometry and astronomy, desired admission into the academy, he refused his request, saying that he was not yet possessed of the handles of philosophy. In fine, Xenocrates was eminent both for the purity of his