**Y,** or y, the twenty-fourth letter of our alphabet Its sound is formed by expressing the breath with a sudden expansion of the lips from that configuration by which we express the vowel *u.* At the beginning of words, it is commonly taken for a consonant, being placed before all vowels, as in *yard, yield, young, &c.* but before no con­sonant At the end of words it is a vowel, and is substi­tuted for the sound of *i,* as in *try, descry,* &c. In the middle of words it is not used so frequently as *i,* unless in words derived from the Greek, as in *chyle, empyreal,* &c. though it is admitted into the middle of some pure English words, as in *dying, flying,* &c. The Romans had no capital of this letter, but used the small one in the middle and last syllables of words, as in *coryambus, onyx, martyr.* Y is also a numeral, signifying 150, or, according to Baronius, 159 ; and with a dash over it, as Ȳ, it signified 150,000.

Y A, a city of China, of the second rank, in Sechuen. Long. 102. 39. E. Lat 30. 9. N.

YABARKULSKAIA, a village of Tobolsk, in Asiatic Russia, on the Irtysch, 120 miles east of Tobolsk.

YACHT, a vessel rigged as a queen’s cutter, having a boom-mainsail, foresail, and jib. They are generally used as pleasure-boats.

YADI, a river of Asiatic Russia, which falls into the Ob- skaia Gulf. Long. 72. 38. E. Lat. 67. 25. N.

YAKOUTSK, one of the four districts into which the province of Irkoutsk, in Asiatic Russia, is divided. It ex­tends as far as the Frozen Ocean, north from the boun­dary of the provinces of Irkoutsk proper and of Nerts­chinsk. It is bounded on the east by the province of Okhotsk, which intervenes between the eastern extremity of Asia. It is watered by the great river Lena, which traverses its whole extent from south to north. Thc cli­mate is so severe as to prevent the ripening of grain to ad­vantage ; and even a crop of rye is extremely uncertain, as in June the ground in the vicinity of Yakoutsk is frozen three feet deep. The inhabitants subsist chiefly by hunt­ing; but this formerly lucrative branch of trade has consi­derably fallen off, in consequence of the depredations made on the game by the activity of the hunters. The sables have become extremely scarce ; but other animals still abound, and bring considerable gain.

The tribe that inhabits this dreary region bears the name of the Yacoutes. They formerly occupied the countries on the Angara and Upper Lena, and are supposed to have been originally a Tartar race ; but being driven from their original abodes by the Mongols and Burats, they have taken shelter in the frozen solitudes of the Lower Lena. They occupy an extensive territory, extending eighteen degrees from north to south, and nearly fifty from east to west. This desolate country is but thinly peopled. The number of males paying tribute amounts to 34,979, which, it is sup­posed, may be about the third of the entire number of both sexes. Those who inhabit the southern districts of this province are tolerably rich and industrious, and possess the usual size, activity, and vigour : but those farther to the north live poorly ; they are seldom able to procure bread, and feed on onions, garlic, and other roots, with various sorts of berries, both fresh and preserved, which form their chief luxuries. They are remarkably ignorant and super­stitious, and live in the continual dread of evil spirits. The Shamans, a set of magical impostors, enjoy unbounded influence among them. They are eager for spirits, and greedily drink brandy when they can procure it, and use as a substitute fermented mare’s milk, which forms the chief luxury of their feasts. They now submit quietly to the Russian yoke, though they long continued to view that nation with hostility. They acknowledge their subjection by an annual tribute, generally paid in furs.

Yakoutsk, the capital of the above province, is situated on the western bank of the Lena, on a plain surrounded by mountains, which enclose it at the distance of ten or twelve miles. It is a place of some trade, notwithstanding the in­hospitable climate in which it is situated, being the empo­rium of the fur trade ; all the furs which are collected in the extensive regions of the north being brought to this place, as are also all the Russian and Asiatic commodities which are imported in exchange. It also forms a species of entre­pôt for the Russian trade with Kamtschatka and thc western coast of America. The dreary winter is thc greatest disad­vantage of this place. The cold is excessive; and the inha­bitants arc almost entirely confined to their houses, the day­light continuing during the deadness of the season for only a few hours. They consume their time, accordingly, be­tween drinking and sleeping; and they use ice as the most effectual mode of stopping up every chink and crevice, be­ing applied, like double glass, to the outside of the windows. Yakoutsk contains 500 or 600 houses, and about 3000 in­habitants, who for the most part are Cossacks or Yakoutes. Long. 140. 8. E. Lat. 60. 2. N.

YAMSKOI, a fortress of Asiatic Russia, in the govern­ment of Okhotsk, at the mouth of the river Yama, about 800 miles north of Okhotsk.

YAMYCHEFSKAIA, a fortress of Asiatic Russia, in