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RESEARCHES IN GREECE;

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RESEARCHES

IN

Greece,

BY

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PREFACE.

THE Researches, of which the first part is now submitted to the public, were made in the parts of Greece included within the three points of Mount *Athos*, Cape *Tænarus*, and the city of *Apollonia* in *Illyricum*.

The chances of the public service having carried the author at different times in the course of ten years into those provinces of the Turkish Empire, and having obliged him to reside in them not less than four years, it would have been an unpardonable negligence not to have employed his leisure moments in making some inquiries into the present state of a country, as interesting as it is imperfectly known.

His principal object was a comparison of the ancient and modern geography, by confronting the information contained in the ancient authors with the actual state of the country.

The vernacular tongues (the only key to the attainment of accurate intelligence in foreign countries) having been one of his earliest objects

of inquiry, some remarks upon them may form a suitable introduction to the other branches of research.

It was the author's first intention to comprise within the limits of a Preliminary Essay, these observations upon the languages now spoken in Greece, but the very scanty notice, which the public possesses upon the modern Greek dialect, tempted him to believe that he could not have been more brief without being less useful, while the information which he had it in his power to collect, relative to the other languages in use within the limits already mentioned, increased the work to the bulk of a separate volume, and induced him to present it to the public as a First Part of these Researches.

He cannot suppose that thus insulated it will be very widely interesting, but it may add something to the stock of the Philologist, and may not be unacceptable to those, whose duties or other pursuits may carry them into Greece, at a time, when our possession of some of its islands has increased the communication between that country and England.

The modern dialect of the Greeks bears the same comparison with its parent language, as the poverty and debasement of the present generation to the refinement and opulence of their ancestors.* In

* *Talis hominibus oratio, qualis vita.* Seneca epist. 114.

regard to practical utility, however, it has the advantage of being the spoken dialect of two or three millions of people at the present day, and of being actually in use by a greater or smaller proportion of the inhabitants in every part of the Turkish empire. A perfect knowledge of it cannot be acquired without the previous study of Hellenic, but it would be a very suitable appendage to the customary academical pursuits ; and by leading to a better understanding of the physical and national peculiarities of Greece and its inhabitants, as well as to a variety of analogies in the customs and opinions of the ancients and moderns, it will introduce us to a more correct acquaintance with the most important branch of ancient history, and to a more intimate familiarity with the favorite language of Taste and Science.

By many persons the author may be thought to have bestowed more attention than it deserves upon the poor and barbarous dialect of Albania. It must be considered curious, however, as holding a distinct character in the midst of the languages by which it is surrounded, being in all probability the ancient Illyric, with some alterations of the same kind, as Latin and Greek have undergone from the Teutonic and Sclavonian conquerors of Southern Europe.*

Subsequent events, which have checked the torrent of French ambition, may have diminished the political importance of Albania,

* The modern Illyric is Sclavonian.

but at the time these Researches were made, its dialect had received an additional claim to notice from the changes which had brought the country where it is spoken into contact with our own enemies, who then made no secret of their design of seeking a road through Albania into Greece. Under these circumstances it became doubly interesting to obtain some knowledge of the language of a nation, irregular and undisciplined as soldiers, but possessing a perfect familiarity with the use of arms ; ferocious and ignorant, and uncivilized, but cherishing an enthusiastic partiality for their native mountains, and adding to the advantages of a country, which opposes the strongest natural obstacles to an invader, that determination to resist all foreign intruders, and that confidence in their ability to defend themselves, which had, until that period of the war, been found very deficient in some more civilized nations of Europe.

The dialect of Bulgaria is limited to the Northern districts of Macedonia, and that of Wallachia to some colonies dispersed along the range of Mount *Pindus*, and in the transverse ridges, which unite it with Mount *Olympus*.

The Turkish is a fifth language spoken within the boundaries of Greece, but it is obvious that any remarks upon it would be better adapted to a work relating to Asia Minor or Constantinople, where it is spoken in purity, than to Greece, where it is little understood, even by the Musulmans themselves, and where its use is confined to the large cities, and some districts in *Macedonia*.

In the Second Part of these Researches it is proposed to present a Comparative View of the Ancient and Modern Geography of Greece, illustrated by a delineation of the country. The collection of materials for the construction of a Map of *Greece* was indeed the Author's chief pursuit during his leisure hours in that country, but its complete execution was a task too arduous for a single person, often disturbed in his operations by the usual obstacles, attending an ill-regulated government, and an uncivilized state of society, as well by many political contingencies, and the superior claims of public duty.

In the hope of influencing some future traveller to direct his attention to the districts with which the Author of the present Researches is least acquainted, it may here be remarked, that his materials are chiefly defective in regard to the interior of the North of *Macedonia*—the gulf of *Torone*, and its two adjacent peninsulas—the East coast of the Morea between *Astró* and *Monemvasía*—and the islands contiguous to the coast of Greece. Of *Eubæa*, and the islands near the coast of *Magnesia*, he has the less reason to lament, that circumstances did not admit of his attempting a nearer examination, as he believes they have been explored by a former traveller, of whose labors geography formed a leading part;* and who, in regard to every other part of Greece, would have left the Author but a slender task to perform, if his observations had been communicated to the public.

* Mr. Hawkins.

In the islands of the Western coast of Greece, the deficiencies of the author's Researches have become of little moment, since a portion of the late Ionian Republic has been taken under the protection of His Majesty's arms: and it is to be hoped that so good an opportunity of obtaining the most accurate knowledge of the topography of those islands will not be neglected.

The length of time which must elapse before the Second Part of these Researches can be completed, renders it difficult to foresee, whether a third part will be required. The great number of intelligent travellers, who have lately been tempted, by their exclusion from the rest of Europe, added to the increased facility which has lately been presented to their progress in Greece, to visit that interesting region, will probably anticipate every thing new, which the Author might have to offer upon the state of society in the country, or its present appearance and condition.

His researches in Greece extended over too large a tract of country to admit of that minute examination of particular spots, or existing remains of antiquity, which are necessary to give much information to the artist, or satisfaction to the antiquary, but he may be able to afford some assistance in directing their attention to those places, where it may be employed to the best advantage.

In the different classes of Natural History, as well as in the minuter

details of some of the arts of modern Greece, he regrets the less his inability to enter into such particulars as could alone be satisfactory in the present advanced state of science, when he considers that in the pursuits of Mineralogy, Botany, Zoology and Agriculture, he has been preceded by travellers,* well qualified to investigate those branches of knowledge, and who directed their especial attention to inquiries, important in every country, but in Greece rendered doubly interesting by the light which they reflect upon many of the writings of antiquity.

But the objects of which the discovery leads more immediately to an intimate acquaintance with the polished times of Greece are manuscripts of ancient authors, and monuments of ancient art. Of the former of these there appears no very flattering prospect of making any important acquisitions, but scarcely any doubt of being amply rewarded for our labor and expense in searching for the latter.

M. de Villoison, in the course of a tour, which had for its principal object the collection of manuscripts, examined Attica, many parts of the Morea, the vicinity of Constantinople and of Smyrna, Mount Athos and all the Archipelago ; and although Dr. Clarke has since had the good fortune to make an important discovery in one of the islands, it is not likely that much has escaped the zeal and erudition of the French traveller.

Mr. Hawkins, in the course of a four years' residence in Greece,

* Mr. Hawkins, and the late Dr. J. Sibthorpe.

in which he visited almost every province, succeeded only in procuring a transcript of the works of Josephus, and a few copies of the four Gospels. Mr. Carlyle was equally unsuccessful in regard to the classical authors of ancient Greece.

In the course of the Author's tours he visited several religious houses, where no European traveller had preceded him, in the memory of the persons who then occupied them; and though he was always permitted to look over the old books, generally thrown aside in some obscure corner of the building, he never succeeded in finding any manuscripts, but such as related to the Greek church, its doctrines, and ceremonies, with the exception of one manuscript of the Annals of Zonaras. He often found the earliest and best printed editions of the Greek classics.

His inquiries, however, in this department, not being a leading object of his travels, must be considered as very imperfect, and it is to be hoped, that a more complete search for manuscripts than has yet been made, will hereafter be attempted throughout Greece. With a view to such an undertaking, it may not be useless to remark, that the convents, which the Author had not an opportunity of visiting, are those situated in Mount *Olympus*, and in the districts of A'grafa,* Aspropótamo, Krâvari, Karpenísi, and Malandrína, being the mountainous regions formerly inhabited by the

* In A'grafa there is said to be a good library at the convent of Réndina.

Dolopes, *Dryopes*, and a part of the *Ætolians* and *Locri Ozolæ*. There are likewise some situations in the great ridge of Mount *Pindus*, to the North of *Kónitza*, which he did not visit; and he cannot take upon himself to decide, that a more accurate search than he had the convenience of making in the seven monasteries of the *Metéora*, on the rocks of *Kalabáka* in *Thessaly*, would be a hopeless undertaking, although their position in the principal pass of Mount *Pindus*, which exposes them to be frequently pillaged by the Turkish and Albanian troops, together with the circumstance of their having been for many years entirely deserted, would not lead him to be very sanguine as to the success of any inquiries in that situation. Beyond the limits of Greece Proper, the convents of *Servia* and *Bulgaria*, and of a part of the coasts of *Asia Minor*, seem not unworthy of examination with a view to the discovery of manuscripts.

The treasures of ancient art, with which the excavations at Athens, *Ægina*, and *Phigaleia*, have rewarded the labors of those who undertook them, and enriched the stock of models for the improvement of the arts in civilized Europe, promises better success in the discovery of ancient monuments in Greece. There is, indeed, hardly one of the more celebrated cities either on the coasts, or in the interior, which does not, by its present appearance, give ample promise of valuable discoveries.

Before this preface is concluded, the reader may perhaps expect to be put more fully in possession of the grounds, upon which the Author presumes to claim attention to his remarks upon Greece. It may not be improper, therefore, to give an outline of his journies in that country, altogether omitting a great number of excursions, which he made from various parts of it, for the sake of viewing particular spots.

When he arrived at Athens in the year 1802, in company with Mr. Hamilton, and the late Lieutenant-Colonel Squire, of the Royal Engineers, he was already habituated to Oriental travelling and Turkish customs, having traversed the interior of Asia Minor, and a great part of its coasts, having passed some months in Cyprus, and the principal islands of the Archipelago—seen the greater part of Syria and the Holy Land—twice crossed the deserts, which separate Palestine from the Delta—spent a year in Egypt, which he had examined from the coast of the Mediterranean to the Cataracts of the Nile—nor was it for the first time, that he then visited Attica itself.

In the company of his two friends, he made the tour of *Attica*, *Argolis*, and *Corinthia*, traversed *Bœotia* and *Phocis* in various directions, and advanced North as far as Zitúni.

In his passage by sea from Athens to Malta, the ship in which they

were embarked was cast ashore on the coast of Cerigo, where, the passengers having hardly had time to gain a footing upon the rocks, before the extremity of the masts was the only part of the vessel visible above the water, he lost the greater part of the memoranda of his former journies—a misfortune little to be regretted in regard to his travels in Egypt and Syria, as he had then the advantage of accompanying Mr. Hamilton, whose papers upon those countries have since been recovered, and in part published, and whose remarks were a duplicate of the Author's own, in those parts where their joint observations had required nothing more than diligence and fidelity, but in every other respect were far more valuable.

Returning into Greece in the year 1805, upon a special mission from His Majesty's Government, he had an opportunity, during that and the succeeding year, of undertaking several journies both in the Moréa and in Northern Greece. From the vicinity of *Elis* and *Olympia*, he passed through a part of *Messenia* and *Arcadia* to Tripolítza, the modern capital of *Peloponnesus*. From hence turning Southward, he made a complete tour of *Laconia* and *Messenia*, comprehending the extreme points of Monemvasía,* Cape Matapán, and Mothóni, and after examining *Arcadia* in several different directions,

* By the Italians called Nápoli di Malvasia.

he returned to Pátra in June 1806. Having made a short stay at this place, he proceeded through *Ætolia* and *Acarmania*, to the modern city of Ioánnina in *Molossis*, from whence after crossing the *Pindus* into *Upper Macedonia*, and recrossing it into the *Illyrian* plains, his further progress in that direction was impeded by a severe illness at *Apollonia*, which obliged him to return to Ioánnina, through the heart of Southern Albania. He should here remark, that before he had commenced his journey in the Morea, he had seen the part of Albania, which lies nearer the coast, in a journey from Corfú to Tepeléni, by Délvino and Arghiró-Kastro.

In November 1805, he entered *Thessaly* by the Southern branch of the pass of Métzovo, visited the central plains of *Thessaly*, examined *Phocis*, *Bæotia*, and *Attica* in many directions, together with a part of *Eubæa*, and after some stay at Athens returned from that city by the North of *Attica* into *Bæotia*, having traversed which, he passed through the districts bordering upon the Corinthian gulf to Sálona, and from thence through the mountainous regions of the *Locri Ozolæ* to E'pakto. From Pátra he set out on a second tour in the Moréa, and entering Arcadia from the side of *Elis*, again traversed that province in different directions, and returning to Pátra, made the tour of the *Achæan* states to *Corinth*, and at length, in the spring of 1806, sailed from Pátra to Corfú.

In a passage by sea in the summer of 1806, from Corfú to *Mount Athos* in *Macedonia*, he had leisure to examine the islands of *Lefkádha*, *Thiáki*, and *Kefalonía*, some parts of the South coast of the *Morea*, which he had not before seen—the islands of *Tzerígo*, *Mílo*, *Páro*, *Andíparo*, *Axía*, *Díli*, *Míconi*, *Skíro*, and landed upon *Acte* or the Peninsula of *Mount Athos* in October 1806.

After making the tour of this district, he proceeded by *Acanthus* and the canal of *Xerxes* along the Eastern part of *Chalcidice* to *Orfaná*, and by *Amphipolis* and the plains of the river *Strymon* to *Sérres* and *Saloníka*. From this city he made the tour of the greater part of both *Lower* and *Upper Macedonia*, and passing from the latter province into *Perrhæbia* by the pass of *Sérvia*, followed the Western foot of *Mount Olympus*, and entered once more the Thessalian plains. From thence, after some excursions in the vicinity of *Lárisa*, he returned by the pass of *Tempe* along the coast of the *Thermaic gulf* to *Saloníka*.

At the close of 1808, having again received from His Majesty the honor of a commission in Greece, the Author employed several intervals of leisure, in the course of the ensuing year, in a more accurate survey of *Acarnania*, *Ætolia*, *Epirus*, and the mountainous regions to the Eastward of *Ioánnina* and *A'rta*, anciently inhabited by the *Stymphæi*, *Athamanes*, *Agræi*, &c., the ruins of *Calydon* being