from ship to ship. Until the invention of the electric telegraph, the semaphore was used for transmitting messages over long distances.

SEMELË, in Greek mythology, daughter of Cadmus and Harmonia, and mother of Dionysus by Zeus. It is said that Hera, having assumed the form of Semelē’s nurse, persuaded her rival to ask Zeus to show himself to her in all his glory. The god, who had sworn to refuse Semelē nothing, unwillingly consented. He appeared seated in his chariot surrounded by thunder and lightning; Semelē was consumed by the flames and gave birth prematurely to a child, which was saved from the fire by a miraculous growth of ivy which sprang up round the palace of Cadmus. Dionysus afterwards descended to the nether world, and brought up his mother, henceforth known as Thyōnē(the raging one), to Olympus. Zeus and Semelê probably represent the fertilizing rain of spring, and the earth, afterwards scorched by the summer heat. Another tradition represents Actaeon as the lover of Semelê, and his death as due to the jealousy of Artemis. A statue and grave were to be seen in Thebes.

See Apollodorus iii. 4; Pausanias iii. 24. 3, ix. 2. 3; Ovid, *Metam.* iii. 260.

SEMENDRIA *(Smederevo),* an important commercial town and capital of the Smederevo department, Servia, on the Danube, between Belgrade and the Iron Gates. Pop. (1900) 6912. It is believed to stand on the site of the Roman settlement *Mans aureus,* and there is a tradition that its famous vineyards— supplying Budapest and Vienna with some of the finest table grapes—were planted by the Roman emperor Probus (a.d. 276-282). In the 15th century, when the Servian prince George Brankovich became lord of Tokay, in Hungary, he planted vines from Semendria on his estates there; and from these came the famous white wine *Tokay.* At the eastern end of the town, close to the river, there is a picturesque triangular castle with twenty-four square towers, built by George Brankovich in 1430 on the model of the Constantinople walls. Semendria was the residence of that Servian ruler and the capital of Servia from 1430 to 1459. It is the seat of the district prefecture and a tribunal, and has a garrison of regular troops. Besides the special export of grapes and white wine, a great part of the Servian export of pigs, and almost all the export of cereals, pass through Semendria. In 1886 the town was connected with the Belgrade-Nish railway by a branch line.

SEMINARY (Lat. *seminarium,* from *semen,* seed), a term originally applied to a nursery-garden or place where seeds are sown to produce plants for transplanting. It was early used in its present sense of a place of education. Its most frequent use is for a training college for the Roman Catholic priesthood, and in a transferred sense for a priest who has been trained in a foreign seminary, also often termed a “seminarist.” A German usage, adopted in America, applies the term *seminar* to a class for advanced study or research.

SEMINOLE (properly *Sirnanoli,* "renegade,” “ runaway,” in allusion to their secession from the Creek confederacy), a tribe of North American Indians of Muskhogean stock. They originally formed part of the Creek confederacy, but separated from it early in the 18th century, and occupied the greater part of Florida. In 1817-1818 their attacks on the Georgian and Alabama settlements resulted in the invasion of their territory by General Andrew Jackson, who defeated them and hanged two British traders, named Arbuthnot and Ambrister, who were alleged to be the instigators of the raids. The long Seminole War of 1835-42, the hardest-fought of all the Indian wars, was due to the tribe’s refusal to cede their lands and remove to Arkansas in accordance with the treaty (see Osceola) of Payne’s Landing (1832). At the close of this struggle, costing thousands of lives and millions of dollars, the Seminoles were removed to Arkansas. They were recognized as “ the Seminole Nation,” and as one of the “ Five Civilized Tribes, ” and granted autonomy upon the scale permitted the other four, the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw and Creek. They live now mainly in Oklahoma, and a few in Florida.

SEMIPALATINSK, a province of the Russian dominions in Central Asia; administratively it forms a part of the general- governorship of the Steppes, although its northern portions really belong to the Irtysh plains of West Siberia. It is bounded on the N. by Tobolsk and Tomsk, on the S.E. by China, on the S. by Semiryechensk, and on the W. by Akmolinsk. As regards configuration, it differs widely in its northern and southern parts. The snow-clad ranges (9000 to 10,000 ft.) of the Altai and Narym enter it in the S.E., stretching S. to Lake Zaisan. Another complex of mountains, Kalbin, rising 5000 and 6000 ft. above the sea, continues them towards the west. A broad valley intervenes, through which the Irtysh finds its way from the Zaisan terrace to the lowlands of Siberia. Many extensions of these mountains and subordinate ranges stretch towards the north. The still lower but wild Chinghiz-tau mountains diversify the south-western part of Semipalatinsk, sending out their rocky spurs into the steppe region. In the south, the Tarbagatal (Marmots’) range (9000 to 10,000 ft.) separates Semipalatinsk from Semiryechensk and Dzungaria. Wide steppes fill up the spaces between the mountains: *e.g.* the Zaisan steppe (1200 to 1500 ft.), between the Tarbagatai and the Altai ranges; the plains of Lake Balkash, some 300 ft. lower, to the south of the Chinghiztau; and the plains of the Irtysh, which hardly rise 600 ft. above the sea. All kinds of crystalline rocks—granites, syenites, diorites and porphyries, as also slates of all descriptions—are met with in the mountainous tracts. There also occur rich gold-bearing sands, silver and lead mines, graphite, coal and the less valuable precious stones. The geology of the region and even its topography are still but imperfectly known. Numerous boulders scattered over the mountains testify to a much wider extension of glaciers in former times. The chief river of the province, the Irtysh, which issues from Lake Zaisan, flows north and north-west and drains Semipalatinsk for more than 760 m. Between Bukhtarma and Ust-Kamenogorsk it cuts its way through the Altai by a wild gorge, with dangerous rapids, through which, however, boats are floated. Lake Zaisan, 80 m. long and 10 to 20 m. wide, has depth sufficient for steamboat navigation; steamers traverse also for some 100 m. the lower course of the Black Irtysh, which flows from Kulja to Lake Zaisan. The Kurchum, the Narym and the Bukhtarma are the chief right­hand tributaries of the Irtysh, while the Char-urban, Chagan and many smaller streams join it from the left; none are navigable; neither are the Kokpekty and Bugaz, which enter Lake Zaisan on the west. Lake Balkash, which borders Semipalatinsk on the south-west, formerly received several tributaries from the Chinghiz-tau. Many smaller lakes (some of them merely temporary) occur on the Irtysh plain, and yield salt.

The climate is severe. The average yearly temperature reaches 43° in the south and 34° in the north ; the winter is very cold, and frosts of —44° F. are not uncommon, while the thermometer rises to 122° in the shade in the summer. The yearly amount of rain and snow is trifling, although snow-storms are very common; strong winds prevail. Forests are plentiful in the hilly districts and on the Irtysh plain, the flora being Siberian in the north and more Central Asiatic towards lakes Balkash and Zaisan.

The area of the province is 183,145 sq. m., and in 1906 its popula­tion was estimated at 767,500. Only about 6% of the population is settled, the remainder, chiefly Kirghiz, being nomads. The province is divided into five districts, the chief towns of which are Semi­palatinsk, Pavlodar, Kokpekty, Karkaralinsk and Ust-Kamenogorsk. The Russians are chiefly agriculturists, and have wealthy settle­ments on the right bank of the Irtysh, as well as a few patches in the south, at the foot of the mountains. The Kirghiz are almost ex­clusively live-stock breeders and keep large flocks of sheep, horses and cattle, as also camels. Hunting is a favourite and profitable occupation with the Cossacks and the Kirghiz. Bee-keeping is extensively followed, especially among the Cossacks. Fishing, which is carried on in lakes Zaisan and Balkash, as also in the Black Irtysh, is of considerable importance. Gold is mined, also silver, copper, salt and coal. There are two ironworks, but the only other industrial establishments of any size are a steam flour-mill and a distillery. A considerable amount of trade is carried on within the province, in which twenty fairs are held every year.

SEMIPALATINSK, a town of Asiatic Russia, capital of the province of the same name, on the right bank of the Irtysh, and on the highway from Dzungaria to Omsk, 683 m. by river S.E. of the latter. Pop. (1881) 17,820, (1897) 26,353. It carries on a