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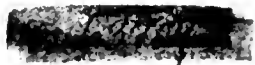
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L E T T E R L X V I I I .

AS I described Sympheropol on our former visit, I have nothing to add to that description here ; but I am convinced that you would be much disappointed were I to quit the last Tartar city of the Taurida (for Perecop rather belongs to the wilds of Scythia,) without giving you some account of the manners, customs, &c. of the inhabitants.

To begin, then, with the different nations in the Taurida. Although all the native inhabitants are included in the general name of Crim Tartars, and all speak nearly the same language, still there appears to be three different races of men even among the Tartars ; and each to be distinctly marked by their features, independent of the Greeks, Armenians, Jews, &c. distinguished by religion, manners, and every thing else, from the natives of Scythian origin.

For example : on entering the peninsula, you find in the steppe, or desert, the Hunnish or Kalmouk face, distinguished by high cheek bones ; little oblique eyes sunk into the head, which is large in proportion to the body ; high shoulders ; bad legs ; swarthy complexion ; black hair, with little or no beard ; in short, the frightful squeaking Huns of ancient authors, who committed such horrible ravages in Europe in old times, and compared with whom
the

the Goths, Vandals, &c. were civilized nations. These people are then, very probably, a remnant of the Kozars who antiently possessed the Taurida, and whom all agree to have been of Hunnish origin.

The second race of men that seemed to me different from the Crim Tartars, we found in the mountains, with a full, round, and rather ruddy face, and stout well-made bodies; these, possibly, are the remains of the Goths who maintained a highland principality there till the Turkish conquest.

The third and last variety of the human species are the real Crim Tartars, who inhabit the vallies and other parts of the low country, and are distinguished by a dark complexion and a rather longish face, with features much more resembling the European than the frightful Calmouk; while their figure all together has nothing of deformity about it. However, I must once more remind you, that these observations are merely the result of my own remarks; so that I will not answer for other travellers seeing the natives in the same point of view; and you must likewise remember that I do not include under this head the Armenians, Greeks, Jews, &c. although naturalized in this peninsula for ages; as they still preserve their national religion, customs, &c. &c. and do not seem to have mixed their blood in any considerable degree with the Tartars.

DRESS OF THE CRIM TARTARS.

The men wear the caftan, or long Eastern garb, over a shorter tunic, that serves for the waistcoat in use with the Turks, Persians, Ruffians, &c. tied round the middle by a sash, or koufak, the zona of the Ancients; with a pair of loose drawers and boots; and

АННОУЛІАДЪ КЪ МІРІ
 ЗІЛІНОМЪ РОУТА
 ЧІАРАБІ

and under all a shirt of coloured silk and cotton, commonly striped, like the figures sketched by Bruce (playing on harps) in the caves of Egyptian Thebes. Their arms consist of a sabre, dagger, and *pistols*; sometimes also a *gun*: modern instruments of destruction which have now supplanted the old Scythian bow.

As to the women's dress, it much resembles that of the Turks; and indeed, if the Oriental and Byzantine authors be founded in asserting that the Turks and Tartars are the same people, the exact similitude of the female garb will be easily believed and accounted for.

HOUSES.

The Tartar houses are of one story, constructed of stone, cemented together by a calcareous clay, and covered with tiles. Toward the street they have no windows; polygamy, and its natural consequence, jealousy, having turned the façade of Tauric dwellings to the inner court, where the women may breathe the fresh air through muslin blinds.

LETTER

L E T T E R LXIX.

MANNERS OF THE CRIM TARTARS.

THE natives of this peninsula were much distinguished for Oriental hospitality while under their Khans; and are still so in proportion to their means.

So late as 1780 Mr. Keelman found Hans¹⁴³, or houses of public entertainment for travellers, liberally maintained by the noble families on their estates; wherein you were most generously entertained, with your servant and horses, without a shilling expence; nay even the han-keeper could not be prevailed on to receive a present for all his attentions.

On visiting a Tartar, men are presented with a pipe and a dish of coffee; the first being a mark of particular courtesy, and even distinction, from a man of rank.

Their repasts are very quickly dispatched, although sometimes composed of a number of dishes; as a want of the exhilarating and social juice of the grape renders the Tartar meals both short and serious; for example, a dinner of 30 dishes given us by one of their mufas, or chiefs, lasted but half an hour, and more resembled a quaker's meeting than one of our convivial European treats.

Their cookery resembles that of the antients, in *honey* being a favourite ingredient; but, instead of oil, a large proportion of

¹⁴³ Exactly the Hospitality of the Antients.

butter makes their dishes as greasy as sweet, and insipid to a European palate, accustomed to high-seasoned food, which excites to drink what Mahomet has refused the faithful, and which is but poorly replaced by cooling beverages, composed of the juice of fruit and honey, the *Posea* and *Sera* of the Antients. The gentlemen of the company did not seem much pleased with the Tauric regimen; and I must own, that even my stomach gave me some hints during the evening, that a glass of wine would have been a proper corrector of the Tartar sherbet. Mahomet surely was not so well skilled in dietetics as in many other things, or he would have recommended the high-spiced food of the Orientals, which supercedes the use of strong liquors in the East, and renders pure water a sufficient beverage for Bramins, Gentoos, &c.

After dinner, a dish of coffee and a pipe are presented as digesters; and, after smoking some time, the master of the house takes leave of his guests to retire to his afternoon repose.

MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS.

The Oriental jealousy which, as I remarked in my last, has turned the front of the Tauric houses to the court-yard, instead of the street, and obliged the ladies to admire cattle instead of men from their muslin windows, has done still more than all that in this country; as it has likewise covered with a veil the face of the fair, and indeed almost every thing concerning them; so that all is mystery here that relates to the sex, shut up in a modern *gencceon*, or *haram*, only accessible to their own lords and masters, who are literally so in Mahometan states, though we right christian wives only call you so to laugh at your lordships.

Marriages, we are told, are made in heaven; and lucky it is that

F F

they

they are so ; for an inhabitant of the Taurida never sees his bride till the nuptial torch is lighted up ; so that if it were not for the friendly ministry of a grave matron, or go between (the Pronuba of the Antients), who has the privilege of taking a peep at the bride, a man might marry the grandmother instead of the daughter.

When a lover has acquired, in this manner, intimation of a marriageable girl through the means of the privileged matron, he waits on the father (for the mother is as invisible as the daughter), and bargains for his wife in the manner of the antients before the introduction of dowries, by offering a valuable consideration, which is here commonly a cow, and a greater or less number of sheep, according to the rank of the parties ; the iman, or priest, then marries the loving couple without further ceremony, and the husband carries home his beauty on the faith and taste of the Tauric Pronuba.

The new-married man entertains his companions and friends with pipes, coffee, and sherbet, on the joyful occasion ; but he takes care to do it *al fresco*, before the forbidden door of the house that contains his jealous care.

LETTER

L E T T E R LXX.

BURIALS.

IF the living move along the streets of this peninsula with Asiatic stateliness and solemnity, the dead, on the contrary, are carried to the grave at such a pace as would beat your London penny-post. This assertion is by no means jocular; for we actually saw the other day a party of Tartars scampering away with a corpse at such a rate, as obliged us strangers, who wished to see the ceremony, to take to our heels in a most indecent manner, to keep up with these Scythian pall-bearers. But how were we astonished to find, that it was the nearest relations of the deceased who were thus hurrying him to his long home, as if in fear of his recovery.

This extraordinary dispatch, with which Mahometans are buried within 12 hours of their death, by express order of their prophet, may have taken origin from the heat of the climate where he preached and legislated for his disciples; and I think that the lotions, envelopes, and perfumes, which he commanded on these occasions, seem to confirm the conjecture.

The coffin was covered with a plain stuff, and only ornamented, if it merited the name, with a bit of black silk, embroidered with holy passages from the Koran, thrown over one end of it; this, we

were assured, was a morsel of a consecrated veil from Mecca, of great value and estimation in the eyes of true believers.

This funeral was neither accompanied by flambeaux, tapers, incense, nor church chanting; nor was a wet eye to be seen, or a groan to be heard; nay, even a mourning dress, the outward mark of grief with us, was compleatly wanting here; possibly from an idea of the happiness of the deceased in his new society of houries, promised by Mahomet.

We likewise observed, that no prayers were said during the interment; but afterwards an iman sat down on his hams by the side of the grave, and seemed to be offering up orisons for the departed Mussulman; a very proper time, in my opinion; as, the body being then covered with earth, neither the priest nor the company ran any risk from putrid exhalations arising from the corpse in such a climate.

On quitting the subjects treated of in these last three letters, I must observe, that if Mahomet had no hand in the *veiled nuptials*, I give him credit for the rest of the institutions that we have as yet observed; and even those may have been sagely intended to make every girl equally partake of the advantages of holy wedlock, instead of adding, like you christians, one misfortune to another, by condemning to the state of old-maidism those who may be deprived of external charms.

LETTER

L E T T E R LXXI.

RELIGION.

I MUST own, that the striking simplicity of both the mosques (or metchets) and religious worship of the Crim Tartars pleased me much; probably from being a protestant; though it is possible that a greek, or catholic, might have been of a different opinion, on seeing their priests without sacerdotal garments, and their temples without other ornaments than a few metal lustres and small lamps, merely to illuminate the edifice when deprived of the light of day.

Neither graven image, nor the likenesses of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth, are to be seen in their metchets (mosques), made by the hand of man; nay, this commandment is so strictly obeyed by the disciples of Mahomet, that they have even no painters among them; so that your Sir Joshua Reynolds, if he had been born a Turk or Tartar, would have died without leaving behind him a single portrait to immortalize his name; nor would his able successor in the academic chair have ever displayed his powers in historic painting, had he been born a mahometan instead of a quaker. The whole furniture and fixtures, then, of a Tartar metchet are reduced to a few lamps, a little pulpit, and a niche in the wall on the side towards Mecca, to direct the bows of the faithful to that holy shrine; as you find there neither chairs nor benches; but all most
squat

squat down on the carpets or mats which cover the floor, without distinction of rank; as "all are equal in the sight and temple of God," says Mahomet very wisely.

"Five namas, or prayers, each day are necessary to be regarded!" a good Mussulman announced from the top of the Minaret by a crier, instead of a bell, at stated hours; and each time the congregation must leave their slippers at the door of the mosque, that they may not defile the holy place, and also, perhaps, that they may not dirty the carpets which they are to sit upon.

I shall finish the few remarks that I am able to make on the religion of the Tartars, with observing, that the sagacious Mahomet seems to have composed the externals or ceremonies of his worship from those of both Pagans and Christians, probably to make them more agreeable to the mixed mass of his disciples. For example, he seems to have taken the number of his namas, or daily prayers; the mode of sitting bare-foot on carpets, &c. from the religion of the East India Seekers¹⁶⁴, and something from the Greek or oriental Christian church.

Lastly, I have to remark, that women are as little seen in mosques as any where else in the Taurida.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Justice, while in the hands of the Tartars, was of so summary a kind, that little can be said of it. Indeed, when we consider that the whole Code of Laws sacred and profane is contained in the Koran of Mahomet, it is easy to conceive that it could not be very complicated.

The proper magistrate administered justice on the spot; so that the contending parties were put to no expence to obtain it; nor alternately agitated by hopes and fears. Crimes likewise were im-

¹⁶⁴ See the Asiatic Researches.

mediate!y

mediately and publicly punished. A shopkeeper caught in the act of cheating with false or short weights was nailed by the ear to his own shop-door, that the whole market might know the knave, and watch him in future; a punishment which set Jews, Armenians, and Greeks, the ordinary offenders in this country (for Turks and Tartars are very little given to cheating), much on their guard, as they had but little chance of escaping the vigilant police. Lesser offences were instantly punished with the bastinado, and greater with the bow-string, if a true believer; for a halter was the portion of an infidel; as they thought their old Scythian weapon dishonoured by the neck of a Christian or Jew.

All this is now, of course, changed, under the Russian dominion; where several courts of justice supply the place of the Cady's market-tribunal. But it may be fairly remarked here, as in every country where complicated laws and forms exist, that, although decisions may be made with more deliberation than formerly, yet the balance is often so long held in the hand of the judge, that the accused may grow *light* in the scale before his merits are weighed; and it frequently kicks the beam from that very circumstance.

I shall now take leave of this honest and hospitable race of men; (although I may still say a few words on their nomade brethren in our way home through the Tauric stept, or plain) with inserting the price of provisions during the reign of the Tartar Chans, as left us by Mr. Nicholas Keelman in 1769, and contrasting it with their value when we visited the Taurida.

Price of Provisions in Crim Tartary in 1769, under the Tartar government.

Bread, an ocka (23½ ounces, troy) 4 aspers, or 1 d. English.

Butcher's Meat, an ocka, 2 paras, or 3½ d.

A Turkey, 7 paras, or 1 s. 0¼ d.

A full-grown Fowl, 3 paras, or 5¼ d.

Eggs,

Eggs, 20 or 30, according to the season of the year, 1 para, or $1\frac{1}{4}$ d.

Butter, an ocka, 8 paras, or 1 s. 2 d.

Tauric Wine, an ocka of the best, 5 aspers, or $1\frac{1}{4}$ d.

N. B. An asper is an English farthing in value; a para equal to $1\frac{1}{4}$ d.



Price of Provisions in 1795, under the Russian government¹⁴⁵.

	<i>Roubles. Copecks.</i>	
An ocka of <i>Mutton</i>	-	15
An ocka of <i>Butter</i>	-	60
<i>A Turkey</i>	-	50
<i>A Fowl</i>	-	15
<i>Ten Eggs</i>	-	7
<i>Wine</i> , 16 bottles, from 1 rouble 50 copecks to	-	3 0

N. B. A rouble was equal to 30 pence at the time here mentioned, varying with the exchange; 100 copecks are equal to a rouble, copper.

¹⁴⁵ By this comparative statement, the price of provisions seems to have been doubled under the Russian government, from the vast depopulation of the peninsula, and consequent want of cultivation.

L E T T E R LXXII.

From the Tauric Stept, or Desert.

WE fet out from Sympheropol this morning, and bade adieu to the fine mountainous part of the Taurida, to launch once more into the Desert that occupies the Northern half of the peninsula, from the river Salgir to the Golden Gate; a tract only calculated for pastoral Tartars and their flocks; of course, we could not expect many interesting objects in our this day's journey.

I have always observed, however, that when a traveller is resolved to be pleased, and to draw some kind of amusement from every thing, instead of getting out of humour at the more barren parts of a journey, he may commonly find something or other worthy of his attention: and this was just our case; for we met with some straggling Tartar villages in the stept, and some flocks of the small lean Tauric sheep so famous for their valuable furs and the sweetness of their flesh; but we observed that they were either black or spotted, comprising but few of what is vulgarly called the *blue* colour, which brings so high a price for pelisses, muffs, caps, &c. But what more particularly attracted our attention was, a real Scythian cart drawn by a couple of dromedaries.

This was a deep vehicle, mounted on two high strong wheels, something like an English baker's cart, lined first with rushes, and then with the same felt stuff with which the Tartar tents are made.

G G

A covering

A covering of the same felt was laid over the top when we saw it pass, possibly to conceal the women, who, we were told, had commonly travelled in that kind of equipage from time immemorial.

Independent of what we did see, you know that I derive a fund of amusement from looking for what I very seldom find, viz. the ruins of the ancient cities which once stood in the Taurida; and such was my pastime to-day in returning by the Eastern road along the coast of the Putrid Sea, for the sake of variety; as we came into the peninsula by the Western, along the coast of the Dead and Black Seas.

The Limen Zapra, as the Greeks called the Putrid Sea, seems to be a portion of the Sea of Asoff, cut off from it by the gradual formation of a long narrow sand-bank; at a very remote period, however, as it had the name of the peninsula of Zeno (Chersonesus Zenonis) in the time of the Ancients.

This was the first object that drew my attention to-day in beginning our galloping hunt after antiquities, while the fleet Tartar horses carried us briskly forward; and I was not a little puzzled to conjecture how a Greek philosopher could have left his name on a Tauric sand-bank; till I recollected, that a son of the orator Zeno was made king of the Bosphorus by Marc Anthony; this solved the difficulty; and, as to the name of *Putrid* given to the lake thus cut off from the sea of Asoff, by the Chersonesus Zenonis, nothing can be more applicable; as, in fact, the narrow Straits of Jenitchi, at the end of the bar, being the only communication between them, the Putrid Sea is really nothing else than a stagnant pool, for want of sufficient circulation; exhaling a dangerous miasma during Summer, which has effectually prevented the founding of any modern city on its sickly coast. Ptolemy, indeed, mentions a couple of ancient cities in this district; but in so vague a manner, that we are left to our own conjectures relative to their position.

One of the two, *Tarona*, which Ortelius places to the S. E. of Perecop, and the East of the ancient Satarcha, mentioned in a
former

former letter, I will venture to suppose may have stood on the Solinoy Ozero, or Salt Lake of the Russian maps; as a trade in that mineral, still a capital article, might well maintain a city on its banks; for, to look for any thing above the rank of a pastoral village in any other part of this side of the grazing plain, where there is not a source of commerce and wealth to support a city, would shew great ignorance of the principle which has in all ages collected men into large municipal bodies.

As to the position of the other city of which Ptolemy speaks, let some future traveller conjecture respecting its site, who can discover sources of wealth hidden from the rapid survey of Yours, &c.

L E T T E R LXXIII.

YOU certainly expect me to pass the remainder of the Tauric desert without finding any thing more worthy of remark; but there you are mistaken; for, on the contrary, we found a new subject of attention very much in your own line of research.

On stopping at a village, the hospitable Tartars brought us a wooden dish of their favourite *koumis*, with a small vessel of brandy, both made from mares' milk, in defiance of the opinion of chemists, who formerly asserted, that an ardent spirit could not be drawn from *milk*, till they were taught the Tartar mode of distillation in the wilds of Scythia.

You will easily believe that I did not let slip so favourable an opportunity of procuring information relative to the famous Tartar dish so often the subject of conversation in Russia ; more particularly as I knew that it would be most acceptable to you ; and you will judge of my success on perusing the following result of our inquiry.

PREPARATION OF KOUMIS.

To any given quantity of warm Mares' Milk, the Crim Tartars add a sixth part warm water of the same temperature, with a little old Koumis, four cows' milk, or a piece of four leaven of their rye-bread, as a ferment ; and mix all together in a species of churn.

In the heat of Summer, very little agitation is requisite to throw this mixture into fermentation ; after which, nothing more is necessary than to break the thick scum that forms at top, and intimately mix it with the rest of the fermenting mass, by three or four strokes of the churn-staff several times repeated during the twenty-four hours that the process lasts ; for in one day and a night, during this hot season, the koumis is ready ; but, in Winter, artificial heat and more agitation are necessary to produce the vinous fermentation. In short, the instructions that you gave for the preparation of our Russian quafs in the LXIXth Volume of the "Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London," for the year 1778, are perfectly applicable to the Winter preparation of koumis, with the sole exception of the difference in the ingredients.

The koumis has a fourth sweet taste by no means unpleasant to my palate, and greatly resembling a preparation of milk which I remember eating very often in my visit to Edinburgh some years ago¹⁴⁰.

¹⁴⁰ The Scotch preparation of milk to which Mrs. G. here alludes, is known in Edinburgh by the name of a village famous for it, called Corstarfin ; from which the dish is named Corstarfin Cream.

EDITOR.

However,

However, I should by no means choose to partake of their koumis out of the goat-skin *sacks* in which the Tartars carry it on their nomade expeditions, as the Spaniards do their wine; which, by the by, is a practice so common in Spain, as to give the name of *Sack* to a species of sweet wine once highly prized in Great Britain, if we are to judge from its being your Poet Laureat's aulic reward, and the favourite drink of your humourous glutton Falstaff.

But, to return to our mares' milk. That fluid has been long known to yield an ardent spirit; but Pallas tells us, that he met in his travels a horde of Tartars who possessed the secret of throwing *cows' milk* into the vinous fermentation; or, in other words, of converting it into koumis, under the name of *Arien*, from which they drew an ardent spirit called Arika; a liquor that may probably have communicated its name to the well-known East India spirit Arrack; at least, I hazard such a conjecture with my usual boldness, as I regard these Scythian arts as of high antiquity.

However, lest you should erect a still in our dairy, in hopes of converting all our milk into cow brandy, permit me just to whisper you, that the milk of this animal gives only one-ninth its quantity of ardent spirit, while the milk of mares gives one-third; a wonderful difference in œconomics, which you would do well to calculate before you begin your distillation, if you have speculated on the subject; but indeed, whether you have or not, you never escape the jokes of your most dutiful spouse,

M. G.

LETTER

L E T T E R LXXIV.

AS on entering the Taurida I said every thing that such a town as Perecop can merit from a traveller, I shall now only tell you, that we slept there last night, and left it this morning, to plunge a second time into the Nogay desert in our way back to Nicolayef on the Bog, our head-quarters for a time; indeed, till the roads shall be good enough for our return to Petersburg.

In hopes of varying the monotonous scenery of a vast wild, we took a different route from what we pursued in coming, and crossed the desert towards the shore of the Dead Sea; to which I was rather induced by a hope of seeing the ruins of some of the antient cities which the Greek and Roman geographers speak of on that coast.

Our search after ruins, however, was as fruitless here as it had often been in the Taurida which we have left; yet that did not deter me from marking the position of one of them in my MAP, on the angle of the Sinus Carcinatis of the Antients; as we know that this city gave its name of Tamyraca to that gulph, before the Crim Tartars changed it a third time to the name that it still bears, viz. the Gulph of Koreli.

How the antient cities said to have formerly stood on this coast were supplied with fresh water, is a question that we must naturally ask, after having found neither rivers, rivulets, nor springs, in its whole extent; nay, we did not even see a trace of the deep wells
which

which they must have dug to supply the want of them ; although, indeed, they may have been filled up with sand in a number of ages, and so compleatly levelled with the rest of the plain as not to be now visible.

Leaving then the fruitless search of ruins, we found some entertainment in examining a number of sculptured stones scattered over the deserts to the East of the Dnieper.

They are standing perpendicularly in the ground, bearing each the bust of a man or woman tolerably sculptured for Tartar workmanship ; which there can be no doubt of their being, from the particular dress in which they are represented, and the marked features of the Calmouks, or Huns. But whether these rude monuments of antiquity (for the present race of Tartars know nothing about them,) were originally intended to distinguish the grave of a Scythian chief¹⁴⁷, or to mark the limits of his grazing ground, like the Roman *termini*, I will not take upon me to determine in my present inadequate knowledge of Tartar antiquities ; although I have travelled over so much of their territory, and even tasted their koumis and mares' milk brandy.

We had now given over all hopes of drawing further amusement from the Nogay desert, and were hurrying on to the Borysthenes, when we most unexpectedly spied a few Scythian tents, exactly the same to this day as described by Greek and Roman authors. To enable you to judge for yourself, however, I shall give you an exact description of those which we examined.

They were of a circular form, about four feet high and eight feet in diameter, covered first with rushes, and then with a very thick species of felt cloth, both outwardly and inwardly ; so as to keep the inhabitants warm and dry in all weathers.

¹⁴⁷ See an Inquiry into the Origin of these rude Statues at the end of the volume. Appendix, No. III.

At the top is a round opening, out of which arises a flag-staff and banner, to distinguish the horde; and, as the fire-place is in the center of the tent, the smoke issues from the same opening, and keeps the Tartar pendant in constant motion, even when there is no wind. However, a fire is never lighted in the banner-tents but in very cold weather; as there are others allotted to the purpose of cookery, &c.

The door, which is always covered with a stuff of the same colour as the banner, is so small and low, that you can with difficulty get into these nomade tents, even to visit a chief; and when you do, you find no other furniture than a bulrush mat or carpet, a couple of felt mattresses spread on the ground, with a sabre, bow and arrows hanging up on the side; and when the owner is able to add a gun and pistol to his armory, he is most completely equipped for the species of irregular war that he occasionally engages in. These last-mentioned instruments of death are the only addition to the furniture of a Scythian tent since the days of Herodotus, who first mentioned them and their owners under the name of *Hamaxobitii*¹⁴⁸, or a people dwelling in tents drawn by horses; as applicable to the Tartars of the present day, as to their ancestors the Scythians; for the very tents that I have been describing, called *Kabitkies*, are placed on carts of the same name, and drawn with their inhabitants from one grazing ground to another, as the difference of season, or a want of pasture for their numerous flocks, demands a change of place. The women are kept in separate tents pitched near those of the men, and closely shut up from public view; so that we here found the haram or seraglio in its primitive form, which seems to have taken origin in the desert.

The kitchen utensils, as simple as the dress, manners, and food of these pastoral wanderers, are kept in the female tents, and

¹⁴⁸ See Letter X.

consist only of a large iron kettle, a smaller with a tripod, and a block of wood for the kitchen dresser.

When a horde are encamped together, as is commonly the case (for the party that we saw were only a small detachment), they are under the command of their *murfa*, a kind of patriarchal chief, of much superiour consequence and authority to the petty leader to whom we paid our compliments from a motive of curiosity.

Nothing more attracted our attention till we arrived at Alesky, a handsome village on the left bank of the Dnieper (much lower down than the town of Berislaw, where we crossed that river in going to the Taurida), placed in a fertile spot, abounding in rich pasture; a fact of which the quality of the milk and butter that we met with here, would have convinced us, even if we had not seen the herd of fine cows that produced them. This village likewise furnished us with melons of an extraordinary size and flavour; but what most particularly excited our surprize was, the size of their millet seed, growing on stalks as thick as small bamboos.

How much is it to be regretted, that so valuable a district should imbibe the seeds of destruction to man, from the same cause to which it owes its fertility! for, the vernal overflowing of the Borysthenes leaves here a vast quantity of vegetable and animal matter, which, though it greatly enriches the soil, exhales, during July and August, a dangerous marsh miasma, which is, unfortunately, watted to Cherson by an East wind that reigns in those months, and carries with it death and destruction to the inhabitants of that devoted city, now deservedly abandoned for Nicolayef by the troops, &c. as explained in a former letter.

This and some other examples which I have observed in my travels evidently demonstrate, that the overflowing of rivers in hot climates is either a curse or a blessing to man, according to his indolence or industry; for, if this superfluous water were wisely conducted, by small canals and other contrivances, to fertilize the ad-

joining country, instead of letting it form a dangerous morass in one spot, it would be as useful to man, as it is now destructive.

One most striking illustration of this fact we have in the overflowing of the Nile; which, to the antient industrious Egyptians, was a source of wealth and health; while to the present slothful race it only brings yearly pestilence since the antient canals and reservoirs have been allowed to fill up. However, it must at the same time be acknowledged, that such public works not only require the aid of government, and a number of hands, but likewise a more intelligent and laborious race of men than the present Tartar inhabitants; for no branch of rural œconomy demands more skill and attention than a well-regulated system of irrigation¹⁴⁹.

But to continue our journey:—We embarked at Alesky, where the Borysthenes is magnificently wide, and rolls its majestic waves through a forest of rushes, peopled with such a variety of water-fowl, that when disturbed they darken the air. From thence we sailed about 20 versts up to Cherfon; and, in following the various turnings of the river, had every now and then a glimpse of that city, which we presently lost again. This, occurring many times during our short voyage, became a curious sort of game at hide and seek, which had a fine effect, and agreeably beguiled the distance by flattering us several times with being at the end of our journey before we really arrived. In short, my good friend, we ended our Tour (for the remainder of our route to Nicolayef you know already) with a most sportive play of perspective, which brought us, in good humour, to Cherfon; whence we shall set off to-morrow morning for our head-quarters on the Bog, and remain with the hospitable family of the Commander in Chief, till the roads permit my return to my own in St. Petersburg, where I hope soon to show all my friends with what health, spirits, and gaiety, an

¹⁴⁹ See a paper On the Philosophy of Agriculture by the Editor of this Tour, printed in the additional Appendix to the Report on Manures by the Board of Agriculture.

invalid returns from the charming vallies of the Taurida, to embrace her anxious friends and relatives at home; and to convince you with how much sincerity and attachment she is your affectionate wife,

MARIA GUTHRIE.

L E T T E R LXXV.

Nicolayef, on the Bog.

HERE, my good friend, am I caught in a manner that I never dreamed of, and compelled to winter in Nicolayef, as, from the mildness of the season, there is no appearance either of the rivers being frozen, or the roads practicable in a sledge; and as for my attempting the journey to Petersburg in my post-coach *on wheels*, it is perfectly out of the question; for the couriers who arrive in the light Kabitkies, or carts of the country, have much difficulty to reach us, after hair-breadth escapes on the intermediate rivers, filled with floating ice, which is formed in the North, though unable to unite, as usual, in the South, for want of the accustomed degree of cold.

Patience, then, I must not only take to myself, but preach it to my family at home.

To make the most, therefore, of so cruel a disappointment, I shall employ my leisure hours till spring (when I can be retired from the company of the amiable family of the Admiral), in giving you a sketch of the general history of the antient colonies on the

shores of the Euxine and Mæotis, to connect, and bring into one point of view, the detached and local histories of such of them as we visited in our Tour; for, it must be acknowledged, that the whole were so intimately linked together by ties of blood, intercourse, and commerce, that it is difficult to form a clear idea of a part, without a certain degree of acquaintance with the totality of the subject.

This, however, I shall enter upon in my next; as gratitude, respect, and even admiration, induce me to dedicate the remainder of the present letter to the charming family in which I live, and which nothing could engage me to wish to leave so soon, but the ardent desire of a mother to see her children; for I will not say a word of my impatience to rejoin my husband, as you men are already quite vain enough without such declarations.

As to your most respectable old friend Admiral Mordwinoff, you know better than I can tell you the uprightness of his mind, and the suavity of his manners; but as your fair countrywoman, his lady, never accompanies her husband to Petersburg, although so well entitled in every respect to appear at court, some account of that interesting fair-one I am sure will be acceptable; and I will begin it by assuring you, that she seems to have been intended by nature for the worthy Admiral, to whom by fortune she has been united.

The entire pleasure and happiness of this ornament of her sex, seems to consist in her fine family and domestic duties; for she really appears above the little vanity of etiquette and precedence attached to her situation and rank, as wife of the Commander in Chief of the fleets on the Black Sea; behaving to every one with that noble simplicity of manner, and native unaffected politeness, which ever spring from a cultivated mind and sound judgment.

The influence that the example of chiefs has on the manners and morals of a rising colony, is finely illustrated at Nicolayef in many respects; but it struck me most forcibly at the Admiral's public assemblies; where I observed, that every lady seemed to vie
with

with her neighbour, who should appear there with the greatest neatness and simplicity of dress, to be in uniformity with the charming mistress of the house, who always presides in a plain linen or cotton gown, more ornamented by her native graces and distinguished urbanity, than by all the ruinous finery so common every where else in Russia, but which the example of this worthy couple has banished from the settlement entrusted to their care, to the great relief of the inhabitants (mostly in the service of government), who are thereby enabled to live comfortably on their pay, although very inadequate to support luxury at the end of the 18th century, however ample it may have been in the time of Peter I. the great founder of the military, naval, and civil establishments.

There is one material want most evident in this new colony; and that is of ladies, if I may judge from the number of suitors for the hand of the young woman who left her attendance on our children to accompany me in my journey.

The amiable Lady Mordwinof, who is so much above all petty prejudices, having insisted on her dining at table, she was courted alternately by three officers, and married the last who entered the lists (I verily believe) because he was an Englishman, as she had a liking to your country, and spoke the language.

Thus you see, my good friend, that the liberality of mind of my fair hostess, and the scarcity of females in Nicolayef, has left me to return alone to St. Petersburg, if I can find no one to supply the place of Mrs. Young, for that is her new name; but, instead of being offended at Cupid for playing me such a trick, I am, on the contrary, thankful that he did not draw his bow before my Tour to the Taurida; and I console myself with contemplating the happiness of the young couple.

Do not, however, be alarmed at the idea of my travelling unattended, as the Admiral has appointed an officer, a serjeant, and a soldier, to see me safe to my own house; so that only a female is wanting; and, if I can do no better, I shall take with me a sailor's wife, who now acts as waiting-woman to

Yours, &c.

LETTER.

L E T T E R · LXXVI.

I SHALL now begin my purposed historical sketch of the Greek and Roman colonies, &c. founded on the shores of the Euxine and Mæotis.

We are told, that on the fall of Troy¹⁹ the restless Grecian chiefs dispersed in quest of new exploits; Menelaüs to Phænicia and Egypt; Diomedes to the Adriatic; and so on. But the hero whose adventures relate to my subject, and with whom alone I have any thing to do, was Neoptolemus (son of Achilles), who sailed with his Thessalians into the Euxine or Black Sea, and made his first landing at the mouth of the Danube, known to the Greeks 70 years before by the flight of Jason, who took that road with the daughter and treasure of the unhappy King of Colchis, who was robbed of both by the Argonauts so famous in antient history for this piratical expedition; nay, some of these lawless adventurers were even deified for the nefarious exploit, which certainly, in a political point of view, setting aside the moral turpitude of the action, was of infinite national importance to Greece; as the discovery of the rich countries on the shores of the Black Sea opened a new and vast field for commerce and colonization, to bold and enterprising maritime states; although they clothed the great event in the dress of fable, according to their usual custom in all such

¹⁹ In spite of every argument brought to prove the non-existence of the siege of Troy, in the very ingenious work of the learned President of the Antiquarian Society of London, the Grecian chiefs evidently seem to have been assembled about that time on some expedition.

cases;

cafes; and it muft be remarked, that the mode of collecting the gold-duft washed down from the Caucasus by mountain torrents, as ftill practifed in the antient Colchis, greatly favoured the Grecian tafte for apologue; as the woolly fheep-fkins, funk in the rivers to collect the glittering treasure, are by no means unlike a *golden fleece* when drawn out of the water all befprangled with particles of that precious metal.

This expedition, then, of Neoptolemus, with which I begin my fubject, feems to have been the firft attempt to turn to national advantage the Argonautic discoveries; as we find him immediately beginning a fyftem of colonization, by driving a Scythian hordè, highly celebrated by Strabo for innocence and gentlenefs of manners, from their lands at the mouth of the Ifter, or Danube, and obliging them to take refuge in the ifland of *Pèuce*, furrounded by two of the branches or mouths of that noble river.

On the fpot thus obtained by cruelty and violence, he formed the fettlement of *Tomé*¹⁵¹, afterwards fo famous for the exile of Ovid; and thence proceeded to the Tyras, now the river Dniefter; at the mouth of which he erected a tower bearing his own name, probably as a mark of poffeffion, as the moderns plant a crofs or flag on a newly-discovered ifland; and there left a fmall colony which he called Hermonaffa.

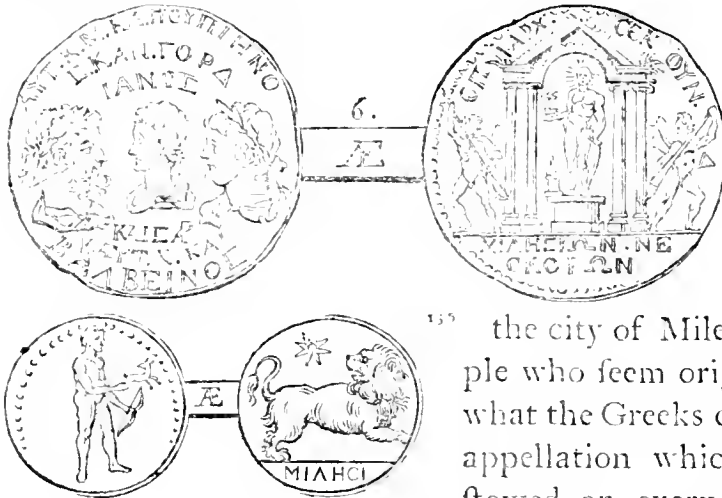
Neoptolemus next proceeded to the neck of land where the Ruffian fort of Kinburn now ftands. There he built a maufoleum¹⁵² furrounded by a facred wood, and celebrated equeftrian games to the manes of his father; which occafioned the fpot to be ever after called by the antients *Dromos Achilleos*¹⁵³, or the Courfe of Achilles; indeed that antique appellation feems to be ftill preferved in the Turkifh name of the place; for Kill, or Achill-

¹⁵¹ Strabo tells us, in his 7th book, that Achilles was worfhipped amongft the Getes; “and on the Danube,” adds Dion Chryfoftom in his 36th oration.

¹⁵² Rather a cataphalcus.

¹⁵³ Strabo tells us, in his 7th book, p. 472, that Achilles had a ftatue, temple, and ftadium on the Eoryithenes; the lat he calls *Δρομος Αχιλλεως*.

bourne, means the Cape or Promontory of Achilles. Here ended expedition of Neoptolemus.



¹⁵⁴ The next fleet of adventurers that entered the Euxine, appear to have been the Cariens, or Milesians ¹⁵⁵, from

¹⁵⁵ the city of Miletus in Caria; a people who seem originally to have been what the Greeks called Barbarians (an appellation which they proudly bestowed on every one not of Grecian

origin), although they were early incorporated with them in their military exploits, from being the Swifs, or foldiers of fortune, of that period; ever ready to hire themselves out to the belligerent powers, or even to co-operate at their own expence where rich plunder was the prize; like the Russian Cossaks, Balkeers, &c. to this day; infomuch that they were even said to have given origin to the word *Miles*, a foldier. These professional warriors soon vanquished the feeble fleet of the Chaldeans, or Chalybs, the sole pro-

¹⁵⁴ The temple of Apollo Didymenos of Milet, burned by Xerxes; with his statue, and two men with lighted brands in the act of firing it.

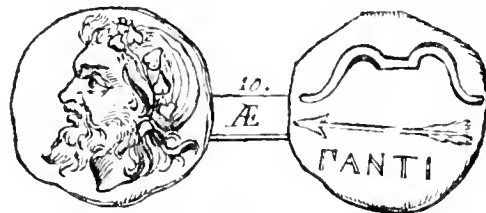
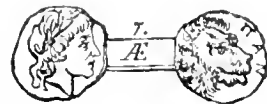
¹⁵⁵ As the EDITOR considered the Greek colonies on the Euxine as very imperfectly known to the Public at large, he thought that giving sketches of autornamate coins struck by the principal cities mentioned in this Tour, when they were free and independent Greek towns, might have a good effect in convincing sceptical readers not only of the existence of such colonies, but even of their antient consequence; for which reason only three Imperial medals will be found in the whole number; that is to say, coins struck by them after being conquered by the Romans; and, as most of those colonies were planted by the Milesians, a couple of fine medals of the mother country (viz. the city of Miletus in Caria) are given, to begin with, from Pellerin, as are most of the other. More on this subject will be found in Letter LXXXV.

¹⁵⁶ Obverse, the Didymen Apollo.—Reverse, the proper arms or emblem of Milet, with the inscription Milesi.

tection of the Southern coast of the Euxine, and founded several colonies in Asia Minor; such as Trapezus, Hermonassa, Cerafus, Ifcopolis, &c. but above all Sinope and Heraclea, the capitals of their settlements in Paphlagonia and Bythinia, with which they probably began their system of colonization, as being nearest at hand, and extended it gradually Eastward along the coast, as far as Trapezus, or, as it is now called, Trebifond.

It was not long before they discovered likewise the opposite coast of the Taurida, by the shipwreck thereon of Orestes, and his subsequent escape, with his sister, from the bloody temple of Diana; for they availed themselves of his knowledge of the country, to send him, at the head of a colony from the Greek settlement of Heraclea in Bythinia, which founded the city of Cherson in a small peninsula, that they named, in honour of the mother colony, *Cherfones Heraclea*, close by the temple of the Tauric goddess; and revenged on the cruel inhabitants their leader Orestes, who had so nearly been sacrificed on her altar.

They now extended their settlements along the Tauric coast, as far as the Cimmerian Bosphorus; building, in succession, the cities of Theodocia and Panticapeos; then, passing the Straits, they founded the city of Phanagoria on the island of that name, and ran up their posts along the Asiatic shore of the Mæotis, as far as their great northern mart Tanais, or Asoff, which they built on the Don (then the river Tanais); with Alopecia, on an island at its mouth; and the other intermediate cities mentioned in the Tour, and laid down on the MAP that accompanies it.



Beside all these settlements in the Taurida, and on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus, it seems to have been the same commercial Carians, or Milesians, who reaped all the fruits of Neoptolemus's expedition to the Ister, Tyras, &c.; for we hear no more of either

him or his colony ; while we know that all the trading cities on the Dniester and Dnieper were built by the Milesians ; such as *Olufsa*, *Niconia*, and *Tyras*, on the first of these rivers ; with the city of *Olbio*, or *The Happy*, on the second, the great mart for Scythian, as *Tauais* on the *Don* was for Sarmatian barter.

L E T T E R LXXVII.

TO finish the history of the Milesian colonies on the Euxine, without interrupting the narration with the establishments made by others, I shall now follow them to the West coast of the Black Sea ; although in so doing, for the sake of perspicuity, I shall be guilty of a great anachronism ; as the colonies of the Cuban and the Caucasus were certainly planted by the other Grecian states, before the Milesian settlement of *Heraclea* in Asia Minor had had time to multiply to such a degree, as to send forth two successive detachments.

When the colony of *Heraclea* had so much increased in population, as to be ready for a second emigration, after sending out the Tauric colony mentioned above, they directed their course to the West coast of the Euxine, as the only remaining shore of this sea that offered a chance for a new settlement ; and even that was already occupied in its whole extent, except a single spot (which will be mentioned toward the end of this Letter), mostly by their
own

own countrymen the Milesians, directly from the mother country, who seem to have rivalled even the Phœnicians in a daring spirit of mercantile adventure. We must now take a survey of the West coast at the time when the Heraclean colony arrived there.

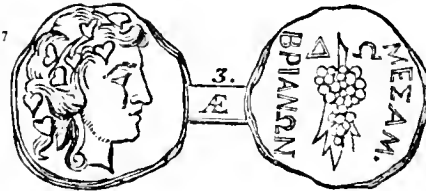
Tomé and Istria toward the mouth of the Danube, thirty-one miles distant from each other, belonged to the Carians (both reduced to insignificant places in the time of Strabo);



and the same people had likewise founded the two cities of Crulii and Odeffa a little farther to the South, and bordering on the settlements of Naulocus and Mesembria,



founded by the Megarians. Then again, the Milesian colonies occupied the coast to the Southward of Mount Hemus, where stood their strong fortified city of Apollonias, built partly



on an island, partly on the continent, and noted for both its fort and arsenal; while its temple of Apollo, and its celebrated statue of that god, made it famous through all Greece, till that fine piece of ancient sculpture was carried to Rome by Lucullus, on the Roman conquest of the country.

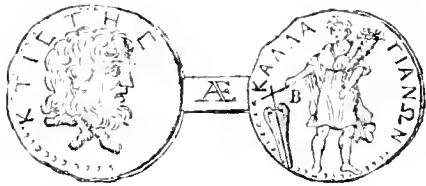


The rest of the coast down to Byzantium, now Constantinople, was mostly occupied by the Tynian Thracians, masters of the cities of Thinopolis, Andrea, and Salmidessa; while the remainder was a dangerous rocky shore, without a single port to take refuge in; indeed, all navigators strove to keep at a distance from it; as either

¹⁵⁷ A branch of the Vine on the reverse of Mesembria shows either that it was famous for wine, or that Bacchus, whose head is represented on the obverse, was worshipped there.

death, or, what was still worse, Thracian slavery, awaited the unhappy seamen who reached the inhospitable land¹⁵⁸.

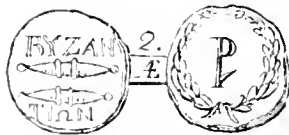
After this survey of the West coast of the Euxine, from the Danube down to Byzantium, it becomes evident that the Heraclean colony had no great choice of place; and, in fact, they only found one spot vacant a little to the South of Tomé, in beginning their survey; which probably had been left unoccupied on account of the dangerous nature of the place; as the city of Callatiæ, which they built there, was soon after demolished by the same earthquake



which swallowed up nearly half the city and port of Byzon, another Grecian settlement on this shore.

So tragic an end of their new establishment obliged them to steer their course home again; but, as probably the same cause which had made them emigrate still existed in Heraclea, and presented a

¹⁵⁸ Byzantium was originally founded by the Megarians 722 years before Christ, and rebuilt by the Milesians on account of its fine secure port, and its favourable situation to command the Thracian Bosphorus; which afterwards caused its alliance to be courted both by Sparta and Athens; though the last succeeded, on account of its great commerce and naval power, which enabled it to hold in subjection most of the islands in the Ægean Sea, from Attica all the way up to Byzantium, and to have a chain of colonies or factories upon them, extending even through these Straits, and along the coast of Asia Minor on the Euxine, down to the city of Amisus, which they beautified; and I suspect that the city of Athens (now Athenah), much farther down the coast, was built and named by them after their Attic capital. The city of Byzantium was noble and spacious, enjoying a popular government, with fine public buildings, a strong fort, gymnasium, &c. &c. It owed its great opulence to a lucrative fishery, and a duty on all ships, passing to and from the Euxine, like Denmark at present with regard to the Baltic; besides the great profit that it drew

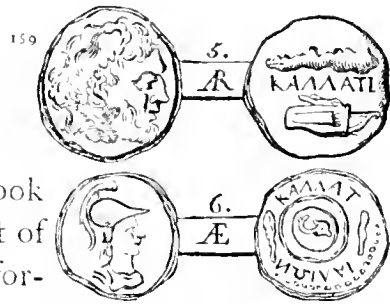


from all the passing ships spending money there, and afterwards leaving goods for sale, instead of carrying them to the Euxine markets, when the season was not favourable for navigating that dangerous Sea.—Its salt fish was famous all over Greece.

* As the fishery of the Pelamides was a great object to the inhabitants of Byzantium, it would seem, from the fish-hook in a laurel crown, that rewards were given to expert fishers.

valid

valid reason against their re-entering the settlement, they found themselves obliged to turn their force against the adjacent country of Paphlagonia, inhabited by the Cauconi and Heneti, of which they took possession without much opposition; most of the able-bodied men being foldiers of fortune, who served any State that chose to employ them, and were then absent on a distant expedition; so that they seized on the remaining part of the province exactly in the same manner that their ancestors had seized on the first portion of it, when they founded Sinope and the other Milesian cities on this coast; that is to say, in the absence of its natural defenders the Heneti (then famous as cavalry, and for the first breed of mules known to antiquity), who, having followed their King Pylemenus to defend Troy, when summoned by old Priam, for the most part fell there with their valiant sovereign, and left their country an easy conquest to the enterprising Carians; exactly as in the case I am speaking of, when their descendants obtained possession of the remaining lands of the devoted Paphlagonia.



¹⁵⁹ It is worthy of remark, that the head of Hercules on the obverse, and his club on the reverse, of these rare medals of this short-lived unfortunate city, points out its origin from Heraclea (being founded, according to the Grecian fable, by that demi-god), independent of the Greek inscription round his head in Fig. 6.

L E T T E R LXXVIII.

WHILE yet the rage of forming settlements on the shores of the Euxine obtained in Greece, a colony of Achæans established themselves on the coast of the Cuban, to the East of Phanagoria; nay, one even from Lacedæmonia, the least mercantile of all the Grecian states, took possession of the remaining part of the sea shore between the Achæans and the famous kingdom of Colchis, giving themselves the name of Henioches, or coachmen, in honour of Recas and Amphistrates, charioteers of the Argonaut heroes, the two Dioscures; and even called their capital Dioscurus; the very city afterwards so celebrated (under the name of Sebastapolis) as a great mercantile emporium up to the Middle Ages.

These first settlers, however, seem to have had no hand in carrying on the extended and honourable commerce which in time rendered this country the admiration of the world, as I shall afterwards show, in treating of the Euxine trade; but, on the contrary, the Achæans and Henochi were so far from cultivating honest trade, that they even joined with their neighbours, the Zigi, in acts of piracy, and helped to form a fleet which was long the terror of the Euxine under the antient and general name of Pelasgi; from whom neither merchant ships on the sea, nor the defenceless settlements on the shores, were in safety, till they at last taught the inhabitants of the Euxine to fortify their ports, and the commercial nations to
create

create a marine to protect their trade, which in time put an end to their depredations.

The colonies settled on the coast of the Cuban, when driven from maritime piracy, seem to have taken to plundering on land, as we shortly after find the Greek colony of Pituntus Magnus, situated a little to the West of Dioscurus, building the famous Validus Murus across a valley, to secure themselves against these lawless robbers; but to little purpose, as they found means to scale the costly wall, and destroy that rich and flourishing settlement; it was afterwards, indeed, rebuilt by the great Mithridates, when he became master of these countries; but a second time ravaged by the Goths while in the possession of the Romans, the conquerors of that Asiatic hero. It began the attacks of the Goths by sea on the Roman empire, which they afterwards directed against Trebifond, Bythinia, Greece, and Italy, in large fleets from the Taurida.

But, of all the Greek settlements on the Euxine, those in the rich kingdom of Colchis certainly took the lead; not so much, however, for the gold collected in its rivers, as for the lucrative Indian trade which then flowed in that channel, as will be soon shown on the subject of commerce.

The Greeks founded several cities in Colchis, especially on the noble river Phasis (so famous in the antient Argonaut fable), which divides the kingdom into halves. The principal of these was Sarapanis, built about 80 versts up the Phasis, where the river begins to be navigable for ships of burthen coming down to the Euxine; and it was there that they placed the emporium of their Indian commerce, and that their vessels went up to load the rich produce of the East.

Iberia is a striking example of the happy effect that commerce has on the opulence of a country; as the Indian trade, by only passing through it on its way to the Grecian emporium on the Phasis, mentioned above, not only rendered it one of the best cultivated countries of Asia, but even crowded it with cities built of stone, and covered

covered with tiles, containing temples and other public edifices, as the Greek writers assure us; nay, they add, that even the adjoining country of Albany was almost equally benefited by the Indian trade having been carried on for ages by the same route, long before any Grecian colony was founded in Colchis; a curious fact, which explains the cause of the riches of that antient kingdom when the first Grecian adventurers arrived there.

Strabo tells us, that the people of the country of which I am now treating, were divided into casts, like the Indians; and gives us much curious information relative to this part of the world; but if I were to indulge in quoting from classic authors, in this and several other parts of my rapid glance at the Euxine colonies, (more especially in the antient Pontus and on the coast of Asia Minor in general,) I should at least add another volume to the Tour of
Your's, &c.

L E T T E R LXXIX.

ALTHOUGH I would not follow Strabo through all his curious remarks on the countries situated among the Caucasian mountains; yet I shall give him as my authority for saying, that a number of Greek cities still existed in his time on the river Cyrus (now Cur, or Kur) all the way down to the Caspian; probably different stations for the boats and merchandize on their way up from that sea; and we know, from the example of Palmyra, that even the passage of the India goods supported populous cities of old.

But

But to return once more to the Phasis. With regard to the other Greek cities on this central river, Strabo, Ptolemy, and Pomponius Mela, tell us, that the town of *Phasis* placed on its South bank, near to its mouth, was the most considerable of all; and, in fact, it became the capital of Colchis during the Greek reign in that country. This city is supposed to have been founded by Themistagorus, and to have contained the temple of Phryxus, and the bower of the golden fleece; and is still called Phasie by the Turks (who keep it garrisoned by Janisaries), an evident corruption of its antient name; or, rather, a modification of it to their pronunciation.

Another Greek city on the same side of the river was *Circeum*, now the ruined fort of Irke; both commercial places in antient times; more especially the first; for Arrian speaks very highly of the opulence and trade of Phasis in his Tour of the Euxine so often quoted in mine.

A third celebrated city of antiquity situated near the mouth of this river (or rather a fourth, as the Greek Emporium Sarapanis must be counted here, though mentioned in a former letter), was *Æa*, the residence and capital of the unhappy King of Colchis, who was the victim of the Argonautic expedition.

Arrian tells us, that in his time the inhabitants of this city showed part of a stone anchor which had been left there by Jason.

The remaining towns on the Phasis were, the Tyndaride and the Cygnus of Pliny; the first now Pandary; the second, probably, no longer exists.

They likewise possessed Cyta, the birth-place of Medea, now Cutatis, the capital of Turkish Georgia, situated on the Rhoas of Pliny, or the river Rione of the Turks.

The original inhabitants of Colchis seem to have been, as they themselves asserted, of Egyptian extraction¹⁶⁰; at least if we may judge

¹⁶⁰ We are told by antient authors, (and even the sceptic Mr. Jacob Bryant, in his learned attack on the siege of Troy, cites the historical fact) that the Egyptians at an early period had the
K K empire

judge from certain circumstances to be mentioned in the article of their commerce, and the forcible argument of Herodotus, that they were, of all the numerous nations of Caucasus, the only people who practised circumcision.

I have now enumerated all the Greek colonies on the shores of the Euxine, and such cities as were commercial; for to give an account of the whole would be a voluminous work of itself. I mean, therefore, to appropriate the remainder of this Letter to a few remarks on the interesting mountains of Caucasus, (where I chanced to finish my little sketch of the Grecian reign in the Euxine) as one of the most curious chains in the world, running from near the river Cuban to the Caspian sea, and presenting both to the natural historian and the philosopher very interesting phenomena.

The first that it falls into the nature of my plan to take notice of here, are some curious customs of the celebrated Circassians, more especially as they inhabit that part of the Caucasus which was antiently the country of the Amazons, and may therefore serve to throw some light on the antient fables concerning that nation of warlike ladies; for, in fact, to this day, a traveller finds there the women living separately from the men, to all appearance at least; and as, even in modern battles between the different Caucasian nations, these insulated viragoes have been found among the slain completely clad in armour (See Mr. Ellis's Memoir accompanying his Map of these mountains), a stranger, with but a little turn to the marvellous in his disposition, might still imagine that he had discovered a community of warlike females, dwelling distinct from the men, and only admitting their visits to prevent the total extinction of their Amazon state; for in reality all this appears on the face of the case, and requires the following explanation to induce a different opinion of the whole.

empire of the sea, and conquered many of the Greek islands, with a part of the coast of Asia Minor; so that it is very possible they may have then planted a colony in Colchis, as they certainly did in Greece.

First,

First, by an old established custom among the Circassians, the men steal in like midnight thieves to cohabit with their wives, who live perfectly alone and separated from the men, without even a male child under their care ; while it is a great disgrace to the men to be caught, or even seen, on such visits.

Secondly, every boy is removed from his mother as soon as born, to be educated solely by the men, in order to his becoming a bold foldier, and an expert thief ; which here, as in antient Sparta, is a high qualification ; and to be detected in the act, a great shame.

Now I cannot help thinking, that any traveller, considering with attention these *customs*, still existing among the Circassians in the antient country of the Amazons, must readily discover in them the origin of the Grecian fables concerning those famous ladies of antiquity ; and, indeed, if the Greeks had as much foundation for all their celebrated fictions, as for the two that took origin in this part of the world, viz. their golden fleece and the kingdom of the Amazons, we can by no means give them all the credit for poetic imagination, which has been commonly allowed to that nation. I cannot take leave of this subject without hazarding a conjecture, that, as the country I have been speaking of is regarded by many as the great cradle of the *European* variety of the human species, the Lacedemonian customs which distinguished them from the other Grecian states may have taken origin in the Caucasus, where our late imperial academician Guilinstead has found the striking resemblances related above ; and on which it is unnecessary to comment to those well acquainted with Grecian history, who will probably find with me the basis upon which the Spartans erected their system of public education detached from the women, their art of thieving undiscovered, &c.

There is still another custom, however, which I neglected to mention, viz. a leathern belt sewed round the waist of female children in Circassia, and which is renewed as often as burst by the

growth of the girl, till the nuptial night, when it is cut loose by the sabre of the husband in defiance of the bride's resistance. Is it not easy to find, in this antient usage, the origin of the struggle which took place between the Spartan bride and her husband before he could untie the zone, where marriage seemed a species of privileged rape?

L E T T E R LXXX.

AS the colonies founded by the Greeks on the shores of the Euxine and Mæotis are now about to change their masters, it may not be amiss to say a few words of their first conqueror, before we come to relate his success, and the use that he made of his victories.

Mithridates, King of Pontus (deservedly surnamed The Great, as he made head for 30 years against the powerful republic of Rome in all its strength and glory, and is acknowledged by the Latin writers to have given more trouble to Rome than Pyrrhus or Hannibal, with the Kings of Scythia and Macedon united), mounted the throne of Pontus 124 years before the commencement of our æra, whilst yet a child of 11 years of age, and was educated by Greeks in his capital Sinope, in all the knowledge of the times, more especially of Grecian tactics; as the Romans found to their cost, when he kept their famous legions at bay for such a number

of years, leading their generals and eagles in triumph more than once during that period. However, his acquirements were by no means confined to the military science; as even the Roman authors acknowledge that he conversed with 24 different ambassadors each in his own language; for which we have the respectable authorities to be mentioned in another part of this letter.

After Mithridates came of age, he set out on his travels into foreign countries, from which he returned in three years, after having visited many parts of the East, and considerably enlarged his view of things. The first work that he set about on coming home was the forming of an army to the Grecian manœuvres, and arming it, in their manner, to resist the Romans; being unwilling to remain a slave to these haughty republicans, as his father and grandfather had been; the one through necessity, the other from choice.

He therefore began his system of independence, by loudly demanding justice, both of the senate and their pro-consul in Asia, for certain encroachments on his patrimony; and on their treating his representations with derision, according to their usual style to Asiatic princes, he immediately set about righting himself, and, with the rapidity of an Alexander, not only recovered all Asia Minor, but even drove the Romans out of Greece, Macedon, Thrace, &c. leading two of their generals with him in chains, viz. Quintus Appius, and Manius Aquilius. The last of the two he punished for all the extortions and rapine that he had committed on his subjects, by ordering melted gold to be poured down his throat; as he was the fomentor and cause of the Mithridatic war, which, indeed, only ended with the death of the Asiatic hero, after a glorious struggle of 30 years against the overgrown power of Rome; and even that was effected by the treason of his own children, as has been already shown ¹¹ on visiting Panticapeos, the scene of the tragic event.

¹¹ Letter LII.

The only part of Mithridates' conquest, however, that belongs to my subject is that of the Greek colonies, which he subdued with wonderful celerity from the Thracian Bosphorus, or straits of Constantinople (the ancient Byzantium), all the way East to Trapezus or Trebisond, and then carried his victorious arms to the kingdom of Colchis, the Cuban, Phanagoria, the kingdom of Bosphorus, and the Taurida; nay, he seems even to have given law to the colonies and nations dwelling on the Borysthenes, Hypanis, Axiacus, and Tyras; as we find his general Diophanes defeating the Scythians in a pitched battle with a very inferior force, on his victorious march to those countries after his conquest of the Taurida.

But we have another proof of his having carried his arms at least as far as the Tyras, or Dniester; for even the Roman authors, Aulus Gellius, Valerius Maximus, and Quintillian, when confessing that Mithridates spoke to 24 ambassadors every one in the language of his respective country (as said in the beginning of this letter), tell us, that the ambassador of the Roxolani was one of the number; a people that we know dwelt between the Dniester and Bog, or rather wandered with their herds within the confines of those two rivers, the very country lately ceded to Russia, and which must have been only a restitution made by the Turks, if the Roxolani were, as supposed, the ancestors of the Russians¹².

This polished prince rebuilt the famous commercial city of Dioscurus, afterwards called Sebastapolis in honour of Augustus, and encouraged trade throughout all his conquests; that is to say, as much as his long defensive war would permit him to cultivate the

¹² The EDITOR, from his inquiries into the antiquities and origin of the Russians, is of this opinion, though more from internal evidence than positive proof, which made him cautious of advancing it in his late work.

arts of peace ; but, as the Romans never left him in quiet, except in the two years of his long reign which elapsed between the first and second Mithridatic war, it is impossible to say what such a genius might have done in favour of commerce and letters, which he loved and cultivated, had he enjoyed more ease and tranquillity.

L E T T E R LXXXI.

ON the death of Mithridates, the Romans reduced all his vast dominions to the state of Roman provinces, governed either by prætors, or tributary princes ; among which last number was the traitor Pharnaces, who was left for a time in the government of the Taurida and Bosphorus, till, in an unsuccessful attempt to recover the rest of his father's realms, he met the just punishment of his unnatural crime, in the well-known battle begun by Julius Cæsar with the memorable words, "*Shall this treacherous parricide go unpunished?*" and who related his victory to the Senate in the celebrated line, *Veni, vidi, vici!* — I came, saw, and conquered ! It is worthy of remark, that the field of battle was the same on which Mithridates defeated the Roman general Triarius.

The Romans, however, wisely and politicly declared most of the principal commercial Greek cities free, to the great advantage of
trade,

trade; and the warlike Emperor Trajan afterwards added to the conquests of Sylla, Lucullus, Pompey, and Julius Cæsar, on the shores of the Euxine, that of the pastoral nations to the East and North of the Taurida, at the time when he carried his victorious arms from the Danube to the Don, and planted Roman colonies in the wilds of Scythia, where Darius and Philip of Macedon had met with nothing but disgrace.

These mighty conquests, however, added more to the military reputation of Trajan, than to the profit of the empire, if commerce was in view in this pagan crusade to plant the Caduceus of Mercury, as we afterwards so devoutly strove to plant the Cross of Christ by force of arms; a conclusion in which I am warranted by the subsequent conduct of the wise Adrian, who, finding the numerous garrisons necessary to preserve these countries only a burthen to the state, without any adequate advantage, withdrew them by degrees, so as not to expose the lives of the Roman colonists settled there, as would certainly have been the case had he done so at once, before they were prepared to defend themselves.

I shall now finish this slight mention of the Roman possessions on the Euxine (to be soon resumed on the subject of their commerce), with observing, that most of our geographical knowledge of these countries was acquired during the dominion of this enlightened people; for, what we possessed before, was merely the information from Herodotus, and the Periplos of Scylax, both works of high antiquity.

Pliny has given us all that was collected by Varro (who accompanied Pompey), Mutius, and Cornelius Nepos: information, which only reached as far East as the city of Dioscurias, or Sebastapolis; for the remainder we owe to the excellent Periplos of Arrian, so often mentioned in this Tour, who wrote in the reign of Hadrian; certainly with superior advantages, from his being a native of Bythia, governor of Cappadocia, and employed to make the
surveys,

surveys, with a Roman fleet, of both the Euxine and the colonies placed on its shores; and accordingly we find in his work a much more minute account of them than in those of Pomponius Mela, Strabo, Ptolemy, and some other antient writers, though all of them have treated of these countries.

Since the time of the Romans, we find but little on the Euxine, if we except the valuable information furnished by the Greek Emperor Constantinus Porphyrogenitus, in his “*De Administrando Imperio*;” for both the Venetians and Genoese were too much occupied with commerce, and in disputing the possession of the valuable Tauric cities, &c. to write on the geography of the countries they were fighting for, although highly qualified to do so, as the most enlightened nations of that period. Lastly, as the Euxine and its colonies have been for some centuries in the hands of the ignorant Turks, who took them from the Genoese, we could expect no information from men who have not even at this day the invaluable art of printing general among them; so that it was reserved for the Russian dominion in these countries to revive inquiry into the present state of the antient Greek colonies.

L E T T E R LXXXII.

VENETIAN AND GENOESE POSSESSION OF THE EUXINE COLONIES.

THE Venetians began to predominate in the Euxine toward the decline of the Eastern Roman empire; as it was about that time that the degenerate Cæsars courted their maritime aid against the Saracens and Turks, who had, by degrees, almost penned them up in Constantinople by their repeated conquests; and it is but little surprising, that the feeble successors of the great Constantine should declare the powerful Venetians the most favoured nation, when even the terrible slaughter made among their enemies the Turks by the famous Timur Beg (better known in Europe by his nick-name Tamerlane, or the limper,) could not retrieve their affairs; although he came to the assistance of the declining empire, and almost annihilated the Turkish army, taking their Sultan Bajazet prisoner, near Mount Stella in Pontus: a spot already noted for the total overthrow of Mithridates by Pompey.

The politic republicans, however, to strengthen still more their interest in Constantinople, had the address to direct a part of the wild chivalry of the Croisades to that quarter; well convinced, that by seating a Latin Prince on the throne, they must infallibly receive, as they did, a monopoly of the Euxine trade, to counterbalance the loss of their commerce in the Saracen ports of the Mediterranean,

ranean, then almost entirely interrupted by the torrent of church militants rolling in that direction, and who would certainly all have taken that road, had not the Venetians, as said above, transported 40,000 of those fanatics to the metropolis of the Greek empire, and helped to seat a Frenchman on the throne.

The Venetians now rode triumphant on both the Black and Asoff Seas, while they were at liberty to form settlements on their shores, and accordingly took possession of Theodocia, Tanais (or Asoff), Trapezus (or Trebizond), &c. till a second revolution threw the commerce and colonies on the Euxine into the hands of their rivals the Genoese, who baffled them at their own weapons, and restored the Greek dynasty, by which they became the most favoured nation, and monopolized in turn all the mercantile advantages enjoyed by their rivals during the short Latin reign.

Several bloody battles, however, were fought between the two maritime republics, for the empire of the Euxine and Mæotis; till at length Venice gave up a contest entirely fruitless on their side, while all advantages and privileges were given to Genoa by the grateful Michael Palæologus.

It was now that the democratic republic founded a sort of empire in the Taurida, and chose the antient city of Theodocia for its capital, to which they restored its antique Roman name of *Casum*, modified to *Cassa* to suit their own language. This they found in a ruined condition; as, indeed, was the case when Arrian visited it; who says, that he saw only some Greek inscriptions on its mouldering walls. A company of Genoese merchants settled there soon after the restoration of the Greek emperor¹⁹³, by permission of the Chan of the Kozares, then sovereign of the Taurida, or Kozaria, in consequence of a treaty made with him, or rather a charter of pri-

¹⁹³ It may not be amiss to remind the reader that, in speaking of a Greek and Latin Emperor sitting the throne of the Roman empire erected in Constantinople, the Writer merely alludes to their belonging to the Greek or Latin Church.

EDITOR.

vileges granted them, which has been handed down to us, and is as follows :

Article I. The Genoese shall pay the ordinary duties on all goods imported and exported by them to and from Kozaria in Genoese ships.

Article II. Every Genoese subject shall have permission to buy and sell all goods brought into Kozaria from every country whatsoever.

Article III. The Genoese shall be permitted to build houses and magazines for themselves and their merchandize, in such places as the Chan shall think proper.

Thus the Genoese very modestly began their Tauric colonization ; but the port of Caffa was so excellent, and its situation so central for the commerce of the Euxine, that they soon engrossed it almost entirely, and daily increased the number of mercantile settlers, houses, magazines, &c. ; till at last the fallen Theodocia arose from its ruins, and became, under its new name of Caffa, a greater and more flourishing city than ever it had been in the time of the Greeks and Romans.

The enterprising republicans now thought it time to secure their Euxine mart from all attacks by land and sea ; and, in pursuance of this plan, obtained permission of the unsuspecting prince to cut a trench round it, under pretence of guarding their magazines against any sudden danger from the many pirates who infested the seas ; and, on obtaining this apparently-trifling favour, most artfully employed it to make themselves independent, and, in fact, sovereigns of the peninsula, in the following manner.

The earth of the trench they heaped up on the outer side of it all round, as a species of simple rampart ; which gave neither umbrage nor alarm to the reigning prince, who never suspected that behind this screen they were busily employed in building one of brick, which, when finished, was furnished with turrets at proper distances, on various pretences ; these the Tartars only stared at as novelties, till Caffa became a place regularly fortified in the stile
of

of that period, and able to resist all the force that Scythia could bring against it.

Exulting in their strength, it was not long before the insolence of the colony set the Kozar power at defiance, and showed the too credulous prince the real use of the buildings that had excited his surprize.



L E T T E R LXXXIII.

THE Genoese had, from their advantages of every kind over an ignorant simple race of men, become umpires in all disputes among the natives; and had gradually gained such an ascendancy in Kozaria, as at last even to influence the choice of its Chan, and settle all disputes among the princes of the blood relative to the succession, &c. At length, a Tartar having a dispute with a Genoese shopkeeper in the market of Caffa, it ended in a fray wherein the Tartar was killed.

The Chan, regarding this as an attack on his sovereignty, ordered the Genoese to evacuate the peninsula; as he had only granted them a settlement on his territory during their good behaviour, and had now great reason to be displeas'd. The colony, however, although convinced that they had nothing to object to the sovereign right of the Chan, were too haughty to deprecate his wrath by an apology

apology and a present, in the Oriental stile, as might easily have been done, but rather chose to set his authority at defiance, and sent back his herald with a scornful answer; convinced that their fortifications were proof against all the force of the Tartars, as was soon proved to be the case; for they met death under the walls of Caffa, yet were unable to hurt a single republican by their arrows.

The Kozars, thus taught by sad experience the inequality of the combat, turned their fruitless attack into a blockade; but here again they were equally unsuccessful; for the Genoese galleys plentifully furnished the city with every necessary, while they prevented neutral vessels from bringing the Chan any kind of supplies, or even trading with the natives; so that, in fact, he found himself besieged, instead of the colonists, who enjoyed plenty and a free commerce. Even this, however, was not all; for, as the aspiring Genoese had by degrees possessed themselves of the other ports of the Taurida, during the period of unlimited credit and confidence which they enjoyed before the rupture, and even built forts at Soudaja (or Soudak), and the Portus Symbolon (now Balaklava), they made descents with their fleet, and plundered the country; so that the Kozars were reduced to a most humiliating and distressing situation.

These proceedings, however, at last drew the attention, and roused to arms the whole coast of the Euxine, alarmed at the spirit of usurpation assumed by a set of mercantile adventurers, who, throwing aside all justice and equity, with regard to a native sovereign whom they had betrayed and insulted, were now dispossessing him of his dominions.

All the other Genoese colonies were immediately attacked and taken, beginning with Trebizond, the ancient Trapezus, and principal of the whole, excepting Caffa; so that they would, in all probability, have paid dearly for their usurpation, had not fortune most unexpectedly delivered them from the danger they were in,
even

even after their fleet had been beaten by that of Venice and Pisa in a bold attempt made by the republic of Genoa (who countenanced the proceedings of their Tauric colony) to surprize Constantinople itself, by a powerful squadron with 8000 land troops on board, and the assistance of their countrymen settled in Galata, one of the suburbs of that city.

Their miraculous deliverance came from a quarter the least expected. Batis, or Baarty, nephew of the famous Tartar conqueror, Zingis Chan, in marching to subdue Russia in the beginning of the thirteenth century, exterminated the Kozares, and placed their own Mongul horde in the Taurida (which they now called Crimea, or Crim Tartary), to the great joy of the Genoese, who, by that revolution, were not only delivered from their enemies, but even found means to conciliate the good-will of their new sovereigns ; by offering to furnish them with every thing that a people without arts and manufactures must stand in need of, in return for a little of the superfluous riches that they had amassed in plundering India and Persia, which had obtained them the name of the Golden Horde.

L E T T E R LXXXIV.

ALTHOUGH the Genoese colony of Caffa fortunately weathered the storm which their insolence and daring usurpation had raised, as related in my last; or, rather, was delivered from the punishment that awaited their tyranny by a species of miracle, when the whole Euxine was in arms against them, aided by the fleets of Venice and Pisa; yet even that serious lesson does not seem to have had much effect on their future conduct; for we find them, after monopolizing the Commerce of the Euxine for 150 years more, again renewing on the Crim Tartars the same insults which had armed the Kozares against them, till they laid their proud city in the dust, and entailed on themselves and their posterity the galling yoke of Turkish slavery. The particulars of this interesting event will finish our proposed sketch of the Euxine colonies, as it brings their history down to the Turkish conquest.

In 1474 (while Caffa was governed by Anthony Cabella, as consul, with two counsellors or assistants, named Francis Fieschi and Hubert Squarciafico, all three Genoese; and a fourth magistrate, commonly a native, and named by the Chan, because he exercised a jurisdiction over the Chan's subjects in the service of the Genoese colony, at their country feasts, farms, &c. although afterwards to be approved of by the Governors of Caffa), a man named Mamac, who filled this fourth magisterial office, happening to die, Melinchery (or
Mengly

Mengly Gheray)¹⁶⁴, Chan of the Crimea, appointed one Eminek in his place; but the widow of the deceased, having found means, by the judicious distribution of 300 sequins, to engage the Genoese magistrates in favour of her son Seitak, the Chan was, of course, highly offended; till it was agreed on, that the Genoese government, as an acknowledgement of the Sovereign's right, should confirm any other person whom the Chan might name to the office, except his first choice Eminek, to whom they pretended to have a dislike. Melinchery now appointed another, named Caraimerfa, and accompanied him in person into the city, probably by way of showing that he had forgotten any reason that he had had to be displeas'd with what had happened. But how much must the too credulous Chan have been shocked at finding himself a prisoner in the hands of the faithless republicans, as he soon saw was the case, when they plainly told him, that they must still have Seitak for their *Prefect* (being, probably, unwilling to refund his mother's gold); and the Counsellor Squarciafico rose to threaten him with instantly sending to open the state prison of Soudaja (Soudak), and letting loose the next heirs to his crown¹⁶⁵, while he would be kept prisoner in Caffa till his throne was seized upon, if he did not immediately comply with their will: a piece of treachery that had the effect, in the mean time, of making Seitak prefect, but which hung the insolent counsellor on a gibbet as soon as the city was taken.

¹⁶⁴ The last of these appellations is the proper name of this Chan, although commonly written Melinchery, after the Tartar pronunciation. He is said to have been taken prisoner when very young by the Genoese, and carefully educated by them, so as to be attached to themselves and their customs, &c. in case they should find it for their interest to raise him to the Chanate as a descendant of Tchingis Chan, should the Prince of the Peninsula not be sufficiently submissive to their will; and they accordingly did so through the protection of Mahomet II. while in dispute with the reigning Chan; though they afterwards even domineered over him in such a manner that their own slave and creature could not bear it.

¹⁶⁵ In most Eastern countries, the next heirs to the throne are kept under guard, and carefully watched, to prevent insurrections and revolutions in the state.

The means which they took to force the Chan into compliance with their tyrannick will so far succeeded; but the injured Eminek, not having the same political reasons as his sovereign for putting up with his wrongs, had recourse to the all-powerful protection of Mahomet II. Sultan of the Turks, just returned from his successful expedition against Persia, and master of a fleet of 482 armed vessels built for the conquest of Rhodes, who, finding that the reduction of the rich colony of Caffa would make a good beginning to his maritime exploits, and insure Constantinople a supply of corn, during his absence from the Taurida (then the granary of the Euxine), ordered an embarkation of 10,000 Azaphs, and as many Janissaries, on board the fleet, which he sent to besiege Caffa, while Eminek, with a body of Tartars, attacked it on the land side.

This event decided the fate of that flourishing city; for, although Melinchery, forgetting his personal wrongs in the general danger of the peninsula, which was going to be torn from him, ran to its assistance with all the force that he could command, yet the terror with which such an armament struck the late insolent and haughty colonists was so great, that they made not even one effort to prevent the landing of the forces and artillery, which soon battered down a part of their old walls, and made them lower the cross to the crescent, even without conditions; so that, although Achmet Bacha, their conqueror, granted the citizens their lives on surrendering at discretion, he transported them to populate a suburb of Constantinople, confounded with the other slaves of the Ottoman empire. But while he spared all the rest, after the sword was sheathed, he hung upon a gibbet the venal traitor Squarciafico, immediately on his arrival in the Turkish capital, without letting him enter its gate, or defile the city by his presence.

On the fall of the Genoese, their rivals, the Venetians, applied for the commerce of the Euxine; which the politic Mahomet granted, on the express condition that fire-arms and gunpowder should constitute a part of every cargo; by which means he soon
amassed.

amassed a sufficient quantity of both, to shut up the Thracian Bosphorus against Venice and all other nations: a system which was followed by his successors for 300 years, till Russia lately opened it again with the same key that Mahomet had employed to shut it.

L E T T E R LXXXV.

THE ANTIENT COMMERCE OF THE EUXINE COLONIES, FROM THE
TIME OF THE GREEKS, TO THE RUSSIAN CONQUEST OF THE
NORTH SHORE OF THE BLACK SEA.

HAVING now completed the little sketch that I proposed of the history of the Euxine colonies, I shall finish my Tour with a rapid glance at their antient commerce; as I see no prospect of winter roads in this mild season, to carry me home to Petersburg; so that I seem destined to scribble on the banks of the Bog till next spring, and know no subject likely to interest you so much, as the one with which I am now amusing myself.

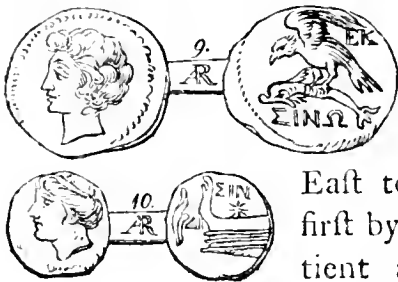
GREEK COMMERCE.

If the Greeks were really allured into the Euxine by the gold of Colchis, they were much more fortunate than they deserved; as they found a more permanent source of riches in its surrounding

shores, than even the mines of Peru and Mexico, superior to any in the antient world; and still the sad example of Spain shews what would have been their fate if their sanguine expectations had been fulfilled; they would have been condemned to labour in the mines for ages, to extract the precious metals for other nations; as the influx of gold would have banished industry from their own country, and obliged them to part with their dear-bought treasure, obtained at the risk of health, to purchase the manufactures of wiser and more vigorous nations, employed in lucrative trade and salutary labour, which increases population, instead of diminishing it.

FISHERIES.

The first species of commerce in which the Greeks engaged was, that of all others the best calculated to lay the foundation of future greatness¹⁶⁶, as it not only tended to augment their infant marine for the protection of the colonies already formed, but likewise to give them the command of the Euxine, with the facility of forming others on its shores wherever they thought proper.

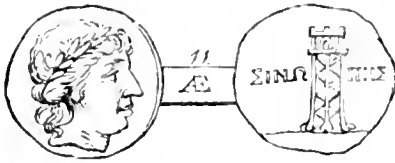


The first settlements which the Milesians planted were on the South coast of the Euxine, as said in a former letter; and those all the way from Sinope¹⁶⁷ East to Trapezus, now Trebizond, subsisted at first by catching three kinds of fish, which antient authors call Peladimus, Thymus, and

¹⁶⁶ The colonists seem to have been so convinced of the great importance of their fisheries, that several of them, such as Istropolis, Sinope, Olbiopolis, and Panticapeum, have a *fish* on their coins; while even the great city of Byzantium indicates, by a *fish-hook* on its money, how much it was beholden to that source of riches.

¹⁶⁷ This famous city was taken by Lucullus, and became subject to the Romans; but all the coins that I have given are Autonomi.

Dolphinus;



Dolphinus¹⁶ ; but I have strong reason to suspect, that this early fishery must likewise have included the Kephala, Calosa, and Sprattus ; as

we know from Pallas, that these last three species are fishes of passage in the Euxine, which make the tour of the whole coast, and then go out of the Thracian Bosphorus.

Besides making their fishery subservient to their nourishment, they likewise exported great quantities ; and a deficiency of salt for this last purpose, which they only procured from some works on the river Halys, struck out another lucrative branch of trade ; for it obliged them to find out a way of extracting *oil* from the larger kinds of fish, more particularly the dolphin, not to lose entirely the fruits of their labour in catching them ; and it found a most ready sale abroad, at a time when oil alone lighted the houses of all ranks of people, before the invention of candles.

I have already mentioned, in the history of the Euxine colonies, another valuable fishery which the Milesians carried on in the Palus Mæotis, at the mouths of some of the principal rivers on the Asiatic side, where they caught a large fish which Strabo calls Antacæi ; the curing and exportation of which must have been a most lucrative branch of trade ; as the same people were in possession of the Salt Lakes on both sides of the Cimmerian Bosphorus, and, of course, must have commanded any quantity of that necessary article, even to supply the deficiency for the fisheries of Asia Minor. As I have already remarked in another place, that the Antacæi of Strabo and Pliny is a species of sturgeon, or the Accipenser of Linnæus, I have only to add, that it is still caught at the mouth of the river Cuban, the Verdanus of the Antients, and is a valuable branch of trade to this day.

¹⁶ It is probable, that the first three species of large fish only were exported, and, of course, the only kinds *known* to authors abroad : the smaller being consumed at home, and unknown beyond the Euxine.

It may be worth remarking, that another name given by the Antients to the Cuban river, was Antacites; probably derived from its abounding in the fish antacæi. In the present times, other kinds of fish are caught in great numbers in the upper part of the sea of Aloff; viz. the Cyprinus Ballerus, and Cyprini Cultrati of Linnæus; the first in such immense quantities as to be an article of exportation from Taganrog, where they are cured for foreign commerce; but I will not venture to say that the Antients did the same: as I only go upon written record for every thing advanced in this Tour that we did not see ourselves, except an occasional *conjecture*, which is always given as such.

EAST INDIA TRADE.

The next valuable branch of commerce which the Greeks fell into on the Euxine (for I hold their fisheries as the first) was the rich Indian trade carried on far beyond the reach of history, and their arrival in these seas, by the channel of the Caspian, Cyrus, and Phasis; and which the colonists settled in the antient kingdom of Colchis learned from the natives, especially from the inhabitants of Iberia, who had been rendered by it rich and flourishing; while their country was become one of the best cultivated in Asia, as already remarked, and covered with well-built cities; so that there is little wonder if the fame of the riches of Colchis had reached Greece at an early period, and produced the Argonaut expedition to share in it.

We are told, that at first the Greek fleet went as far as Niniveh, the capital of Assyria, then to the Red Sea, to purchase their cargoes. It is probable that the more knowledge of the trade they discovered, the more they were probably the natives had discovered it, and that it was much cheaper by the way of the Red Sea, than by the way of the Caspian, who brought them as far as the Black Sea.

far as the Caspian sea, only 375 miles from their principal settlement, Serapanis on the Phasis, to which their ships could come up and load.

As to the whole course of this trade from India to the Euxine, we owe the information to the enquiries of Pompey, after defeating Mithridates. That great man, wishing to open once more this channel of wealth to his country, which had been shut since the days of the Greeks (the period that I am treating of), sent intelligent people to make enquiries; and they related on their return,—that the goods were conveyed in seven days from India to the river Icare in Bactria, which falls into the Oxus, and that river into the Caspian, where the Greek merchants received the rich merchandizes, and brought them in boats up the Cyrus, now Kur, from which river they were carried by land to the Phasis, and arrived at Sarapanis in four days, as the road was so good as even to admit the use of carts. From Serapanis the loaded vessels easily dropped down to the Euxine; and, after traversing that sea, sailed through the Thracian Bosphorus to the Grecian states for which they were bound.

In tracing this channel of the Antient India Trade, I did not choose to stop and explain an Herculean labour which we are told the Greeks were obliged to effect before they could convey the goods from the Caspian to the Phasis, viz. the cutting of a canal through a mountain, to make the Cyrus and Araxus run together in the same bed into the Caspian sea, from a stagnant lake that interrupted their course. But I had still a better reason for not clogging the relation with this boasted work; which is, that I do not comprehend it myself, having never seen a map wherein it was laid down.

LETTER

L E T T E R LXXXVI.

ROMAN COMMERCE IN THE EUXINE.

WE have no detailed account of the Euxine trade while Mithridates was master of the colonies on its shores; although we know, in general terms, that he encouraged commerce as much as the Romans would give him leisure to do; but as soon as these warlike and aspiring republicans became sovereigns of the country, they established their emporium for the India trade in the city of Phasis, on the river of the same name, built on the site of the antient *Æa*, capital of Colchis, and the residence of its king Athena, when Jason landed there. Arrian gives us a high idea of both the magnitude and riches of this city when he visited it in his Tour; and, indeed, from the minute accuracy with which he has described every thing on this coast, especially the rivers (as may be seen on my MAP), he is well worthy of our credit.

He says, the city of Phasis was so vast, that whole companies of merchants, with their warehouses and dwellings, were contained in it; all arranged along the banks of the river Phasis, on which it stood; in short, he found it a place of so much mercantile importance, that, though already garrisoned with 400 Roman soldiers, he still thought proper, for greater security, to cut a double trench all around it, in case of any sudden attack from the warlike mountaineers

taincers in the neighbourhood. (See his Periplos Pont. Euxin. page 45.)

We see, however, that these military colonists (for commerce among the Romans was left entirely to slaves, the property of the martial nobles, or at the highest to their freed men,) were much worse merchants than either their predecessors the Greeks, or their successors the Venetians and Genoese; which is evident from their never going beyond the old Greek mart of Serapanis to purchase their merchandizes, but being content to receive them at second or third hand in that city.

This extraordinary indolence has very little the appearance of freemen trading for their own interest, which commonly makes men both active and quick-sighted, and may account for a curious circumstance in the Roman India trade, that greatly puzzled the learned Formaleoni, whom I have chiefly followed in the Euxine commerce: this was, that a part of the India goods brought to Serapanis, by a people whom Pliny the naturalist calls the *Iffedone*, were fine furs; and surely furs from India are enough to puzzle any one. It may, however, be possible to account for this phenomenon in the following manner. Naturalists know, that the best martin skins we have in Russia come from the Caucasus; therefore it is probable, that the merchants who traded with the Romans might purchase that handsome fur, so much used to border garments, from the mountaineers on their way up from the Caspian to Serapanis, keeping to themselves the secret that they were to be met with so near the habitations of the indolent colonists, who we are told never went beyond it in search of goods at the first hand. As to the use which the Romans made of these furs, their empire was so vast, and contained so many climates, that the sale of them was easy; but we see to this day the Greeks, Turks, &c. wearing furs in warm climates, to keep off the heat, as they assert; and, indeed, of late, flannel next the skin has been found the best preservative in the sultry British islands, probably from being a bad conductor of heat.

L E T T E R LXXXVII.

ROMAN CHINESE SILK TRADE.

ONE article of Oriental merchandize which the Romans obtained through this channel, even after a great part of the India goods had found another, on Egypt becoming a Roman province, was filk; a luxury highly prized, and astonishingly dear in antient times, till the eggs of the filk-worm were brought to Constantinople in the reign of Justinian, and the insect plentifully reared in Europe.

This costly article they received from a people whom they called Seres; in all probability the Chinese, as the empire of Catai, or China, was named Sereca at that time, and we even recognize that singular people in the jealousy which they shewed of strangers then as now, and by their receiving, in return for their goods, little else than the precious metals.

These shy traders came, as we are told, every year to a certain river, and there laid down their goods on its bank, for the foreign merchants to cross over and examine them; laying down likewise the proposed equivalent, or price; which the Seres looked at in turn when the others were retired; and, if they liked the bargain, carried away the offered barter; if not, their own goods, and left the market, without having exchanged a word with the strangers,
who,

who, probably, were some intermediate people that thus procured silk to carry to Serapanes.

Another curious fact occurs in this trade; viz, that the Seres always brought the silk to market in those days wrought up in stuffs, either by itself or with cotton; so that it was the employment of the Roman ladies to unravel these webs, and to work the silk up a second time (mixed with woollen or linen yarn from economy) into forms more suitable to their taste and fashions; especially into a species of transparent gauze, then much in vogue, called *Coxæ*¹⁰⁰; under which (exclaims old Pliny) the Roman ladies did not blush to appear naked in the streets. We likewise learn, that it was much the fashion to embroider these new-wrought silks with silver and gold for the gay belles of Rome.

Another article of merchandize which the Romans received through this channel, I own, puzzles me, as much as the furs did Formaleoni; and that was *steel*, which the venerable Pliny tells us they likewise obtained from the Seres, or Chinese; at least the Bactrians brought it up to Serapanes at the same time, and said that they procured it from the same people.

This, we are further told, was so much superior to the Occidental, and even to that made by the dexterous Chaldeans of Pontus (surnamed Chalybes, from their fame in working iron), that no fine work in that metal could be made in the West, without a certain proportion of the Oriental steel.

Now it seems pretty evident, that the art of converting iron into steel was unknown at a time when the price was so high as to pay its carriage from such a distance, and still bring profit to the merchants who dealt in it; and I think it very probable, that the crafty

¹⁰⁰ So named from this species of pelucid garb being first made in the island of Cos; but the principal reason of this second fabrication of silk seems to have been the excessive price of it in those days; for we are told, that even the Emperor Aurelian refused his wife a dress of pure silk, or *baucisina*, so that she was obliged to content herself with a *fulfesia* garb, or one of mixed silk. Vestis Meli, silis were then likewise worn, or cotton gowns; probably so called from their being first made in the city of Melit.

Chinese, long a polished people before we emerged from barbarism, would keep the process a secret, till the Europeans discovered it of themselves.

Before quitting the subject of the Roman India trade, I shall just remark, that we see, from the 23d Chapter of the VIth Book of Pliny, that the branch of it which flowed by this channel, although by no means so lucrative as that by the way of Egypt (monopolized by the Cæsars, to fill their private purses, and bribe the troops and the canaille of Rome for tyrannical purposes), always afforded a hundred per cent clear profit; while he complains of its being a constant drain of European specie, as the Romans sent yearly to Serapanis a hundred millions of sesterces.

This seems to have been the complaint of all ages; and it is equally true and curious, that, although both India and China have been repeatedly conquered and plundered by the Tartars, yet the precious metals have always found their road back again, in the way that Pliny and others complain of: a wonderful proof of the great industry and few wants of the Orientals, partly to be attributed to their climate, and partly to the wisdom of their political and religious institutions. It is impossible to close this article without a remark on the high antiquity of this commerce. Solomon traded to India upwards of 700 years before Christ; and he, probably, only followed a tract beaten a thousand years before him: a subject on which the Abyssinian Bruce is equally learned and luminous.

I shall now finish with observing, that the only nation in history which ever drew a regular revenue from India into Europe, is the English since they acquired territorial possessions there.

LETTER

L E T T E R LXXXVIII.

VENETIAN, GENOESE, AND TARTAR INDIA TRADE IN THE EUXINE.

THE Venetians and Genoese during the Middle Ages carried on the India trade by this channel much in the same manner as the Greeks and Romans had done before them, though with more activity than the last military people; the Venetians making Constantinople, and the Genoese Caffa, their mart for the rich merchandise. Here I find nothing sufficiently new, or different from the matter of my two last letters, to be worth the trouble of communicating; so I sha'll leave the two mercantile republics to carry on their Oriental commerce in silence, and acquire the wealth that resulted from it, more particularly to Genoa, which enjoyed it longest.

There is still, however, another nation, whom few would suspect to have carried on the Indian trade during the Middle Ages; and, of course, some account of it is likely to interest you: this was the famous Golden Horde, so long the masters of Russia, who in 1223, under Bati, nephew of the Tartar conqueror Zingis Chan, settled in the Kaptchak, or country lying between the rivers Don, Volga, and Yaik.

These Tartars had gained much knowledge of India, and its Western trade, during their expedition into the East, and

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warlike prince; so that as soon as they were fairly settled in their new dominions under the government of his nephew, and had acquired possession of the Sea of Asoff, the Crimea, &c. they began a trade to Smaracand, as they called the antient Maracanda (then the great emporium for India goods, and afterwards destined to be the capital of their conqueror Tamerlane, who overturned the empire of Zingis, and erected a new one on its ruins).

There the Golden Horde purchased large quantities of rich India merchandize, which they conveyed by the Oxus and Caspian to the city of Astracan, then in their possession; from whence they sent part up the Volga ⁷⁰ to Cazan, which found its way from thence to Novogorod, and Stara Ladago on the river Wolkof, &c. Now as we know that the republic of Novogorod traded to the Hanseatic towns, and was even a member of their league, the India goods sent thither by the Tartars must have been diffused over the North of Europe by that channel.

Another portion of the Eastern merchandize the Tartars sent likewise up the *Endel*, as they called the Volga, or Rha of the Antients, as far as the place where it bends toward the Tanais, or Don, called *Tan* in their language: a name evidently derived from the antient. Thence the rich cargoes were transported about 30 versts over-land from the Volga to the Don, and carried down that last river to the great Sarmatian mart *Tanais*, now Asoff, then the principal settlement of the Venetians in these countries, who must have been the more pleased to receive the India goods in this way from the Tartars, as the Genoese, their rivals, were then in possession of the antient channel so often mentioned, from the Caspian to the Euxine or Black Sea, by the Cyrus and Phasis.

⁷⁰ Everybody knows, that the river Volga was the Rha of the Antients; but it is a curious fact, that to this day it goes by the same name in the language of the Mordvines (or Mordva as the Russians call them), a people dwelling on the river Cheremshan, in the province of Orenburg. Who would have expected to have found the R α of Ptolemy in the mouth of a Mordvine, whose language is made up of the Finnish and Ugrith?

Having

Having now given all the information that I have been able to collect, concerning the ancient East India trade flowing into Europe by the way of the Euxine, and which I took up as it lay in my way, although treated by the great historian Robertson, I shall now return to the commerce at large of the Euxine and Mæotis in ancient times¹⁷¹.

GENERAL COMMERCE.

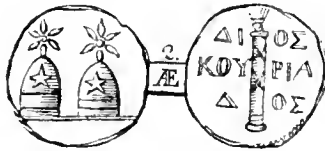
It appears to me, that the Greeks and Romans, as well as their successors in the Euxine colonies, found a more stable and constant

¹⁷¹ There was still a rich and powerful people in the Russian empire who must have had a large share in the India trade, either directly, by enterprising merchants who came down to the Caspian yearly; or (which is more probable) by some intermediate people who bartered the Oriental merchandize for their Northern furs; possibly the Slavonians of Novogorod: I mean the rich and powerful Permians on the White Sea and the Dwina; the greatest and most opulent of all the Finnish race, the constant topic of the Iceland Chronicle, and the constant object of the piratical Northern expeditions from Norway and the Baltic in general, drawn thither by the enormous riches in gold and gems of the famous temple of their god Yummala, (the same name which they now give to the Almighty, as the Russians do the name of their sacred river the Bog.) worshipped in their pagan state, and held as sacred as the Ganges in India. We cannot even conjecture any other source than India, where a nation dwelling on the White Sea in those times could have obtained so much of the precious metals; for, as to the existence of their splendid temple, it is better ascertained than most things of that period; nay, we have even a book published in Saxon by a Norwegian in the service of the British king Alfred the Great, who acknowledges that he himself was one of the adventurers that made a piratical expedition (as we term those exploits now a-days) to rob the Permian temple of Yummala: I mean *Othar* of Halgoland, at the extremity of Norway. This seems to have been the first expedition of the kind about the end of the ninth century; but the Norwegian princes and others continued them up to the beginning of the thirteenth century. This country (*Permia*) was the *Biarmeland* of the Old Chronicles, which speak of kings of that country and a regular government; so that they seem to have been a civilized people: nay, Mr. Tooke adds (though he does not give his authority), that they were famous in very remote ages for their trade with the Indians and Persians, who brought their goods up to them from the Caspian by the Volga and Kama, as far as an ancient town named Ticherdyn, on the river Kolva, where they were received, and carried by the Permians up the Petichora to the Frozen Ocean, to be bartered for furs, with which the trade was chiefly carried on.

source of commerce in the natural productions of the kingdom of Colchis, than even the lucrative India trade, so often turned into other channels by the conquests of the Macedonians, Romans, Saracens, and Tartars in the Eastern countries; troubling the source of the rich current at the fountain-head, and carrying part of it another way, if they could not divert the whole.

The mountains of Caucasus seem to have furnished the Antients with naval stores, still more useful than India goods; and Colchis, in particular, appears to have supported its claim to have been originally an Egyptian colony¹⁷², by the great skill which its inhabitants shewed in the cultivation of *flax*, the famous weed of the Nile; and the art with which they worked it up into sail-cloth, cordage, linen, &c.

The celebrated city of Dioscurias, deservedly called Sebastapolis (or the August City) by the Greeks, seems to have been the great market to which the numerous nations of the Caucasus, including the Iberians, Albanians, Colchidans, &c. &c. as well as all the surrounding colonies settled on the shores of the Euxine, resorted, not to mention the many barbarous hordes of Scythians, Sarmatians, mountaineers, &c.



Indeed, we may form a judgment of the immense concourse of different nations to Sebastapolis, when we see that the Romans found it their interest, as said in a former Letter, to keep there 120 interpreters for the facility of trade.

¹⁷² The evidence of Herodotus seems most decisive on this subject; for he tells us, in his second Book, Euterpe, That he questioned the inhabitants of Colchis, while in their country, and found that they remembered their Egyptian ancestors much better than the Egyptians remembered them. After mentioning their continuing to circumcise their children in the Egyptian manner, he adds, that they are the only people who work up flax in the Egyptian method; in short, that they speak the same language, and live in the same manner. The Greeks called the flax that they received from Egypt Egyptian flax, and what they received from Colchis *Sardonic* flax; probably an error in the Greek text as *Serapanic* flax would have exactly indicated the very city on the river Phasis where the goods were shipped for Greece.

Certainly

Certainly its fine port, still the best on that coast, contributed much to make it a common resort of merchants, as well as its convenient situation at the Northern extremity of the rich kingdom of Colchis, where the naval stores would easily descend the mountains, to be loaded in the ships awaiting them; such as timber, tar, masts, &c.; while the plains of Colchis would furnish sail-cloth, cordage, &c. and the Phasis bring down cargoes of Indian and Chinese goods, to be transported thither along the coast, in the same vessels that embarked them at Serapanes.

Beside the many articles of merchandize already enumerated, it must be remembered, that in the time of the Romans Caffa had not as yet run away with the slave trade from this ancient market, nor engrossed the sale of Circassian beauty, then disposed of in what may be called their own port, from its greater vicinity to the native abode of the fair Tsherkeffes (their real name), destined in all ages to be an article of commerce, by christians as well as pagans. I must own, that I should be curious to see whether your British philanthropists, who have made such a noise about the trade in negroes, would as obstinately oppose the importation of fair Circassians, if your ships should resort to the Euxine for a cargo, instead of the coast of Africa, and furnish those sturdy moralists with lovely handmaids?

My joke, you know, I must always have; and surely it is excusable on taking leave of the Eastern coast of the Black Sea, where I have been so long engaged in serious commerce. Adieu.

L E T T E R LXXXIX.

GENERAL COMMERCE OF THE EUXINE AND MÆOTIS.

IN pursuing the subject of the general commerce of these seas, I shall continue the tour of the Euxine coast, which I began at the Greek colony of Sinope in Paphlagonia, on account of the fishery which was the foundation of the whole ; and having traced it Eastward along the shores of Asia Minor to Trapezus, and journeying on from thence, in my commercial relation, through the antient kingdoms of Pontus and Colchis, with the Cuban ; I am now arrived at the Milesian settlement of Phanagoria, in the antient kingdom of Bosphorus. Here, beside the large exportation of sturgeon caught, as already said, in the Bay of Corocondamus, now Cubanskoy Liman, and on the Asiatic shore of the Mæotis, or Sea of Asoff, they sent from this island wax and honey, with fox and martin skins, probably received in exchange for fish from the nations settled in the Cuban.

The next trading city that we meet with on the Asiatic side was the city of Tanais, or Asoff, on the river Don : a famous Northern mart, to which the Sarmatians brought slaves, skins, and cattle, to barter with the Greeks for cloth, wine, and the manufactures of their country, such as they were in those days, while they were supplied by the Mæotides who dwelt on both sides the Palus Mæotis,

Meotis, or Sea of Aloff, with grain and other provisions for similar goods.

We hear little of this settlement in the time of the Romans, although it makes a great figure in the Euxine trade when in possession of the Venetians.

I have already taken notice of the India goods that they received from the Golden Horde by the way of the Volga and Don; for which they returned, by way of barter, wine, oil, and olives, with not only all the manufactures of their own country, but likewise those of the other states of Italy, which had now acquired many of the arts of the East, that the Orientals had kept secret with much care, and by that means furnished Europe for ages. For example: Venice had the address, in the beginning of the twelfth century, to obtain from Egypt the valuable secret that it had so long monopolized, of making coloured glafs, by which the republic now gained immense sums. Some of the other states had in the same manner obtained the Oriental secret of dyeing silk, and had already brought their brocades to rival those of Damascus. The art of embroidering them with gold and silver had likewise got into Italy, where, indeed, they hesitated at nothing that might enable them to acquire the more lucrative and rich branches of manufacture, as they in this case carried off, by force, some workmen skilled in the business, from the island of Eubea, now Negropont, in the Greek Archipelago.

In short, Venice was enabled at the time when the Golden Horde were settled in the Kaptchak. and carried on the India trade, to supply the Tartars with a number of European luxuries, in exchange for those of the East, which they probably carried with them to Smaracand, and the other commercial cities which they frequented, after keeping what they wanted for their own consumption, and the Southern provinces of Russia.

In taking leave of this Venetian colony, I shall just mention, that it was destroyed by Tamerlane because it unfortunately stood in his

way when crossing the Don to chastise the Golden Horde, which he nearly exterminated, and left them afterwards an easy conquest to Russia. It must likewise be noticed, that at present the port of Asoff, once so much frequented, is become so nearly inaccessible, from a bank of sand formed at its mouth, that ships frequent the other ports of the Mæotis, more especially Taganrog, by far the largest and best.

[Thus far MRS. GUTHRIE had written on her Tour to the Taurida ; but, having since made another journey for her health, and spent a Summer at the new cannon foundery of Lugan on the Donetz, near Taganrog, she made an excursion to that sea port ; and, of course, some description of it will come with propriety into her remarks upon those countries.]

The port of Taganrog carries on a very considerable trade with Constantinople, and the Greek Archipelago, in different articles of merchandize ; and is employed in ship-building by the Russian government, who can here purchase vessels ready for sea much cheaper than it can build them in its own docks. Their exportation consists of iron, tallow, cordage, pressed caviar, salt-petre, Russian leather, sail-cloth, hemp, and Russian linen fabrics, bristles, and furs ; but their principal articles are corn and butter, in great demand in Constantinople and the Archipelago. Of the first they make a great profit, as it sells at Taganrog, in good seasons, at 3 roubles per coul of wheat, weighing $7\frac{1}{2}$ poods (36 pounds English to a pood), and at Constantinople often as high as 25 piastres the malter of 5 couls ; though the freight thither is only 1 rouble 65 copeaks per coul ; so that the North shore of the Euxine still continues to be the granary of the Turks, though not from the same ports as formerly. Butter is a second article fully as lucrative as wheat, and was antiently furnished in great quantities from Caffa, or Theodocia, the produce of the Nogay Tartar hordes ; but since the dispersion of that famous tribe, now dwindled down to a comparatively small number, the butter trade had been almost lost, till the enterprising

prising Russian merchants found means to procure it from Siberia in the annual iron barks which bring down that metal by the Volga, from whence it is transported to the Don, and falls down that last river in small boats to the Aſoff Sea, at the trifling additional expence of from 13 to 20 copeaks per pood; ſo that the total charge of tranſport is from 135 to 140 copeaks, and the coſt of the article in all 7 roubles per pood, melted in barrels; while it ſells for 19 or 20 at Conſtantinople. However, all this commerce is carried on in foreign bottoms, Ruſſian merchant ſhips being nearly as ſcarce on the Euxine and Mæotis as on the Baltic; but the foreign veſſels take care to be under the Ruſſian flag, as that makes a conſiderable difference (about a third) in the freight that they receive; for while the Ruſſian colours can paſs on to find a better market in the Greek iſlands, if that of Conſtantinople does not ſuit them, the native flag muſt not paſs the Turkiſh capital; and therefore the goods carried under it muſt be ſold for what the Conſtantinople merchants offer.

The balance of trade muſt be much in their favour; for, in return for all the exports mentioned above, though many are omitted in this haſty outline of the buſineſs, they only import ſome of the Greek wines, with Italian and Spaniſh dried fruits, marmalade, lemons, oranges, lemon-juice, and rum: add to this, ſome ſilk and cotton ſtuffs from Turkey, and galls for dyeing, and you have nearly their whole imports.

The third capital article, as ſaid above, is that of ready-built ſhips, ſome pierced for 40 and even 50 guns, carrying 36-pounders on their lower deck; which government purchaſes, by contract, for 150,000 roubles; a price for which they cannot build in the crown-docks. If, however, they draw more than 13½ feet, the depth of the Cimmerian Boſphorus, or Straits between the Mæotis and Euxine, they muſt be carried down to the laſt-mentioned ſea on camels (ſee my deſcription of thoſe conveyances in Letter II); although they would find depth enough in the Aſoff Sea, generally
from

from 25 to 30 fathom all the way down from Taganrog to Kerch, a length of 350 versts.

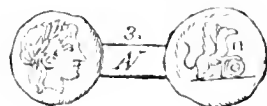
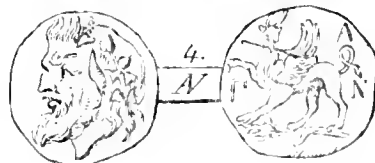
Though there seem to be no regular tides in the Euxine and Mæotis, more than in the Caspian, still certain winds and circumstances conspire occasionally to give the water a range of a fathom in the port of Taganrog, four feet of rise and three of fall; but all the advantages of this place suffer a drawback from the shallow straits that lead to it, as just remarked, which oblige ships of burthen to take in only a certain quantity of goods here, so as to draw from 10 to 12 feet; and the rest of their cargo at Theodocia when once got safely into the Euxine. As, however, large ships, even with this disadvantage, answer the purpose of the freighters better than small, they are generally for three-masted vessels navigated by at least ten seamen. The passage, with a fair wind, is only about eight days to Constantinople; and the freight from one to two roubles the kintar (of 232 pounds rufs); and insurance five to six per cent. (but in stormy seasons from 15 to 20, as no sea is more dangerous, from sudden squalls and Greek failors). In one thing the Sea of Asoff resembles our Finnish Gulph, at least in its upper part, where the water is much freshened towards the mouths of the rivers; as it there freezes, and interrupts the navigation in Winter; nay, this likewise happens in severe seasons to the Cimmerian Bosphorus, and shuts the passage entirely between the two seas. We shall now close this subject by mentioning that the country round Taganrog is most fertile in corn and fruits; so that four or five crops of wheat may be drawn from it, without dung, in succession; while it yields from 20 up to 38 for one in some years; and, at all times, ten for one is regarded as a barren season. While we were there in the time of the annual fair, the variety of nations, garbs, and tongues, made it resemble the Tower of Babel more than a European city, and produced a most curious motley masquerade.

A beautiful young lady in company, being led by curiosity too near the gay shops to examine the various Asiatic stuffs displayed in them,

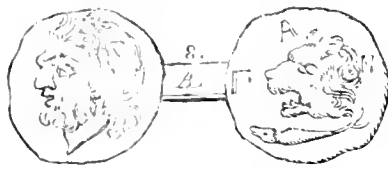
them, was surrounded by a groupe of men from the Caucasian mountains, who all vociferated together in their different languages with so much noise and gesticulation, that she was extremely frightened; although we were assured, by the Russian commandant who accompanied us, that it was mere gallant admiration which produced the bustle; and, giving his arm to the lady, he led her out of the circle, leaving the Circassians, Georgians, &c. &c. to settle among themselves the dispute about *what part of the world she came from*; for that, it seems, was the subject in discussion, with a wager among them whether she was married or single, what was her age, &c. &c.; but, if she had awaited the decision, it would have wearied out her patience indeed; as we were told that it lasted for some hours, and was only ended by our declaring to a deputation sent to us, that her husband was the gentleman whom they saw in a Russian general's uniform; on which they touched the ground with their hands and retired.

On the opposite (or European) side of the Cimmerian Bosphorus, the ancient Panticapeos, now Kerch, is the first commercial city that presents itself; which is said to have carried on a great trade in ancient times, although its own exports were chiefly fish and salt, from some lakes in its neighbourhood; a valuable article, not only for the Mæotid fishery, but likewise for those on the coast of Asia Minor; which, as I said before, were but scantily supplied by some salt works on the river Halys in Paphlagonia.

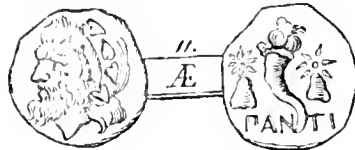
The next trading city in the Taurida, reckoning West from the Cimmerian Bosphorus, was Theodocia, a place of great commerce even in the times of the Greeks,



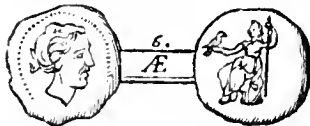
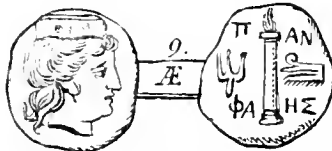
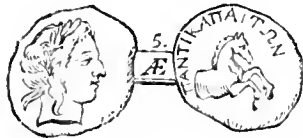
if



if we may judge from the large exportation of grain in the time of Lecon II. 288 years before Mithridates conquered the country, when 330 millions of pounds of wheat were sent to Athens at one time, as already related in the local history of the city.



The other exports of Theodocia, and indeed of Soudak and Cherson, the other great trading places on the South coast of the Taurida, seem to have been, in all ages, honey, wax, butter, slaves, hides, and furs, especially the Tauric lamb-skins, ever in high esteem and request. I am to be understood here as speaking of the natural productions of the country; for, after the fall of the great Colchid emporium, Dioscurius, or Sebastapolis, the Circassians brought here for exportation their horses, fox and hare-skins, horse leather, and women.



The Genoese likewise, while masters of Caffa, greatly augmented the articles of exportation, by trading with the Golden Horde; and although we nowhere find a detailed account of what these goods were, yet we may form a probable conjecture by recapitulating the articles which another race of Tartars brought to Astracan, Asoff, and the Taurida, at a later period, from the very country to which the Golden Horde traded.

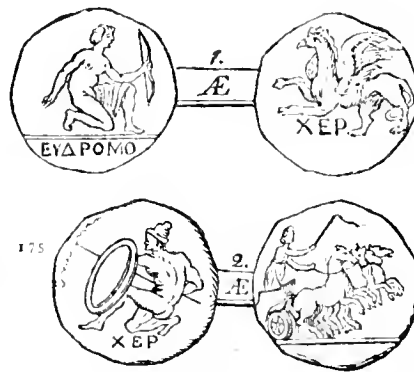
The Bucharian Tartars, during the Turkish dominion in the Euxine, brought to these places, gold and silver dust found in the rivers of Bucharia; lapis lazuli, pearls, cotton, muslins, silks,

¹⁷³ All these are rare coins of the antient capital of the kingdom of Bosphorus, the Panticapiton of the Greeks, and Panticapeum of the Romans.

cotton

cotton fluffs, nitre, fal ammoniac, lamb-skins¹⁷⁴, rhubarb, Bucharian rice, dry fruits, spiceries, drugs, saffron, sulphur, bitumen, and Persian silk, which I have mentioned last, as probably a later article; for we should hardly have remained so long without a knowledge of the silk-worm, and been obliged to bring the eggs from China to Constantinople, if the insect had been common in Persia, with which the Eastern Cæsars had much intercourse. All the other kinds of goods may have been such as the Mongul Tartars of the Golden Horde dealt in, as both brought them from the same country, viz. from Bucharia in general, and Smaracand in particular, one of its principal cities,

Cherson and the other commercial cities on the South coast of the Taurida, I have already said, exported much the same articles as Caffa, when in turn they possessed the principal trade, and for a time gave their name to the peninsula, during the zenith of their mercantile glory; but Eupatoria, or Koflaf on the West, seems principally to have subsisted by the exportation of the salt of its lakes, and a couple of ancient manufactures, the one of leather, the other of Scythian carpets, described in my Letters from that city.



¹⁷⁴ The lamb-skins mentioned in the text are a very ancient branch of commerce with the Tartars, and not only the Bucharian, but some other hordes, take much pains to beautify this fur even on the back of the animal. As soon as a lamb is dropped by a sheep of this kind (the *Ovis Dolichura* of Pallas), it is immediately sewed up in a sort of coarse linen shirt, to keep up a constant and gentle pressure on the fine wool; while warm water is poured over the animal every day, so as to make it soft and sleek; and, in a word, to lay the *wool*, in beautiful glossy ringlets, something resembling silk damask, gradually letting out the bandage in proportion as the lamb augments in size. The *Ovis Taurica* of Pallas is treated in the same manner, to prepare the fine *Uae* fur, as it is called, which sells at so high a price, for Polish bonnets, muffs, Winter pelisses, &c. in the North of Europe.

¹⁷⁵ These two medals have each only the three first letters of the city of Cherson for inscription. — The city of Cherson is known by the figure of Diana on the obverse, whose famous Lamic temple stood close by it, and a griffin, the emblem of this city, as well as of Panticapæum.

L E T T E R X C .

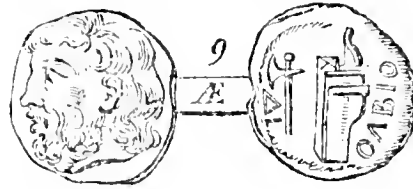
IN pursuing the subject of the Euxine commerce, advancing regularly along the North coast of the Black Sea, in the direction that I am following, gradually West from Phanagoria, (or Taman, as it was lately called,) I should certainly say a few words on Killbourn in passing, before I cross the Liman of the Dnieper (the Sinus Sagaricus of the Antients), to reach the antient colonies on the main land, because Formaleoni includes it among them; but in all my own reading I find no mention made of it, from the time when it acquired its appellation of the Dromos Achilleos, from the equestrian games celebrated there to the manes of that hero; so that I have nothing more to remark upon it, than that it seems for ages to have been the site of a fort, to command the gulph, or Liman, on which it stands, and is made that use of at present by the Russians.



In mounting the river Borysthenes, or the Dnieper, we come to the great commercial Greek city named by the Milesians, its founders, Olbia and Olbiopolis, or The Happy; to which resorted the Scythians, and other Northern hordes,

to

to trade with the Grecian colonists settled there as early as the time of Herodotus, who seems to have acquired a surprising portion of just information concerning these countries and its inhabitants, from the citizens of Olbio, and the other Greeks on the Euxine coast. We are well assured, that he made the Tour in person about 460 years before Christ



(for he read the first part of his history at the olympic games in 453 A. C.) ; as he expressly says, in his IVth Book, when beginning his description of the countries on the North shore of the Euxine, that he is now going to relate *what he saw with his own eyes* ; and, indeed, no one who had not been on the spot could have collected such a mass of curious and authentic information ; it really astonished me on considering it with attention ; and I shall here give a few specimens of it.

In treating of the fishery in the Borysthenes, Herodotus describes the famous Russian Belingo (the *Accipenser Husso* of Linnæus) by marks that would make it known to a naturalist of the 18th century ; as he calls it “a monstrous large fish, without dorsal fins.”

We next receive the first hint of the Russian hemp manufactory, which seems to have taken origin here in the pastoral state ; for he says, “that the Scythian *cultivators*, who dwelt on the N. E. side of the Borysthenes, (the rest of the Scythians were pastoral nomades) cultivated not only corn, but likewise hemp, from which

¹⁷⁶ Three Coins* struck in the famous Grecian commercial city of Olbiopolis, or Olbio, The Happy, on the river Borysthenes.

* Beside the three Coins given here, there are two more in the cabinet of Baron Ass in our Cadet Corps, exactly the same as fig. 9, except the name of the magistrate, or mint-master ; which, instead of the letters ΔΤ as in fig. 9, has ΕΟΔ on one, and ΜΕ on the other ; both on the reverse, beside the battle-axe and quiver.

“ they made cloth, that would pass on those ignorant of the fact
 “ for linen made of flax.”

I was again surprised to find, in the manner that the Scythians bathed themselves, (for nothing seems to have escaped this accurate observer,) the first rude sketch of the Russian bath, which appears likewise to have taken origin in the wilds of Scythia.

He says, “ that they threw red-hot stones into a tub of water
 “ standing in a tent, and received the hot steam on their naked
 “ bodies :” exactly the Russian vapour bath, with the sole difference, that now, when they live in towns, they perform the same operation in a wooden room, instead of a felt tent. But what is still more surprising than all the rest, is, the accurate account that Herodotus collected relative to the Russian climate, from what he calls Hyperboreans, probably some of the Northern hordes come down the Dnieper to the market of Olbia, to which there seems to have resorted a vast concourse of people every Summer from distant parts, to barter the natural productions of their country for Grecian goods.

He tells us in his IVth Book, which contains all the curious information quoted in this work relative to these countries, that he learned from them,

“ First, That they have eight months Winter, during which long
 “ period it seldom rains ; but the ground is covered with snow, and
 “ even the sea freezes.

“ Secondly, That if water be thrown on the ground it freezes
 “ immediately, without producing mud or dirt ; for nothing but
 fire can produce mud at that season.”

N. B. The Greeks, his countrymen, laughed at his account of the North as a fable, particularly at the story of the sea freezing ; so that this great man has been the sport of the ignorant in all ages.

“ Thirdly, That thunder, so common in Greece in Winter, is
 “ never heard in that season.

“ Fourthly,

“ Fourthly, That their Summer is rather short and wet¹⁷⁷.

“ Fifthly, That they are exempt from earthquakes.

“ Sixthly, That asses and mules will not live in their country, though horses thrive very well.

“ Lastly, That their cows have either short horns, or are without them altogether.”

Now I defy the most able Naturalist at the end of the 13th century to define in a more masterly manner, *in as few words*, the climate of Russia¹⁷⁸, than is here done by the first Greek historian, upwards of 2000 years ago.

I shall conclude these interesting quotations with remarking, that if the sagacious Greek described other countries as accurately as he has done those through which I have travelled, and made his observations upon them with equal judgement, his history must always become more valuable, in proportion as we acquire an intimate knowledge of them ourselves; and I will take this opportunity of saying, that, much as we are obliged to the grammarians for the share they had in the revival of learning, yet they seem to have forgotten the sage advice of Apelles, when they sneered at Herodotus, Aristotle, and Pliny, on subjects out of their sphere of knowledge; as these antient authors are rising every day higher in our esteem, in proportion as we make progress in natural history.

The virulent attack of Plutarch, which seems to have encouraged others, every body should know, was merely a personal quarrel

¹⁷⁷ Herodotus divides the Russian year into only two seasons, including Spring and Autumn in Winter; which is very judicious in the North, where the intermediate seasons are feebly marked; and in that point of view eight months of Winter and four in Summer is exactly true. However, I shall show in Letter XCIX. that this description of the climate was, in all probability, applicable to the South of Russia in his time, though now only to the North of Moscow.

¹⁷⁸ The Editor, who has expressly written on the Russian climate, acknowledges, that he has said nothing so just and characteristic in so small a compass; and that if he had recollected at the time the above passage of Herodotus, he certainly should have been proud to place it at the head of his Dissertation published in the second volume of the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

between

between the two writers; for Plutarch acknowledges, that he thinks himself bound in honour to rescue the memory of his ancestors from the calumny of Herodotus, who had said in his history, “ that the Bœotians and Corinthians not only betrayed the common
 “ cause of the Greeks, by submitting to Xerxes, but even fought
 “ against them at the battle of Plataea:” and, to gain his cause, Plutarch employed the common expedient of all good advocates up to the present day; viz. to invalidate the evidence of the father of history by throwing a stigma on his veracity in other things.

I shall make no apology for this effusion of gratitude in favour of a man to whom I am so much obliged, but go on with my commercial survey, by telling you, that the antient city of Olbia, as said in a former Letter, stood in the angle formed by the Inguletz falling into the Dnieper, and carried on a great trade in corn, slaves, and fish caught in the Borysthenes, especially the Belingo just described by Herodotus, the largest of the sturgeon species, which produces the Russian caviar in larger quantities than any other; sometimes as far as five poods, or 180 English pounds, when the fish is at its greatest size.

As we are not informed of the other articles exported from this place by the Greeks, I shall supply that omission by mentioning those which at present come down the river to Cherfon; and, as they are all the *natural* productions of the banks of the Borysthenes, or of the river itself, it is more than probable, that they are still the same goods which antiently came to Olbia by the same channel. Indeed, Herodotus enumerates the most of them as the productions of the country in his time. They are, grain, hemp and its oil, flax, tallow, butter, wool, wax, honey, wood, pitch, tar, leather, pressed caviar (sturgeon roe), hog’s bristles, peltry; with three other articles which I shall place by themselves, as probably more modern; viz. iron, copper, and tobacco; the last certainly not cultivated then; and I have my doubts whether the two metals were discovered in the North at so early a period.

Almost

Almost opposite to Olbia stood the city of Sardenis of Strabo, on the Bog, or the Axiaeus of the Antients; but respecting its commerce we have no information.

The city of Ochakoff, the Odessus of the Antients, and Odu of the Turks (which seems a contraction of the same name), appears to have been a place of commerce; and its good port makes the assertion very probable. We are likewise told the same of the city of Axia, on the neighbouring river Berezen, the Sagaris of the Antients; but what their trade consisted in, I know not.

In pursuing this interesting inquiry, we must now advance to the Dniester; where there stood another great commercial city called *Tyras*, after the ancient name of the river. It seems to have been originally built by the Greeks at the mouth of the river; although we learn from Strabo, that in the time of the Romans, when it was become a famous market, the city was transported to the island Tyras Getes, 15 miles higher up, and that the river was navigable so far. Strabo and Pliny speak of two more cities on the banks of the Tyras, nearly opposite to one another; viz. Niconia and Ofiusa, both places of trade; but with regard to the merchandise that they exported, only two articles are mentioned, corn and slaves, which seem to have been the staple commodities of this coast; although there can be little doubt that the productions of the countries watered by the Dnieper found their way down to the Greek markets, in exchange for foreign goods, which men have ever desired in all ages, even to the savages discovered by late circumnavigators.

Before quitting the North coast of the Euxine, where we find the slave trade existing at so early a period (the great topic of dispute in our own times), it may be worth while to observe, that Strabo, like some of our modern philosophers, asserts that it was introduced by the more polished nations; and is particularly severe on the Greeks for having corrupted the simple manners of the Abien, or milk-
eating,

eating, Scythians, as he calls them, given them artificial wants, and taught them the traffic in slaves to satisfy them : exactly the accusation brought at the end of the 18th century against the polished nations of Europe, particularly the English. This, however, is more plausible than true ; for, although the Scythians may have had no market for their slaves before the Greeks furnished one, yet we know, from Herodotus, that all the men of consequence, of pastoral property among them, were served by slaves long before the arrival of the Greeks in the Euxine ; nay, the well-known story of the manner in which the Scythians vanquished their slaves, who had seized on their wives and flocks, during a long expedition into Asia, confirms the fact ; viz. by attacking them with their whips, the common instrument of their correction, which quickly reminded them of their servile condition, and brought them to a sense of their duty to their masters ; while some antient authors still go farther, and assert, that those slaves destined for the domestic drudgery of milking the Scythian cattle, were deprived of sight, to make them more attentive to that duty, and give up all thoughts of escape ; so that those surely could not be intended for the Grecian market.

On the other hand, it is certain, that the Greeks, Romans, and all the polished nations of antiquity, were served by slaves, whom they used harshly enough, while they themselves made the blessing of liberty their common theme¹⁷⁹. Nay, such has been the inconsistent conduct of men in all ages, that we have seen in our own times those who talked loudest of liberty, and the rights of the

¹⁷⁹ We are told by Plutarch, in his Life of Cato the Censor, that this famous republican recommended to sell old slaves past the age of labour, and not to feed useless people ; and endeavoured to keep up eternal ill blood among those unhappy men who had the misfortune to belong to himself, lest, if friendship reigned among them, they should plot against their tyrannic master, who beat them severely when his company were gone, if any thing was wrong at table.

human

human species while oppressed themselves, become the most terrible oppressors in turn, when they acquired the power of making their countrymen free, and realizing their favourite form of government.

L E T T E R XCI.

FROM the North I must now draw your attention to the West coast of the Black Sea; that is to say, from the Danube down to the antient Byzantium, or Constantinople¹⁸⁰.

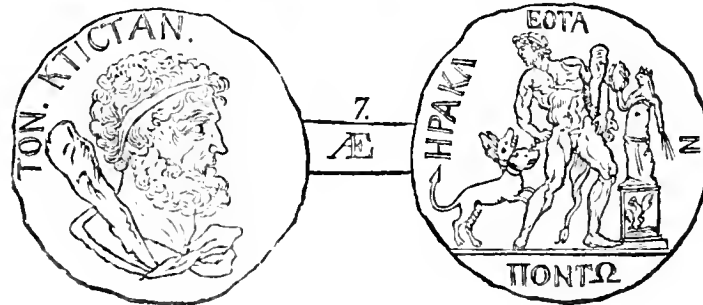
The Greek colonies founded on this shore I have already enumerated in my former survey of it, when speaking of their original settlement there; and, as to the particular commerce that they carried on, no detail is to be found in the authors whom I have consulted, although I should be inclined to think that the articles of antient barter could not be very different from those still brought down the rivers to the few ports now carrying on some trade under Turkish oppression; such as *Kilia Nova*, near the antient Tomé; and *Verna*, a second city in the Euxine which bore the name of Odeffus in antiquity. These two places export corn, wine, wool, leather, dried fruits, &c. all the productions of the country in every age.

¹⁸⁰ For the Medals belonging to these trading cities, from the Danube down to Byzantium, see Letter LXXVII. where mention is made of them and sketches of the Coins given.

Being now arrived at the antient Byzantium, built about 722 years before Christ, and so often mentioned in this Tour by its later name of Constantinople, I shall only remark on its commerce, that it often served as an emporium for the Euxine and Mæotid goods, particularly those from the East Indies; and as a general market, where the colonists at large could always purchase such as they had occasion for in return, when their ships were not destined for a longer voyage.

From this antient capital of the Roman Cæsars, I shall now pass over the Thracian Bosphorus, to take a view of the commerce of the numerous colonies on the coast of Asia Minor; as, in beginning the subject there, I only talked of the Greek fishery from Sinope to Trapezus as the foundation of their trade.

I shall commence with the Greek settlements on the coast of Bithynia, at the mouths of the rivers Pylis, Calpe, and Sangaris, which never seem to have greatly prospered, from being kept in constant alarms by the warlike Bithynians, their neighbours, as well as by the Mevians; so that their commerce makes no great figure in the books which I have consulted. How-



ever, this was not the case with Heraclea, said to have been founded by Hercules, whom the poets describe as dragging Cerberus out of Hell through an opening in the promontory Acherusia, on which the city stands.

That powerful colony prospered in a most extraordinary manner, probably from the superior security of its situation; and augmented its population so quickly, as to be enabled, as we have already shewn, to make a

new

new settlement in the Heraclea Chersonesus of the Taurida, and attempt another on the West coast of the Euxine, which only a want of a proper spot made abortive, after a melancholy experiment to effect it.

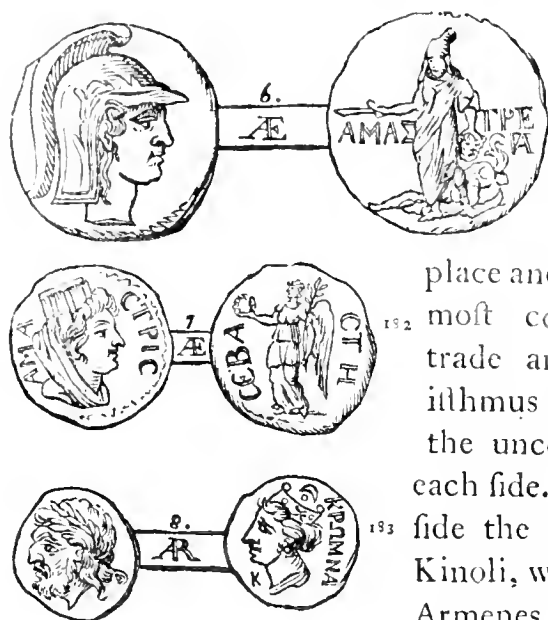
This city was afterwards the residence of David Commenus, while his brother, one of the three Greek emperors, whose division gave the empire to the Turks, made Trapezus, or Trebizond, his capital; and it is still a place of some note under its modern Turkish name of *Eracle*, derived most evidently from its antient; or rather, as I have remarked before, the name of this and many other of the Greek cities on the Euxine, are preserved by the Turks, and only pronounced in their way.

But the most splendid settlement on this coast was the flourishing colony of Sinope, now *Sinub*¹²⁴, which boasted of being founded by a companion of Jason during the Argonautic expedition.



The projecting cape of Carambis, opposite the Criu Motopon, or Ram-head, of the Taurida, divided this settlement into two parts. On the West side of it stood four cities, Egialum, Cromna, Cytorus, now Kudros, and Sefamus; but the first three were thrown into one large city by the wife of Denis, tyrant or prince of Heraclea, who gave it her own name Amastris, now called Amastrech by the

¹²⁴ I have already given in Letter LXXXV. several autonomous coins of the great Euxine city of Sinope, the birth-place of the hero Mithridates Eupator, and mother of the two other Euxine cities, Trapezus and Cerasus, the native country of the cherry. This coin is likewise given because it refers to the fabulous origin of Sinope by the Dioscurias, or Castor and Pollux, during the Argonautic expedition to Colchis. Accordingly, on the reverse we find a cornucopia placed between the caps of these two demi-god heroes surmounted each by a star, as they were afterwards placed among the constellations.



Turks, according to their pronounciation of its antient Greek name. On the East side of the same promontory this colony had their capital Sinope, afterwards the birth-

place and tomb of the great Mithridates, most conveniently situated, both for trade and dominion, in the neck or isthmus of a peninsula, which gives it the uncommon advantage of a port on each side. They had likewise on the same side the smaller cities of Cinolis, now Kinoli, with Anticinolis, Murofolon, and Armenes.

The commerce of all the colonies mentioned above, beside the produce of their fisheries, seems to have consisted in exporting wood for ship-building; with box-wood, in great demand in Europe before the introduction of foreign ebony; olives, and their oils; salt from the river Hayles, probably to the more distant fisheries on the same coast; and, lastly, fine wool, with the famous Angora goat hair; so precious in all ages, as to be suspected by some to be the real golden fleece of which the Greeks went in search.

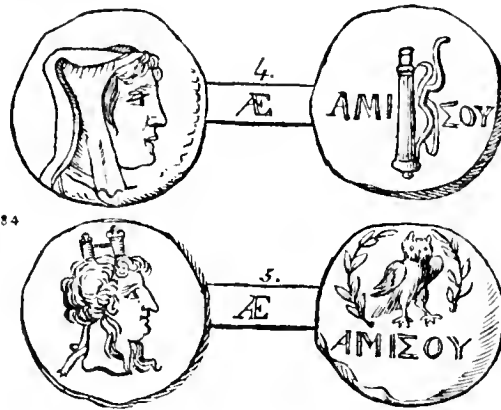
The great fair of these colonies, particularly of the settlements dependent on Sinope, was held in the antient city of Cytorus, now *Kuhofs*, which the Greeks, in their usual fabulous style, pretended to have been founded by Cytorus, son of Phrixus, during the

¹⁵² The medal, Fig. 7, bearing the name of Amestris on the obverse, and that of Sebaste, or the August, on the reverse, is the only coin which shews that this city ever bore that proud title.

¹⁵³ This medal of Cromna seems to confirm what some think is the meaning of Strabo, that this city, as well as Sefamus Cytorum and Tium, only furnished Amestris a part of its inhabitants, but was not incorporated into the new city of the Heracleian Princes, afterwards the residence of the kings of Paphlagonia.

Argonautic expedition ; and it is certain, at least, that they named it after him, by way of giving it a precedency on the score of antiquity, like several other cities on this coast.

We next come to the colony of Amifus, one of the most happy and permanent of the whole ; as it chiefly subsisted by agriculture and the rearing of cattle, in the rich lands on the Thermodon¹⁸⁵, the most solid and stable of all revenues, as not being affected by many circumstances which have an influence on commerce.



We accordingly not only find it a place of consequence in the days of Strabo, but so rich and flourishing, by the patronage and successive embellishments of the Athenians, Mithridates, Eupator, and the princes of Cappadocia, that it drew the attention and tempted the avidity of the Roman general Lucullus, so famous in the records of elegance and luxury, who took and plundered it, although it was afterwards restored to the rank of a free city by Augustus.

The last time that we read of Amifus in classic authors, is, when Pompey joined it to another Eupatoria, which had received its name from the cognomen of Mithridates, who gave the two cities, thus united, his own, in that of Pompeiopolis.

Next comes the city of Amasia, now Amasieh, on the river Iris, the ancient capital of Pontus, and birth-place of the famous geographer Strabo. It was the



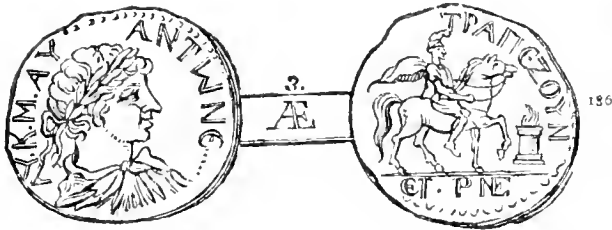
¹⁸⁴ The owl on the reverse of this medal of Amifus confirms, that the Athenians sent a colony thither, as reported by Strabo, though originally founded by the Milesians.

¹⁸⁵ The river Thermodon was famous in antiquity for watering the lands of the Amazons : as a part of that female community are said to have dwelt on its banks, before the settlement of the colony of Amifus.

residence of the kings of Cappadocia in antient times; and in modern, of the eldest son of the Grand Seignior till called to the throne.

Amasia traded to great advantage at all times with the produce of its lands, and was celebrated for its fine fruit, which it likewise exported to a great amount, and does so still.

LETTER XCII.



WE now come to Trapezus, known to the Turks by its middle-age name of Trebizond; a colony that will yield to none founded by the Greeks. Xenophon tells us, that when he stopped here in his celebrated retreat with the ten thousand, both Trapezus and Cerasus, now Keresoun, (from which Lucullus afterwards imported the cherry into Europe,) paid tribute to Sinope, and, of course, was under its protection. This was a place of great trade in all ages, although it began, like many other of the Greek settlements, by exporting fish; for it soon found means to add iron, and even the precious metals, which they obtained from their neigh-

¹⁸⁶ This is one of the three *Imperial* medals given in this Tour; all the others were struck while the cities were free.

bours

hours the Chaldeans, then the most expert miners and workers in iron of the West; nay, those of them who dwelt nearest to the sea-coast had even obtained the name of Chalybde from their dexterity in this last art.

The port of Trapezus was repaired by Adrian, and the city by Justinian, as is still to be seen by an inscription over one of its gates; although the fact has escaped the notice of the historian Justin, who is, in general, so exact in recording every thing done by his imperial master which could redound to his honour. During the middle ages, the Venetians, and their successors the Genoese, had most flourishing colonies here, from which they carried on a great trade; and the last of the two republics even built a new harbour to the fine city, although their tyrannic usurping conduct in the Taurida at last armed the other colonies of Asia Minor against them, and lost them Trebitond as it was then called.

As to its extended commerce, we know that it not only cut a great figure in remote antiquity, but likewise during the whole middle ages, and was for a time the emporium of the East India trade, and long the common depositary of the Christians in the neighbouring countries, who brought their merchandize to be sold and exported from this place; especially the Armenians, once a most enterprising and commercial people, who had almost the whole Persian trade in their hands for a great length of time, and still retain a good part of it.

Lastly, it became the seat of one of the three sub-divisions of the Eastern Roman empire, where the family of the Comneni reigned from 1204 till 1461, when they were involved in the general ruin brought on all the pretenders to the throne of the Cæsars, by their foolish disputes, which delivered them into the hands of Mahomet the great; weak and impotent from their divisions, like the princes of Russia when conquered by the Tartars; while both empires would have resisted the attacks of the barbarians, had each been under a single sceptre, and not already tottering on the brink of destruction

destruction by bloody civil wars, which rendered them an easy prey to the first invader.

On taking leave of this important place, I shall just remark, that the celebrated botanist Tournefort collected here, and in his travels through Asia Minor, in search of plants, some fine medals commemorating the splendour of this city, under its antient name of Trapezus, and its more recent appellation of Trebifond.

There were still some distinguished cities on each side of Trapezus, which deserve to be mentioned before I quit this coast and the subject of the Euxine commerce: such as Boona and Jasonium, which still preserve their antient names; Polemonium (now Vadisa), so called after its sovereign Polemon,



placed on the throne of Pontus by Marc Anthony; Caralla (now Kierali); Tripolis (now Tireboli); Zepherium (now Zafra), &c. all to the East of Trebifond; while to the West of it we find Rhifæum (now Rizeh);

Athenæ (now Athenah), a city whose name has puzzled some geographers, under the idea of its being in some way connected with that of Athens, which they cannot account for; but, in my opinion, they need not go so far for an explanation, as it may have been named after Æthes, king of Colchis, and father of Medea; although certainly the great commercial republic traded to the

¹³⁷ An Imperial medal of Trajan, struck in the fortified city of Tripolis in Pontus.

¹³⁸ An Imperial medal of Commodus, struck in the city of Amasia, after its subjection to the Romans.

Euxine;

Euxine ; and surely the Athenians, who beautified the city of Amisus on this coast, may have built Athenæ.

Being now arrived at the kingdom of Colchis, on whose trade we have already treated, I have finished the commercial circuit of the Euxine proposed in taking up the subject, and thrown all the light upon it that was in my feeble power, probably in a different manner from professional gentlemen who compose works on commerce, but still in such a form as best suited the plan and purpose of my Tour. Of the part of the circuit of its coasts which I did not examine in person, I have merely given the antient geography, as I only treat of its antient state, while it best explains, in my opinion, the modern names of places, merely corruptions of the antient in the mouths of barbarians who cannot pronounce them better ; this is strictly the case on the coast of Asia Minor in particular, where the Turks seem to have been contented with the possession of the antient Greek and Roman cities, without naming them anew in their own jargon, like the Tauric Tartars, Bulgarians, &c.

The Russians have taken the wise measure of restoring the antient Greek names of the cities lately come under their sceptre¹³, after having been for ages disguised under Kozar and Mongul names, which have given much trouble to the geographer who wished to identify them.

¹³ Such an intention is certainly evident in the attempts that have been made ; but it by no means follows, that the execution of the plan is equal to the intention ; on the contrary, it appears to me, that Prince Potemkin had no one with him well acquainted with the antient state of the country ; and, accordingly, we only find three cities restored to their real antient names, viz. Lupatoria, Theodocia, and Phanagoria. My Map, however, will furnish the rest, if the Government choose to follow up the idea of restoring all.

L E T T E R X C I I I .

REASONS FOR SUPPOSING THE RIVER BOG TO HAVE BEEN THE AXIACUS
OF THE ANTIENTS.

AS my supposition, that the river Bog was the Axiacus of the Antients (instead of the Hypanis, as has been generally believed), makes a most essential change in the ancient geography of the countries ceded to Russia at the peace of Jassy, and indeed in the whole tract between the Dniester and Dnieper, it is incumbent on me to state my reasons for this conclusion.

First, it must be evident to all who have paid attention to the subject, that supposing the Bog to be the Hypanis throws into confusion the whole ancient geography of the countries above indicated, and renders all the classic authors unintelligible, by displacing the nations they speak of, and by changing the dimensions and course of some rivers; as must certainly be the case, when you are obliged to take one for another, by mistaking the name of a leading river that determines the position and appellations of many; but, to make this truth more evident, I shall briefly state what ancient geographers say of the country in question.

First, Pomponius Mela observes, that the Hypanis limits the country of the Callipedæ, and that the neighbouring river, the *Axiacus*, runs between the Callipedæ and the Axiacæ, who are separated from the Itrians by the Tyras, or Dniester; — a passage which

which evidently points out the Bog to be the Axiacus, and the Inguletz the Hypanis.

Secondly, Pliny says, that the Tyras is 1300 paces distant from the Pseudostomus, or fourth mouth of the Ister, or Danube; then you come to the nation of the Axiacæ, who take their name from the river Axiacus, on which they dwell, and beyond which live the Chyrobzyzi.

Thirdly, In the map published by Ortelius to illustrate the geography of this country by Ptolemy (the first of the Antients who applied astronomy to geography, and determined the position of places by their latitude and longitude), the Tyras is placed first, then the Axiacus, then the Chyrobzyzes, and then the Borysthenes, exactly as I have laid them down on the MAP given with this Tour.

Fourthly, Strabo tells us, in his VIIIth Book, that the famous city of Olbio stood at the distance of 200 stades from the mouth of the Borysthenes; and in the Peripl. Anonym. Olbio is placed at the same distance from the sea, exactly on the spot where the Hypanis falls into the Borysthenes. Now if we suppose the Bog to have been the Hypanis, the two last passages are unintelligible; for that river falls into the Dnieper, or Borysthenes, very near its mouth, instead of at 200 stades, or 25 miles, distance from the Black Sea, as all the Antients assert; and consequently the position of Olbio is still unascertained.

But let us suppose, for a moment, the Bog to be the Hypanis, and where are we to find the *Axiacus*, which, all the Antients agree, ran between the Tyras and Hypanis? as there is nothing but rivulets in the space thus pointed out (if we except the Bog); while Ptolemy tells us, that the Axiacus was a large river, running through Sarmatia, a little above Dacia; and separating the Axiacæ from the Calipedæ, according to Pomponius Mela: as clear a description of the Bog as it is possible to give, while it will by no means agree with any of the rivulets in the limited district; and Monsieur de Beauson adds to the above reasons for regarding the Bog as the Axiacus, that the

Turks have actually preserved its antient classic name in their modern appellation Akfon, pronounced in their manner; a merit which I have lately demonstrated that they possess in a degree superior to any other people that I know.

I shall now finish this subject, by remarking that whereas calling the Bog the Hypanis throws into confusion the antient geography of the country that I have been speaking of, the single alteration (which I adopted from Mr. de Peyssonel's Survey of the District) of setting down that river as the Axiacus solves all difficulties, and all falls into its natural order, as described by the Roman geographers, who had colonies there, and of course were well acquainted with the spot; for, now, the Axiacus becomes the large river that Ptolemy describes it, flowing through Sarmatia, while it separates, as Mela said, the Callipedæ, who dwelt to the North of it, from the Axiacæ, who lived on its South bank. Now likewise the Inguletz, which falls into the Borysthenes exactly at 200 stades, or 25 miles, from its mouth, becomes the Hypanis, and points out the position of Olbio just where its ruins were seen by general Hanibal (as said in a former Letter,) while he was governor of the Russian Cherson, about ten miles lower down the river. Lastly, the Hypanis, now fixed in its proper position, incloses the Callipedæ between it and the Axiacus, according to Pomponius Mela, while it separates that nation from the Borysthenitæ, as it ought to do, according to the antient geographers.

But this single alteration that I have adopted equally settles the position of all the rivulets to the East, between the Bog (or Axiacus) and the Dniefter (or Tyras), conformable to antient geography; for, now, the Gulph or Liman of Berezan becomes the Sinus Sagaricus, exactly where we are told to look for it; the rivulet Berezan becomes the Sagaris; and its other branch, Salsk Berezan, the Rhodus of antiquity; while the rivulet Deligheul becomes the *Lycus*, and the Atchily the *Benius* of Ovid.

SUPPLEMENT :

BY

THE EDITOR.



L E T T E R X C I V .

TAURIC RUINS, MONUMENTS, GREEK INSCRIPTIONS, &c.

THE two Memoirs formerly mentioned, as having been so obligingly sent to me by the Imperial Academy of Sciences, one in the Russian, the other in the German language, will furnish two or three more Letters (for I continue the epistolary form) to finish this Tour, and illustrate a very interesting part of it; as they contain much information relative to the remains of antiquity still existing in the ancient kingdom of Bosphorus, more particularly on the shores of the Straits which join the Black and Asoff Seas, known to the Antients by the name of the Cimmerian Bosphorus; but still more abundant on the Asiatic than the European side, especially in the island of Taman, the Phanagoria of the Antients.

Mr. Marshal Biberstein, the author of these Memoirs, chiefly devotes that which he has written in the German language to Strabo's Geography of the Bosphorus; but, as I had already cited every thing that I thought necessary to illustrate our fair Traveller's modern description of that kingdom¹⁹⁰, I shall not translate that part

¹⁹⁰ The Editor did not receive the two Memoirs of the Academy, till after he had finished the Lady's Tour to the Taurida and Bosphorus, and was employed on the APPENDIX; but, as Strabo had been always consulted, there was the less to regret.

of his paper, nor fatigue the reader with unnecessary repetitions, but confine myself to what he says of the antiquities of the country; a species of information the more desirable, as it lay out of the Lady's province to collect it¹⁹¹; and we have not a line on the subject since the days of the Roman authors, so often quoted in this work, who were themselves in search of the ruins of the more ancient Greek cities and monuments, as we are now of those described by them.

It is necessary however to remark, that the sculptured monuments of the Taurida are by no means in a good state of conservation; the Greek inscriptions which were originally meant to explain them are so much effaced, as rather to add to the labour of the antiquary than to diminish it; so that all is guess-work here, and offers a wide field for opinion.

Mr. de Biberstein has not been backward in hazarding a few conjectures; and, as detached fragments are lawful game, I have likewise occasionally amused myself in the same manner, and freely leave to every reader the same privilege.

Another essential piece of information is, that very few of these precious remains of antiquity are to be found in their original situations; for, from the want of building materials in the island of Phanagoria, together with the ignorance of the different hordes of barbarians who have for many ages occupied these countries, the same hewn stones cut by the Greeks for their public edifices, have been successively employed, probably several times over, in every building since, whether Saracen, Gothic, or Tartar; nay, some of them are once more beginning to make a figure, possibly for the fourth or fifth time, in the barracks constructing by our Russian soldiers in the island of Phanagoria.

It is thus that we must account for the strange straggling situations in which the Correspondent of the Imperial Academy found the dif-

¹⁹¹ See Letter LIX.

ferent monuments, &c. which he describes. In one place, for example, he discovered some remains of Grecian columns, with their capitals, built into a Tartar tower; some sculptured stones and Greek inscriptions in another; an antient basso relievo in the wall of the commandant's court-yard; a second peeping out of a gothic church wall; a third antient monument employed as a threshold to the Russian barracks; and in this manner are dispersed, and appropriated to different uses, all the Tauric antiquities mentioned in his Memoirs; while the remaining part of the ruined Greek edifices form a number of little hillocks, composed of the smaller stones and mortar, converted by time into shapeless heaps, after the larger hewn stones (highly valuable to unskilful barbarians, probably neither furnished with tools nor skill to cut out new ones) had been carried away for the purposes in which we now find them employed.

I have little doubt that a number of curiosities might be discovered by digging into these heaps of rubbish, from my knowledge of the indolence of the Scythian or Tartar race, who probably never took the trouble to go deeper than the surface, in dilapidating these antient buildings of their fashioned masonry; nor would they undergo the labour for all the antiques in the world.

I shall now finish this little introduction to the Tauric monuments with some mention of another species of conic hills (for these heaps of rubbish assume a conic form) very common on the shores of the Bosphorus, especially in the island of Taman, or Phanagoria, which seem to have been antient burying places; as they are found to contain antique urns when dug into by the curious.

I must own, that, on reading the description of those conic hillocks, I was struck with their resemblance, both in figure and contents, to the tumuli in the plain of Troy, as mentioned by the Abbé Chevalier in his interesting Paper published in the III^d Volume of the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of Edin-

burgh; and, as we know that this early mode of interment was diffused before the zenith of Grecian glory and polish, it was most probably introduced by the first Tauric colonists, the Milesians, which gives a very high antiquity to these primitive earthen monuments.

I am much inclined to think, that the *conic* was the first sepulchral form everywhere; for we find the wilds of Scythia studded with such earthen tumuli as the Abbé and Mr. Biberstein describe, with the sole difference of their containing ashes without urns; and the West of Europe seems equally to have abounded with them in antient times, composed in general of *stones* instead of earth, probably from being ready at hand, which is by no means the case in the Scythian deserts.

The places in Phanagoria that are pointed out in the Academic Memoir as being furnished with the urn tumuli, are, first, in the neighbourhood of the antient capital or city of Phanagoria; secondly, near where the Lake (Liman) Kifeltashkoy falls into the Lake Cuban, antiently Corocondametis; thirdly, in the neighbourhood of the City Temruk; and, lastly, several are said to stand on the Asiatic shore of the Cimmerian Bosphorus.

LETTER

L E T T E R X C V .

AS I purpose dividing the Tauric monuments into two periods, according to what I think their comparative antiquity, I shall first mention three that appear to be at least as old as the time of the Roman dominion in the Taurida, as the Roman Emperor is mentioned.

FIRST MONUMENT.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΟΝΤΟΣ ΠΑΡΙΣΑΔΟΥ
ΤΟΥ ΣΠΑΡΤΑΚΟΥ ΛΕΟΣΤΡΑΤΟΣ
ΓΕΡΤΟΥ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΥ ΤΟΣ
ΟΙ ΡΙ

The translation of this fragment by Mr. Biberstein is : —
“ During the reign of Parisades, son of Spartacus, son of Leo-
stratus by his brother ”

I shall only remark on this first monument and its translation, that it is difficult to conceive who this king Parisades, *son of Spartacus*, was ; as Diodorus Siculus tells us, that Parisades I. who succeeded Spartacus III. was his brother, not his son. He must then have been the son of Spartacus IV. ; as after the death of that prince there is a chasm in the Bosphoric history of 180 years ; so that we neither know the names of his children nor of his successor ; but all is dark and mysterious, till we find the good Parisades IV. on

the throne, who yielded it without a blow to Mithridates, rather than shed in a hopeless contest the blood of his beloved subjects, who had so often defended him against the Scythians.

This monument was seen by Mr. Biberstein in a low wall, near the great gate of the old gothic church of Kerch, or the Panticapees of the Greeks.

SECOND MONUMENT.

.. IO .. ΠΟΣΕΙΔΟΝΟΣ ΚΑ
 .. ΠΟΥΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΑ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΜΕΓΑΝΤΟ
 .. ΗΤΟΣ ΒΟΥΣ ΠΟΡΟΥ ΤΙΒΕΡΙΟΝΙ ΟΥΛΙΘ
 .. Α ΤΗΝ ΤΟΝ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΟΣ ΡΗΣΚΟΥΠΟΡΙ
 .. ΣΑΡΑ ΚΑΙ ΦΙΛΟΡΟΜ
 .. ΝΤΑ ΤΑΚΑ-ΑΥΕΧΑΝΩ ΝΟ
 .. ΣΩΤΗΡΑ ΕΥΣΑΝΤΝΟΣ ΚΑΟΙΡ
 .. ΔΙΛΦΑΝΤΟΥ ΠΑΝΤ - ΣΤΑΙΙ.

The translation which Mr. de Biberstein has ventured to give (as conjecture) of this mutilated monument, found in the ruins of the ancient city of Phanagoria, is as follows :

“ To him who, with the aid of Poseidon, engaged the sublime
 “ King of Kings to declare sovereign of the Bosphorus, son
 “ of King Risco, friend of the Emperor and the Romans.”

For my part, I can only make out Poseidonos, a name of Neptune, with that of Tiberius, and a king Reskouporides ; so that I should suppose it to have been a monument dedicated to Neptune, and erected by Reskouporides, in the reign of Tiberius, who, we know, was lord paramount of the kingdom of Bosphorus, although it was governed by its own kings, tributary to the Romans ; and Reskouporides may have been one of them, although his name is not found in our very imperfect list of these princes.

The

The foregoing conjecture is much strengthened by a medal of this sovereign in the collection of Baron Athe, which was found somewhere in the Taurida or Bosphorus; though, till I saw the above inscription, I took it for a coin of a king of Thrace of the same name, well known to antiquaries.

The history of this antient kingdom, imperfectly as it is transmitted to us, shows its intimate connection with Thrace; and we even find, in reading the civil wars among the sons of Spartacus II. that one of them, named Emulus, was supported in his claim to the throne by an army of 42,000 Thracians, led by their king Ariopharnes.

THIRD MONUMENT.

..... ΑΣΙΒΙΜΑ . . :
 ΔΙΑΣ ΑΠΟ ΑΥΤΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΙΣ ΑΥΤΟΝ ΓΕΝΟΜΕΝ
 ΑΙΣΤΕ ΚΑΙ ΑΛΕΙΣΦΟΡΙΑΙΣ ΑΠΑΣΑΙΣ ΤΑΙΣ ΚΑΤΑ ΤΗΝ Β
 ΔΕΙΧΟΕΝΤΑΤΟΥ ΚΑΙΣΑΡΕΙΟΥ ΔΙΑ ΒΙΟΥ ΕΙΣ ΓΕΝΟΣΤΟΙ
 ΤΑΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗΣΕΝ ΤΕΙΜΗΣ ΧΑΡΙΝ ΣΥΝ ΤΩ ΚΑΙ ΕΠΙ ΤΕΙ
 ΜΕΡΑΝ ΑΥΤΩΝ ΥΠΟ ΤΕ ΕΜΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΤΩΝ ΕΚΓΟΝΩΝΜ

On this third monument, found, like the second, in the ruins of Phanagoria, it is difficult even to hazard a conjecture, as it wants both the beginning and end of each line; it seems, however, to have been erected in honour of a man and his posterity who had merited well of their country.

L E T T E R X C V I.

THE SEPULCHRAL MONUMENTS OF THE BOSPHORUS.

THE remaining Monuments mentioned in Mr. Biberstein's two Memoirs seem to be of the sepulchral kind, and not older than the Eastern Roman empire ; while the three former are undoubtedly of the classic times.

The author introduces his account of these monuments by the following observations, that are applicable to all, with respect to the stone out of which they are cut.

They are, in general, of a fine white solid marble, mixed with chrystallized particles like alabaster, of about one archine and a half long, and more than half an archine broad, (4² English inches by 14,) bearing commonly some human figures in basso-relievo, with an inscription in dialectic Greek ; although we likewise find some of later ages on an inferior kind of white marble, like the famous Russian monument lately found in Phanagoria, on which Gleb, prince of Tmutaracan¹⁹², recorded his measurement of the Cimmerian Bosphorus, as already noticed in the Tour¹⁹³.

¹⁹² Tmutaracan was the name by which the island of Phanagoria was known in Russia while it was a province of this empire, although called *Tmutaracan* by the Byzantine authors, from which the Tartars seem to have derived their modern appellation of Taman, which in fact, is only a contraction of it.

¹⁹³ Letter LVII.

This

This inferior species, Mr. Biberstein thinks, may have been found somewhere in the Bosphorus; while he regards the finer as a foreign marble, and the same with that employed by the Greeks in their own country for the precious monuments of antiquity which they have left us. Beside the Bosphoric monuments in marble, there are some likewise in common stone.

Of the sepulchral monuments in general, the author mentions three kinds distinguishable by the figures upon them.

THE FIRST SPECIES OF BASSO-RELIEVO

Commonly contains a female figure in a long robe, with a child.

THE SECOND SPECIES,

A man on horseback, with a child standing by him.

THE THIRD SPECIES,

A man lying on a kind of bed, or couch, with a woman and child, one on each side of him.

With regard to what may be called the action of the figures in these three different kinds of basso-relievos, so often repeated on the sepulchral stones of the Bosphorus, Mr. Biberstein says, that

In the First, The woman is generally represented in a standing posture, with her hands under the fore-part of her garment; though sometimes she is leaning against a kind of altar; and he has likewise

wife seen her sitting on a stone, and wiping her eyes, with the marks and expression of extreme grief.

In the Second, The man is represented as on a horse in slow motion, with nothing but the bridle in his hands; for he is, in general, without weapons; although in a few instances he is clad in warlike attire.

In the Third, The man lying on a couch is represented as leaning on his left arm, while the right is extended, and holds a kind of garland.

As to the child in all of them, it is commonly represented as in a light dress, only covering the middle of the body; and in some instances it holds in its two hands something much resembling an urn.

Lastly, He informs us, that in one case he saw a woman with two children (instead of the usual number, one), having some male attendants apparently in waiting upon her.

Mr. Biberstein finishes his preliminary remarks by observing, that he sometimes found two of the above-described basso-relievos on one monument, with each its own inscription below it, and that the style of sculpture in all of them is but indifferent; while the Greek inscriptions are sadly mutilated and defaced.

LETTER

L E T T E R XCVII.

AFTER having stated, in my last, Mr. Biberstein's observations on the sepulchral monuments of the Bosphorus, I shall give, in this, the specimens of each kind which he took the trouble to copy.

SEPULCHRAL MONUMENTS OF THE FIRST KIND, BEARING FEMALE FIGURES.

I.

On a common stone in the wall of the old church of Kerch (Panticapeos), is represented, in basso-relievo, a woman and child, with the following inscription:

HNANA MHTHP
MHNOΔOPOY KAI AΔEΛΦH . . .
ΔHMOCTPATHA XAIPE.

This inscription Mr. Biberstein translates: — “Mother of Menodorus, and sister . . . Demostratus,—repose in peace.”

II.

On a common stone, built into the wall of the old gothic church of Kerch, exactly similar in every respect to the above-described monument with regard both to dimensions and basso-relievos, is the following fragment of an inscription :

... ΠΟΠΛΙ ΤΙΕ ...
ΚΟΣΣΑ ΧΑΙ ..

Mr. Biberstein does not attempt a translation of this inscription in its very mutilated state ; however, we may hazard a conjecture, that it means — “ Son of Poplus, with his wife, or daughter, “ Coffa, — rest in peace.”

III.

On a block of white marble, found in the ruins of the ancient Phanagoria, near the modern city of Taman, there are exactly the same basso-relievos as on No. I, described before, with the following inscription :

ΔΑΣΕ ΕΠΡΕΠΙΟΥ ΧΑΙΡΕ ¹⁹³.

“ Dase, daughter of Eprepie,—repose in peace.”

N. B. This monument offers an example of what Mr. Biberstein before asserts, viz. that they sometimes contain two distinct basso-relievos, with each its peculiar inscription ; for on this block, below

¹⁹³ The ΧΑΙΡΕ of the Greeks, with which every one of these sepulchral inscriptions ends, seems here to answer to the *Requiescat in Pace* of the Latins ; both equally wishing an eternal repose to the souls of the deceased.

the first basso-relievo, there is another of the second species, where a man appears on horseback; but the inscription is too much effaced to be legible.

SEPULCHRAL MONUMENTS OF THE SECOND SPECIES, WHERE THE BASSO-RELIEVO REPRESENTS A MAN ON HORSEBACK, WITH A CHILD STANDING BY HIM.

IV.

On a block of white marble, originally found in the ruins of the city of Phanagoria, but at present built into a wall in the courtyard of the commandant of Jenikal (the Nymphæos of the Antients), is a basso-relievo representing a man on horseback, with a child standing by him. The inscription is :

ΗΖΟΥΣ ΑΠΟΛΛΟΝ
ΔΟΥ ΤΟΙΣΠΑ . . . ΜΙΟΙ
ΣΙΝ ΧΑΙΡ.

This inscription is much too imperfect for translation, as we only see distinctly the name of Appollonidus; but whether he was the person interred, or him who erected the monument in honour of another, it is difficult to determine. For my own part, I suspect that it is the son of Appollonidus who is to rest in peace.

SEPULCHRAL MONUMENTS OF THE THIRD SPECIES, WHERE A MAN IS REPRESENTED LYING ON A COUCH, WITH A WOMAN ON ONE SIDE, AND A CHILD ON THE OTHER.

V.

On a common stone lately discovered on a hill near Kerch, now
T T 2 in

in the possession of the Priest of the district, is a basso-relievo of this third kind, with the following short inscription :

ΑΓΑΘΗ ΤΥ ΧΑΙΡΕ.

“ Agathe,—rest in peace.”

Lastly, Mr. Biberstein mentions some Bosphoric monuments, of the sepulchral kind, which he found bearing only an inscription, without any sculptured figures upon them; of which species he gives one example.

On a stone in the wall of the church of Kerch is the following inscription :

ΘΕΟΝΑΤΗ
ΔΙΟΝΥΣΙΟΥ
ΑΜΑΣΤΡΙΑΝΗΣ
ΧΑΙΡΕ.

“ Theonate, daughter of Dionysius of Amastris, — rest in
“ peace.”

It would be improper to quit the subject of the Bosphoric monuments, without noticing in this Letter (peculiarly appropriated to them,) the famous *Monumentum Satyri* of the island of Phanagoria, at the southern entry of the Cimmerian Bosphorus. It is a conic mount of earth erected to a man of the name of Satyros, who had excited the admiration and merited the gratitude of his country ;
and

and I suspect it to be of the primitive kind of sepulchral tumuli on a gigantic scale mentioned in a former Letter, containing urns, which denotes its great antiquity. Strabo makes particular mention of it, and I have marked its position on the MAP of this Tour.

L E T T E R XCVIII.

THIS Letter will be appropriated to Mr. Marshal Biberstein's conjectures on the nature and purport of the Bosphoric monuments that he copied in his travels, and which I have inserted here.

He thinks that the first species, and possibly the third, were dedicated to the fair sex, while the second were erected to men only.

He next supposes, that the figures sculptured on them either represent the deceased, or the erecters of the monuments; and when two basso-relievos are seen on the same stone, the one answers to the first, and the other to the second of these suppositions; he however admits the probability of family vaults having existed in the Bosphorus at the time when these sepulchral monuments were erected; and in that case there is nothing more obvious to conjecture, than that several basso-relievos would be sculptured on one tomb-stone belonging to a family, provided it were large enough to hold them.

Lastly, Mr. Biberstein thinks that the woman represented as standing, the man on horseback, or lying on a couch, as well as

the child with a vase in its hand, may all relate to certain ceremonies practised at funerals.

Thus far the author of the *Memoirs*; but, as conjectures are free, and may amuse if they do not instruct, I shall hazard a few of my own on this curious subject.

May not the female represented on these monuments, in an insulated upright position, indicate a virgin; the female figure leaning on an *altar*, a wife; and the woman in tears, a widow, lamenting the loss of her husband? The male figures I should be inclined to explain much in the same manner, by supposing that the man on horseback bears a reference to the exercises of young men, and indicates his having died a bachelor; and if what the recumbent figure holds in his hand be the nuptial garland of antiquity, it may allude to his having been married; whilst the child bearing an urn may represent an orphan carrying the ashes of its parent; and thus distinctly mark the different states of civil society¹⁹¹.

Mr. Biberstein concludes his remarks on the Bosphoric monuments, with supposing that they were mostly erected to children. This curious hypothesis he endeavours to found on a discovery of a Mr. Geisler about the beginning of this century, who asserts in his travels, written in German, that from the smallness of the bones in a number of antique tombs which he examined in Italy, &c. the Antients must have generally buried children, without consuming their bodies to ashes, as they did the corpses of adults.

¹⁹¹ These conjectures of mine are, perhaps, much more unsatisfactory than they might have been had Mr. Biberstein described the dress of at least the female figures on these sepulchral monuments; as we know that the simple vitta, or single ribbon of the Antients, indicated the virgin, and the double vitta the married state: distinctions which are still preserved in the head-dress of the Russian peasants, as may be seen in my "*RUSSIAN ANTIQUITIES*." The Author of the *Memoirs* might likewise have told us, whether they wore the zona of the Antients, or not; which the husband untied on the bridal night, &c.

Our author likewise gives us another discovery of Geisler's, applicable to the subject of sepulchral inscriptions. Geisler, he says, found, on an attentive examination of the antient tombs in the city of Albana, that the X so often seen on tomb-stones, and which has commonly been taken for the cross, and the peculiar mark of a christian grave, is only the initial letter of the Greek word ΧΡΗΤΕΧΑΙΡΕ; as he sometimes found it written at length, and sometimes merely the initial X, instead of the whole.

LETTER XCIX.

AN INQUIRY BY THE EDITOR INTO THE GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION AND RELIGION OF A FAMOUS NATION OF ANTIQUITY, WHICH SENT ANNUAL OFFERINGS FROM RUSSIA TO THE SHRINE OF APOLLO IN DELOS.

THERE still remain two curious subjects which fall into the range of research carried on in this Tour, as they regard the new dominions of Russia on the Euxine.

The first is, an inquiry into the geographical position of the *Hyperboreans* of the Antients, who sent yearly offerings from the North, by the way of Scythia, to the temple of Apollo in the island of Delos; which were forwarded from Scythia by the Greek colonists settled on the Euxine coast; a fact that seems to be as well authenticated as any one in antient profane history; of course, it becomes

becomes a curious subject of investigation to a traveller, treating of the Southern provinces of Russia, more especially as it appears, from a number of circumstances brought to light in my present research, that this interesting people dwelt somewhere between Moscow and Kieff, professing the religion and rites of the Greeks, at a period of such remote antiquity.

The truth of such a story, it would be ridiculous in me not to inquire into, by comparing the accounts of the Antients, at a moment when I am endeavouring to point out where and when the antient Greeks in their pagan state had an opportunity of communicating to the ancestors of the Russians the number of analogies which I have shown (in my late Work) to subsist between the two nations, in their pagan rites, marriages, customs, dances, &c. &c. more especially as it is a favourite amusement that can offend no one, and the result of which they may take if they please — *cum grano salis*.

It may be necessary to introduce the information that I have been able to collect relative to this curious people, by explaining the meaning of the name given to them by the Greeks, who, we know, called the inhabitants of Thrace *Boreans*; and, of course, those who dwelt far to the Northward of them, *Hyperboreans*.

The next point is, to determine, if possible, who these people were, and where they lived; a task of the most difficult kind, as, from the perfect ignorance of the Greeks with regard to the countries North of the Scythian deserts, all that they say is vague in the extreme; however, there is one clue by which we may possibly trace out their place of residence; viz. the route by which their famous offerings were sent to Delos; of which we have very exact accounts, not only from Herodotus, but from the inhabitants of Delos who received them, although the last part of the journey is disputed by the Athenians, who insist on having always had the honour of transporting them in a vessel of the republic, from the continent of Greece, to the sacred island, instead of their being shipped at
Carystæ,

Carystæ, in the island of Eubœa, for Delos, as the inhabitants of that city assert; and, indeed, (as I shall presently show) there may be equal truth in both the claims.

The Delians then tell us, that the Hyperboreans did not always send holy ambassadors (or *Theoroi*¹⁹³, as the Greeks called them) with their offerings to Apollo; but in general conveyed them, through the religious respect of the intermediate nations for that celebrated God of Antiquity, without any other accompaniment than the sanctity universally attached to them.

The Hyperboreans contented themselves then, for the most part, with handing their offerings for Apollo to their nearest Southern neighbours, the *Iffedonians*, who gave them again to their next neighbours the Scythians, to be carried down to the Greek colonists on the Euxine coast; who forwarded them in the same manner, from nation to nation, to the place of their deposit.

Our surprize at so long a journey as these Hyperborean offerings performed, merely by religious zeal, will be considerably diminished, when we consider, that there then existed a chain of Greek colonies, all the way from the great market of Olbio on the Dnieper down to Greece.

I have already traced them in my sketch of the Euxine commerce down to Byzantium, the limits of my plan; and every body knows, that the Propontide, or Sea of Marmora, as well as the Hellespont, were equally furnished with Greek colonies; but it may not be so generally known, that they had extended their settlements along the coasts of Thrace and Macedonia; so that when the Northern first fruits, *wrapt up in wheat-straw*, their constant package, had once got down to the Euxine colonies, by means of the Iffedonians

¹⁹³ *Θεοροί*, in the original signification, were those who went yearly to Delos in the same ships which carried Theseus to Crete; though afterwards applied to all who carried offerings to Apollo in that island.

and Scythians (who probably received a present of Greek merchandize as a reward for their diligence and care of the sacred charge), there is little doubt but they would be forwarded the rest of the way, with marked attention, from colony to colony, by the zealous worshippers of Apollo.

I here suppose, that the way they were sent, after arriving at Byzantium, was down the European shore of the Propontidus and Hellespont, and then along the coasts of Thrace and Macedonia into Thessaly, the country of Achilles; where, being arrived on Grecian ground, they would quickly find their way for embarkation, either at the famous port of Aulis in Bœotia (where the Grecian fleet was so long detained by contrary winds in their way to Troy), or at the no less celebrated port of Pire in Attica; if the Athenians are founded in saying, that the Hyperborean offerings were yearly forwarded to Delos by them: but, as the Delians themselves declare that they received them from Carystæ in Eubœa, by way of Tenos, it is more than probable, that they were at first sent from some port on the continent of Greece to Carystæ, till the all-powerful Athenians became the lords paramount of Delos, as we know was the case; after which period, they certainly would claim the exclusive right of acting as *Theoroi* to the distant votaries of Apollo; and surely it would not be the inhabitants of a secondary Grecian city that would dare to contest with them an honour so highly prized in the pagan world.

I have here overlooked another route by which some pretend these offerings were sent from Scythia, viz. straight West to the Adriatic, and from thence by the Ionian Sea to Dodona in Epirus, and then carried for embarkation on the Sinus Maliacus to proceed to Carystæ, Tenos, and Delos. Surely such a round-about journey is very improbable; more especially as the offerings must have passed through barbarous nations, who probably never heard of the gods of the Greeks; while we know, that if there even had not
been

been a Grecian colony in either Thrace or Macedonia, they would have been respected in both; for the Thracians offered to *Diana*¹⁹⁶ in *weaten-straw*, as did the Hyperboreans; and, of course, any thing on its way to her island would be treated with much respect in that country; and we likewise know, that Macedonia was in habits of friendship with Greece about the period alluded to; for, on the night before the battle of Plataea (479 years before Christ), we find Alexander king of Macedonia, although forced to accompany Xerxes in his expedition against Greece, stealing in the night to the camp of the Athenians, to inform them of Mardonius's intention to surprize them at day-break; and Perdicas, another of their kings, soliciting to become a citizen of Athens in the 454th year before Christ.

Having shown, that the Hyperboreans worshipped Apollo, Diana, and Juno, and that they sent yearly offerings to their shrines in Delos, I think the case very clearly made out, that there did exist such a nation to the Northward of Scythia; and shall now endeavour to trace out, by the route of their offerings, the geographical position of those who sent them.

Herodotus, whom I have already shown¹⁹⁷ to have obtained, during his travels in Scythia, a valuable mass of information relative to the country of the Hyperboreans, likewise learned during his Tour, that they gave their offerings for Delos to their Southern neighbours the Issedonians, who committed them to the care of the Scythians, on whose country they bordered, to be conveyed down to the Greek colonies on the Euxine; exactly the same mode of conveyance as is recorded in the writings or archives of Delos.

¹⁹⁶ Delos was held doubly sacred by the Antients, as the birth-place of both Apollo and Diana; and we find that the Hyperboreans must have sent offerings and holy ambassadors to both of those deities, as Herodotus mentions the ashes of two of those Hyperborean Theoroi preserved with religious care in the temple of Diana in Delos, besides tombs of the other two of them, who died there on an embassy to Apollo. See "The Young Anacharis," Vol. VIII. p. 272, Svo. *Deux Ponts*.

¹⁹⁷ See Letter XC.

Now we know that the deserts of Scythia extend, even at this day, up to the 48th degree of North latitude, and in some places farther; indeed, the Russian line of forts to be seen on the maps of the empire, perfectly define their limits, as they were constructed to defend the stationary cultivators dwelling in fixed habitations, from the roving inhabitants of the desert.

The *Iffedonians* then must have dwelt beyond the 48th degree of North latitude, probably as high as the 50th, which is the latitude of Kieff, the ancient capital of the Great Dukes of Russia; a position which well agrees with that given them by the learned Jesuit father Hardouin, who says, that they dwelt in the South of Muscovy, or Russia.

But the Hyperboreans dwelt to the North of the Iffedonians, who were their nearest Southern neighbours, and transmitted their offerings to the Scythians; so that this *polar*¹⁹⁸ nation, in the opinion of the Greeks, must evidently have lived considerably to the Southward of Moscow; as they could not have given their offerings *directly* to the Iffedonians, had there been another nation between them.

However, although Herodotus, and the rest of his countrymen, never went so high as Kieff, and were therefore completely ignorant of the North and its inhabitants, which led them to imagine so many ridiculous fables concerning them; yet I have shown, in Letter XC. that he had acquired from the Greeks settled in Scythia, and the nomades of the desert, who came down to trade with them, a most accurate account of the Hyperborean climate; which per-

¹⁹⁸ We must not be so severe on Herodotus, and the Greeks in general, for their wild opinions of the cold of the Hyperborean country, when we find a Roman 500 years afterwards, the famous Ovid, painting his situation on the coast of the Euxine (far to the Southward even of the position that I have given it) as the most dismal possible, from the uncommon severity of the climate; although we inhabitants of Peterburg fly to it for health, as the Italy of Russia, and with difficulty support the heat: so that all our ideas are comparative, it would appear, as well as our feelings.

fectly

fectly agrees with the result of my inquiry, and points out their geographical position to have been in the antient dominions of Ruffia, probably about the latitude of Baturin¹⁹⁹, the antient residence of the Hetman of the Cossaks; as they would there border on the lands of the Iffedonians, as Herodotus and the Delians tell us they did. What makes this conjecture something probable is, that the river Defna, on which Baturin stands, and which waters the country where I suppose the Hyperboreans may have dwelt, is a branch of the Borysthenes; so that in case this people, worshipping the gods of the Greeks, were of Grecian origin, it is easy to believe, that in the 500 years that Greek colonies had been settled on the banks of the Dnieper, before Herodotus, a detachment of them might have gradually mounted up to the Ukraine in pursuing the course of the river, whose banks all the way would invite them to proceed, when regularly examined as they went on, whatever prejudices might have been entertained against the cold and sterility of the upper regions, by their countrymen down at Olbio, and which were most probably kept alive by the cunning Scythians, to prevent their going up to trade directly with the nations settled in the fertile lands of Little²⁰⁰ Ruffia, without their intermediate aid;

¹⁹⁹ It may be remarked with some degree of truth, that the description of Herodotus is more applicable at present to the part of Ruffia on the Gulph of Finland, than to the South of Ruffia; but when we consider how much the climate of a country is improved in a very few generations, by being cleared and cultivated, we have reason to think that his account was applicable 2000 years ago to the Ukraine; and, to judge of the truth of my remark on the amelioration of the Ruffian climate, let any one read the accounts that we have from the Romans of the climate of Germany even in their time, and compare them with the same country at present, since the lands have been cultivated, the woods cleared, and the marshes drained. The reverse of this case is the present state of Egypt, Sardinia, and several other countries, become infectious and deadly from neglect, although formerly the granaries of the world, and the pleasant and healthy abode of man, whilst the seat of industry and agriculture.

²⁰⁰ It is a curious fact, although I do not suppose it to have any reference to the remote period treated of in this inquiry, that there has existed for ages a small Greek colony in the antient city of Niejin, a little to the South West of Baturin, which carried on a flourishing commerce by the Euxine Sea, till the establishment of the new Cherfon near the mouth of the Dnieper made their trade languish of late years.

for the shepherds of Scythia, like the shepherds of Arabia, seem to have been the carriers across their deserts in antient times, before the navigation of the Borysthenes was put in train.

Who the Hyperboreans were, seems now the only remaining part of this subject incumbent on me to inquire into; and my sentiments are so very much the same with those of Mr. Larcher, the learned translator and commentator of Herodotus, as expressed in his 55th Note on the IVth Book of that Author, that I shall transcribe his opinion as my own.

He says, “the Hyperboreans must have been of *Grecian origin*, if
 “we are to judge from their worshipping the Delian Apollo, from
 “their rites²⁰¹, and from the traces of their language visible in the
 “names of their Theoroi²⁰², or holy ambassadors, who occasionally
 “came

²⁰¹ What Mr. Larcher, probably, means by *their rites* (for I have nowhere found any mention of them) is, their manner of sending their offerings to Delos, wrapt up in *wheat-straw*, an antient Grecian ceremony, so well known, that those who carried offerings thus arranged were called Amalophori and Oulophori, with the only difference, that it was barley, the oldest grain of their country, instead of wheat-straw, in which they were enveloped, as the Greek word indicates. The Greeks poured barley $\epsilon\lambda\alpha\lambda$ in *grain*, and the Romans in *flour*, $\alpha\lambda\phi\iota\tau\epsilon$, on the heads of the victims to be sacrificed.

²⁰² The names of the Hyperborean ambassadors, or Theoroi, in which Mr. Larcher traces the Greek language, are, Oupis, or Opis, Loxo, Hecærgæ, Hyperoché, Laodicé, Argé, Abaris, Achæia, &c. who arrived at different times at Delos. Herodotus mentions the tombs of two of them, viz. of Opis and Argé, Hyperborean virgins, which stood in his time to the East behind the temple of Diana, near the hall where the Cæians kept their festivals. To them likewise the women of Delos sung hymns; but they seem to have come, according to Herodotus, with offerings, not to Apollo or Diana, but to Ilythia (Juno), in favour of the Hyperborean women, to procure them easy parturition; so that here is another of the deities of the Greeks worshipped by the Hyperboreans; an additional proof of Grecian extraction.

I must here take notice of an opinion on the origin of the Hyperboreans, to which a reverential attention must be paid, as coming from that great Oriental scholar the late learned judge of Bengal, and president of the Asiatic society, Sir William Jones, whose profound researches make an epoch in the history of India and of human acquirements in languages.

In his eighth Anniversary Discourse he thinks, that as to the Hyperboreans, from all that can be learned of their antient religion and manners, they seem not to have been of the Tartar, but Gothic race; that is, of the *Hindu*: for he does not hesitate to assume, that the Goths and Hindus had originally the same language, gave the same appellations to the stars and planets, and had the same

same

“ came to Delos with their offerings, although in general they
“ were sent alone.”

Thus have I endeavoured to show, and I hope not without some degree of success, not only that Grecian colonies were established as early as the time of Herodotus on the banks of the Dniester, Dnieper, &c. where I proved, in my former work, that the ancestors of the Russians roved in their pastoral state; but that a people professing the pagan religion of the Greeks dwelt at that period in the ancient dominions of the great dukes of Russia, before they became masters of Moscow; so that there is little difficulty in finding where the Russians acquired the great number of striking analogies with the manners of the ancient Greeks, pointed out in my “ Russian Antiquities.”

same religious rites and opinions; now, as he has himself proved that the *Greeks* took their pagan deities with their fables, &c. &c. directly or indirectly from India, where all are still found in the Sanscrit books and India temples, his opinion does not militate against my inquiry. On the contrary, if the following chain of reasoning be admitted, the Hyperboreans will appear to have been Slavonians, or Russians. In an inquiry into the origin of the Slavonians by the learned J. Christ. Gatterer, in the Commentaries of the Royal Society of Gottingen for 1791 and 1792, Vol. XI. it is proved, that, after the reign of Caracalla, the names of *Goths* and *Getæ* are used indiscriminately (probably from the Roman authors becoming better acquainted with that people formerly supposed two different nations); and, as the result of his inquiry shows, that the names of *Getæ* and *Decians* were melted into *Antæ* and *Slavi* after the reign of Aurelian, the *Goths* and *Slavi* seem to have been a kindred people, if not one and the same; and, indeed, there seems to be no possibility of tracing the barbarous hordes of Europe to their parent stock, by the most laborious research, or even the real name by which they passed among themselves; for those given them by the Greeks and Romans were often very different, as I have found in the inquiries necessary to this Work, and occasionally pointed out; nay, even in our own days, we find several hordes of Tartars disavowing the names given them by their nearest neighbours, the Chinese and Russians, and of course adopted by all Europe. We shall soon, I imagine, call them by their proper names on a more intimate knowledge of our neighbours in consequence of their serving as regiments in the Russian armies, as the *Getæ*, *Dacii*, *Gothi*, &c. did in the Roman about the period when we find their names changed by their employers, possibly on better acquaintance: the Hyperborean, *Gothi*, and *Slavi*, may, then, have been the same people.

LETTER

L E T T E R C.

INQUIRY INTO THE SPECIES OF CONNEXION THAT SUBSISTED BETWEEN
THE COLONIES AND THE MOTHER COUNTRY IN ANTIEN T I M E S.

TH E other subject into which I could wish to inquire is, the nature of the connexion between the Euxine Greek colonies and the mother country; as that species of research has become highly interesting to Europe, since the impolitic dispute between Great Britain and America on this subject; which, artfully fomented by the natural enemies of the mother country, produced a separation, probably half a century sooner than the child (to speak figuratively) would naturally have become independent of the parent, by the requisite degree of riches and power to act for itself without either protection or aid, the only ties that can closely unite nations at such a distance; for filial and parental affection are figurative terms, that mean nothing when applied to great bodies of men. Fortunately, however, a new bond of union, which promises to be more permanent than the old, has united them a second time; viz. mutual interest and commercial advantages.

I am sorry to find so few materials for my proposed inquiry; as commerce in antient times, although it must have been tolerably well understood by the Egyptians, Phœnicians, Athenians, and Carthaginians,

Carthaginians, as well as the Milesians, whom we find settling mercantile colonies all round the shores of the Euxine ; yet it does not seem to have there been a subject thought worthy the pen of the historian ; and no professional writers on commerce had then appeared, or at least whose works have come down to us ; nor could we, indeed, expect any thing very satisfactory on a subject which has only so very lately been treated philosophically, although the Moderns had carried commerce, for several ages, to an extent unknown to the Antients ; Venice, Genoa, Antwerp, the Hanseatic cities, Holland, France, and England, (though last, not least in the maritime list,) having all left antiquity at a distance, in the extensive range and magnitude of their trade, though certain changes in the nature and current of commerce have made it flow in a full stream to the last three countries, especially England and Holland, for more than a century ; while its ancient channels are partly dried up.

As to information of the nature here required, applying directly and exclusively to the Euxine colonies, I acknowledge that none has presented itself in my reading ; any thing, therefore, that I can say on the subject must be merely occasional hints thrown out by ancient authors in treating of other subjects, and applicable to colonies in general.

As I find a few interesting facts on the subject already collected by two celebrated writers, whose reputation for careful and accurate citation of the authors that they consulted, is high in public estimation, I shall content myself with quoting what they have brought together on ancient colonization, and refer the reader to the authorities given in their own notes for every line that they advance.

We find, then, in the learned Abbé Barthélemy's agreeable Work, "The Young Anacharsis," (Vol. II. page 42),

That the connection between the Greek colonies and the mother country was of the tenderest kind, like that of parent and child ; and

that they even used those endearing expressions to one another in all their intercourse.

That the colonies preserved the laws, customs, and religion of the mother country; sent every year their first fruits to its temples, and gave its citizens the first places in their assemblies and sports. Nay, we are further told, that they often received their commanders and priests from the parent state, and were ever ready to fly to its assistance. So that it would feel as if the Greek colonies had remained, either voluntarily or by convention, under both the civil and sacerdotal power of the mother country. Thus far the learned Abbé Barthélemy.

I shall now see what our own celebrated countryman, Adam Smith, has collected on the same subject in his valuable Work "On the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations."

Smith seems to be of a different opinion from the learned Abbé, though he does not give his authorities. He ascribes the rapid rise of the Greek colonies to two causes; the one, their being established in barbarous countries, among people ignorant of arts and agriculture; by which they obtained as much land to cultivate as they chose; the other, because the mother country permitted them to make what colonial arrangements they pleased, without interfering.

Now this second cause of prosperity directly contradicts the facts collected on the subject by Barthélemy from unsuspected sources; while the first seems sufficient to account for their prosperity; more especially when we take into consideration the great inferiority of the Roman colonies, from being founded constantly in their conquered provinces, already filled with powerful rivals in the arts of civil life, nay, even where they sometimes were only scholars; while the portion of land allotted them for cultivation was comparatively small. The natural consequence of this was, that while the Grecian colonial cities of Syracuse and Agrigentum

Agrigentum in Sicily, Tarentum and Locreum in Italy, Ephesus and Miletus in Asia Minor, surpassed in size and riches any of the cities in antient Greece, and boasted the first schools of Philosophy (those of Thales and Pythagoras); the Roman colonies never made any great figure, although some of them, like Florence, rose to eminence in time; but it was after the fall of the mother country.

This inquiry has proved as meagre and brief as I expected; but, such as it is, I must leave it for want of farther materials to write upon, and beg the Reader to accept the will for the deed.

A P P E N D I X :

BY

THE EDITOR.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

ON TAURIC MEDALS.

ALTHOUGH the very intelligent Author of this Tour regrets her not having been able, during her rapid course along the Euxine coast, to collect so many Medals as she could have wished, she certainly amassed many more than could have been expected from a lady, though a large proportion of them are Roman, not struck in the Taurida, the species of coin generally found at a certain distance from the surface; for it is only since the Russian pioneers have been digging deep to lay the foundations of the new forts and other buildings, that Greek coins, and other antiquities of the Grecian colonies, have been obtained; owing, probably, to the earth being considerably raised in the number of ages since they flourished on the Euxine shores; but of which we have now many curious proofs, independent of the interesting information drawn from classic authors.

I intended to have described all the Greek medals added to my collection by the kind Traveller, and those in the cabinets of my friends here who have made them an object of research as well as myself; but, on a more close inspection, I found that, with a few exceptions which I shall afterwards notice, all of them, and many more than we possess in Russia, are dispersed in the different cabinets of Europe, and well described by those indefatigable and skilful antiquaries,
Mr.

Mr. Pellerin of Paris, and Father Cary; so that I have contented myself with giving sketches of them from their works, to illustrate and authenticate facts advanced in this Tour; and I beg to say a few words in justification of this unusual application of antient coins.

To me, it appears high time to begin employing antient medals (hitherto shut up in costly numismatic works, principally bought up by antiquaries) to public use; and surely one very effectual way of doing so is, by producing the coin of a prince or city as evidence of any doubtful fact while relating it; more especially as many thousand readers of travels are not in possession of such books as treat of them; and, as to the expence of engraving, surely that can be no objection in an age when every publication is filled with costly prints, that raise the price much higher than sketches of medals can possibly do. But if ever the evidence of antient coins be necessary, it is most essentially so in this Tour; as the Greek colonies on the Euxine have been so little mentioned by the learned for some ages since they were in possession of the Turks, that many people well acquainted with the history of their mother country, so ably treated by Gillies, Mitford, the Abbé Barthélemy, &c. of late years, have scarcely heard of them; and, as to the public at large, I am convinced that sketches of their coins will alone convince them even of the very existence of many antient cities mentioned here as now fallen to decay, and prevent the fair author from being suspected of relating Greek fables which never existed but in the works of Herodotus²⁶³ and other poetic travellers. The same may be said of the Bosphoric history; so very imperfect, from the loss of the great work of Trojus Pompeius, where alone a proper account of it was to be found, that if it were not for the interesting series of the coins of its kings in the cabinets of Europe, given in this Tour, we should know scarcely any thing about it; for little information is to be gained from the Greek inscriptions (likewise collected here), as they are all so mutilated as to be, I am afraid, unintelligible.

On the autonomic coins of the Scythio-Grecian cities we generally find either *Pan* or *Dana*, very proper deities for a nation of shepherds and hunters; but the first is by far the most common, as might be expected; for the Scythians in general were in the pastoral state, their open plains sheltering but

²⁶³ I am only here alluding to the fashionable manner of talking of the father of history; but by no means join in the unjust accusation of a writer whom I have found so well informed as to the countries of which I am treating.

little game. Nay, this attachment to the gods of shepherds and hunters, is farther confirmed by the discovery of the antient tombs at the mouth of the Tyras, or Dniefter; for the only two Penates²⁰⁴ found in them are, a bust of Diana, and a most curious figure of Pan in my possession; unique, I believe, of its kind, for the three nymphs climbing up his body, and a fourth offering a ram's head at his feet, all connected in the same group.

On the medals of the Olbio, or Olbiopolis of Herodotus, besides Pan on the obverse, the Scythian bow and quiver is united on the reverse, with the Amazon battle-axe; a happy allusion to the fabulous history of the Scythians, as related by Herodotus²⁰⁵ and the other Greek writers; for, although these warlike ladies came to attack them in a hostile manner, yet they seem to have employed the natural arms of the sex with more success than that on the coin; and finished their campaign by uniting in marriage with their courageous adversaries: from which union, we are told, were descended the Scythian nation in the time of the Greeks.

The Deserts, or Stepts, are studded with rude statues of great antiquity, the origin and history of which are perfectly unknown to the Tartars, their probable descendants; although they exactly represent the figure, features, and even dress, of one of the greatest Tartar nations, the Monguls, the conquerors of China, India, Russia, &c. in different ages. As this species of Scythian antiques, however, are foreign to the subject of medals which occupies us at present, we must refer to a subsequent part of this Volume, where the subject is treated at length²⁰⁶.

The remarks hitherto made, chiefly apply to the countries lately ceded to Russia; but, as the whole circumference of the Euxine is mentioned in treating of its antient commerce, I shall likewise make a few observations on the medals of the great trading cities which were intimately connected with those on the North shore (the proper limits of this Tour) by commercial intercourse.

²⁰⁴ I employ the term *Penates* only to give Antiquaries, by a well-known name, a better idea of the curious antique in my possession; for I am well aware that the Greeks had no *Dii Penates*, which the Romans only received from Troy with *Æneas*; but still, if we could believe Varro, that the Trojans got them from Samothrace with *Dardanus*, in that case, the mother island, not far from the entrance to the Hellespont, was much nearer at hand, to send a colony to the mouth of the Dniefter, than either Greece or its colonies in Asia Minor.

²⁰⁵ In his IVth Book, *Melpomene*.

²⁰⁶ See Appendix, No. III.

The autonomic coins of the free commercial Greek cities on the East, South, and West coasts of the Euxine seem to me to announce either their fabulous founders, or the origin of their opulence; such as the conic cap and star of the Dioscurius on the coins of Sebastapolis, Sinope, Panticapeum, &c. and the club and lion-skin of Hercules on those of Callatia, Heraclea, &c. the supposed founders of these cities; while we see a fish on the coins of several cities which owed the commencement of their riches to a lucrative fishery; nay, I even think that the particular species commonly caught by them was attempted on their money, such as the famous Russian Belingo²⁰⁷ (so well described by Herodotus) on the coin of Olbio, which they caught in the Borysthenes.

The Antacœus²⁰⁸ of Strabo on those of Panticapeum, caught in the Palus Mæotis; and the dolphin on the coins of Itriopolis, &c. caught in the Euxine.

But the most striking mark of respect paid to a fishery, as a source of wealth, is seen on the coins of antient Byzantium, which owed the origin of its commercial and maritime consequence to a fishery of the Pelamides; we there find a fish-hook in the center of a laurel crown, which I presume must indicate that such a reward was bestowed on those who distinguished themselves the most in what rendered the city rich and powerful, by forming a body of mariners, as well as by furnishing a lucrative branch of commerce; for the salt-fish of Byzantium was known all over Greece; and I think it very possible, that those crowns may have been given in the Hippodromus²⁰⁹ during the annual games celebrated there.

Notwithstanding the great superiority of modern commerce, that of antient times must have been very considerable, when we reflect on the great riches of some of the kings and free cities of Asia Minor, who possessed no gold mines, and, of course, must have owed their vast wealth to agriculture and trade, which are synonymous terms; for the surplus of the productions of the earth must be bartered for money or goods, if the Prince of the country be rich. The wealth of Crœsus is proverbial; but Gyges must have been equally so, if we may judge by the costly presents that he sent to Delphos, mentioned in the 8th chapter of the first book of Herodotus, a native of Asia Minor. Nay, Pythius,

²⁰⁷ The Accipenser Husso of Linnæus.

²⁰⁸ Another species of Accipenser, or Sturgeon.

²⁰⁹ A curious account of the Games in the Hippodromus of Constantinople, in the reign of Leo, will be found in my English translation of the Empress Catharine's Russian Opera of OLEG.

only a citizen of the free city of Celœne, in Phrygia, entertained the vast army of Xerxes, on his march to Greece, and offered to pay the whole expence of the expedition. The memorable dispute among the eleven cities, as to which should raise a temple to Tiberius, gives us a high idea of the riches of Asia Minor, when we see the magnificent ruins of Laodicea, one of the four which were refused that permission on account of inferiority of wealth. As to the great riches of Mithridates, they certainly were acquired principally by commerce.

There has been given, in Letter LI. a coin of that great prince, which merits notice; as the grazing stag, &c. on the reverse, seems to have puzzled Antiquaries. I have little doubt but that it was struck in the antient city of Cherſon while he was master of the Taurida; and that the reverse alludes to his being then in possession of the temple of the Tauric Diana close to Cherſon, which he may have repaired or beautified, and recorded his piety on his money.

Every one knows the classic fable, that when Ulyſſes and Diomedes had brought Iphigenia, to sacrifice her at Aulis for a fair wind, Diana substituted a hind for the unhappy daughter of Agamemnon, and carried her off to be her priestess in the Tauric temple. Now, that the Tauric goddess, or her priestess, is alluded to on this medal, I think, is evident, not only by the crescent and star of Diana before the stag, but by the first letter of her name behind it; for, as to the Ephesian Diana, supposing even that Mithridates had an equal right to place her attributes on his coins, (which I deny) she is generally represented with two stags, a basket of fruit, and a number of Mammæ; and was a very different personage, or deity, from the bloody Tauric Diana, the Hecate of the Antients, delighting in human sacrifices, and adorned in the Indian temples with a collar of golden skulls.

But what has, I presume, led Antiquaries into error with regard to this medal is, the circumstance of no other kings of Bosphorus than Mithridates pretending to place Diana on their coins; and no one had a right, except that old hero, who alone conquered the little peninsula of Cherſoneſus Heraclea, where the city of Cherſon and the temple of Diana stood, in the Western angle or corner of the Taurida (see my MAP), from its tyrant Silurus and his fifty sons, in spite of its strong fortifications, till then impregnable; whereas the other Bosphoric kings were so far from possessing Cherſon, that they had ever after enough to do to defend themselves against the powerful republic, made fo

by the Romans, his immediate successors (as lords paramount of the Taurida); and till the reign of Constantine always supported by them against the ancient kingdom, according to their usual politics, as said in another article. The description of the medal is as follows:

LARGE BRASS.—*Obverse*: The head of Mithridates, in a good file, encircled with the royal diadem, or fillet.

Reverse: A stag grazing in the center of the field; before it, a crescent and star; behind it, Δ.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΜΙΘΡΙΔΑΤΟΥ ΕΥΠΑΤΟΡΩΣ; which means the *Illustrious* King Mithridates; *Eupator*, or *Illustrious*, being his constant cognomen, which his General Diophantus gave to a city that he repaired, or re-built, in the Taurida soon after its conquest, the Kosslof of the Crim Tartars, lately restored to its ancient name of Eupator by Catharine the Second.

Here follow the few Scythio-Grecian Medals which seem never to have been published.

MIDDLE BRASS.—*Obverse*: A head of Pan.

Reverse: A Victory, holding a bent bow in one hand.

Legend: In place of one, the Greek Monogram of Panticapeum.

MIDDLE BRASS.—*Obverse*: A female head.

Reverse: The Scythian quiver, or parazonium, containing a bow as well as arrows; still worn by some hordes of their descendants, the Tartars.

Legend: The Monogram of Phanagoria.

MIDDLE BRASS.—*Obverse*: A head of Pan.

Reverse: The head of a bull.

Legend: ΤΑΤ.—This Medal seems to belong to the Taurida; but in what city it was struck it is difficult to guess.

SMALL BRASS.—*Obverse*: A man drawing a bow, much effaced.

Reverse: A horse, of barbarous workmanship.

Legend: ΧΕΡ; evidently meaning Cherfon.

GOLD.—*Obverse*: The head of Sauromates, the third king of Bosphorus, encircled with a diadem.

Reverse:

Reverse: Head of the Roman Emperor Commodus, with an arrow before his breast; dated ΔΟΥ, or 474 of the Bosphoric æra.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΓΑΥΡΟΜΑΤΟΥ.

SMALL BRASS.—*Obverse*: A head ornamented with a mural crown.

Reverse: A man standing, and drawing a bow.

Legend: ΟΑΒΙΟ.

N. B. We have two more medals of Olbio, exactly the same as No. 9, given in Letter XC. except that one of them, instead of having the mark ΔΙ, has ΜΕ, with the legend contracted thus: ΟΑΒ.; and the other, the legend in full, ΟΑΒΙΟ, with the mark ΒΟΣ; probably, all of them the names of magistrates, or mint-masters.

With regard to the Roman coins collected by our Traveller I have little to say, as they were not struck in any of the cities on the Euxine; except that the greater part of them are of Trajan and Hadrian, as might have been suspected; as the army of the first of those Emperors must have left a great quantity of money during his conquests, independent of the sums circulated by the colonies that he planted in Moldavia, Wallachia (the antient Dacia), &c. The fleet sent by Hadrian to make the famous survey of the Euxine Sea, so happily preserved to us by its noble and learned commander Arrian, must likewise have spent a great deal of money in those countries.

N^o II.

FRAGMENTS OF
BOSPHORIC HISTORY,

ILLUSTRATED BY MEDALS OF ITS KINGS AND CITIES, IN THE DIFFERENT
CABINETS OF EUROPE: ALL STRUCK WITHIN THE ANTIENT KINGDOM,
AND MOST OF THEM IN ITS CAPITAL, PANTICAPEUM (NOW KERCH).

SINCE the Tour was finished, the EDITOR has been enabled, by the obliging attention of the Imperial Librarian, to give a sketch of the remaining history of the kingdom of Bosphorus, so far as the coins of its kings, and the imperfect mutilated accounts of its remaining records, collected by Mr. Cary, could assist him ²¹⁰.

XIIth KING.—PHARNACES.

(In the 691st year of Rome, and the 63d before Christ.)

The traitor Pharnaces, who received the kingdom of Bosphorus from Pompey as a reward for his treason ²¹¹ (with the exception of Phanagoria, made free by

²¹⁰ The kingdom of Bosphorus existed in its regal state at least 800 years; for it had its Kings as early as the third year of Rome, and they reigned till the time of Constantine the Great.

²¹¹ See Letter LII.

the republicans, to encourage other cities to be the first in rebellion against their sovereigns), has left us one of his coins, given in the margin, and which I shall describe here.

Obverse: The head of Pharnaces encircled with a diadem.

Reverse: Apollo sitting and holding a branch of a tree in his right hand; while his left is leaning on his lyre, and a tripod is standing before him.



Legend, in Greek: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΜΕΤΑΛΛΟΥ ΦΑΡΝΑΚΟΥ.

Date—ΖΜΣ, or 247 of the Pontic and Bosphoric era, which answers to 691 of the Roman, and to the year 63 before Jesus Christ.

XIIIth KING. — ASANDER.

(In the 706th of Rome, and 48th before Christ.)

The next sovereign of the Bosphorus, whose coins have come down to us, is *Asander*, whom Pharnaces left to command in the Bosphorus, while he himself took charge of his other kingdom of Pontus, likewise given to the parricide by Pompey, as a reward for betraying his father, after the old hero had resisted the Roman plan of universal usurpation for 30 or 40 years.

The cruelties and vexations of Pharnaces having brought upon his guilty head the vengeance of Julius Cæsar, he fled to the Bosphorus after his defeat, and there met with the punishment of his crimes from his viceroy Asander, who revolted against him, and put him to death; and we have two coins of that prince, one while he was only Archontus, or governor, of Bosphorus; and another struck after Augustus had given him the title of king. The description of the first is as follows:

A Gold Medal in the cabinet of the Elector of Saxony.

Obverse: The head of Asander, without any ornament.

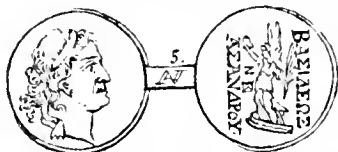


Reverse: A figure of Victory, with her attributes, standing on the prow of a galley.

Legend, Greek: ΑΡΧΟΝΤΟΣ ΑΣΑΝΔΡΟΥ ΒΟΣΠΟΡΟΥ XII.

The

The second is, a Gold Medal in the cabinet of the famous collector and numismatic writer, Pellerin.



Obverse: The head of Mander encircled with a diadem.

Reverse: A Victory standing on the prow of a galley.

Legend, in Greek: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΜΗΤΡΙΑΤΕΩΝ ΠΟΝΤΟΥ; with the monogram of Panticapeum, which shows that it was struck in that city.

This prince was one of the greatest warriors of his time, and actually starved himself to death at the age of 93, on Scribonius being sent by Augustus to take the command of the Bosphorian army, in the 740th year of the Roman æra, or 14 years before Christ.

XIVth KING. — SCRIBONIUS.

(In the 740th year of Rome, and 14th before Christ.)

Scribonius, who seems to have been sent to command the Bosphoric troops, on Augustus supposing the aged king Mander no longer capable of taking the field at 93, endeavoured to make the people believe that he was likewise appointed to the Bosphoric throne by the Roman Emperor, and actually mounted it for a short time, strengthening his claim by marrying the heiress of the sceptre, Dynamis, widow of Mander, and daughter of Pharnaces, who had been declared regent on the death of her proud warlike husband. His usurpation, however, was so quickly discovered by his subjects, and punished with death, that he probably never had time to strike money; at least, none of his coins have as yet been found.

XVth KING. — POLEMON the FIRST.

(In the 742d year of Rome, and the 12th before Christ.)

So soon as the news of the usurpation of Scribonius reached Agrippa, who then commanded the Roman army in Syria, he sent against him Polemon, son of the orator Zeno, whom Marc Antony had already placed on the throne of Pontus

Pontus and the Little Armenia. The king of Pontus found the usurper Scribonius already killed by his subjects; who, however, took up arms to prevent Polemon's seizing the vacant sceptre; and it was not till Agrippa himself directed the Roman force against them, that they permitted him to place his protégé, Polemon, on the throne, 12 or 13 years before Christ, 742 of the Roman æra: a choice afterwards confirmed by Augustus, and strengthened by a marriage with the real heiress, Dynamis, though now forty-nine years of age, after having been widow to the two last kings; which shews how much the Bosphorites must have been attached to the blood of the great Mithridates, her grandfather, whose glorious thirty years struggle for the independence of his country, with his tragical death, seems to have rendered his memory still dear to his subjects.

After the death of this princess without children, he espoused Pythodoris, daughter of a rich Asiatic, by whom he had two sons, Polemon and Zeno; with a daughter, who was married to a king of Thrace. The time of Polemon's death is uncertain; as we only know from Strabo that he fell in a battle with some neighbouring nation.

We have but three medals of this prince; and one of them, being struck in his kingdom of Pontus, before he mounted the throne of Bosphorus (for the head of Antony is on the reverse, who died before this last elevation), it does not enter into my plan to give here. Of the other two, Mr. Cary has only engraved the following, as the most curious, from having a Greek inscription on one side and a Latin one on the other:

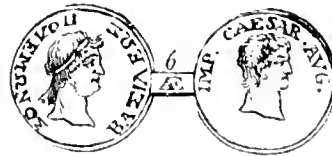
Brass:—first published in the work of Vaillant.

Obverse: The head of Polemon I. encircled with a diadem.

Legend, Greek: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΠΟΛΕΜΩΝΟΣ.

Reverse: The head of Augustus Cæsar, without ornament.

Legend, Latin: IMP. CAESAR. AVG.



Beside these medals, a curious Greek inscription found at Cumes, in Eolia, shews, that Polemon was high priest of a temple consecrated in that city to Rome and Augustus; a sure sign that he had been much respected for his virtues before he was elevated to the rank of a king; as Cumes is even in a different province from his native city (Laodicea), which he and his father Zeno defended so valiantly in the year of Rome 714, when Labienus ravaged Asia; till Pompey hastened from Egypt to their assistance, and defeated him, which

probably laid the foundation of all Polemon's greatness²¹². The inscription is in honour of one Labeon, a citizen of Cumes, and is very long; but the part which refers to Polemon is as follows:

ΜΗΝΟΣ ΦΡΑΤΡΙΩ ΔΕΚΑΤΑΠΙΟΝΤΟΣ ΕΠΙ ΙΕΡΕΩΣ
 ΤΑΣ ΡΩΜΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΥΤΟΚΡΟΣ ΚΑΙΣΑΡΟΣ ΘΕΟΥ
 ΥΙΩ ΘΕΩ ΣΕΒΑΣΤΩ ΑΡΧΙΕΡΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΙΣΤΩ ΚΑΙ
 ΠΑΤΡΟΣ ΤΑΣ ΠΑΤΡΙΔΟΣ ΠΟΛΕΜΩΝΟΣ ΤΩ
 ΖΗΝΩΝΟΣ ΛΑΟΔΙΚΕΟΣ ΠΡΥΤΑΝΕΩΣ ΔΕ
 ΛΕΥΚΙΩ ΟΥΑΚΚΙΩ ΛΕΥΚΙΩ ΥΙΩ ΑΙΜΙΛΙΑ
 ΛΑΒΕΩΝΟΣ ΦΙΛΟΚΥΜΑΙΩ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΑ
 ΣΤΕΦΑΝΑΦΩΡΩ ΔΕ ΣΤΡΑΤΩΝΟΣ ΤΩ
 ΗΡΑΚΛΕΔΑ.

“ The 21st of the month Phratrien, Polemon, son of Zeno, of Laodoea,
 “ being priest of the temple dedicated to Rome and to the Emperor Cæsar,
 “ son of Julia, the divine Augustus, sovereign Pontiff and father of his
 “ country — Lucius Vaccius Labeon, of the tribe of Æmilia, son of Lucius,
 “ friend and benefactor of the Cumeans, being Pretanus; and Straton, son
 “ of Heraclidus, being Stephaneforus,” &c.

N. B. The month Phratrien was unknown to Antiquaries till this inscription was found.

XVITH KING. — SAUROMATES the FIRST.

Sauromates I. mounted the throne of Bosphorus after the death of Polemon, whose widow, Pythodoris, seems to have retired to his kingdom of Pontus, where she was suffered to reign; as we have two of her coins that were struck when queen of the country, after the death of the king her husband.

This king added the name of the Roman emperor, his lord paramount, to his own; a pretty common practice among the tributary Greek princes. He seems first to have taken the name of Julius during the reign of his benefactor

²¹² It was a daughter of this prince, married to Cotys the Vth, King of Thrace, the protector of Ovid in his exile, who so boldly accused her husband's murderer before the Roman Senate, and brought him to punishment, though likewise King of Thrace.

Augustus,

Augustus²¹³, who confirmed him on the throne; and afterwards, considering himself as a client of the Julian family, he only added that of Tiberius to his former borrowed appellation, to pay court to the Imperial Cæsars, whose tributary he was. We accordingly see on his coins, not only the name of Tiberius Julius Sauromates, but likewise all the regalia sent him from Rome at his investiture; such as the crown, the curule chair, and the parazonium, or truncheon, joined to his own arms, as on

Plate I²¹⁴. fig. 7. Bras:—in the cabinet of Mr. Pellerin.

Obverse: The crown, curule chair, parazonium, and arms of Sauromates I.

Legend, Greek: Τ. ΙΟΥΛΙΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΚΑΥΡΟΜΑΤΟΥ.

Reverse: The letters HM²¹⁵ in a crown of laurel.

Plate I. fig. 8, bras: in the King of France's cabinet.

Obverse: The head of Sauromates I. encircled with the diadem.

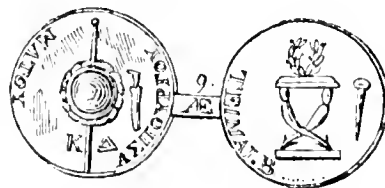
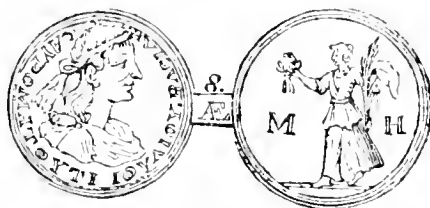
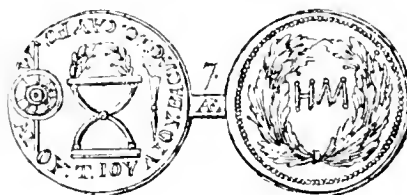
Legend, Greek: ΤΙ. ΙΟΥΛΙΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΚΑΥΡΟΜΑΤΟΥ.

Reverse: An erect figure of Victory, holding in the right hand a crown of laurel, and on the left a branch of palm, with the letters MH.

A third Medal of the same prince, which Mr. Cary regards as the most curious.

Plate I. fig. 9, bras: in the cabinet of the King of France.

Obverse: The shield and lance, which seems to have been the proper arms of the kings of Bosphorus; with a kind of instrument beside it, and the letters ΚΔ.



Legend:

²¹³ Vaillant has published a Medal of this prince, with the head of Augustus on the reverse; which shows that he held the Bosphoric sceptre under that Emperor.

²¹⁴ See the series of Coins, &c. at the end of this article.

²¹⁵ I take this occasion to say, that, excepting the Greek letters which mark the dates of the Bosphoric coins, I seldom or never take any notice of one or two detached letters seen upon most

Legend: The mutilated inscriptions of the two sides of this medal must be read together to make sense; and the words completed: ΤΕΙΜΑΙ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΑΥΡΟΜΑΤΟΥ ΑΣΠΟΥΡΓΟΥ: which Mr. Cary translates—"The honours (possibly meaning the regalia) of the King Sauromates, son of Aspurgus."

Mr. Cary doubts whether the custom of naming the father after mentioning the son existed in the Bosphorus: a question that I can answer in the affirmative, from inscriptions lately found there; and, indeed, the practice obtained among all the hordes from that country; the Russians say, to this day, John, the son of Charles, when they speak of any one: and our *Macdonalds* of Scotland, the *Fitzherberts* of Wales, and the *O'Donollys* of Ireland, all show that the same usage once existed in the British dominions.

XVIIth KING.—RHESCUPORIS the First.

(In the 783d year of Rome.)

On the coins of this prince, who succeeded Sauromates the First, we begin to find the date of the Bosphoric æra; and Mr. Cary gives three of them.



Plate I. fig. 10, gold: in the King of France's cabinet.

Obverse: The head of Rhescuporis I. without ornament.

Legend: The monogram of his name and dignity coupled together; so that we must read it ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΡΗΣΚΟΥΡΟΡΙΣ, with the date ΣΚΤ or 326 of the Bosphoric æra, answering to 782 of the Roman.

Reverse: The head of the Roman Emperor Tiberius.

Another, exactly the same, in the cabinet of M. Apostolo Zeno, of Venice; differing only in the date, which is ΑΑΤ, or 331 of the Bosphoric æra, answering to 787 of the Roman.

of them; because Antiquaries are so much divided in opinion as to their meaning, that nothing certain can be said on the subject. But I have never failed to place them in my rough sketches of the medals (though not in my descriptions of them), in hopes that discoveries may hereafter be made, which may throw light on these mystic characters. The HM on the above medal comes under this head.

Plate

Plate I. fig. 11, brass: in the cabinet of M. Le Beau.

Obverse: The head of Rhescuporis, encircled with a diadem.

Legend: ΤΙΒΕΡΙΟΣ ΙΟΥΛΙΟΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΡΗΣΚΟΥΠΟΡΙΣ.

Reverse: The head of a woman, likewise encircled with a diadem, and the letter Δ.

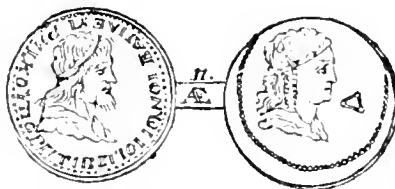


Plate I. fig. 12.

Obverse: The head of Rhescuporis, encircled with a diadem.

Legend: The same monogram of his name and dignity, as already explained of fig. 10, $\overline{\text{IAP}}$.

Reverse: The head of Caligula.

Legend: ΓΑΙΟΥ ΚΑΙΣΑΡΟΣ



We see then, that the interval between the first and second Polemon was filled up by the two last-mentioned princes, Sauromates and Rhescuporis, probably owing to the tender age of the heirs of Polemon I who were children when he died, and the Roman policy of not permitting the Bosphoric sceptre to remain *ad interim* in the hand of their mother, who held at the same time that of Pontus, as well as Cappadocia, by her second marriage with its sovereign Archelaus.

XVIIIth KING. — POLEMON the SECOND.

(In the 791st year of Rome, A. D. 38.)

This sovereign received the Bosphoric sceptre from Caligula in the 791st year of Rome, as we learn from Dion; but he did not long enjoy that dignity, as we find it bestowed four years afterwards on Mithridates II (of Bosphorus) by the Emperor Claudius; for which he received a part of Cilicia as an equivalent; and it might be so from his situation as king of Pontus; but we find that he even gave up this last kingdom to become a Roman province A. D. 65; but for what new equivalent is unknown to the moderns; so that he at last only retained

reained the part which he had of Cilicia. Josephus mentions his marrying Berenice the widow of Herod, in the last chapter of Book XIX.

The Medal of him given here was struck in the eighteenth year of his reign in Pontus.

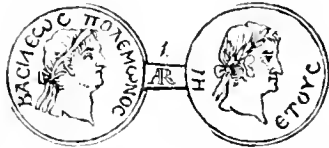


Plate II. fig. 1, silver : in the cabinet of the King of France.

Obverse : The head of Polemon, encircled with a diadem.

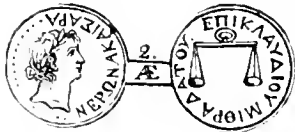
Legend, Greek : ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΠΟΛΕΜΩΝΟΣ.

Reverse : The head of Nero, crowned with laurel.

Legend : ΕΤΟΥΣ, with the letters IH.

XIXth KING. — MITHRIDATES the SECOND, of Bosphorus.

(In the 795th year of Rome, A. D. 42.)



Mithridates, who, as we have just said, was invested in the kingdom of Bosphorus by the Roman Emperor Claudius, then lord paramount, was of the blood of Mithridates the Great, though his particular relation to him is not handed down; for Dion speaks indistinctly of this prince's being admitted into the Roman Senate, where he returns thanks in Greek for the kingdom of Bosphorus. This good intelligence with Rome, however, did not last long; for he was deprived of his throne, and his brother Cotys placed on it by the Romans, who carried him to Rome, where he held the bold language of an injured sovereign, six or seven years after having returned thanks in open Senate for his kingdom.

We have the following coin struck by this prince :



Plate II. fig. 3, brass : in the cabinet of the King of France.

Obverse : A young head of Mithridates II. encircled with a diadem.

Legend : ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΜΙΘΡΑΤΑΤΟΥ.

Reverse :

Reverse: The spoils of a lion supported by the club of Hercules; with a bow in its case, or sheath, on one side, and the trident of Neptune on the other; with the letters IB below the club.

These bearings on the reverse seem to indicate, that this prince had chosen Hercules and Neptune as marked objects of worship, or that he celebrated games in honour of them.

XXth KING. — COTYS the FIRST.

(In the 802d year of Rome, and the 49th of our Æra.)

We are left in ignorance as to the father of this and the last Bosphoric king; or whether they were not merely sons of the same mother.

There was a gold medal of this prince in the cabinet of M. Apostolo Zeno, in Venice.

Obverse: The head of Agrippina, mother of Nero (who shared the authority with her son during the first years of his reign, and often appears on his money).

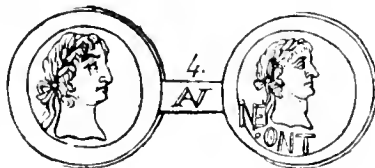
Reverse: The head of Cotys the first.

Legend, Greek: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΚΟΤΥΣ, and the date ΒΝΤ or 352 of the Bosphoric æra, answering to the 809th of the Roman.

Plate II. fig. 4, gold: in the cabinet of Mr. Pellerin:

Obverse: A head crowned with laurel. no inscription.

Reverse: A different head, also crowned with laurel.



Legend: The monogram ΝΕΚ, or ΝΕΚ; which probably means ΝΕΡΩΝ ΚΟΤΥΣ, Nero Kotys (as he, most probably, had taken the name of his lord paramount, like some of his predecessors), with the date ΒΝΤ. or 359 of the Bosphoric æra, agreeing with 816 of the Roman, or the 9th year of Nero's reign.

XXIst KING. — RHESCUPORIS the SECOND.

(In the 836th year of Rome, or 83d of our Æra.)

We know so little about this prince, that his very existence would have escaped the moderns, had not one of his coins, in gold, been found; which is in the cabinet of M. Apostolo Zeno, of Venice.

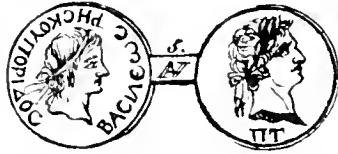


Plate II. fig. 5.

Obverse: The head of Rhescuporis II. encircled with a diadem.

Legend, Greek: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΡΗΣΚΟΥΠΟΡΙΔΟΥ.

Reverse: The head of Domitian, crowned with laurel; with the date ΠΤ, or 380 of the Bosphoric æra, corresponding with the 837th of the Roman, or the 3d of Domitian.

XXIId KING. — SAUROMATES²¹⁶ the SECOND.

This is the King of Bosphorus of whom the younger Pliny (minister of Trojan) speaks in his Letters, on account of the embassy which he sent to his Imperial master: and, indeed, this is all that we know of him, except from his coins; and we may here remark, that numismatic inquiries never appeared to more advantage than in the history of the Bosphorus; where, without the aid of medals, we should have been deprived of even the feeble light that has been thrown on the history of that ancient kingdom.

Fortunately, the cabinets of Europe contain several coins of this prince; which I shall here describe from Mr. Cary's French work, in the order of their dates, as usual, to ascertain the chronology of the country.

²¹⁶ This name of a famous people (and which means *Northern Meads*, or a subdivision of that nation, dwelling or ranging between the Don, Volga, and Caucasus), one might suspect, was assumed by some of the Bosphoric kings (for we have six of the name), to indicate their descent from the ancient lords of that country, long prior to the Dynasty then filling the Bosphoric throne.

Vaillant,

Vaillant, from whom Mr. Cary often borrows, has published the following Medal, found in the cabinet of Zeno at Venice, which contains so many from the Bosphorus; a circumstance that surprises me the less, on reflecting that the Republic had for ages a great commercial establishment in the very heart of that kingdom, and held their settlement in Asoff, the Tanais of the Antients, on the Bosphoric Sea, even long after the Genoese were masters of the Euxine, and had dispossessed them of Caffa, Soudak, &c.

Plate II. fig. 6, gold: in the King of France's cabinet.

Obverse: The head of Sauromates II. encircled with a diadem and long whiskers.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΚΑΥΡΟΜΑΤΟΥ.

Reverse: The head of Trajan, crowned with laurel; and under it the date ΗΤ, or 408 of the Bosphoric æra, agreeing with 865 of the Roman, or the 15th of Trajan.

Another, of gold, in the Tesoro Britannica.

Obverse: The head of Sauromates, with a diadem.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΚΑΥΡΟΜΑΤΟΥ.

Reverse: The head of Hadrian, crowned with laurel; below it, ΗΤ, or 413 of the Bosphoric æra, agreeing with 870 of the Roman, and the first of Hadrian.

Another, of gold, in the cabinet of the King of France: the same stamp, with the date ΗΤ, 418 of the Bosphoric æra, corresponding with 875 of the Roman, and the 6th of Hadrian.

Another, of brass, in the Pembroke cabinet: the same; with the date ΑΚΤ, or 421 of the Bosphoric æra, agreeing with 878 of the Roman, and the ninth of Hadrian.

Plate II. fig. 7. In the cabinet of Mr. Pellerin.

Obverse: The head of Sauromates II. with a diadem.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΚΑΥΡΟΜΑΤΟΥ.

Reverse: An eagle, holding a crown of laurel in its bill, with expanded wings.

Date: ΒΚΥ, or 422 of the Bosphoric æra; corresponding with 879 of the Roman, and the 10th of Hadrian.

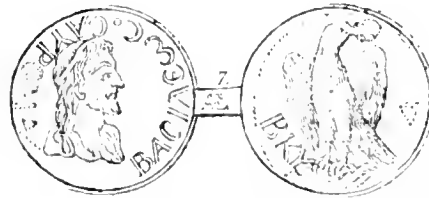




Plate II. fig. 8, brads: in the cabinet of the King of France.

Obverse: The head of Sauromates, encircled with a diadem.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΚΑΥΡΟΜΑΤΟΥ.

Reverse: A crown of laurel, with the

Greek letters MH in the centre of it.

XXIII^d KING. — COTYS the SECOND.

Two ancient authors have handed down the name of this prince, and little more than the name; viz. Plegon, the freed man of Hadrian, in his history of the Olympiads, of which only a fragment remains; and Arrian, in his famous *Periplos Ponto Euxin.* so often cited in this modern *Tour of the same coast.*

The first of these authors, we are told by the Imperial historian Constantinus Porphyrogenitus, who had read his whole work (since lost), says, that Hadrian had given the Bosphoric throne to Cotys; and Arrian, on sending his *Periplos* to his master Hadrian in the 15th year of his reign, who had commissioned him to make it, writes in his letter, “So soon as I heard of the death of Cotys, king of Bosphorus, I hastened to send you this account of the voyage that may be made by sea to that kingdom, that you may be acquainted with the country if you intend to interfere in the arrangement of its internal affairs.” Now, as I have proved (says Mr. Cary), that Arrian wrote his *Periplos* in the 15th of Hadrian, of course, the death of Cotys must have happened that year; and we have a coin of his in the cabinet of Mr. Pellerin, struck only one year before his death, bearing his head on one side, encircled with a diadem, and the inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΚΟΤΥΟΥ; on the other, that of Hadrian, with laurel, and the date ΣΚΥ, or 426 of the Bosphoric æra, answering to 883 of the Roman, and the 14th of Hadrian.

The following Medal of the same prince is likewise in the cabinet of Mr. Pellerin, as well as in that of Mr. Fawkener, of London.

Plate

Plate II. fig. 9, gold: in the cabinet of Mr. Pellerin, &c.

Obverse: The head of Cotys II. encircled with a diadem; before it a club.

Legend, Greek: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΚΟΤΥΟΣ.

Reverse: The head of Hadrian, crowned with laurel: below it, the date ΗΚΥ, or 428 of the Bosphoric æra, agreeing with 885 of the Roman, or the 16th of Hadrian. This was the very year of Cotys's death, as the medal of his successor Rhœmetalces proves most evidently, being struck the same year.

There are still two more coins of the same prince given by Mr. Cary, but without a date.

Plate II. fig. 10.

Obverse: The head of Cotys II. encircled with a diadem; and the trident of Neptune before the bust.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΚΟΤΥΟΣ.

Reverse: A crown of laurel, with the Greek letters ΜΗ in the centre of it.

Plate II. fig. 11. A third medal of the same prince, in the cabinet of Mr. Pellerin.

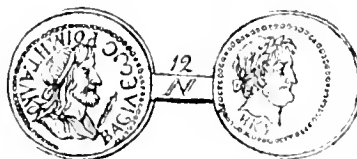
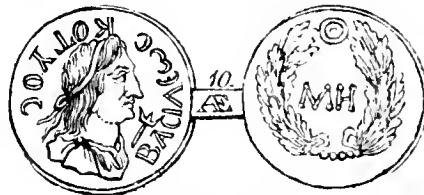
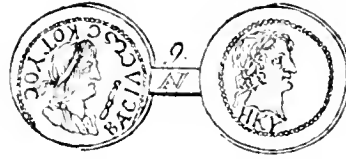
Obverse: The monogram of Kotys, ΒΑΚ (with ΚΔ below it); which means ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΚΟΤΥΟΣ.

Reverse: A temple, with the inscription ΚΑΠΕ; which Mr. Cary supposes to be the beginning of the word ΚΑΠΕΤΟΛΙΟΝ, under the idea that the temple was dedicated to Jupiter Capitolinus.

XXIVth KING. — RHŒMETALCES.

(In the 885th year of Rome, and 132d of our Æra.)

This prince mounted the Bosphoric throne in the 885th year of the Roman æra, during the reign of Hadrian; but, from a passage of Capitolinus, in his Life of Antoninus Pius, it



would seem (according to Mr. Cary's reading of it), that his successor Eupator had made efforts to seize the sceptre of Rhœmetalces during his life; but was discountenanced by the Emperor Antoninus, then become lord paramount by the death of Hadrian, and who secured the throne to Rhœmetalces till death opened a peaceable and lawful road for Eupator to assume the regal dignity.

We have several coins of this prince in the cabinets of Europe.



Plate III. fig. 1, gold: in the cabinet of Mr. Pellerin.

Obverse: The head of Rhœmetalces, encircled with a diadem.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΡΟΙΜΗΤΑΑΚΟΥ.

Reverse: The head of Hadrian, crowned with laurel; and below it the date TAY, or 433 of the Bosphoric æra; according with 890 of the Roman, and the 21st of Hadrian.

Another, in the cabinet of Mr. Fawkenor, in London.

Obverse: the same as the last.

Reverse: The head of Antoninus Pius, crowned with laurel; and below it, the date MY, or 440 of the Bosphoric æra, agreeing with 897 of the Roman, or the 7th of Antoninus Pius.

A third medal, of gold: exactly the same as the last; with the date BMY, or 442 of the Bosphoric, corresponding with 899 of the Roman æra, and the 9th of the reign of the Emperor Antoninus Pius.

A fourth, of gold, in the cabinet of Mr. Pellerin; the same, with the date BMY, or 445 of the Bosphoric æra, agreeing with 902 of the Roman, or the 12th of Antoninus.

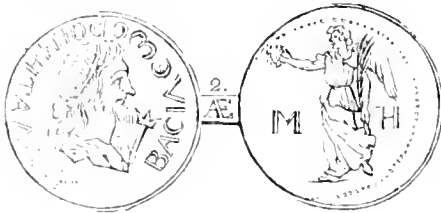


Plate III. fig. 2, brass: in the King of France's cabinet.

Obverse: The head of Rhœmetalces, encircled with a diadem; and before it a trident.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΡΟΙΜΗΤΑΑΚΟΥ.

Reverse: A victory, on tiptoe, holding a crown of laurel in her right hand, and a branch of palm in her left; before her, the Greek letter M; and behind her, H

XXVth KING. — EUPATOR.

On the death of Rhæmetalces, Antoninus invested his turbulent rival, Eupator, with the Bosphoric sceptre, though he had maintained the late king in the enjoyment of it when unjustly attacked by his successor, and protected him till his death.

This prince is mentioned by Lucian in the following passage :

“ I found there ambassadors from the Bosphorus, who had come by sea to Bythia with the annual tribute from their king Eupator ;” and there is reason to suspect, that Eupator is meant (though not named) by Philostratus in his Life of the Sophists, when he mentions as his cotemporary, a king of Bosphorus, who had so much knowledge and liking to Grecian literature, that he travelled through Ionia to improve it. While at Smyrna, the philosophers of that city all courted his acquaintance, except the sophist Polemon, who refused to wait on his majesty ; and, as that sovereign was curious to hear him, he obliged the king to come to his house, and even received a sum of money for his acquaintance.

We have a number of medals or coins of this prince. Mr. Cary gives Engravings of two, and describes the others.

Plate III. fig. 3. In the cabinet of Mr. Pellerin.

Obverse : The head of Eupator, encircled with a diadem ; and before it a sceptre.

Legend : ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΕΥΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ.

Reverse : The head of Antoninus Pius, crowned with laurel : with the date BNY, or 452 of the Bosphoric æra, corresponding with 99 of the Roman, and the 19th of Antoninus.

Another, of gold : exactly the same, but without a sceptre, in Lebrer's cabinet ; with the date TNY, or 453 of the Bosphoric, agreeing with 910 of the Roman æra

A third, of gold, in the cabinet of Mr. Bosanquet, of London : exactly the same as the two foregoing, except that, instead of a sceptre as in the first, there is a club placed before the head of Eupator ; and the date on the reverse is ENT, or 455 of the Bosphoric, agreeing with 912 of the Roman æra.

A fourth,



A fourth, exactly the same, in gold; with a sceptre, or javelin; and the date ΣΝΥ, or 456 of the Bosphoric, corresponding with 913 of the Roman æra.

A fifth coin in gold, belonging to Mr. Pellerin.

Obverse: The head of Eupator, encircled with a diadem.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΕΥΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ.

Reverse: The heads of Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus, without any ornament; and the date ΘΝΤ, or 459 of the Bosphoric æra, answering to 916 of the Roman.

A sixth coin, of gold, in Mr. Pellerin's cabinet, exactly the same; with the date ΞΥ, 460 of the Bosphoric, or 917 of the Roman æra.

A seventh, in gold, belonging to Mr. Pellerin, exactly the same, except a sceptre between the heads of Aurelius and Verus, and the date ΑΞΥ, 461 of the Bosphoric, or 918 of the Roman æra.

Here follow two more coins of Eupator, with the head of M. Aurelius alone on the reverse, after the death of his colleague Verus.

The one is in the cabinet of St. Petersburg, and bears the date ΣΞΥ, or 466 of the Bosphoric æra, and 923 of the Roman.

The other, of gold, in the cabinet of Mr. Pellerin, has the date ΖΞΥ, or 467, of the Bosphoric æra, agreeing with 924 of the Roman.

Of the last medal of Eupator mentioned by Mr. Cary, that gentleman gives an Engraving; and it is a corroborating proof, that Jupiter Capitolinus was adored in the Bosphorus.

Obverse: The monogram of Eupator in a crown of laurel, which must be read ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΕΥΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ, with the Greek letters ΝΘ above the monogram, and ΚΔ below it; which are not attempted to be explained, except by supposing the ΝΘ a mistake in the reading or engraving of the coin, and put there for the semi-circle, or little flourish, which we have always seen above the monograms containing the name and dignity of the Bosphoric kings. See Plate I. fig. 10 and 12, and plate II. fig. 11.



Reverse: A temple of Jupiter Capitolinus, with the Greek letters ΚΑΠΕ, for Capitolinus.

XXVIth KING. — SAUROMATES III.

Mr. Cary mentions several coins of this prince, and describes the two following (probably on account of their dates), before he gives an Engraving of a third, not struck till twelve years after the first of the two, which is in gold, in the cabinet of Mr. Fawkener, of London.

Obverse: The head of Sauromates III. encircled with a diadem.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΚΑΥΡ ΜΑΤΟΥ.

Reverse: The head of Commodus, crowned with laurel; and below it, the date ΖΟΥ, or 477 of the Bosphoric æra, agreeing with 934 of the Roman.

Another, of gold, in the collection of Antonio Nani, of Venice; exactly the same, except a globe before the Roman Emperor's head, with the date ΖΠΥ, or 487 of the Bosphoric, answering to 944 of the Roman æra.

But the medal of which he gives the Engraving is in the cabinet of the Abbé de Rothelin.

Plate III. fig. 5.

Obverse: The head of Sauromates III. with a diadem.

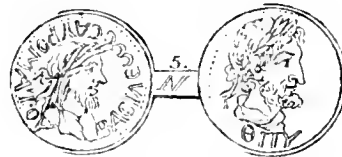
Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΚΑΥΡΟΜΑΤΟΥ.

Reverse: The head of Commodus, with a crown of laurel; and the date ΘΠΥ, or 489 of the Bosphoric æra, agreeing with 945 or 946 of the Roman; but it must have been struck in the very beginning of that last year at latest, as Commodus died on the last day of 945; and his death must, in all probability, have been known in the Bosphorus two months afterwards.

Another, of gold, in the cabinet of Mr. Pellerin, is exactly the same on the obverse; but the

Reverse bears the head of Severus, crowned with laurel; and before it a star: with the date ΦΥ, 490 of the Bosphoric æra, or 947 of the Roman.

Another, of gold, in the cabinet of the King of France, exactly the same with the last as to the heads of Sauromates and Septimus Severus; except that the



the date ΒΦΥ, or 492 of the Bosphoric æra, 949 of the Roman, is placed below the bust of the Emperor; and Mr. Pellerin has a duplicate of it in brass, with a globe before the head of Severus.

In the King of France's cabinet there is another gold medal, exactly the same, with the sole difference of a star before the head of Severus, and the date ΔΦΥ, 494 of the Bosphoric æra, or 951 of the Roman.

Another, of gold, in the collection of Mr. Pellerin, with the same obverse and legend.

Reverse: The heads of Severus and Caracalla, crowned with laurel, with a crescent between them; and the date ΕΦΥ, 495 of the Bosphoric æra, or 952 of the Roman.

In the King of France's cabinet there is another, in gold, exactly the same; except a sceptre between the heads of the Roman Emperors, and the date ΑΦ, 501 of the Bosphoric æra, or 958 of the Roman.

After these, which he only describes, Mr. Cary gives Engravings of the four following medals of Sauromates.



Plate III. fig. 6, brass: in the King of France's cabinet.

Obverse: The head of Sauromates III. encircled with a diadem.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΣΑΥΡΟΜΑΤΟΥ.

Reverse: A man on horseback, with the right hand raised, and a spear in the left; above him a star, and the letter B below his horse's fore feet.

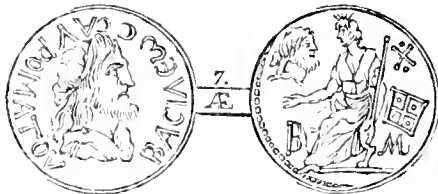


Plate III. fig. 7, brass: in the King of France's cabinet.

Obverse: The same head and legend as the last.

Reverse: A female, sitting, with a bunch of corn on her head: a small globe in her right, and a spear in her left hand; before her stands the bust of the Emperor Severus, crowned with laurel; and behind her chair, a kind of military ensign; above this military standard is a cross, and on each side of her feet a Greek letter, viz. B before, and M behind them.

Plate III. fig. 3, brass: in the cabinet of M. Pellerin.

Obverse: The head of Sauromates, and of a half-veiled female, face to face.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΣΑΥΡΟΜΑΤΟΥ.

Reverse: A female, sitting in a chair, holding a *Patera*, or libation cup, in her right hand; behind her neck, a star; and the letter B before her knees.

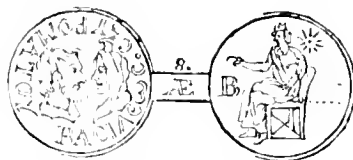
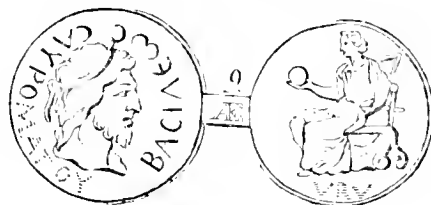


Plate III. fig. 9, brass: in the cabinet of Lord Pembroke:

Obverse: The head of Sauromates, with a diadem, and the ordinary legend.

Reverse: A female, sitting on a chair, with a globe in her right hand; behind her shoulders the Greek letter Λ, and below her feet VRV.



Mr. Cary mentions four more coins of the same king; but as they have all been struck in the reigns of the same Roman Emperors already stamp'd on his medals given in this Work, without any date, and as he does not give engravings of them to enable us to guess at the period by their stile, they cannot serve any historical purpose here, and are of course omitted.

XXVIIth KING. — RHESCUPORIS III.

This is one of several kings of the Bosphorus not even mentioned in the detached fragments of the history of that ancient kingdom which have come down to our days, and whose memories are only rescued from oblivion by their coins picked up by Antiquaries; a strong proof of the great utility of numismatic researches, and the aid that it affords to the historian; more particularly when dates are found upon such medals, with the portraits of Emperors that we are well acquainted with. As for example, in this very instance; Mr. Pellerin has a gold medal of Rhescuporis III.

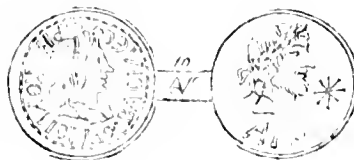
Plate III. fig. 10.

Obverse: The head of Rhescuporis III. encircled with a diadem.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΡΗΣΚΟΥΠΟΡΙΔΟΥ.

Reverse: The head of Caracalla, crowned with

Β Β Β



laurel,

laurel, with a star before it; and under the bust the date ΑΙΦ, 511 of the Bosphoric æra, or 968 of the Roman.

M. Pellerin has another, in gold, of the same prince, exactly the same as the last, except that a sceptre is placed before Caracalla, with the date ΒΙΦ, 512 of the Bosphoric æra, or 969 of the Roman.

A third is described by Spanheim, with exactly the same obverse.

Reverse: The head of Alexander Severus, crowned with laurel; before his bust a star, and below it the date ΑΚΙ, 521 of the Bosphoric æra, or 978 of the Roman.

XXVIIIth KING. — COTYS III.

The cabinets of Europe contain three coins of this prince.

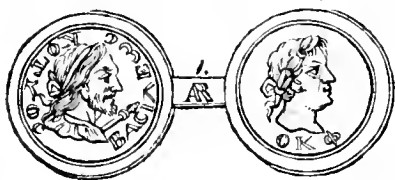


Plate IV. fig. 1, silver: in the King of France's collection.

Obverse: The head of Cotys III. with a sceptre before it, and encircled with a diadem.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΚΩΤΥΣ.

Reverse: The head of Alexander Severus, crowned with laurel, and below it, the date ΘΚΦ, 529 of the Bosphoric æra, or 986 of the Roman.

Another, the same, in brass: in the King of France's cabinet. And a third, published in the *Thes. Numif. of Patin*, with the date ΑΦ, 530 of the Bosphoric æra, or 98 of the Roman.

XXIXth KING. — ININTHIMEVUS.

We owe the knowledge of the existence of this Bosphoric king to the Antiquary Seguin, who published one of his coins in silver, which is at present in the King of France's cabinet.

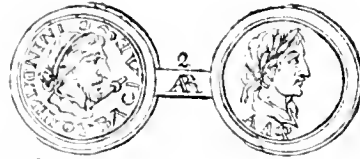
Plate IV. fig. 2.

Obverse: The head of Ininthimevus, encircled with a diadem, and a sceptre before it.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΙΝΙΝΘΙΜΗΥΩΥ.

Reverse: The head of Alexander Severus, crowned with laurel; and below it the date ΑΑΦ, 531 of the Bosphoric, or 988 of the Roman æra.

We see by the medal of Cotys, dated 530, and that of his successor, struck in 531, that this prince could not have reigned a full year.



XXXth KING. — RHESCUPORIS IV.

The cabinets of Europe contain a number of medals of this prince; the first of which shows, as said above, that his predecessor could not have reigned a year complete; as it has on the reverse the head of Severus, with laurel, and a sceptre, and the date ΑΑΦ, 531 of the Bosphoric, or 988 of the Roman æra; so that Ininthimevus died, and Rhescuporis mounted the throne in this very year.

The next is a silver medal, in the possession of Mr. Bosanquet, of London, having on the

Obverse: The head of Rhescuporis, encircled with a diadem.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΡΗΣΚΟΥΠΟΡ'Δ.

Reverse: The head of Gordionus Pius, crowned with laurel; and before it a club, with the date ΣΑΦ, 533 of the Bosphoric æra, or 993 of the Roman.

A third, exactly the same, of silver; in the cabinet of the Abbé Rothelin, with the date ΘΑΦ, 536 of the Bosphoric, or 996 of the Roman æra.

A fourth, of brass; and a fifth, in silver; with the same obverse and legend, given by Vaillant in his kings of Bosphorus.

Reverse: The head of Philip, crowned with laurel; and below it the date ΑΜΦ, 541 of the Bosphoric, agreeing with 998 of the Roman æra.

A sixth, of brass: exactly the same, with the date ΒΜΦ, 542 of the Bosphoric, or 999 of the Roman æra.

A seventh, in silver, in the cabinet of Dr. Mead, of London: exactly the same, with the exception of a sceptre, instead of a club, before the bust of the

Roman Emperor; with the date ΓΜΦ, 543 of the Bosphoric, or 1000 of the Roman æra.

An eighth, of brass, in the cabinet of the Earl of Pembroke, with the same bust of Rhescuporis and Philip, and the date ΕΜΦ, 545 of the Bosphoric æra, or the 1002 of Rome.

A ninth, of silver, in the same cabinet, with the head of the Emperor Decius, and the date ΣΜΦ, 546 of the Bosphoric æra, or 1003 of the Roman.

A tenth, of the mixt-metal potlin, in the King of France's cabinet.

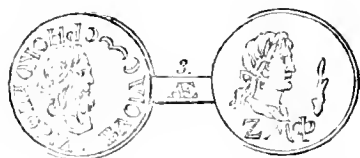


Plate IV. fig. 3.

Obverse: The head of Rhescuporis, encircled with a diadem.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΡΗΣΚΟΥΤΗΡΙΑ.

Reverse: The head of the Emperor Decius, crowned with laurel; before it a club; and under the bust the date ΖΜΦ, 547 of the Bosphoric, or 1004 of the Roman æra.

An eleventh, of brass, in the Pembroke collection.

Obverse and *Legend*, exactly the same.

Reverse: The head of Gallus, and either Volusianus or Hostilianus; and the date ΗΜΦ, 548 of the Bosphoric, or 1005 of the Roman æra.

A twelfth, of potlin, in the King of France's cabinet.

Obverse: the same.

Reverse: the head of the usurper Æmilius, who assumed the purple in Italy, with the date ΘΜΦ, 549 of the Bosphoric æra, or 1006 of Rome.

A thirteenth, of brass, in the King of France's cabinet, has exactly the same bearings as the last, with the same date.

A fourteenth, of brass, in the Pembroke collection, has the head and legend of Rhescuporis on the *Obverse*, with a trident; and on the

Reverse: The head of the Roman Emperor Gallienus, with Odenathus, king of Palmyra, the husband of the famous Zenobia; and the date ΞΦ, 560 of the Bosphoric, or 1017 of the Roman æra.

Lastly, there is a brass medal of the same prince in the King of France's cabinet, with the head of Gallienus on the reverse, and the date 563 of the Bosphoric, or 1020 of the Roman æra.

XXXIIIrd KING. — TEIRANES.

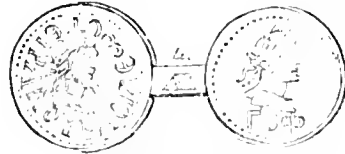
This is another of the Bosphoric kings only known to us by coins, which Mr. Cary fortunately received directly from that ancient kingdom, bearing a date, as well as his name, which shews us that he held his sceptre under the Roman Emperor Probus, whose bust is seen on the reverse, as lord paramount.

Plate IV. fig. 4.

Obverse: The head of Teiranes, encircled with a diadem.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΤΕΙΡΑΝΟΥ.

Reverse: The head of Probus, crowned with laurel; with the date ΓΘΦ, 573 of the Bosphoric æra, or 1030 of the Roman.

XXXIIIrd KING. — THOTHORSES.

It is very possible, that newly discovered Bosphoric medals may fill up the long interval of twenty years between the last coin that we have of Teiranes, and the first of this prince, with the portrait and name of some unknown king of this country; but till then we must regard Thothorses as the immediate successor of Teiranes; and even of him we have no more information than what we obtain from five of his coins in the cabinets of Europe; which show that Dioclesian was his lord paramount through the whole of his reign, as the bust of that Emperor appears on the reverse of all his medals. Mr. Cary only gives one of them, but describes the others in the order of their dates.

The first, of brass, in the Pembroke collection, has on the

Obverse: The head of Thothorses, encircled with a diadem.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΘΟΘΟΡΣΟΥ.

Reverse: The head of Dioclesian, crowned with laurel; and the date ΓΘΦ, 593 of the Bosphoric æra, or 1050 of the Roman; with a Φ in the field of the medal.

The

The second, of brass, in the same collection, differs in nothing but the date $\Delta\eta\Phi$, 594 of the Bosphoric, or 1051 of the Roman æra.

The third, of brass, in the King of France's cabinet, only differs in having a trident before the head of Thothorfes, and the date $\Sigma\eta\Phi$, 596 of the Bosphoric, or 1053 of the Roman æra.

The fourth is the one of which Mr. Cary gives an engraving; it is of brass, and in the King of France's cabinet.

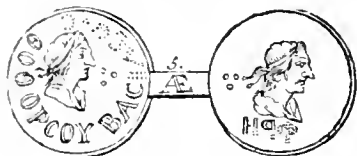


Plate IV. fig. 5.

Obverse: The head of Thothorfes, encircled with a diadem; before it, three points.

Legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΘΘΘΡΚΟΥ.

Reverse: The head of Dioclesian, crowned with laurel; and three points, or dots, behind his bust; with the date $\eta\eta\Phi$, 598 of the Bosphoric, or 1055 of the Roman æra.

The fifth medal of this prince is of brass, in the Pembroke collection, and differs in nothing from the former, but in having a trident before the head of the Roman Emperor, with the date $\Theta\eta\Phi$, 599 of the Bosphoric æra, or 1056 of the Roman.

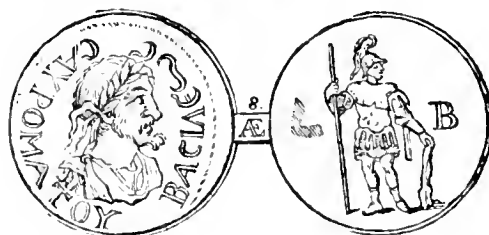
XXXIIIId KING. — SAUROMATES IV.

There are reasons for supposing that the father of this prince, who, the Imperial historian Constantinus Porphyrogenitus tells us, was named Rhescuporis, reigned a few weeks before he was taken prisoner by the Cherfonites, and that his son mounted the vacant throne; for, longer his reign could not have been, because Thothorfes struck money in the very last year of Dioclesian, and Rhescuporis was made prisoner in the time of the same Emperor. For these reasons, and because no medal of him has yet been found, Mr. Cary has left Rhescuporis out of the catalogue of Bosphoric kings, till the discovery of some one of his coins shall place him there.

To proceed with the history of Sauromates IV. son of this prince Rhescuporis. We are told by the Imperial historian, in his work, "De Administrando Imperio," quoted above, that he made war on the Romans, overcame
the

the people under their obedience, and had advanced with his victorious army as far as the river Halys on the opposite coast, before Dioclesian had time to send Constance, father of Constantine the great, against him. That General, however, found him so strong, that he was obliged to engage the Cherfonites, the antient and constant enemies of the Bosphorites, to make a diversion in his favour; which they did so effectually as to oblige Sauromates to return to the defence of his own dominions, and redeem his wives, whom they had taken prisoners, by making peace with the Romans. For this important service, Dioclesian remitted the tribute which the Cherfonites annually paid the Romans, to whom they seem to have constantly remained submissive; possibly to gain a powerful support against the kings of Pontus, their natural rivals in trade, as well as dominion in the Bosphorus; for it seems to have been the policy of those crafty conquerors of the antient world, to sow dissensions among the native princes, and thereby keep the whole in subjection from weakness, as the Tartars of the Golden Horde did the Russians for two centuries.

Mr Cary gives us no medal of either this prince or his successor of the same name; but a *coin of a king Sauromates*, which he has placed among the uncertain *incerta*, I think must have been struck by one or other of them, for the following reasons: first, because this king Sauromates is the only prince of the whole Bosphoric Dynasty (whose coins are known) that assumes the laurel crown (See the medal given in the margin from Plate IV fig. 8), which seems to have been always appropriated to the lords paramount, the Roman Cæsars, or the Bosphoric money, while the tributary king constantly appears with the regal fillet, or diadem, round his head. Now this boldness perfectly agrees with the account that we have from Constantine Porphyrogenitus, that Sauromates IV. and V. had thrown off the Roman yoke, and set the Cæsars at defiance.—Secondly, because we do not find (as on the other Bosphoric coins in general) the head of a Roman Emperor on the reverse; but in its place a martial figure, indicating the independent military force of the reigning prince.



XXXIVth KING. — SAUROMATES V.

This prince, some years after the accession of Constantine to the Imperial throne, attacked the Cherfonites, to revenge the disgrace and captivity of his grandfather, Rhescuporis; but he was beaten, and obliged to fix, by the oath of himself and his chieftains, the boundaries of the two countries, which they were never to pass (possibly not to go beyond the city of Theodosia, or Cassa, the usual limit, as shewn in the Tour).

XXXVth KING.— RHESCUPORIS V.

There are several coins of this prince. The first given by Mr. Cary wants his name, which is effaced on this brass medal in the Pembroke collection; although, from the date, it must either belong to him or his predecessor, Sauromates V. which is not so probable.

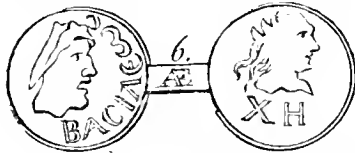


Plate IV. fig. 6.

Obverse: The head of Rhescuporis V. in all probability, judging from the date.

Legend: BACIAE: C

Reverse: A head wearing a radiated crown, with the Greek letters XII below it, 608 of the Bosphoric, or 1065 of the Roman æra, and the seventh of Constantine.

A second, in the cabinet of Mr. de Lisle.

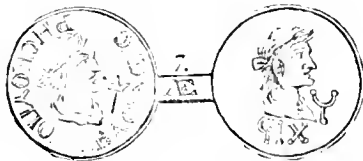


Plate IV. fig. 7.

Obverse: The head of Rhescuporis, with a trident before it; and encircled, as usual, with a fillet, or diadem.

Legend: BACIAE: C ΗΣΚΟΥΡΙΟ

Reverse: The head of Constantine the great, crowned with laurel; below it the date ΣΙΧ, 616 of the Bosphoric, or 1073 of the Roman æra.

In the King of France's cabinet there is another brass medal, exactly the same, except some unknown symbol before the head of Constantine; with the date KIX , 618 of the Bosphoric æra, or 1075 of the Roman.

A third, in the same cabinet, differs in nothing but the date KX , 620 of the Bosphoric, or 1077 of the Roman æra.

In the Travels of Mottray we see another, with the date AKX , 621 of the Bosphoric, or 1078 of the Roman æra.

In the Pembroke collection there is a brass medal, with the head of Rhefcuporis on one side, and Constantine on the other; before whom there is an erect figure holding up the right hand; and the date BKX , 622 of the Bosphoric æra, or 1079 of the Roman.

Mr. Pellerin has likewise a brass medal, with the heads of the same king and Emperor, and the date ΔKX , 624 of the Bosphoric æra, equal to 1081 of the Roman.

And, lastly, there is mention made of a medal of Rhefcuporis in Mr. Peirese's manuscript belonging to Mr. Boze, with the date MX ; which would prove (if correct) that this prince reigned till the 640th year of the Bosphoric æra, or the 1097th of the Roman, the latest date that we find on any Bosphoric coin.

XXXVIth and last KING of the Bosphorus. — SAURONATES VI.

We have no coins of this last prince: and all we know of him is, that his imprudence reduced the ancient kingdom of Bosphorus to a province of the republic of Cherson; though, probably, by the help of the Romans, who could not be pleased with the independent pretensions of the later Bosphoric kings, who seemed to set their power at defiance; and possibly might have maintained their independence by their maritime force²⁴ against those haughty

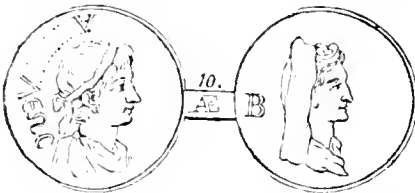
²⁴ The maritime force of the Bosphorus seems to have been the greatest in the Ægean: and we observe the very last king of it who truck money, carrying on his coin the trident of Neptune, or the emblem of maritime superiority, in the year 620 of the Bosphoric æra, while his last paramount, Constantine the Great, on the reverse of the same medal, is without it; and, indeed, we never hear of a Roman fleet in the Ægean after Trajan.

conquerors, had they not always had in their neighbourhood a formidable land enemy in the powerful Cherfonites, ever obedient to the nod of Cæsar, when the humiliation or destruction of their natural rival was in question: and it was by that republic that they at last fell, in the following manner, as related by the Imperial historian Constantine Porphyrogenitus.



Sauromates VI. enraged at the disasters brought on his predecessors by the Cherfonites, refused to abide by the limits prescribed to Sauromates V. and made preparations to retake the part of this ancient kingdom which he declared had been unjustly wrested from that king.

For this purpose he raised an army, and marched against the republic: but the Cherfonite chief, named Pharnaces (an ominous and treacherous name to the Bosphoric kings), under pretence of saving the effusion of blood, offered to decide the quarrel by single combat, which the high spirit of Sauromates did not permit him to refuse; and, as the traitor had ordered that his army should set up a loud shout the moment the king's back



was turned to it, the stratagem had the desired effect of making him turn his head to see what was the matter; which gave Pharnaces an opportunity of plunging his sword into his body, and, by the conditions of this dastardly duel, reducing the Bosphorus to a province of the republic. Thus ended the third and last Dynasty of the kings of the Bosphorus, with the independence of the country; for an unsuccessful attempt afterwards made, by one of the name of Afander, only ended in his own ruin with that of his son.

Mr. Cary finishes his work by giving three more Bosphoric medals, which he files *incerta*, not being able to determine by which prince they were struck. One I have already copied, as the head of Sauromates IV. for reasons then assigned: and the other two are given in the margin of this page, in case future discoveries should throw light on the subject.

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

OF THE

BOSPHORIC HISTORY:

BY THE EDITOR.

THUS fell the kingdom of Bosphorus, after a lapse of near eight hundred years, a victim to the Roman maxim, *Divide and govern*; but in this instance the Cæsars were the dupes of their own politics, in supporting Cherson against a regal state that furnished a barrier between the barbarians and the Roman provinces, which were quickly ravaged by the Goths after they got possession of the feeble fallen Chæmæian Bosphorus.

Their first maritime expedition was directed against the nearest Roman settlement of Pytius, which they took and ransacked, and then failed to the rich city of Trapezus, now Trebizond, which they took by assault in the dead of night, notwithstanding its strong fortifications, and a numerous garrison of degenerate Romans, who might have held it against a whole nation of barbarians, had they not slept secure in its strength, and fled through the opposite gate as soon as the Goths made an entrance.

The ancient kingdom of Bithynia was their next prey, with its rich capital Nicomédia²¹⁸, and the many famous cities mentioned by Pliny, minister of Trajan, in the Xth Book of his Letters when governor of those countries, Nicea, Prusa, Sinope, &c.

In their third expedition, with 500 sail, they passed through the Thracian Bosphorus; and, after taking in their way the ancient city of Cyzicus, situated on the island of that name (where our unfortunate Scythian philosopher Anacharsis learned the Grecian rites, which cost him his life on his return), carried fire and sword into ancient Greece, which they entered by scaling the famous wall, built in better times, close by the Athenian port of Piræ, and which formerly, when kept in repair, served as a bulwark, not only to the Attic capital, but to the whole republic, against maritime attacks; yet in its neglected state proved a feeble obstacle to the furious Goths, who ravaged the classic peninsula, and would probably have made even Italy tremble, if the infamous Emperor Gallienus had not been roused from his ignoble sloth by their success, and flown to its relief with the flower of the Roman legions, which obliged them to return home, ravaging the coast of Troy in their retrograde voyage, though their force in setting out was at most only 15,000²¹⁹.

²¹⁸ Nicomédia became afterwards the residence of Dioclesian and some of his successors, and again sprung up from its gothic ashes to a great and opulent city.

²¹⁹ The *Camarsæ*, or Eune vessels, mentioned by Strabo and Tacitus, were open barks built without iron (as the Russians are to this day), which had only an occasional sloping cover (rather than a deck) put up in bad weather by the sailors; and carried 25 or 30 soldiers at most; nay this was still the case even in the middle ages, when the Russians fitted out such large fleets from the Dnieper against Constantinople, where 2,000 sail is talked of; but they were only *Lothies* (in the language of Russia), or *Monovyles* (as Conf. Porphyrogenitus called them), made out of *one tree*, with shelving planks fixed to their gunnel, which at most fitted them to contain 25 or 30 men. But we afterwards hear of the Goths and their allies embarking 320,000 men in 2,000 vessels (according to Trebellius Pollion in his Life of Augustus) from the Dniester, against the Roman empire; and in 6,000 barks according to Zonaras, whom Montesquieu follows, the same army, defeated by the Emperor Claudius, 320,000 strong at the battle of Naissus, A. D. 269, which gained him the cognomen of Gothicus. If the Emperor was exact in the number of 320,000 mentioned in his letter to the Senate, still in existence, then Montesquieu was right in preferring the 6,000 barks of Zonaras to the 2,000 of Pollion, which could have held but a part of such an army.

Such

Such was the superiority of bold vigorous barbarians over effeminate polished men, till the discovery of gunpowder levelled human strength.

In agreeing with Mr. Gibbon, that the fall of the kingdom of Bosphorus was one of the many causes which contributed to the fall of the Roman empire, I must take the liberty of correcting a little inaccuracy of that celebrated and elegant historian, when he speaks of the Goths being masters of the Bosphorus, and employing its fleet against the Roman settlements, *in or before the reign of Gallienus*, who, he informs us, drove them from Greece in their *third* expedition, fitted out from the Taurida, as the two former were *from the Bosphorus*. Now this must be a mistake; as I shall at the end of this article give a series of Bosphoric kings of the same Dynasty down to Constantine the great, bearing the heads of the Roman Emperors in succession on the reverse of their coins, as lords paramount of the kingdom. Rhescuporis IV. king of Bosphorus, was cotemporary with Gallienus, whose head is on the reverse of his coin, joined with his colleague Odenathus of Palmyra on one; but he is alone on another, struck in the 1097th year of Rome, and the 640th of the Bosphoric æra, or 77 years after the date of the last of the Bosphoric medals of Gallienus, who was killed in the 268th year of the christian æra. Mr. Gibbon then, in the multiplicity of materials which he had to collect for his learned history, must have made a mistake in the epoch when the Goths took possession of the kingdom of Bosphorus, and made use of its fleet to attack the Roman empire. When they did conquer it I have not ascertained; but it is very probable, that it may have been soon after it became subject to the Chersonese republic, which seems to have happened in the reign of Constantine the great, or about that period.

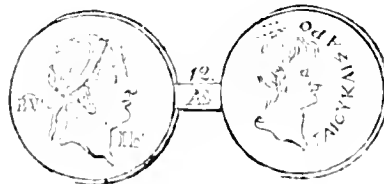
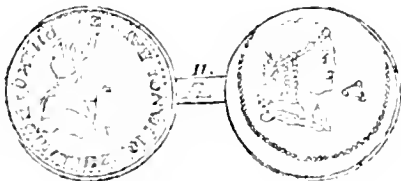
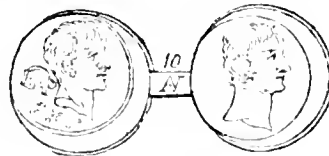
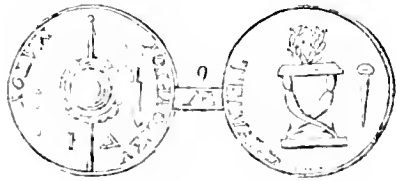
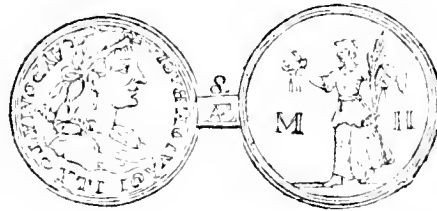
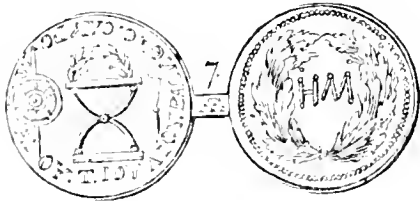
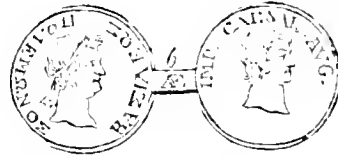
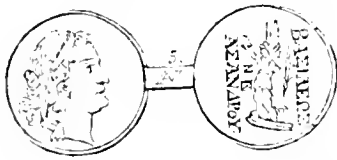
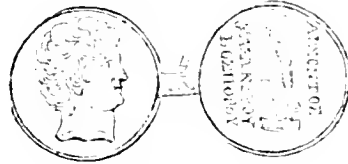
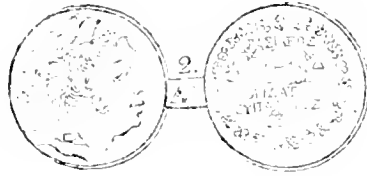
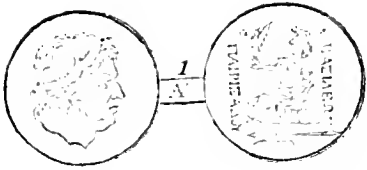
The Goths, however, seem to have been in possession of at least a part of the Taurida so early as the reign of Gallienus, and their attack on Pytius, Trebifond, &c.; and I have little doubt that all the three expeditions were fitted out from the ports in the centre of the peninsula; although the two extremities, containing the republic of Cherson on the West side, and the kingdom of Bosphorus on the East, were still both in possession of the ancient proprietors till long after the four maritime expeditions of the Goths from the Euxine; the last of which, as said in my note, was in the time of Claudius, long before the fall of the Bosphorus; so that, it seems, the authentic Annals of that ancient kingdom, drawn from its Medallie history, were not known to our learned countryman at
the

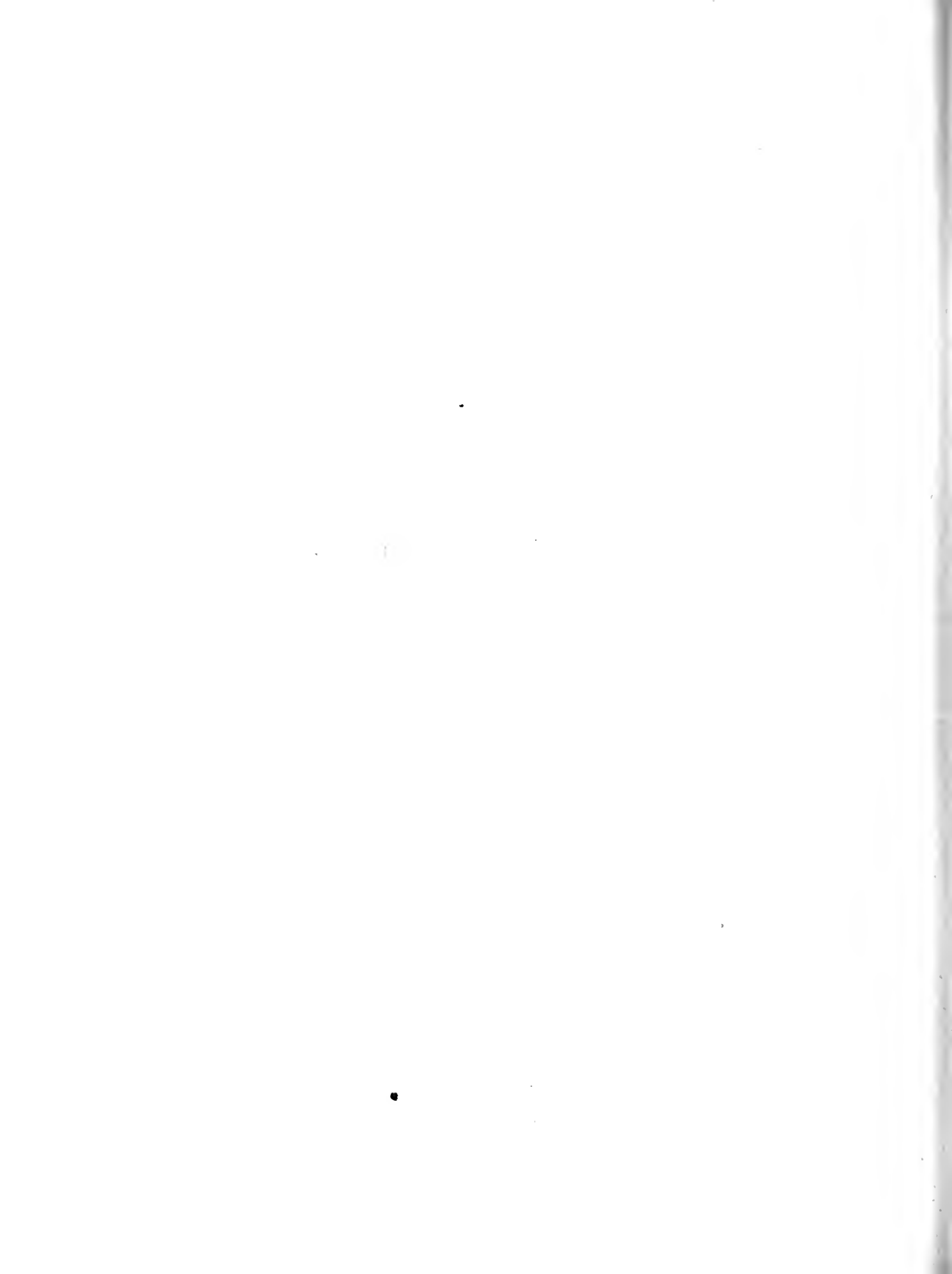
the time when he wrote the article which I have taken the liberty to correct, having made those countries my particular study for many years; a thing scarcely possible for that excellent historian to have done amid the multifarious objects of his attention.

[Here follow a series of Coins of the Bosphoric Kings, and other antient Medals introduced in the preceding pages]

KINGS OF EOSPHORI'S.

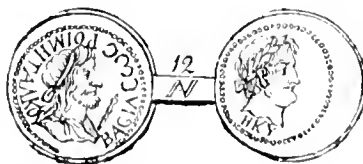
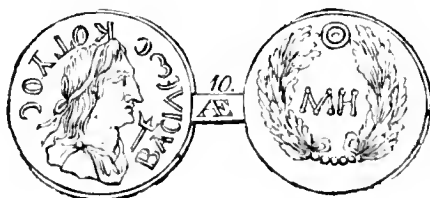
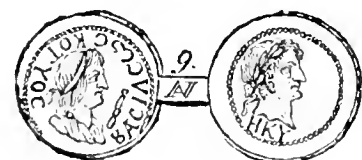
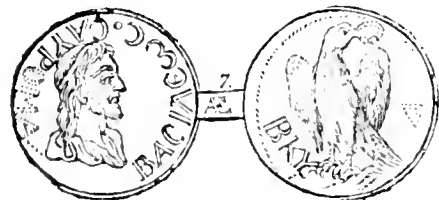
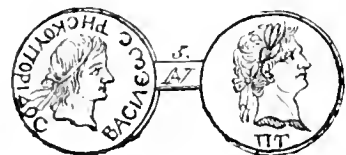
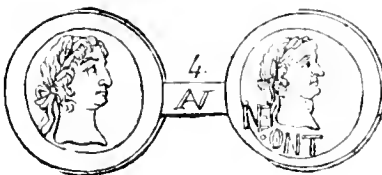
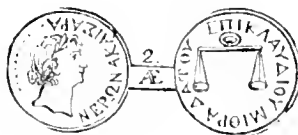
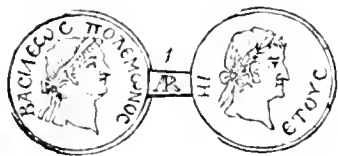
PLATE I.





KINGS OF BOSPHORUS.

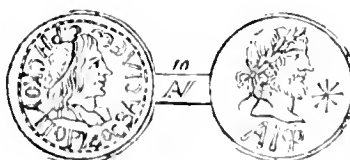
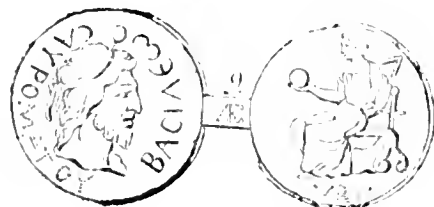
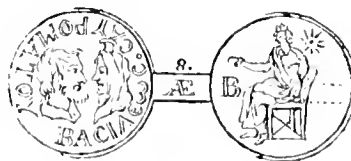
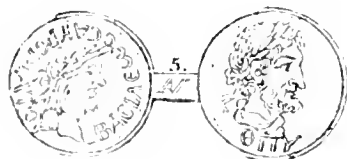
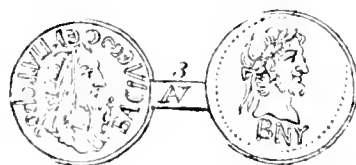
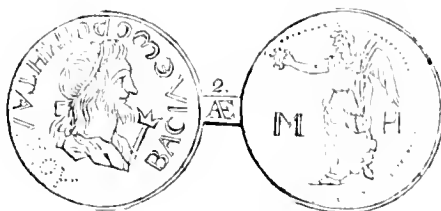
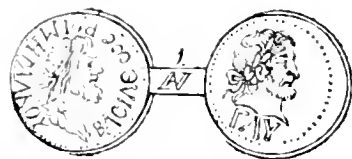
PLATE II.





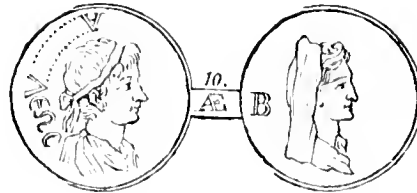
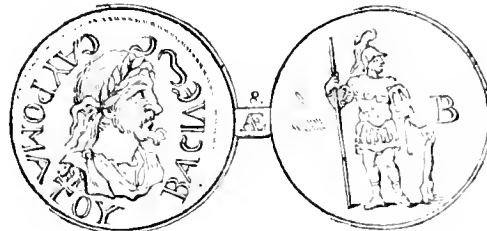
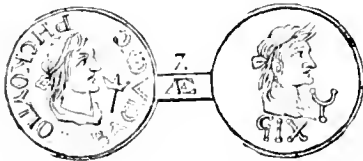
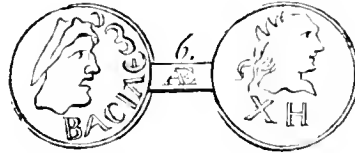
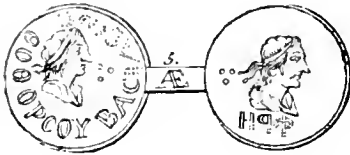
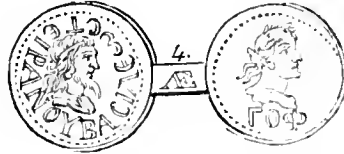
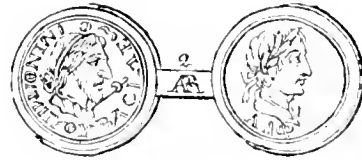
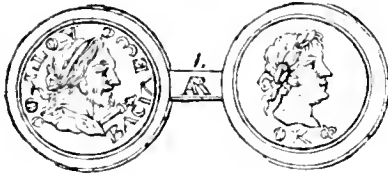
KINGS OF BOSPHORUS.

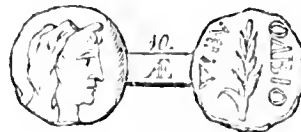
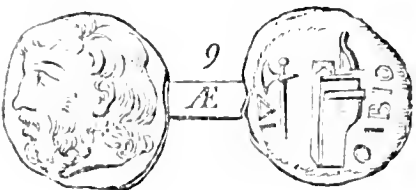
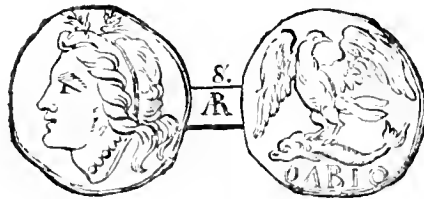
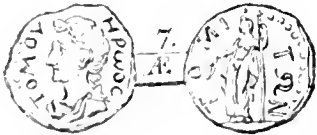
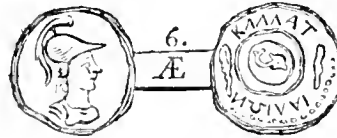
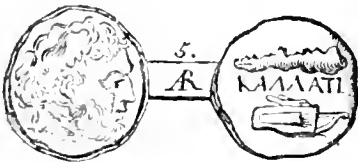
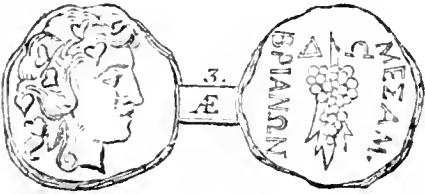
PLATE III.



KINGS OF BOSPHORUS.

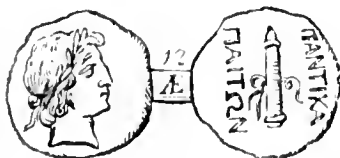
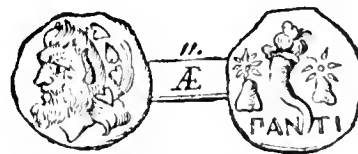
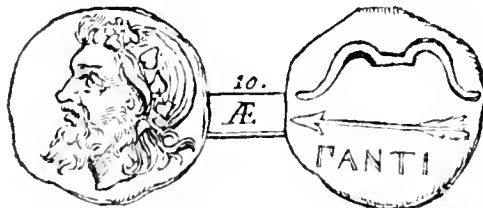
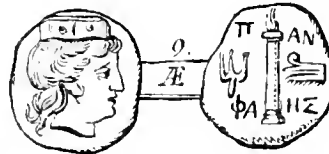
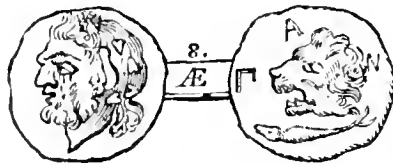
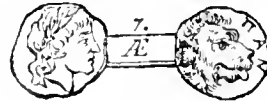
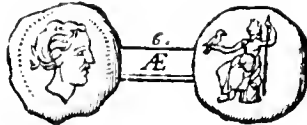
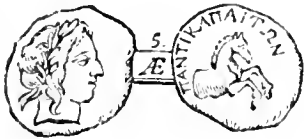
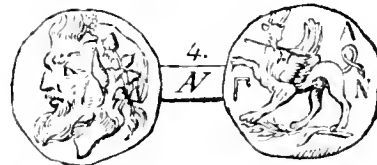
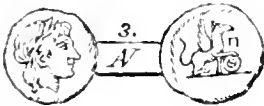
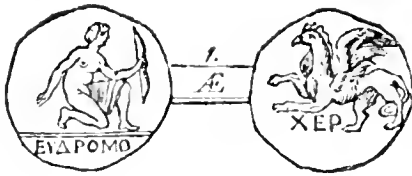
PLATE IV.



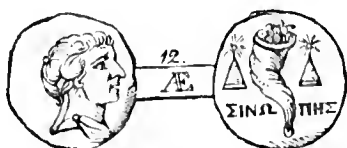
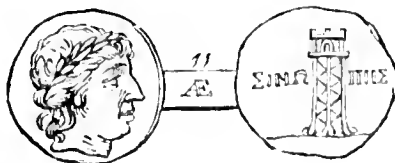
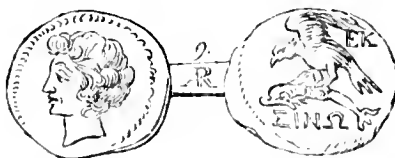
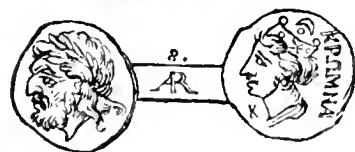
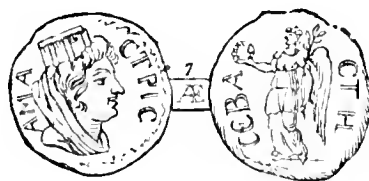
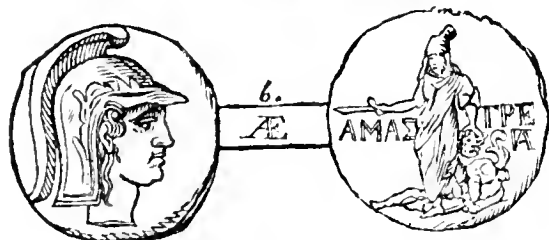
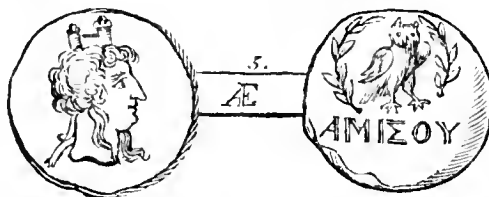
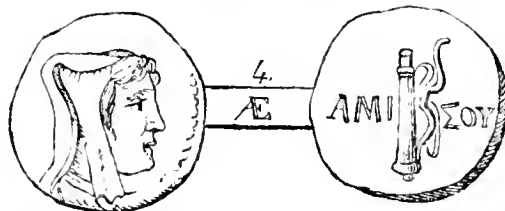
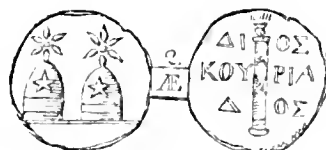
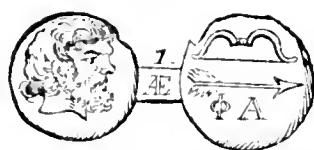




APPENDIX.
 ANTIENT MEDALS.



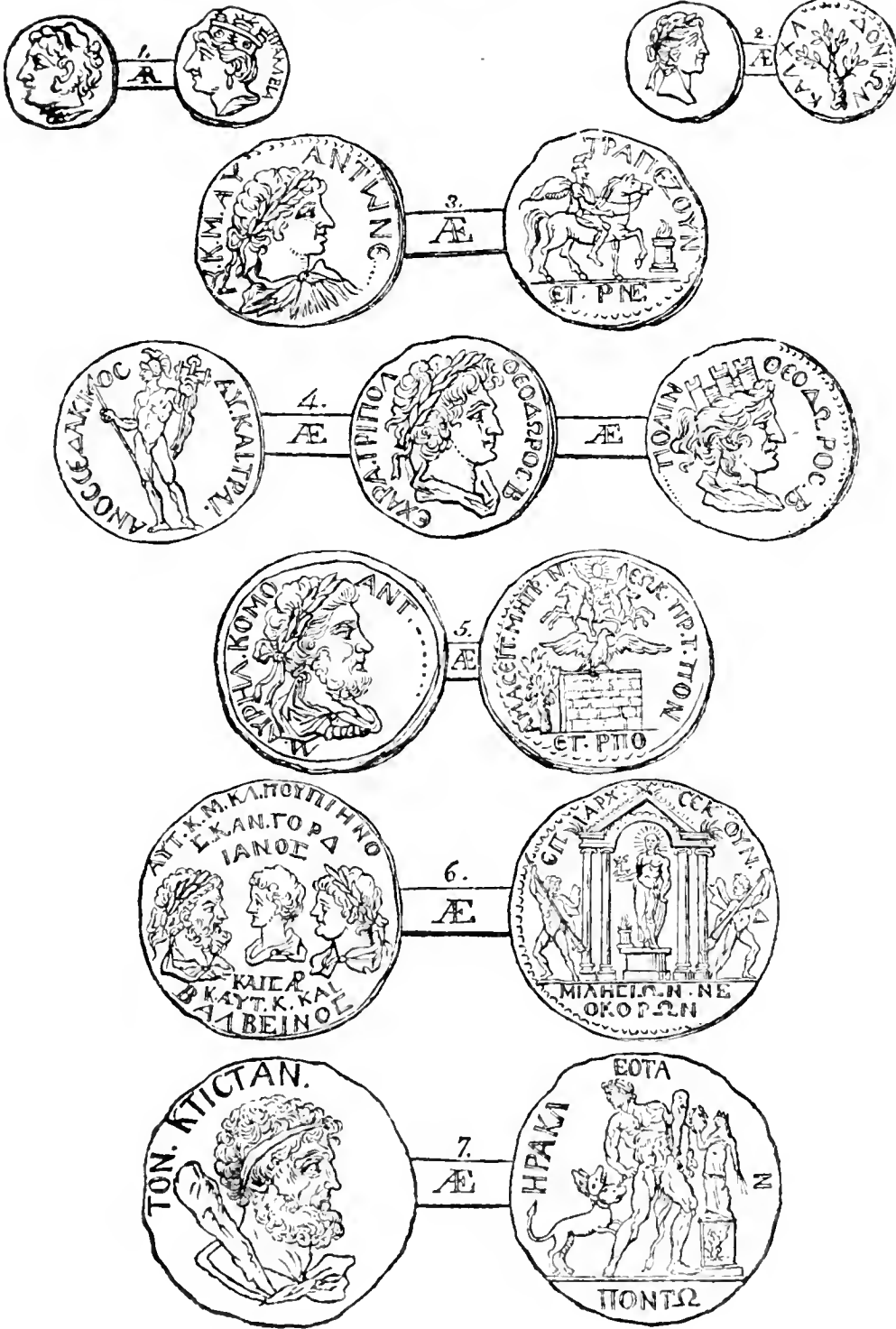
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ANTIENT MEDALS.

PLATE VIII.





CATALOGUE of the COINS of the BOSPHORIC KINGS, with the Names of the ROMAN CÆSARS on the Reverse; the Length of each Reign; the Date of the BOSPHORIC ÆRA marked on them, compared with the ROMAN; and, lastly, the Number given here from the CABINETS of EUROPE, as coined by each PRINCE.

CATALOGUE of the COINS of the BOSPHORIC KINGS, with the Names of the ROMAN CÆSARS on the Reverse; the Length of each Reign; the Date of the BOSPHORIC ÆRA marked on them, compared with the ROMAN; and, lastly, the Number given here from the CABINETS of EUROPE, as coined by each PRINCE.	Length of Years that they Reigned.	Bosphoric Æra.	Roman Æra.	Number of Coins of each King given here.	Names of the Roman Emperors their Lords Paramount, appearing on the Reverse of the Bosphoric Coins in general.	
The First Dynasty were, the Archaonactides, about 487 years before Christ, and the 267th year of Rome.						
The Second Dynasty began with						
1. Spartacus I. 2. Seleucus 3. Spartacus II. 4. Satyrus 5. Leucon 6. Spartacus III.	{ Of these six Kings no Coins have as yet been found, nor of two or three more, though their names are mentioned in this Catalogue to give a complete view of the whole series of Bosphoric Princes known to history, as will be seen by a blank left in the column of medals.	7 4 20 14 40 5	309			
LETTER L.						
7. Perifades I. is the first Prince whose Coins are known		38			1	
8. Emulus		7				
N. B. His two brothers (Satyrus II. and Prytanis) both mounted the throne for a short time before him: although Mr. Cary has only registered the successful usurper, who conquered his brothers.						
9. Spartacus IV. who died 289 years before Christ		20			467	
A blank in the Bosphoric history of 170 years.						
10. Partolades II. dethroned by Mithridates						
The Third Dynasty began with						
LETTER LI.						
11. Mithridates the Great, surnamed Eupator, who mounted the throne 115 years before Christ.	56			639	1	
N. B. All the rest of the Bosphoric Kings are in the Supplement to the history of that kingdom.						
12. Pharnaces, his traitorous son, 63 years before Christ	14			691	1 Cæsar Pompey,	
13. Afunder, 48 before Christ	31			706	2 Augustus.	
14. Scribonius, 14 before Christ; about	2			740	Augustus.	
15. Polemon, 12 before Christ; about	5			742	1 Augustus.	
16. Satromates I. about	5	326		782	3 Augustus and Tiberius.	
17. Rhodoparis I.	5	331		787	2 Tiberius and Caligula.	
18. Polemon II. A. D. 38	4			791	1 Caligula and Claudius.	
19. Mithridates II. A. D. 42	7			795	2 Claudius.	

CATALOGUE of the COINS of the BOSPHORIC KINGS, with the Names of the ROMAN CÆSARS on the Reverse; the Length of each Reign; the Date of the BOSPHORIC ÆRA marked on them, compared with the ROMAN; and, lastly, the Number given here from the CABINETS of EUROPE, as coined by each PRINCE.	Length of Years that they Reigned.	Bosphoric Æra.	Roman Æra.	Number of Coins of each King given here.	Names of the Roman Emperors their Lords Paramount, appearing on the Reverse of the Bosphoric Coins in general.
20. Cotys I. A. D. 49	34	359	802	1	Nero and Agrippina, his mother.
21. Rhescuporis II. A. D. 83	42	380	836	1	Domitian.
22. Sauromates II.	18	422	878	3	Trajan and Hadrian.
23. Cotys II.	2	404	861	3	Hadrian.
24. Rhæmetaces, A. D. 132	17	426	883	3	Hadrian.
25. Eupator	15	428	885	3	Hadrian and Anto. Pius.
26. Sauromates III.	24	428	885	3	Hadrian and Anto. Pius.
This Prince probably had a colleague; as, a king named Pepapiræus appears on the Reverse of one of his Coins.		445	902	2	Anton. Pius, M. Aurelius, and Lucius Verus.
27. Rhescuporis III.	10	452	909	2	Anton. Pius, M. Aurelius, and Lucius Verus.
28. Cotys III.	1	467	924	5	Commodus, Sept. Severus, and Caracalla.
29. Ininthimevus, not quite	1	477	934	5	Commodus, Sept. Severus, and Caracalla.
30. Rhescuporis IV.	32	501	958	1	Caracalla and Alexander Severus.
31. Teiranes, apparently about	20	511	968	1	Alexander Severus.
32. Thothorles	6	521	978	1	Alexander Severus.
33. Sauromates IV.	8	529	986	1	Alexander Severus.
34. Sauromates V. about A. D. 310	8	530	987	1	Alex. Severus and Gordian. Pius, Philippus, Decius, Gallus, Hostil. Gallienus, and Odenathus.
35. Rhescuporis V.	32	531	988	1	Probus.
36. Sauromates VI. the last King; probably about	32	531	988	1	Dioclesian.
		563	1022	1	Dioclesian.
		573	1030	1	Dioclesian.
		593	1050	1	Constantine the Great.
		599	1056	2	Constantine the Great.
		600	1057	2	In this year the kingdom fell, and became a province of Chertou.
		608	1065		
		640	1097		
		645	1102		

N. B. The Bosphoric Æra and that of the Kingdom of Pontus were the same; as the first followed the computation of the last on all its Coins.

C A T A L O G U E

OF the ANTIENT MEDALS inserted in MRS. GUIBRIE'S TOUR to the EUXINE; with References to the Letters wherein they are employed to illustrate the Text.

REGAL COINS.

The series of Coins struck by the Kings of Bosphorus, surprizingly complete for a country so little known, being 44 in number, have been given in our preceding pages; so that we have only to mark here the position of the first two, viz. that of

Parifades I. in Letter L. where the Bosphoric history begins; and the great

Mithridates Eupator, in Letter LII. ; all the others, as said above, being given together in the PLATES.

One more Regal Medal is given in Letter VII. Cotys V. king of Thrace, the friend of Ovid in his exile.

AUTONOMATIC COINS OF FREE GREEK CITIES.

- Letter
 LVII. Phanagoria, the capital of the island of the same name. Plate VII. fig. 1.
 LXXVI. Miletus, in Caria.
 Ibid. Its Temple of Apollo Didymenos. Plate VIII. fig. 6.

F E F

LXXVII.

- Letter
- LXXVII. Tomb at the mouth of the Danube, Ovid's prison.
- Ibid. Istripolis, in the same country.
- Ibid. Mefembria.
- Ibid. Apollonias.
- Ibid. Kallata.
- Ibid. Byzantium.
- LXXXV. Sinope, three coins.
- LXXXVIII. Dioscurios, or Sebastapolis, the famous Colchis mart.
- LXXXIX. Panticapeos, the capital of the Bosphorus, eleven coins while a free city, before its erection into a kingdom.
- Ibid. Cherson, the capital of the famous Tauric republic, two coins.
- XC. Olbio, or Olbiopolis, the great Scythio-Grecian mart on the Dnieper, or Borysthenes, three coins from Pellerin, and two from the cabinet of Baron Ash, here.
- XCI. Chalcedonia.
- Ibid. Heraclea, in Pontus, two coins.
- Ibid. A fourth coin of Sinope.
- Ibid. Cromna.
- Ibid. Amastris, two coins.
- Ibid. Amifus, two coins.
- Ibid. Amafia.
- /

IMPERIAL COINS.

- XCI. Trapezus, afterwards Trebifond.
- Ibid. Tripolis, in Pontus, a medal of Trajan, struck there after the Roman conquest.
- Ibid. Amafia, a medal of Commodus.

R E F E R E N C E

Of the BOSPHORIC MEDALS to the PLATES in the Margin of this TOUR.

PLATE I.

Fig.

1. Pæriſades I.
2. Mithridates Eupator.
3. Pharnaces.
4. Afander, as Archontos.
5. Afander, as King.
6. Polemon I.
7. } Sauromates I.
8. }
9. }
10. } Rhēfcuporis I.
11. }
12. }

PLATE II.

1. Polemon II.
2. } Mithridates II.
3. }
4. Cotys I. of Bosphorus.
5. Rhēfcuporis II.
6. } Sauromates II.
7. }
8. }
9. } Cotys II.
10. }
11. }
12. Rhœmetalces.

PLATE III

PLATE III.

Fig.

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 1. | } | Rhœmetalces (the last three coins of the same prince). |
| 2. | | |
| 3. | | |
| 4. | } | Eupator. |
| 5. | | |
| 6. | } | Sauromates III. |
| 7. | | |
| 8. | | |
| 9. | | |
| 10. | | Rhescuporis III. |

PLATE IV.

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------------|
| 1. | Cotys III. | |
| 2. | Ininthimevus. | |
| 3. | Rhescuporis IV. | |
| 4. | Teiranes. | |
| 5. | Thothorfes. | |
| 6. | } | Rhescuporis V. |
| 7. | | |
| 8. | Sauromates VI. | |
| 9. | } | Incerta. |
| 10. | | |
| 11. | Cotys V. king of Thrace, and the friend of Ovid in his exile. | |

N^o III.

R E M A R K S

ON SOME SCYTHIAN AND BOSPHORIC ANTIQUES DISCOVERED IN THE
EMPIRE OF RUSSIA.

THE rude grotesque figures sent down hither some years ago by Prince Potemkin, and which I have lately found standing in an open court-yard, neglected and forgotten since the death of that General (who alone among the Great seemed to take an interest in the ancient history of the provinces conquered from the Turks on the Euxine), have attracted my attention, as well as the antique marble column discovered by the Field-Marshal Count Suworoff, in the Cuban; as they all appear curious monuments of remote, though not classic antiquity, unless the Marshal's pillar should turn out to be (what I shall prove possible, and that is all) a famous antique monument once erected in the very country where this was found; for, in that case, it must commemorate an event celebrated by the eloquence of Demosthenes; though, in all probability, the record was made in a language now lost, as I shall show when we come to examine the Cuban column, after speaking of the rough Scythian statues sent down by the Prince.

STATUES.

S T A T U E S.

The Scythian or Tartar Statues are four in number (two more are since added), rudely chiseled out of as many blocks of a very coarse-grained sand-stone, and of more than gothic workmanship. A considerable portion of each block is left in its natural state below the sculptured figure, in order to be sunk in the ground and support the figure in an upright position, like the Roman Termini and Priapi; and it is thus that they are frequently seen in the deserts of Scythia, more especially on the Kourgans, or conic tumuli, scattered over it, exactly resembling those mentioned by all travellers who have visited the renowned plain of Troy; which shows this species of primitive tombs to be of high antiquity, although the Scythians seem to be the only people who have decorated them with the rude statues of their ancestors or heroes. I must, however, acknowledge, that this decision is scarcely founded, as certainly such objects of respect to a particular race of men may be preserved for many ages in deserts only frequented by the same hordes (for I look upon the Scythians and Tartars as only different names for the same people), while in populous countries; which have frequently changed masters, very little respect would be paid to such barbarous representations of the human form, had they even originally crowned the Trojan tumuli, which the learned president of the Antiquarian Society, Mr. Bryant, thinks were erected by the Thracians, long before the subject of Homer's Song, or even the foundation of haughty Ilium.

That all the four have been intended to represent females, is evident from their head-dresses, necklaces, and breasts, however badly they are otherways executed, and damaged by time and the loose texture of the stone.

PLATE II. fig. 1 — Represents a naked female figure sitting on a stone; while the three others are clad in a short garb reaching only a little below the knee, like the dress that we still see worn by some Finnish women over a petticoat, which a cold climate seems to have added to the ancient habiliment in this latitude. She has a monstrous projecting face without any head-dress; but, to make amends for that deficiency, both her neck and naked thighs are fully ornamented,

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 7



Fig. 4

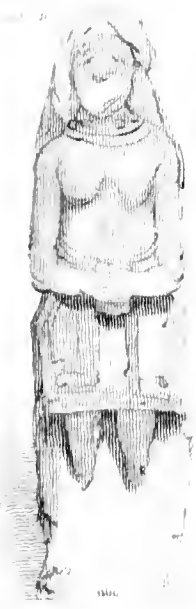


Fig. 5

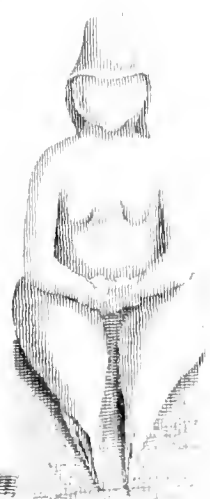
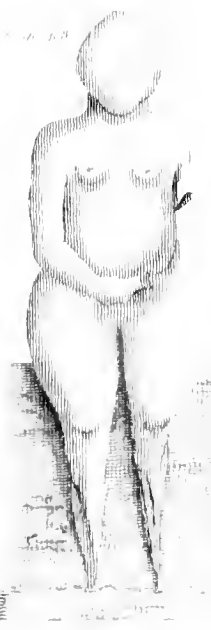
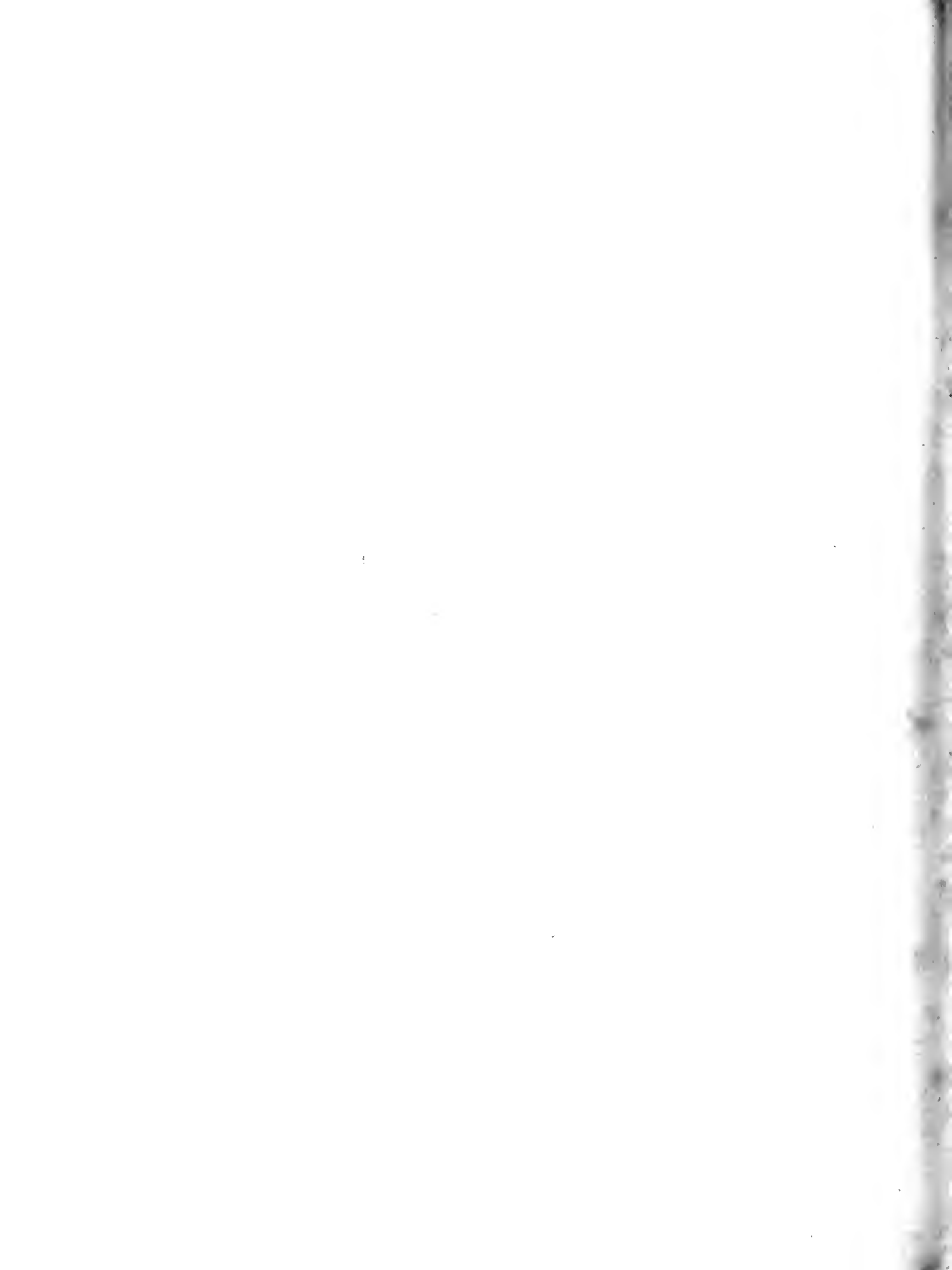


Fig. 6





ornamented, the first with a cross chain, which suspends a round metal plate on each breast, like what we see some Finnish women wear to this day in the same manner; and the thighs are covered with crossed ribbons, or straps, from the hip to the knee.

Her hair hangs down her back in one tress, which marks the unmarried state in Russia, as formerly in Rome (together with the single vittæ of the Ancients, of narrow riband, round her head); and, lastly, she holds in a most awkward manner, with both hands, a species of cup below her belly, somewhat in the shape of a flattened dice-box.

This is the only Scythian Statue that I have seen where no part of the block is left to enter the ground and keep it firm and erect: indeed, the bottom is made large and flat on purpose to stand above the surface, instead of being buried in the earth, like the others, to the depth of some feet.

Fig. 2—Wears a kind of high bonnet, like what the Russian women call a kakoshnick; having her hair done up in a roll, and placed in a circle round her face, between it and the bonnet, from which a veil hangs down her back, divided into three lappels, just as we see the Russian married women still dressed in some provinces of this vast empire. On her neck she has a double row of beads, or something of that kind, and in her hands the usual cup held under her belly.

Fig. 3—Wears a head-dress something lower than Fig. 2, with a veil falling from it on her shoulders; and a necklace, evidently meant to represent precious stones, cut into a lozenge-form in the Oriental manner; below this single row hang two others, possibly meant for gold chains (if the bead form is not effaced by time); while her back is ornamented with straps, or ribands, crossing each other at right angles. The cup is held in the usual manner.

Fig. 4—Is represented in a kind of low round hat, or bonnet, and a veil, with two rows of chain or beads about the neck; and breasts evidently intended for those of a woman. This figure and all the others have small misshapen legs, without any vestige of feet, possibly broken off in a lapse of ages.

Modern tradition says, that the cup held with the two hands by each of these Statues²⁰ was intended for receiving alms from the passing Nomade: and that

²⁰ Ammianus Marcellinus speaks of these very same Statues in the fifth century: which, he says, are true representations of the *Hemiphs* face; and, as he wrote much about the time of the
 60 135

that both in ancient Scythia, and the more modern pagan Tartary, the sacerdotal order had no other revenue than the voluntary offerings of their pious countrymen: there is, however, one circumstance that makes me doubt whether they could be intended for begging-boxes; which is, that only one of the four is fitted to receive any thing; for the other three, instead of being hollow, are solid masses of stone, in a vessel or cup form.

In short, the whole subject seems wrapped in the darkness of remote antiquity; so that I regard myself as rather a bold man, to have hazarded the few conjectures above thrown out; and shall venture no more, till some farther light is thrown on the subject by new discoveries; in the mean time, should any thing said here be applicable to your antique grotesque statues standing on the banks of the Donetz²¹, which I suspect to be the work of the same rude

ravages of those barbarians in Europe under Attila in 447, their marked features must have been well known to him.

The English Monk Rubruquis likewise mentions them during his holy mission in Tartary, about the year 1253; and particularly notices the little vessels held by each figure in both hands close to the belly.

²¹ These remarks were originally sent to Sir Charles Gascoigne, then at his cannon foundery of Lugan, on the Donetz: and on his return to Peterburg he brought with him two drawings of the rude Scythian Statues found in that quarter, which appear to be naked female figures, exactly resembling these already described [See fig. 5 and 6]; but the information received from Mr. Gascoigne relative to where they are found is interesting.

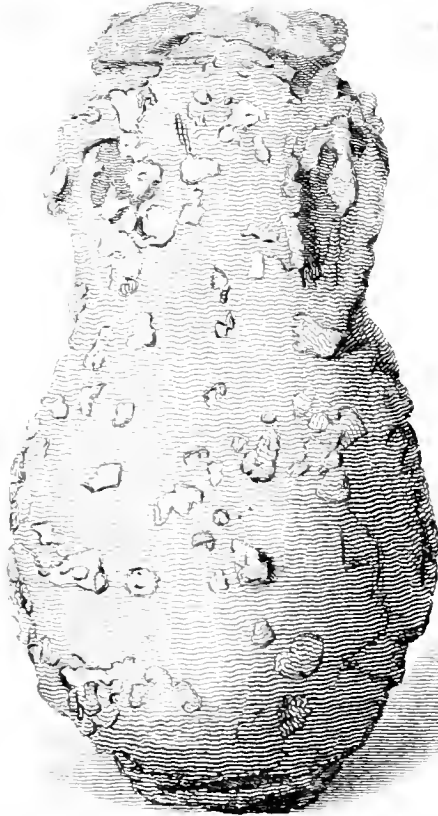
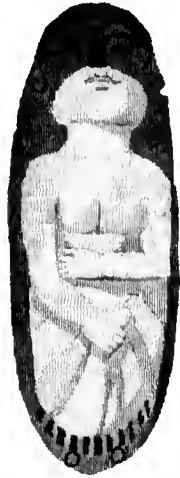
They are always found placed on the top of the Kourgans, or conic tumuli, which are scattered over the Stepts, or grassy plains, in such a manner that my friend Mr. G. is of opinion, that they must have served the double purpose of sepulchres, and videttes, or watch towers, to the Scythian Nomades who fed their flocks in those plains, to guard them against any sudden attack from their hostile brethren, who, being always mounted, make an irruption into a country with the swiftness and destruction of a torrent. These conic hillocks are, therefore, always placed at such distances and in such situations, that an enemy must be instantly seen from them, even in the occasional hollows which sometimes occur in the Stepts; for Sir Charles particularly remarked, that the Kourgans always command them; and he perceived in one Kourgan which he examined a subterraneous chamber, which he suspected might have served as a stable to conceal the horses of the centinels placed there; with, possibly, the man off guard, who might sleep while the other watched. Mr. Gascoigne, however, is by no means sure that a similar subterraneous apartment, or cellar, belongs to every Kourgan; for he only speaks of the one that he examined with attention, and candidly owns, that the excavation might have been made by people searching for treasure; as a popular belief exists in that country, that the Scythians buried their riches with their bodies, which seems to have been true in some degree, as will have appeared in the

pastoral

To see copy of the inscription

see Back of this figure

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pastoral chissel:—I say, should the description of these four barbarous figures coincide in any degree with those of Lagan, the intention in sending you my hazarded conjectures will be fully answered.

A serious inquiry into the origin of those ancient Statues, or what nation they represent, seems worthy the attention of the antiquary, even if not treating particularly on the Euxine provinces; as we know from the Byzantine writers, as well as from the evidence of Ammianus Marcellinus, quoted before in a note, that they exactly represent the marked countenance of the Huns, whose bloody ravages and devastation in the 5th century had so great a share in weakening the Western Roman empire; which ended in less than 40 years after the visitation of Attila, *the scourge of God*, as he was emphatically called.

These Statues then, rude as they are, represent to the conviction of Pallas, and of every other intelligent traveller, the Mongul nation, the conquerors of China, India, Russia, &c. in different ages; of which the Huns appear evidently to have been a horde inhabiting these deserts on the Mæotis and Euxine at the time of their eruption into Europe; a fact which seems confirmed by a tradition subsisting among their descendants, the Calmouks, still dwelling in the same grassy plains; who say, that a tribe of their ancestors called in their language the *Olot* horde (this, by the by, is the generic name of the whole Mongul nation), emigrated antiently to the Western countries, and were probably the *Huns* of the Roman authors, notwithstanding the difference of name, which proves nothing, as the civilized nations of antiquity, like the French till very lately, never condescended to consult barbarians with regard to their real appellation, which they often could not easily pronounce, but gave them a new name, frequently a contemptuous one taken from something remarkable in their figure, manners, dress, arms, or actions.

They have all the broad, flat, Calmouk, or Mongul face, and even some part of the dress still worn by that nation; although, in the number of ages since their creation (for we know they have stood at least 1300 years, and God knows how much longer), it is natural to suppose that some parts have been changed, more particularly that of the female; and even some modification of the male garb may have taken place to suit different climates and modes of warfare. For example, the small conic cap, or bonnet, stuck on the crown of the head of the Statues (see the figures of them given by Pallas) is still exactly the characteristic cap of the whole Mongul nation in all its subdivisions,

though the short caftan, or coat, and the crofs-belt, is no longer worn by them.

As to the female figures, the exact refemblance of the features fhew little admixture of foreign blood; while the trefled hair and coral necklace is ftill all their own; but the cap, as might be expected in fuch a lapse of time, is not that now worn by the Mongul women, or any other in the North of Afia.

I fhall farther remark, that thofe Statues are feen at unequal diftances and of unequal fculpture, from the Dnieper to the rivers Ural and Iriftih, and even as far as the banks of the Jeneffley²²²; but they gradually fhew a ruder workmanfhip Eaftward from the Don; as if the richer and more civilized hordes had constantly chofen the neighbourhood of the three feas, the Euxine, Meotis, and Cafpian, where the pafture is richer, and where they could always procure a number of defirable articles²²³ from the traders on its fhores, in exchange for the fuperfluous product of their herds and flocks; and, as if the poorer and more barbarous tribes had been obliged to feek a more fcanty fubfiftence towards Siberia, in a colder climate, and in a more nomade ftate; for the paucity of the tombs and ftatues in thofe more Eaftern regions fhew that they made no very long abode on one fpot: while the barbarous figures, fcarcely human, carved on fhapelefs trunks without either garb or extremities, demonftrate, that the pafforal chifel was ftill lefs expert there than in the deferts of Scythia; which, by the wideft latitude of Greece and Rome, did not extend beyond the Cafpian. But there are other proofs of the permanent abode of a rich and powerful nation in the Kaptchat, as Rubruquis with propriety calls the country between the Volga and Ural (the real Tartar name of it); for in this diftrict we find many ruins of buildings, which Pallas thinks all fepulchral or religious; though the tradition of the wandering hordes defcended from the fame people points them out as remains of the fovereign refidence of the Mongul Chans, or princes, in the days of their power and fplendour. Not to mention fmall maffes of ruins, thofe on the Achtuba, which falls into the Cafpian at Afracan,

²²² There are other proofs befide thofe Statues in the conic forma of the tombs or tumuli of Siberia, alfo called Kourgans; and the arched lower part, which covers the corpfes, arms, &c. &c. are all the fame.

²²³ Such as cloth, filk, female ornaments, kitchen utenfils, &c. and perhaps a fupply of fifh for the opulent, to change the monotony of their food from the furrounding feas and rivers.

are very considerable, and still more so those at Madzhary on the river Kuma; which consisted of 32 buildings as late as the year 1780, though now reduced to four, of which Pallas has given drawings in 1793; and, lastly, seven more near the Terek, likewise sketched by his draughtsman, all of Tartar origin, as is evident from several kinds of proof, viz. shape, construction, and inscriptions; those on the Achtuba, however, are the ruins which bore the strongest marks of civilized riches (viz. vases, arms, jewels, and horse-furniture of gold and silver) when the tombs were first opened; most of which were concealed by the finders; but a part is still to be seen in the Imperial museum. I am of Pallas's opinion with regard to the sepulchral or religious destination of all those ruins, from the known attachment of the Monguls to a camp residence, which to this day prevents their descendants, the Calmuc princes, from inhabiting a palace built for them by the crown of Russia, though placed in their favourite haunts.

The last observation which I shall make on those Scythian remains of antiquity is, that *the ancestors of the Russians seem to have inhabited the deserts where they stand in the 13th century*; for Rubruquis found the Koumans there; and we have a proof that the Koumans and Russians were the same people, in the famous passage already quoted in the Tour from the Maccarean register; a fact that I have proved in my "Russian Antiquities," though I had no date to ascertain the exact period when they did so. The name of Koumans is evidently derived from their residence on the river Kuma.

Finally, we must be convinced that the army of Gingis Chan, a part of which, under his nephew, Baaty Khan, settled in the Kaptchat after subduing Russia (the famous Golden horde so well known in the history of this empire), was only a second invasion of the Monguls at the end of the 13th century, many ages after their ancestors had already penetrated to and settled in the same Western deserts, as the numerous statues bearing their national face and dress can testify; although, possibly, the Tartar conqueror was ignorant of the fact²²⁴, and never suspected that he was only taking possession of the lands of his ancestors in re-conquering the Kaptchat.

But

²²⁴ "We have a confirmation of this historical fact from the Olois, or Kalmuks themselves; who affirm, that long before Tichinghis Khan, the greatest and mightiest part of their nation made a military expedition Westward, as far as Aba Minor; and the remaining stock (which then obtained the name of Khalimal, or the Separated) lost sight of their brethren among the
G O O 2 "mountain"

But neither the proofs of the antiquity or riches of the Scythians, or Tartars, (by whichever of the two names we may be disposed to call the antient inhabitants of these deserts) are confined to the Kaptchat; for the ruins of a number of cities described by Mr. Rychkof, in his Topography of the Government of Orenburg (1762), all evidently belonged to the same people, as well as the many antique tombs containing rich arms, &c. on the Tobol and Irtysh, as far down as the Obe; nay even those beyond the lake Baikal equally belonged to the same race of men at a still more remote period than the conquest of India or China; for they certainly were constructed before they possessed iron; all the arms, knives, utensils, &c. found in them being of copper, as the points of the Scythian arrows were in the time of Herodotus, who speaks of an immense copper vessel made of them on an occasion mentioned in this Tour, when each man was ordered to furnish one. We know that the Antients possessed an art of hardening brass so as to form instruments for war, and even of sculpture in stone, now entirely lost.

A curious species of silver coin sometimes accompanies the copper accoutrements in the antique Siberian tombs, bearing a *full-blown rose* without any inscription; an indication which may possibly throw some light on the period, if not on the people, if it attracts the attention of the learned society in Bengal, to whom we owe such a large portion of deep Asiatic research in so short a time; for it is more than probable, that the coin in question was from some Asiatic mint.

“ mountains of Caucasus; now it was but natural for them to descend into the Stepts of the
 “ Kaptchak, the species of country in which all pastoral tribes delight, and to which they had
 “ been ever accustomed; for we find all the tribes of Tartars chose grassy plains as an abode for
 “ themselves and their flocks.

Notwithstanding all the trouble taken by Professor Georgi, Mr. Tooke, &c. to distinguish the Monguls, &c. from the Tartars, there is so much similitude in almost every thing among all the hordes of pastoral Nomades wandering with their flocks in the Stepts of Asia and Europe, that a generic name for the whole will always be employed by every one who is not minutely treating of their subdivisions, let professed historians do what they please to prevent it; and, as the general appellation of Scythians in antient times, and Tartars in modern, applied to the whole tribes of those wanderers, are universally known and received in all the languages of civilized nations, we shall still continue to use them, to save trouble, and avoid explanations that are tiresome to readers when they do not fit down with the express purpose of such investigations; for which a Lady's Tour is certainly a very improper place; though we are by no means ignorant of what has been said on the subject.

As

As to the antique marble column (PLATE II. fig. 7.) that was found by the Field Marshal Suworof, buried in the earth on the banks of the Cuban (the Verdanus, or Antacætes, of the Antients), near some ancient military works of earth, which are Roman by the tradition of the country. — it is nine English feet high, and four in circumference, and is covered with inscriptions in some language unknown to all our interpreters of the college of foreign affairs, though they are acquainted with the Tartar, Persian, Arabic, Turkish, and Chinese.

Conjecture here has a fine field to roam in; and, as it is free to all, I shall hazard one by way of setting the subject afloat.

Strabo informs us, that Leucon II. seventh king of the Bosphorus, during a great scarcity in Greece, sent to his friends the Athenians one hundred thousand Grecian medimi of corn (330 millions of pounds weight), from his city of Theodocia (afterwards Caffa), where he then resided; and the grateful republicans rewarded him by electing him a citizen of Athens, then held in high esteem by foreign princes, whom the Greeks arrogantly styled barbarians and tyrants; although the reason of their desiring that honour was, to gain a protection from the usurpation and tyranny of the Greek republics, who made constant war upon one or other of them, if for no other object than to procure helots or slaves; for they permitted no freedom but their own. This event was commemorated by three columns; one of which was set up in Athens, one in the capital of the Bosphorus (Panticapeos, or Bosphorus, now Kerch), and a third near the Temple of the Argonauts, which must have stood somewhere in the Cuban, on the road between the two ancient kingdoms of Bosphorus and Colchis; or in the very district where Count Suworof found this antique marble column.

As to the language in which the inscription was written, I think it must have been barbarous, and likely to be now unknown, for the following reasons:

The column erected in Athens would certainly be inscribed in Greek; that erected in Leucon's capital would as certainly be inscribed in the language of Bosphorus, that his subjects might read it; and the third, erected in the Cuban, most probably, would record his being elected a citizen of Athens (whose fleet then rode triumphant in the Euxine) in the language then predominant in the mountains of Caucasus; as placing it there could have no other object than to make known to the neighbouring nations the powerful alliance that he had formed.

Now

Now the principal nation of Caucasus was the kingdom of Colchis, situated on the Euxine shore; but a city still nearer the spot where the column was found was the famous city of Dioscurias, or Sebastapolis, the great mercantile port of those days; which carried on so extensive a commerce, and was frequented by so many different nations, that the Romans, when they became masters of it, found it their interest to keep 120 interpreters there, as I have before noticed from Arrian, who was sent with a Roman fleet to examine and regulate those countries during the reign of Hadrian. I should, therefore, think it most probable, that the inscription on Leucon's Cuban column would be in the language of Sebastapolis; so that if the Marshal had really found this pillar, (which I will not take upon me to say that he has,) the writing on it would be as unintelligible to us, as is the inscription on that now in this city. However, so far I will venture to assert, that there is nothing impossible in its being the very column in question, even if it had been always exposed to the air, instead of being buried in the earth; for several monuments of the same period have come down to us in very good preservation. Leucon's gift of corn is mentioned in an oration of Demosthenes against Leptines; and, if I remember right, the famous orator was one of Leucon's Athenian friends. We learn one more curious fact from this eloquent speech, viz. that Theodocia was then one of the greatest commercial cities in the ancient world; and Pliny tells us, that the exploits of this very same prince Leucon II. were celebrated by the Greek philosopher Chrysippus, whose work is lost; so that, on the whole, the existence, gift, and column of the Bosphoric sovereign, is well ascertained by classic authors; and if we should actually possess it in Petersburg, it will be a most valuable antique indeed.

It is, probably, unnecessary to add, that the kingdom of Bosphorus was situated on the two shores of the straits of Jenikal, or the Cimmerian Bosphorus of the Antients, that join the Black to the Asoff Sea, and included some part of the Taurida, on one side as far as the city of Cassa, or Theodocia, which belonged to it: and the island of Phanagoria, or Taman, on the other; with some part of the Cuban; possibly the position of Suworoff's column may have marked its boundary on the side of Colchis²², its rival in arms and commerce;

²² It is a curious fact, which seems to confirm the erection of the two columns in the spots that I have indicated above, that I found one Medal of Panticapeum, and another of Dioscurias, bearing

commerce; and, indeed, it may have been for that very purpose that the pillar was erected there; and its inscription may contain nothing more than a claim of the territory that it stood upon, with the name of the prince who erected it, &c. &c.; which, I must own, is fully as probable as its being the famous column erected by Leucon on his election into the body of Athenian citizens, however much I may wish to find the Attic monument in Peterburg.

ROMAN ENTRENCHMENTS.

The last subject that I shall glance at in passing is, the military earthen works, called Roman, near which Suworof found the before-mentioned column.

Now I cannot conceive on what occasion it could be that the Romans threw them up; for, although Mithridates escaped to the Bosphorus by this road after his defeat by Pompey near the Euphrates, in the year 65 before Christ, and although his conqueror made every effort to follow him, still we know that the Albanians gave him so much employment in passing through their country, even making him turn back to chastise them when he had got down to Colchis on the sea shore, that he never could get so far as the Cuban before he heard of the death of the old hero, subdued at last only by domestic treason, after keeping the Romans at bay for thirty years, and often defeating their legions. It is more probable, that Mithridates may have thrown up these works on getting to his kingdom of Bosphorus (then governed by a treacherous son), to defend its entry against the Romans, or, he may have erected them on a former occasion, when, as we are told by Appian, the old king was engaged in a military expedition against the Achæans in the Cuban, during the only respite that he ever had from the restless republicans during his long reign, by the friendship of Sylla, who kept them quiet for a time; but on the death of the Dictator they fell upon him again, and he was

bearing each a column on the *Reverse*; and I have given a sketch of both in Letters LXXXVIII. and LXXXIX. of this *TOUR*.

suddenly

suddenly called from this very expedition in the Cuban, to defend his own dominions against the Romans. Thus, there are two occasions on which the warlike king of Pontus may have thrown up the works seen by our Marshal: but I know of none when the Romans could have done it, unless it was after their becoming possessors of the Greek cities on this coast, the nearest of which to these intrenchments, was Pytius Magna, down upon the sea shore, above a hundred miles distant; so that I still do not see what they were to do with military works at the river Cuban. The Bosphorus was always governed by its own kings tributary to the Romans, after the death of Mithridates, who poisoned himself in Kerch, the Panticapeos of the Greeks, and Panticapeum of the Romans.

N^o IV.

C O P Y

Of a PAPER by the EDITOR, on some curious objects of Antiquity found in the Antient Greek TOMBS mentioned in LETTER V. of the TOUR, as having been lately discovered at the Mouth of the DNIESTER, or TYRAS, and now in his Collection.

[Transmitted to the Society of Antiquaries.]

SIR,

IN a Paper presented in 1795 to the Antiquarian Society of London²⁶, and read on the 20th of November of that year, as I see by a letter of thanks now before me, I mentioned some antient tombs just then discovered by Major-General Wollant, a Dutch engineer in the service of Russia, in digging the foundation of a new fort on the North shore of the Euxine, or Black Sea, near the mouth of the Dniester, the Tyras of the Antients. We know, from both Greek and Roman authority, that Grecian, and afterwards Roman colonies were planted on that coast, more especially toward the mouths of the larger rivers, which ran through Scythia into the Black and Aoff Seas; such, for instance, as the colony and city of Tyras on the river of that name, now the Dniester, where these tombs are found; the city of Olbia, or Olbiapolis, on the

²⁶ For the substance of this first Paper, see Letters V. and VI.

Borysshenes, now the Dnieper; and Tanais, on the river Tanais, now Asoff; on the Don, &c. &c.²²⁷

It is, however, a question, to which of these ancient nations the newly-discovered sepulchres belong, although it is pretty evident that they appertained to one of them, from the form of the vases, standing one at each end of those curious tombs (or rather *Offuarii*), from the ashes and penates constantly contained within them, and the sepulchral lamp as constantly found standing on the top of each, &c.

I forgot to mention in my former Paper, that there is nothing in antiquity which conveys so just an idea of these uncommon tombs as the *Offuarium*, or square box, in which the Antients sent home the bones and ashes of a person deceased abroad; for, I believe the *Arca*, or *Loculus*, as well as the *Sarcophagus*, were appropriated to the corpse in its entire state, like the coffin of the moderns, and never, that I recollect, to the burnt remains of the funeral pile.

Indeed, I believe that they were little used except for children, who were not burnt before they had cut their teeth, after the introduction of the latter practice. It is impossible for a naturalist, when speaking of the *Sarcophagus*, even to the Antiquarian Society, whose line of research may possibly not extend so far, not to wish some inquiry instituted into the nature of the caustic stone with which that flesh-consuming-coffin was made which decomposed a corpse in 40 days. I own myself ignorant of such a fossil, and cannot conceive of what species of earth it could be composed.

It is true, our calcareous stones, when deprived by fire of their fixed air, or carbonic acid gas, possess that quality; but they fall to pieces on absorbing the humidity of the atmosphere; now, even supposing that this were prevented by instantly burying the *Sarcophagus* and its contents in dry sand (an improbable supposition for many reasons), yet, as we are told that this curious stone was

²²⁷ I have given other proofs, drawn from medals and Greek inscriptions sent me from the North shore of the Euxine, in a little work still in Manuscript, which will serve as a continuation of my "Russian Antiquities," since the countries that I have now treated of are become a part of the Russian empire by the peace of Kainargi and Jassy; nay, I believe we might venture to say, that they are only restored to this empire, if we are to give credit to the conquests of the Russian hero Swetoslav, or Sviatoslav, and his illustrious son Volodimir the Great, as recorded in the Chronicle of Nestor.

brought

brought from the town of Afios in Troas, it must have contracted humidity on the way, and of course could not be our lime-stone rendered caustic by the process of burning.

But, indeed, Dioscorides, Pliny, and Galen, make it a very different stone, light, spongy, and friable, and covered with a mealy powder called the flowers of Assian-stone. They say, or rather Galen says, that this powder had a saltish taste, and was of so caustic a nature, that it corroded flesh much sooner than the stone itself; while Dioscorides tells us, that the stone was of a greyish colour, with numerous yellow veins.

An inquiry then into the existence and nature of this curious stone, I presume to suggest to the Antiquarian or Royal Societies; and in the mean time shall write to the Russian ambassador at Constantinople (an old acquaintance), to endeavour to procure me a specimen of the famous Assian stone, if still to be met with on the antient spot.

To return to the more immediate subject of this letter, I have lately received from the North shore of the Euxine two of the curiosities found in the newly-discovered tombs; viz. one of the Vases, and one of the Penates, which, as they may possibly serve to throw some light on the subject, I shall here describe and accompany my paper with accurate drawings, as I formerly did the tomb (fancifully supposed by some people to be that of Ovid), with the exact sketch sent me by the General himself, which I hope served to render my account of it more intelligible to the learned Society. The Vase is of a handsome shape; and so very large, that it is a wonder to see it brought upwards of 2000 versts by land perfectly entire in all its parts. It appears to me to be the (*Xαδος*) Cados of the Greeks, and the Amphora of the Romans, or the common wine vessel of both nations. I have, however, obtained a collateral proof of this fact, by measuring the quantity of liquid that it contains, after corking the hole always left in the bottom of this species of vessel for the convenience of cleaning it when empty²²⁸.

It

²²⁸ I have given below the exact dimensions for those who make a study of such objects of antiquity :

			<i>Feet, Inches, English.</i>	
Height, when standing upright	—	—	2	8
Circumference at the belly, or largest part	—	—	3	11
———— at the bottom, where it tapers down to		—	1	2
	H u u z			Circumference

It is well known, that the Cados and Amphora held two urnæ, or forty-eight sextarii; now, counting a pint and a half to a sextarius, the forty-eight sextarii make just nine gallons, or thirty-six bottles, exactly the quantity that filled my vase.

Other questions now arise: How came the Amphora, or its subdivisions (for I have seen drawings of both the urnæ and modi found there), to be the species of vase constantly found in our Scythio-Grecian sepulchres, and never with any ashes in them; as if they had been placed there for Lachrymal urns? This is a ridiculous supposition, as the company of mourners must have been large indeed, who could be supposed to have wept my Amphora full. However, the hole at the bottom was probably plugged with cork, or some such perishable matter, according to the custom of the Antients; in which case, it must have been decomposed in a lapse of ages; and the ashes, if ever they contained any, returned to their kindred earth²²⁹ some hundred years before our pioneers discovered those mansions of the dead: so that it seems difficult to determine whether the urns were originally empty or full, though one would rather suppose the latter to be the case.

I am, in some measure, entitled to speak thus positively of the great antiquity of these urns, from a curious circumstance attending mine; viz. its being incrustated with *sea shells in a fossil state*²³⁰. Now this evidently demonstrates

two

			Feet, Inches, English.	
Circumference at the neck	—	—	1	6
Length of the neck	—	—	0	10
—— of each handle	—	—	0	11½
The two handles, almost straight, are fixed to within about an inch of the top, or mouth.				
Diameter of the mouth	—	—	0	5½
—— of the hole at the bottom	—	—	0	4

N. B. There is just room left to admit the hands easily between the vase and the handles in lifting it.

²²⁹ I am aware that this is very unphilosophical language at the end of the 18th century, when the human corpse is supposed to resolve into the elastic fluids of which it is composed; but still, if I were perfectly convinced of the fact, the English language does not yet yield to such flights before dinner, when a man writes in prose.

²³⁰ The shells, though somewhat changed in their fossil state, and by the friction of so long a land-journey, seem to be the genera of Anomia, Maëtra, Ostrea, and probably Cardium; the whole

two things; first, that they could not have originally been buried very deep to have been overflowed by the sea; secondly, that they were then within the reach of that element, although found at a great distance from the Euxine, with ten feet of earth above them.

I need not say much upon this subject, to convince those who have paid attention to such phænomena, that these two last-mentioned facts indicate a high antiquity; as the retreat of the sea is a very gradual and slow operation, and the formation of a certain quantity of vegetable earth no less so.

In my reading I recollect but one spot on the globe that furnishes us with data wherefrom to judge of the time that vegetable earth takes to form, and that is the small quantity as yet collected on a stratum of lava thrown out by *Ætna* 2000 years ago, during the second Punic war.

We know that, during the siege of Syracuse by the Romans, a detachment sent to its relief from Tauronicum was stopped by this stream of lava, which had already reached the sea when the troops came up to it, and on that account were obliged to make a circuit of a hundred miles another way, to reach the place of their destination. Now this ancient lava has accumulated but a scanty covering of vegetable earth in two thousand years, not sufficient to be arable, or to produce either corn or vines²²⁴.

Judging then from this solitary instance (for I know of no other), my vase must be of high antiquity, by the quantity of earth collected over it, even supposing that it was originally buried four feet below the surface: for there will still remain an accumulation of six, which certainly indicates a lapse of many ages. As to the time that the Euxine may have taken to retreat to its present bed, I have not the same data to go upon, for want of the exact distance between the tombs and the new sea-mark; but have applied to friends on the spot for the required measurement: which, when obtained, may, I believe, be of some use; as even in Britain you have land gained from the sea, and in all probability historical records of its gradual increase; it is always understood, however, that accumulations of sand are out of the question, for

whole interwoven like net-work, by Serpents, mistaken by those who sent me the vase for petrified earth-worms, which they certainly resemble very much. The incrustation adheres so firmly, that the vase would probably break in separating any part of it, if attempted.

²²⁴ See the account of the historian of *Ætna*, Signior Recupero, in the First Volume of Brydone's Travels through Sicily and Malta, page 124.

evident

evident reasons. I shall now finish the subject of my Amphora, with remarking, that its having been employed in a hypogea seems not peculiar to the North shore of the Euxine, as I see five sepulchral and lachrymal urns²³², all of this form, in the plates of Andrew Bardon, Professor in the Royal Academy of Painting in Paris; nay, one of them has even a plug still remaining in the bottom hole of the Amphora: so that it has either lain a shorter time in the earth than mine, or been placed in a drier situation, with the cork or plug well covered with rosin, which we see has preserved Egyptian mummies for some thousand years, in the dry situations where they are found.

The other present that I have received from the same place is, one of the Penates found in those antient tombs, or ossuarii on the Tyras; but very different from the little delicate female bust described in my last; for, on the contrary, this figure has its virility strongly marked by a large bushy beard, and the Phallus most conspicuously and singularly placed a little below the middle of his belly, in lieu of a navel; while four nymphs are climbing upon his body.

Which of the heathen gods of antiquity this curious household god was intended to represent, is not for me to determine in a country where there is so little assistance to be had in such inquiries.

This figure, made of the same potter's clay as the urns, sepulchral lamps, bust, &c. found in the Euxine hypogea, has a well-executed head, placed on one of the square shapeless trunks that always represent the body of Terminus, and sometimes that of Priapus when charged with the care of a garden; three female figures are represented at different heights clinging to his sides, nay, one of them has got astride his right shoulder, and seems looking

²³² In Vol. I. Plate 51, Bardon gives a sepulchral urn of the Amphora form, distinguished from all other vases by always tapering to a point towards the bottom; so as not to stand upright without being stuck in the ground; an excellent construction for wine vessels, as they must always have been laid on their sides till buried in the earth, which would swell the cork and prevent communication with the atmosphere. In Plate 52, he gives two more. In plate 60, a lachrymal urn of the same shape, with the word *Amitiæ* and two hearts on its side, which show that it was dedicated to Friendship. In Vol. II. Plate 76, a fourth; and, lastly, in Plate 69, he gives a most curious lachrymal urn of the Amphora form, with the head of one of the hired female mourners, or *Prosericeæ*, serving as a cover, or stopper, to its upper orifice, or mouth.

N. B. One of these Amphoræ (the first mentioned above) has a cork or plug in the lower hole.

over the old man's head at a fourth, offering at his feet what looks like a pyc, or some kind of very large fruit, possibly a water-melon, the most common production of the country, to cool him, or to gain permission to climb up after her comrades.

Notwithstanding his wanton companions, and indecent ventral ornament, I cannot believe this pagan deity intended for Priapus, as he is perfectly devoid of the leer, the horns, the ears, and the laurel or vine crown of the lascivious classic god; unless it should be some colonial modification of him, possibly Scythian; as Herodotus tells us, that even as early as the time when he visited his countrymen situated on this coast, they had already adopted many of the rites and customs of the Scythians with whom they had long intermarried, and in return given their own mythology and rites to several tribes whom he names.

For her inquiry into the nature and origin of my Penates I must leave to the learned Society, and content myself with remarking, that I have somewhere seen the print of a Nilometre something like it; for, if I remember right, female figures attached at different heights to the old god of that famous river (personified not unlike mine,) marked the different altitudes of the Nile during its rise from the Tropic rains. Should, therefore, my Penates be supposed of Egyptian manufacture, there is no great miracle in its being found at the mouth of the Tyras; as I have shown, in another work before alluded to in this Letter, that Egypt had antiently planted a colony on the East side of the Euxine, at no very great distance, viz. in the ancient kingdom of Colchis; probably at the time when your Learned President tells us, in his Dissertation on the Siege of Troy, that the Egyptians were masters of these seas, had subdued a part of the coast of Asia Minor, and left a colony in Greece. Now all the colonies on the shores of the Euxine had much commercial intercourse, and carried on a constant exchange or barter of their respective commodities; but, above all, the merchandize of Colchis was in universal demand, as that antient kingdom not only cultivated the weed of the Nile, *flax*, but likewise made sail-cloth and cordage of it; besides furnishing timber for the construction of ships from Mount Caucasus; so that it was the great mart of naval stores in those days, as likewise for East India goods, then brought to Colchis by the Caspian, Cyrus, and Phasis; when, therefore, we add to those sources of wealth, the gold washed down from its mountains by torrents through the bed of the famous gold-rolling Hypafis (which they used to collect by sinking woolly
sheep-

sheep-skins in the brook), farmed to this day to Jews by the Turks, it is little wonder if its riches allured a set of needy Grecian adventurers, or that they made a sort of miracle of their Argonautic expedition in the infancy of their navigation; and it certainly was a great exploit for them, though I much doubt whether either the Phœnicians or Egyptians would have thought so short and trifling a voyage worth recording. As, however, this first trip to the Black Sea opened a wide field of commerce to these young merchants, their rulers acted politically in making a noise about it, with the story of the Golden Fleece, &c. (probably only one of the woolly sheep-skins drawn out of the Hypæis bespangled with particles of gold) to direct the attention of their juvenile navigators to the Euxine; where piracy, when resisted, would soon end in peaceable barter and commercial connexion, as was afterwards the case.

I shall now conclude this long Letter with acknowledging myself at present a convert to General Wollant's opinion relative to the Grecian origin of the Tombs that he discovered; since I am now in possession of data to form an opinion upon; which was not the case when I wrote last, nor had I then made so particular a study of the antient and modern history of the country where they were found; and I now agree with him, that they seem to have been deposited many ages before Ovid's exile to the North shore of the Euxine³³.

I mentioned in my former Paper, that the General founded his opinion on the exquisite workmanship of the little bust which the late Empress, on comparing with others in her fine collection of antiquities, thought to resemble the beautiful daughter of Augustus (the secret, though not the ostensible cause of the poet's exile); and on this circumstance, joined to that of the lake at the mouth of the Dnieper, where it was found, bearing still the name of Ovid in the language of the country, was founded the opinion, that the bust of Julia had been discovered in the ashes of her old lover, the unfortunate Roman bard. But General Wollant, on the contrary, maintained, that both the face and workmanship was Grecian, while the print of the human skin, still visible on the bust, showed it to have been formed by the fingers of wet clay, and

³³ Independent of much valuable information furnished me by friends on the North shore of the Euxine, it was many years ago sent thither myself by the late Empress on professional duty; a journey that suggested the first idea of my former work, from the number of antique customs, &c. which I remarked in travelling through Russia, Moldavia, the antient Scythia, &c. &c. &c. &c. furnishing some materials for the Work that I am now engaged in.

afterwards

afterwards baked, according to the practice of the Greeks; and that the hair gathered up on the forehead, in form of a crescent, indicated a bust of Diana, who then had her temple in the Taurida, or Crimea, at no great distance, and was worshipped on all this coast. I likewise made two remarks which had escaped my friend, though they made strongly for his hypothesis; viz. that a Grecian colony (that of Tyras) once stood at the mouth of the Dniester; and that I observed three Greek letters $\Lambda\tau\sigma$ on one of the vases in the sketch that he had himself made for me, and which I had the honour of transmitting to the Antiquarian Society; to whom I beg to present a second time my humble respects; and to you, Sir, the thanks and compliments of

Your very obedient humble servant,

M. GUTHRIE.

Imperial Corps of Noble Cadets in St. Peterburg,

August 20, 1798.

P. S. A pair of much better eyes than mine, belonging to an ingenious young portrait-painter, who called to draw my antiques (though much out of his line), instantly discovered, that the offering which the Nymph is making at the feet of my penates, is a *ram's head*, which I now see clearly myself by the help of my glass, since it was pointed out to me. This discovery seems to strengthen a surmise which I formerly threw out, that my penates might have been intended to represent Priapus, or, possibly, *Pan*, whose bushy-bearded head appears so often with much propriety on coins struck in a country of shepherds. I have described those of Olbio on the Dnieper, Cherfon in the Taurida, and Panticapeos on the Cimmerian Bosphorus, all bearing a head of Pan. However, as conjecture is allowed on such occasions, may not this figure represent the genius of the small peninsula of Heraclea Cherfonefus (at no great distance), the sacred site of the Tauric Diana's Temple, once worshipped on all this coast, and whose bust was found in one of these tombs? What suggested this idea was, that the little peninsula, which was separated from the large peninsula of Taurica Cherfonefus, by the famous fortified wall built by the Heracleans from the opposite coast (when they left a

colony here, and was afterwards taken by Mithridates's General Diophantes, when he subdued its tyrant Scilurus and his fifty sons), so much resembles, on a good map, a ram's head, that the Greeks called it *Criu Motapon*; though I observe, that some geographers only apply that name to one of its promontories, which makes the nose of the ram, while the two capes at the entrance of the noble port of Sebastapol, where the Russian fleet now rides (the Sinus Portuosus of the Antients), makes its two horns.

N^o. V.

A THIRD PAPER,

Sent at the same Time with the SECOND (as a kind of APPENDIX),
August 25, 1798.

I STILL possess another curious relick of antiquity, likewise sent me from the shores of the Euxine; but, as I have no proof of its connexion with the ancient Tombs, the subject of my two papers to the Society, I shall describe it thus separately; though I have little doubt that that Learned Body will think it worthy their attention.

Most unfortunately, I could procure no certain information with regard to the exact spot where it was found, and other interesting circumstances attending its discovery; and could only learn from the Gentleman who presented it to me, that he had it from an inhabitant of the North shore of the Euxine, who had purchased it from a Tartar on the coast.

The workmanship appears Egyptian; and I should think that the figure may represent one of the Priests of the Nile; from the lower part of the man terminating in the mouth of a crocodile, while the upper part of his face is veiled by the hood of his black gown, or upper mantle, and his legs and feet are concealed from public view by a particular arrangement of his undergarment; all peculiarities of dress that serve to indicate some particular sacerdotal ministry in the Pagan worship of the Nile, at least as far as the stile of sculpture, and the appropriated emblem of the *crocodile*, can fix it on that antient seat of science and the arts.

This little statue, which is only two inches and a quarter high, is cut out of a small block of marble *à deux couches*, composed of one black and one white layer. Out of the white layer, the sculptor has formed the whole figure of the man, in a stiff upright position, with his left arm crossed over his breast; while with the right he is holding his under garment gathered up into folds, in a particular manner, so as to form a kind of bag to conceal his feet from the eyes of spectators.

The second, or black layer of marble, is chiseled into a species of loose flowing mantle, or gown, which merely adheres to his back, without covering any part of the human figure, except the forehead, eyes, and nose; leaving the white mouth and beard to contrast strongly with the black upper part of the face.

The body of the gown (for I suppose it to be the hood that is drawn over the head) falls down the back, and terminates a little below the feet, in form of the upper jaw of a crocodile; as if the whole mantle was formed of the skin of that amphibious animal, with the head hanging downwards; as we see the skins of lions and tigers thrown over the shoulders of the heroes of antiquity during the period of Nimrodian achievement.

You must not, however, suppose that all this is lightly expressed by the Egyptian sculptor; on the contrary, this little black mantle is a heavy clumsy piece of dress, more like a matras for thickness, than an airy robe; for I took a bold poetic licence in representing it as flowing on his back, merely to convey the idea of its covering no part of the body, but falling in a straight line from the head down to the feet.

On the back of this species of stone mummy (for the stiffness and constrained attitude of the little figure almost places it in that class) is engraven a line of characters (certainly not hieroglyphics) that extends the whole length of the robe; but what they mean I must leave to the Learned Society to discover.

I entertain hopes, that the inscription, joined to the peculiarities of dress so remarkable in the figure now described, may enable some Member of the Society who has made the antiquities of Egypt a favourite study, to give us some information on the subject; while, in the mean time, I shall conclude with observing, that the finding of this Egyptian relic on the shore of the Buxine seems in some measure to strengthen the opinion of a colony from that nation being once settled in Colchis, as asserted by the Antients, and by the inhabitants themselves in the time of Herodotus; who informs us of a very
essential

essential fact, viz. that they alone of all the numerous nations of Caucasus practised *circumcision*.

Since writing the two foregoing papers I have received the required information relative to the distance between the antient Tombs and the Euxine; which is just twelve versts and a half, or a little more than eight English miles. Admiral de Ribos, late commander in chief of all the fortifications erecting in those countries, and under whom General Wollant acted as engineer, most obligingly furnished me with the required distance, and likewise put into my hand a very accurate survey of the spot taken by the able foreign engineers employed on that service; from which I see that the fort, in digging the foundation of which the tombs were discovered, is two versts and a half farther from the sea than the City of Ovidopol, founded by order of the late Empress on the Liman or lake at the mouth of the Dniester, bearing the name of Ovid to this day in the language of the country: which circumstance, with the discovery of the tomb suspected to belong to the same Roman poet, seems to have determined her Majesty as to the name of her new city.

In taking leave of the Society, it may not be improper to declare, that my object in collecting the many Greek and Roman medals, inscriptions, and other remains of antiquity, which I have procured from the North shore of the Euxine (more especially from the Tauric Chersonesus, the island of Phanagoria, the antient kingdom of Bosphorus, &c.) is far from being mere curiosity; but to promote a favourite inquiry into the antient history of these once famous countries. I should, therefore, esteem myself particularly fortunate, if any Member of the Antiquarian Society, who has likewise turned his attention to the same classic region, so long shut up from research by the barbarous policy of the ignorant Turks, would communicate his ideas on the subject; as it would much assist my inquiries, which must naturally grow languid in a part of the world where so few take an interest in such disquisitions.

Distantly situated as I have been for near 30 years, I have the honour of knowing personally but very few of your members, or, indeed, of those of any other Literary Society with which I correspond. Your Learned President, however, is well known to me by his writings, and seems to be the gentleman who, of all others of late, has carried his researches nearest to
my

my range of inquiry. Should any thing have appeared relative to those countries, which has not as yet reached Ruffia (for I know of nothing but the excursions of Mr. Dallaway, confined to the South shore of the Euxine), pray be so kind as to favour me with the title of the book, that I may get it over with the first king's messenger, should our navigation be frozen up; and you will confer a particular obligation on, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

M. GUTHRIE.

P. S. The upper part of the face being covered, I am told, was a practice with the Egyptian priests; to indicate, that the Source of the Nile (lately discovered by Bruce) was then hidden from the knowledge of its ministers, as well as from the world at large.

N^o. VI.

[In this and the following Article, in which the subjects alluded to are further and more correctly considered than before, many repetitions will necessarily occur; for which the EDITOR entreats the indulgence of the candid Reader. If all the former part of the Work had not been printed previously to these being prepared, the new matter would have been incorporated with the preceding Papers of the APPENDIX, and the repetitions thus avoided.]

DESCRIPTION

Of some curious GRECIAN TOMBS discovered at the Mouth of the DNIESTER, the TYRAS of the ANTIENTS, with the ANTIQUES found in them, one of which is in the IMPERIAL CABINET, and two in the Possession of DR. GUTHRIE in ST. PETERSBURG.

SINCE I wrote the two Memoirs to the Antiquarian Society of London, relative to the Grecian Tombs discovered at the mouth of the Dniefter, I have had sufficient leisure to study the curious antiques found in them (now in the Imperial and my own collection) with much more attention than I could then, for several reasons; and am, therefore, enabled to treat the subject more thoroughly; which I shall do in the following Paper, and bring the whole under one point of view as a Supplement to MRS. GUTHRIE'S TOUR to the EUXINE SEA, with which it has a natural connexion; although I shall be obliged, in concentrating here the whole information that I have at different times received, to repeat some things mentioned in her Letters from the spot.

About

About eight years ago that able Dutch engineer, Major-General Wollant, in digging the foundation of a new fort erecting on the Liman or lake at the mouth of the Dniefter, the Tyras of the Antients, where it falls into the Pontus Euxinus, or Black Sea, discovered a number of antique tombs ten feet below the present surface of the earth, and seven versts from the present bed of the Euxine; two marks of high antiquity, as shall be shown at the end of this paper, by proofs drawn from natural history.

Each of those stone coffins (see the ENGRAVING in Letter V. of the TOUR), which Antiquaries may call an *Offuarium*, *Arca*, *Loculus*, or *Sarcophagus*, as they think fit (though I should think the last term improper where the caustic stone had no corpse to act upon and consume), contained burned bones, or ashes; and sometimes a small figure, or penates, of baked clay lay buried in the calcined remains of the funeral pile; only two of which have found their way to this city, viz. the beautiful female bust (mentioned in General Wollant's letter to me given below), now in the cabinet of his Imperial Majesty, and the curious male figure in my own collection, which I called a *Penate* in my Paper to the Antiquarian Society, merely to give a better idea of the nature of my antique by that well-known name; though well aware that the Greeks had no *Dii Penates*, objects of superstition which the Romans did not derive from that refined people, to whom they owed so much, but from the Trojans when Eneas brought his household gods with him to Italy. However, in holding thus the language of antiquity, I do not mean to enter into, or vouch for, the historical veracity of the event.

Before I proceed to describe the curious objects mentioned above, his Excellency's letter to me, announcing his discovery, with his opinion of them, will make a proper introduction to the observations which I shall take the liberty of offering to the publick. The following is an exact translation of General Wollant's letter from the original in French:

“ SIR,

“ It appears to me, that the little antique bust which we discovered on the banks of the Liman of the Dniefter, named *Laculi Oviduli* by the natives of the country, may merit your attention; and I am sorry that important occupations have prevented me till now from informing you of the chance which put us in possession of the beautiful antique so worthy the attention of connoisseurs.

“ It represents the head of a very handsome woman, and may be about three inches high, made of baked clay, and of exquisite workmanship; bearing
mark_s

marks of having been formed merely by the fingers, without the use of any kind of instrument. The profile is Grecian, and the head-dress that of Diana; her hair is divided in front into two knots, which form together a species of crescent; the back of the head is covered with a veil; and although that drapery seems but slightly wrought, still it is highly finished, and answers well to the rest of the bust.

“ This antique, so worthy of attention, was found in one of the Tombs which we daily discover in our works at the fortifications erecting on the banks of the above Liman (lake) of the Dniester; and the construction of these sepulchres is as curious as interesting.

“ Five flat stones of a spathic schistus (slate) compose a species of urn²³⁴ which contains human bones, charcoal, and in general a sort of broken sepulchral lamp, with a jar, all of the same baked clay. I send you a Drawing of the Tomb in which the bust was found, with two large jars (one of which the Writer afterwards received), standing in the position represented in my sketch. My conjectures lead me to suppose that our bust represents a penate goddess buried with the ashes of the dead; who by the size of the tomb, and being furnished with two vases, while the others have but one, seems to have been a person of distinction. The head-dress of the bust leads to a supposition that it must be the figure of Diana, if the veil does not rather indicate one of her priestesses, or a vestal virgin. Some people will have it to be a head of Julia, from finding its great resemblance to the portrait of that unfortunate princess preserved to us on medals; and they are the more confirmed in that opinion from the lake on which the Tomb stands bearing the name of Ovid in the tradition of the country; but strong reasons permit us to deny that ever Ovid was beyond the Danube. I have the honour to be with much consideration, &c.”

On this Letter from General Wollant I shall remark, that as to the opinion of those who, from the name of the lake, and the resemblance of the bust to portraits of the beautiful though lubricious daughter of Augustus, think the Tomb that of Ovid, I shall say little, from my perfect conviction that the

²³⁴ My correspondent is countenanced in calling the *square* Ossuarium represented in his Drawing (See Letter V.) an *urn*, by the practice of the Italian antiquaries, who give that name to exactly such *square* objects when they contain human ashes.

sepulchres and all their contents are Grecian, not Roman; otherwise the General's assertion that the Roman bard never was beyond the Danube would have but little weight with me, for reasons similar to those given in Mrs. GURRIE's Letters from the Dniefter; for, when we reflect on Julia's being the real cause of Ovid's exile, among whose successful lovers he is suspected to have been, and the fair Corinna that he so often celebrates, we find a much better reason for her father's anger, than the pretended cause of it, his "*Art of Love*;" and in that point of view there would have been nothing surprising in having found her bust in the poet's tomb, according to a practice of the Antients explained below. As to its being discovered at the mouth of the Dniefter, when we know from himself that he was banished to the mouth of the Danube; we have only to recollect his many applications to his friends in Rome, repeated in almost every letter of his "*Tristia*," to obtain the Emperor's permission for his removal from the fortified town of Tome to some more wholesome situation, where his lost health might be restored in breathing a free air out of constant dread of the poisoned arrows of the hostile Getæ; I say, when we combine those eternal lamentations with the great esteem that he was held in by both the Roman garrison and inhabitants of Tome, who crowned him with laurel, and exempted him from taxes paid by every one else; and when we add to all those marks of respect the friendship of the native prince of the country, the enlightened Cotys V. a brother poet, whose medal is given in this TOUR; it is difficult to believe that Ovid might not have been indulged so far (though we have no order of Augustus on record to authorize it) as to attempt the re-establishment of his health in the neighbouring Roman colony of Tyras on the Dniefter; more especially as we find (see Letter VII. of the TOUR) that a couple of insignificant rivulets still beyond that river bore his name in antiquity; so that, although we have no positive proof of Ovid ever having been to the North East of the Danube, I cannot think my correspondent can show cause for positively saying that he never was.

As to the General's *own* opinion of the bust (for, the idea of its resembling Julia, he only gives as that of others), I perfectly agree with him, that the workmanship and profile are Grecian; but I cannot subscribe to its representing Diana, although rendered probable by that goddess having antiently her temple in the Taurida, and being worshipped on all the coast. However, to enable
the

the reader to form a judgement on the subject, I have given a most exquisite and exact Drawing of the charming little object (see Plate I.) with the observations which have occurred to me, from an examination of the *original*, through the indulgence of the learned Antiquary Mr. Koehler, under whose care that and all the other precious antiques of the Imperial cabinet are most deservedly placed.

It is made of baked clay, two and a half English inches, high, and represents (as the General says) a beautiful young woman, with the marked Grecian profile so well known to painters, with her hair dressed in the form called by the Antients *Corymbus*, and commonly given to Venus and Apollo; but she wears no crescent or other attribute of a divinity; on the contrary, it rather appears to me to be one of the *Imagunculæ* or *Plagunculæ* mentioned by Cicero in his letters to Atticus, or one of the small images given by Roman ladies to their favourite lover, as a modern lady would give her picture. It is true, the *Imagunculæ* generally were of wax, as they came from the Lady's hands; but it is as certain, that the favoured gentlemen, to make them more durable, had them cast in baked clay: or Count Caylus could not have assembled such a number of them, all of that last-mentioned matter, both Grecian and Roman, as he has delineated in the first, second, and fifth Volume of his "Recueil d'Antiquites;" and, what is very singular, all found in Tombs of Egypt: which would make it seem as if the practice had obtained more in that country than in any other governed by the Greeks and Romans, for the lovers to be interred with the bust of their mistresses, a custom which must have existed under the Ptolemies, as well as Cæsars, as the *Imagunculæ* in the collection of Count Caylus are of Grecian as well as of Roman workmanship. I will just hint at an ancient native practice of Egypt, fully explained in my second Memoir, which may have possibly determined the custom of the conquerors of the country, of burying their *Imagunculæ* with them in their tombs; viz. the Egyptian practice of burying with their mummies small figures in baked clay of Osiris, or Isis Avertunca. (See the Paper on my Egyptian Scarabæus, APPENDIX, No. V.)

Our little Grecian bust seems likewise to have been moulded in wet clay, and afterwards baked in an oven; but whether from an image of wax, we have no means of judging; however, it appears only to have been the face and fore-part of it that was pressed into the mould; while the back part, on the con-

trary, was certainly left out, and afterwards merely slightly sculptured with some instrument, and the superfluous clay cut off, which has produced something like the similitude of a veil, though we cannot take upon us to say (notwithstanding our respect for the opinion of General Wollant) that the artist positively meant to represent that species of drapery; although, indeed, the reader will judge for himself of all those circumstances, from the accurate Drawing that I have had made by a painter of reputation.

I shall now proceed to describe the two valuable relics of antiquity in my own collection, from the same Tombs; the one a present from the General Popoff, the other from Mr. Felix de Ribas.

The first of them (see Plate III. fig. 3.) is a figure of baked clay, or potter's red ware, four inches and three quarters high. It represents a bearded head on one of the shapeless trunks which the Antients constantly gave to Terminus, often to Priapus, and sometimes to Pan; but what render this antique *unique* of its kind are three female figures climbing up the old man's body, one of whom has got astride his right shoulder, and seems looking down at a fourth female, offering a ram's-head at his feet.

The Phallus so conspicuously placed on his belly seems to announce this figure as a representation of Priapus; but, as it wants the horns, ears, and appropriate crown of that antient emblem of generation, and, instead of the lascivious leer of the wanton god, has a sedate decent countenance, I will hazard a conjecture, that it possibly may have been meant for Pan, god of shepherds, so often seen on coins of this pastoral country (see the TOUR for several of them), sporting with his nymphs; for Grecian mythology not only makes Pan be educated by nymphs on mount Mœnatus in his native country Arcadia, but afterwards their leader, they having followed him from love to his music; and if we could credit Dionysius, that the Pan of the Greeks was a modification of Osiris, we might then account for another striking character of our penates, the glaring Phallus, from what Plutarch says of the Egyptian god, *membrum virile est ipsi arrectum*, to indicate (adds the moralist) the generative power of the deity. Now we know that it was a practice in Egypt to inter with the dead small figures of Osiris in baked clay, as well as stones cut in form of the beetle, and covered with engraved objects of their worship; and as the Greeks took so many other things from Egypt, they may likewise have taken that custom.

However,

However, as conjecture is free, and indeed is the only resource we have in such a case where the object is unique, and where of course we have no comparisons to guide our judgement, we might suppose the four female figures the four seasons or hours; more especially as then the ram's head may have some reference to the season of the year when Osiris, or the sun, enters that sign of the zodiac; I say, this, like the last, might appear a very plausible conjecture, did not a stubborn fact stand in the way of both; which is, that the females are dressed in the common Greek garb, with the veil called *Calyptra*, on their heads and shoulders, which Grecian women constantly wore when they went abroad; so that their costume will neither bear out the idea of nymphs or of hours, unless we can believe that the Antients took sometimes sculptoric as well as poetic licence.

I make little doubt but that the placid countenance and well-combed beard (so unlike the face and bushy beard of Pan) will make some readers suppose it rather the head of Jove than the god of shepherds, constantly placed on such shapeless trunks to represent Terminus; and in that case, if any one can suggest a reason for finding Jupiter in such company, I will give up my own conjecture of Pan, of which I am not over fond. The ram's head offered at his feet can be no impediment to the hypothesis, as Jupiter was worshipped in Egypt under the form of a ram, though the Greeks drew him in human shape with only the horns of a ram, under the name of Jupiter Ammon. But in spite of all that I can conjecture in favour of the more decent and modest nature of my antique, I am afraid that the weight of evidence will be found for its representing Priapus; and even the decent placidity of his countenance will not avail, as Count Caylus gives us two figures of Priapus with the head of Jupiter. But the analogy, above all others, that fixes its character, is a painting on an outside wall in Pompeia, representing Priapus with a still more remarkable Phallus, surrounded with wine vessels and girls, one of whom is in the act of offering him a ram; — a striking coincidence! This curious sign-post has led Antiquaries to suspect that the house was not of the best fame; and I should be sorry to think that we had discovered at the mouth of the Tyras the tomb of the matron of a house of this denomination, who had been buried with the insignia of her profession.

My second antique (see Plate III. fig. 2) is one of the Vases which belonged to the largest of the tombs, the same as sketched by the General, and, like all the other objects, of potters' ware; it is two feet eight inches high, and three feet

feet eleven inches in circumference. It is incrustated inside and outside with sea-shells in a fossil state; a curious fact which I shall soon make use of to prove the high antiquity of the tombs. It seems the Kados of the Greeks and the Amphora of the Romans, both in form and size; a fact very evident from the well-known figure of that antique wine vessel, so pointed at the bottom as to be incapable of standing upright, if not fixed in the earth; wisely destined for an inclining position, so as to make the liquor swell the cork, and exclude the air, as we place our modern bottles for the same purpose; but I have likewise ascertained the identity of my Vase with the Greek and Roman jar, by measuring the quantity of liquor that it can contain, which I find to be forty-eight sextarii, or thirty-six modern bottles, counting one pint and a half English to a sextarius, exactly the quantity which the Amphora contained, the Diota Sabina of Horace; this our Euxine colonists may have obtained from the famous pottery on the island of Samos, which furnished even Rome with the Vasa Samia.

It may excite surprise to find only the common Greek and Roman wine vessel employed as sepulchral urns in our Euxine Tombs; for all that I have either seen or heard of from thence are either the Amphora, or its subdivisions the Urnæ and Modii, the one holding half, the other a quarter of the Amphora, or Kados. However, this practice does not seem to have been confined to the colonies on the Black Sea, any more than the singular construction of their tombs without the use of any kind of cement to keep the plates together; for those given in the last Work of Sir William Hamilton, as the tombs of the first Greek colonies who settled in Italy, are composed exactly like ours, of five large flat stones put together without cement; while the Vases found in them are exactly of the same form with mine, and both found, to make the coincidence still more striking, at a considerable depth from the present surface of the earth; nay, we even see a fourth circumstance of agreement, in ashes being found in none of the Vases, but always, as with us, in the stone Ossuarii, as I sometimes call them, for want of a better name; for *those* we are told were square boxes.

But it must be remarked, that it is only the simplest and rudest of the many Tombs and Vases delineated and described by the able British minister at Naples, which resemble ours, and which both he and his learned friend M. d'Italensky think by far the most antient, and belonging to the first colonists who emigrated to that part of Italy named by the antients Magna Grecia,
while

while the arts were still in their infancy in the mother country; and we might almost hazard a conjecture, from the singular affinity explained above in their sepulchres, that the colony which settled at the mouth of the Dniester left Greece much about the same time with the Italian emigrants. We likewise see by the valuable Work of Andrew Burdon, professor of the Royal French Academy of Painting, that the Ancients occasionally used the Amphora form in other parts of the world as both cinereous and lachrymal urns; of which he has given a number found in tombs exactly similar; however, ours never could have been intended for cinereous urns, as no cinders were found in any of them, any more than in those of Italy delineated by Sir William Hamilton, unless we could suppose that the cork²³ in the bottom of the Amphora has been decomposed in such a number of ages, and the ashes returned to their mother earth. As to their serving as lachrymal urns, it would have been rather absurd to select the Amphora, which would hold the tears of several colonies united; so that the use of those Vases I shall not take upon me to determine, or whether they may not have been supposed to contain wine, as victuals are placed on graves and tombs by some nations (see my "Russian Antiquities," published in French at St. Petersburg 1795), a remnant of ancient superstition still existing in our own days; but indeed the passport and piece of coin put into the hands of a corpse even by some species of Christians, show, that material objects are still supposed useful to departed spirits at the end of the 18th century.

I have now only to add a few words on the high antiquity and Grecian origin of the Euxine Tombs; both, in my opinion, very demonstrable.

As to the general fact of the North shore of the Pontus Euxinus being once planted with Greek colonies, there cannot be a doubt, as all the ancient historians and geographers, from Herodotus down to Ptolemy, speak of them as settled at the mouths of all the great rivers running through Scythia into the Black Sea. I say, this fact could not be doubted, if it had not even been mentioned at the end of a Tour where the ancient history, as well as modern description, of most of those cities are given, together with coins struck in them with Greek inscriptions, both Imperial and Autonomic.

²³ The Ancients employed cork, wax, and resin, to shut their Vases, exactly as the Modern use these substances to cork bottles.

Now, as to my reason for thinking the Tombs discovered by General Wollant those of the Greek colony of Tyras, they are as follow :

First, there is strong internal and external evidence, from the stile of the workmanship of the antiques found in them, that they are Grecian. Secondly, the striking resemblance of the Tombs themselves, as well as the Vases, with those supposed to have belonged to the first Greek colonies in Magna Grecia. And, thirdly, the Greek letters still visible on one of the Vases in the General's sketch, which led me to suspect them to be the Vasa Samia from the famous pottery much in the course of vessels coming from the Ionian colonies in Asia Minor, which carried on a great commerce with the Euxine; and indeed the people of Milet, just by Samos, were the principal settlers on this coast. It is another curious coincidence, that Sir William Hamilton mentions Greek letters on some of the antique Vases found in the Tombs, which so much resemble ours. — So much for these Tombs having belonged to the Greeks; and, as to the particular city which filled them with ashes, &c. it must certainly have been that of Tyras; as the other two Greek cities on the Dniefter, Ophiusa and Niconia, are placed too high up the river, both by d'Anville and the Abbé Barthelemy, to have buried their dead at its mouth, where the larger town of Tyras stood till the time of the Romans; when Pliny the elder says it was moved to an island farther up, possibly for greater safety, or some unknown reason.

Thus, I presume, there is only left for me to prove that the tombs and antiques treated of in this Memoir are as old as the existence of the said Grecian colony, which once stood on the spot where they were found; a task rendered not difficult by adverting to certain phenomena already hinted at in a cursory manner.

My Vase is incrustated with calcined shells, not of the kind called *d'lvian* in natural history, which are often exotics, not found in the European seas, but with shells all natives of the Euxine, such as *Ostrea*, *Mastray*, *Anomia*, &c. It is evident then, that the Black Sea formerly rose as high as the tombs, or it could not have deposited its shells on my Vase; but now it is at the distance of seven versts, or near five miles, from them. The Tombs likewise must have originally been placed near the surface of the earth to have received such a deposition on a Vase standing on a level with them; but the General found them buried ten feet below it. Surely these two simple facts require little explanation to the learned, to show the number of ages necessary for such a retreat

retreat of the sea, and such an elevation of the surface; nay, even supposing that our tombs had been originally buried at the depth of four feet, as Sir William found those of Italy, still there is an accumulation of six feet.

As to the first phenomenon, or the number of years that the sea requires to retreat to such a distance, we have but few certain observations on record to judge from, except the port of Ravenna in Italy, constructed by Augustus for 250 vessels of war, which is now at the distance of near four miles from the sea. However, our fact confirms the assertions of a number of antient authors with regard to the gradual fall of the Euxine, and the theory of a celebrated modern naturalist, whom we venerate in this country (Dr. Pallas), who accounts for the formation of what he thinks a more modern horizontal stratum of earth on the South coast of the Taurida, mixed with Euxine shells, while those of the other strata are mostly exotics, and inclined in a different direction, by the fall of the Euxine Sea.

As to the other phenomenon, or the time required for the formation of vegetable earth, from the gradual decomposition of organic bodies, and the accumulation of dust, &c. carried by the winds from one spot to another, I know of but one solitary instance from which we can form a conjecture, and even that not very applicable to the case in point.

The learned historian of the famous Mount *Ætna* in Sicily, the Abbé Roscoupero, informs us, that the wide stratum of lava, erupted from the mountain in the second punic war during the siege of Syracuse, which stopped a Roman army on its march, and obliged them to make the tour of *Ætna* to arrive at their destination, has as yet acquired in 2000 years not sufficient earth to grow either corn or vines, though certainly some fine ashes must occasionally be blown that way during volcanos, independent of the decomposition of the lava in such a lapse of time, and the accumulation of dust, seeds, leaves, &c. the sport of the winds in all countries. The same port of Ravenna, cited above, would show, however, a much more prompt example of the accumulation of soil; as we are told, that, so early as the sixth century, vines grew where the fleet of Augustus rode five centuries before; but as that port was filled up with matter carried in by the sea and wind, no calculation can be made from such a case: and I suspect that the same causes may have operated for a time at least on our Tombs, or it would be otherwise impossible to account for so uncommon an increase of surface, which I presume is without ex-

ample. The conclusion that I would draw from these phenomena is, that although, for the reasons given above, we cannot form any thing like an accurate idea of the number of ages that our Tombs and other antiques have lain where the General found them, still we may venture to conjecture that they are at least as old as when the Greeks inhabited the city of Tyras, before Pompey conquered Mithridates Eupator, who then possessed the Taurida and adjacent countries, and of course was forced to cede them with his life to the victorious Romans, as related in the TOUR.



N^o. VII.

 DESCRIPTION

Of a curious EGYPTIAN ANTIQUE; in the Collection of DR. MATTHEW GUTHRIE, of ST. PETERSBURG.

THIS curious Antique (see PLATE III. fig. 1.) was given me by General de Korfakoff, of the Artillery, well known in Russia for his taste and collections in the fine Arts and Natural History. I understood, when I first made the valuable acquisition, that it had been received from the shores of the Euxine; but, on renewing the question, his Excellency told me, that he had led me into an error; for, on consulting afterwards the catalogue of his cabinet, he had found the Antique given me noted there as brought from Egypt, with a Mummy formerly in his possession, and that the mistake had arisen from a wrong number being put on it, which referred to another object.

Before this explanation, however, I had set it down as Egyptian in a Memoir to the Antiquarian Society of London, from the well-known stiff stile of Egyptian sculpture, never aiming at elegance, but always at durability, by seldom risking the loss of a detached member, either concealed, or only shown in relief on the solid block; which gives their statues in general the awkward stiff form and appearance of their mummies, of which the very object that I am describing is an excellent example.

L L L 2

But

But there are other cogent reasons which serve to determine the country of my Antique; such as its being cut into the well-known oblong form of the sacred Scarabæus, an insect worshipped in Egypt; for which reason they took its form for the stones on which they engraved their amulets, whether intended to be hung round the neck, used as a seal (before the use of the chirograph, or seal ring), or interred with the dead; in all these cases the beetle-formed stones or amulets were constantly covered with engraved objects which had a connection with their religion. For example, the Agathodemon, or good demon, in form of a serpent, was a favourite object on their sepulchral amulets; as was their goddess Isis in her character of Aversunca, or protectress against the bad demon; and therefore often found in what the English call mummy pits, as a guardian of the embalmed bodies deposited in these catacombs. I shall likewise remark, in passing, as it is not directly connected with my Antique, that small figures of Osiris of baked clay, in matter and form much resembling the last-mentioned guardian of the dead, are likewise often found in the Egyptian catacombs interred with the mummies.

The Scarabæus in my possession, from its superior size to the neck amulet and seal, I should suppose may rather have been employed as an *ex voto* in some temple (likewise a use to which these sacred stones were put); or, what is still more probable, it may have been found buried with the mummy that it accompanied to Europe, now in the Imperial museum of this city.

It appears to me to represent a Priest of the Nile for the following reasons:

First, from the figure being cut on a stone in the form of the sacred insect.

Secondly, from the upper part of his face being covered with his black mantle; to indicate that the source of the river was hid from its adorers, and even its priests.

Thirdly, from his white garb terminating in the mouth of a crocodile; an amphibious animal, so common and dreaded in the Nile, as to render the ichneumon, or rat of Pharo, an object of worship, for its destroying the eggs of that voracious and dangerous monster. The jaws of the crocodile I therefore suppose were placed where they are, to indicate the connection of the figure with the Nile; and indeed none of its emblems are so well under-

flood, though we see the Sphinx²³⁶, Lotus²³⁷, Ibis²³⁸, and Sixteen Children²³⁹, occasionally used as such, either singly or two or three together, to distinguish the personification of the Nile from other river gods, such as the Tiber, Tigris, Rhine, Euphrates, and Danube; all represented in human forms by the Ancients, and characterized by their peculiar attributes.

There are two objections which may be made by Antiquaries against my Antique representing an Egyptian priest; but I flatter myself that they will be removed by the following observations:

The first is, that the priests of that country in general wore the plant *Persea* tied to their chin in lieu of their natural beard; but, as that vegetable was sacred to Osiris, it was most probably only indispensable to his own peculiar priests, and not absolutely necessary to all those of the other gods, of which we have a proof in those of Horus wearing the lotus on their heads as a distinguishing mark.

But I should think that the dress of the priests of the Nile must have been regulated by the costume of the god himself, who is represented in the fine statue of the Nile in the Belvidera as a venerable man, with a bushy beard, leaning on a sphinx and a crocodile, surrounded by sixteen children, all of which are explained in the preceding Note; the only attribute that he has in common with other river gods is, a cornucopiæ; and, although that emblem of plenty is certainly applicable to every one of them in some degree, as the sources of abundance in all hot climates, still the Nile, above all others, has a superlative claim to the horn of plenty, as it alone fertilizes the sandy fields of Egypt, which would be a desert without its annual inundations; while few other countries depend for food on a single stream. It would therefore appear,

²³⁶ The Sphinx was used as an emblem of the Nile, from its allegoric composition of *Leo* and *Virgo*, the signs of the zodiac in which the sun (worshipped in Egypt under the name of *Aurus*) is during the inundation of the river.

²³⁷ The Lotus was another emblem of the Nile, as a plant sacred to Horus, from being observed to rise with the sun above the surface of that river, and again return to its watery abode when the sun set in the evening.

²³⁸ The Ibis was a third emblem of the Nile, as a bird worshipped, or held sacred for destroying the numerous serpents hatched in the mud left by the inundations of that river.

²³⁹ The Sixteen Children were a fourth emblem; as by that allegory the Egyptians indicated the sixteen cubits which the Nile rose above its ordinary level in the most plentiful and happy years for agriculture.

The fifth emblem I have already mentioned (the voracious Crocodile); and these were all employed on different relics of antiquity to characterize the Nile.

that,

that, the Nile being represented with a bushy beard, it was the most natural dress for its priests, who would be out of character with the Persea of Osiris hanging at their chins, to confound them with the ministers of that deity; and of course the natural beard of my antique can be no objection to its representing a priest of the Nile, or indeed the river god himself, as Mr. Bell, in his "New Pantheon," (to whom we are obliged for a number of valuable plates, and among the rest the Belvidera statue, with all the other rivers mentioned above,) says, he has seen a statue of the Nile, with his mantle drawn half over his face²⁴⁰, like the figure under description.

There is likewise an objection which may be made against the antiquity of my Scarabæus, drawn from certain characters engraven on the back of the mantle, regarded by some as much more modern than the epoch of genuine Egyptian sculpture; but I think even this apparently strong objection must lose its force, when we know that the Abraxas in the different cabinets of Europe are nothing else than Egyptian Scarabæi, disfigured and scribbled on in various characters, Hebrew, Syriac, Coptic, Greek, &c. &c. by the Basilidians or Gnostic Christians of Egypt, to convert them into *tessera hospitalitatis* by marks and signs only known among themselves; as with such a token in their pockets they could travel through all Egypt, ever sure of finding a hospitable reception from the whole brotherhood. Now if we allow the truth of this assertion by the learned antiquary Count Caylus, to whose researches the world owes so much, the characters on the mantle of this figure should not militate against the antiquity of my Scarabæus, though they may have been placed there many centuries after its fabrication; as they may have no kind of connection with the original, and may merely be a mark of possession, like a man's name on his book in Europe, if not a Gnostic pass-word, if ever my Scarabæus served for a *tessera hospitalitatis* in the East; all as unknown to me as the language, which, by the by, is only *suspected* to be modern; for no one here understands it.

P. S. I forgot to mention a collateral proof of my Scarabæus being Egyptian, in the stone being of that country, and of that species called by the Antients Lapis Heraclianus; possibly from the place where it was first found, like the Labradore, though brought from Siberia. Count Caylus found some varieties of the Lapis Heraclianus which effervesced with acids like mine.

²⁴⁰ See his Article "Nile," page 104.

E R R A T A.

- Page 122, line 6, from bottom, for *Austria*, read *Asturias*.
161, line 6, from bottom, for *both sons of Leucon*, read *son and grandson of Leucon*.
193, line 5, for *Starri*, read *Staroi*.
205, line 14, for *Shuralow*, read *Shuwaloff*.
291, line 19, for *Bolingo*, read *Belugo*.
300, line 19, for *oils*, read *oil*.
318, line 2, of the note, for *Tmutaracan*, read *Tamaracan*.
329, line 1, of the note, for *ships*, read *ship*.
360, line 15, for *Trojau*, read *Trajan*.
375, line 9, from bottom, for *er*, read *on*.
402, line 1, for *Tomb*, read *Tome*.

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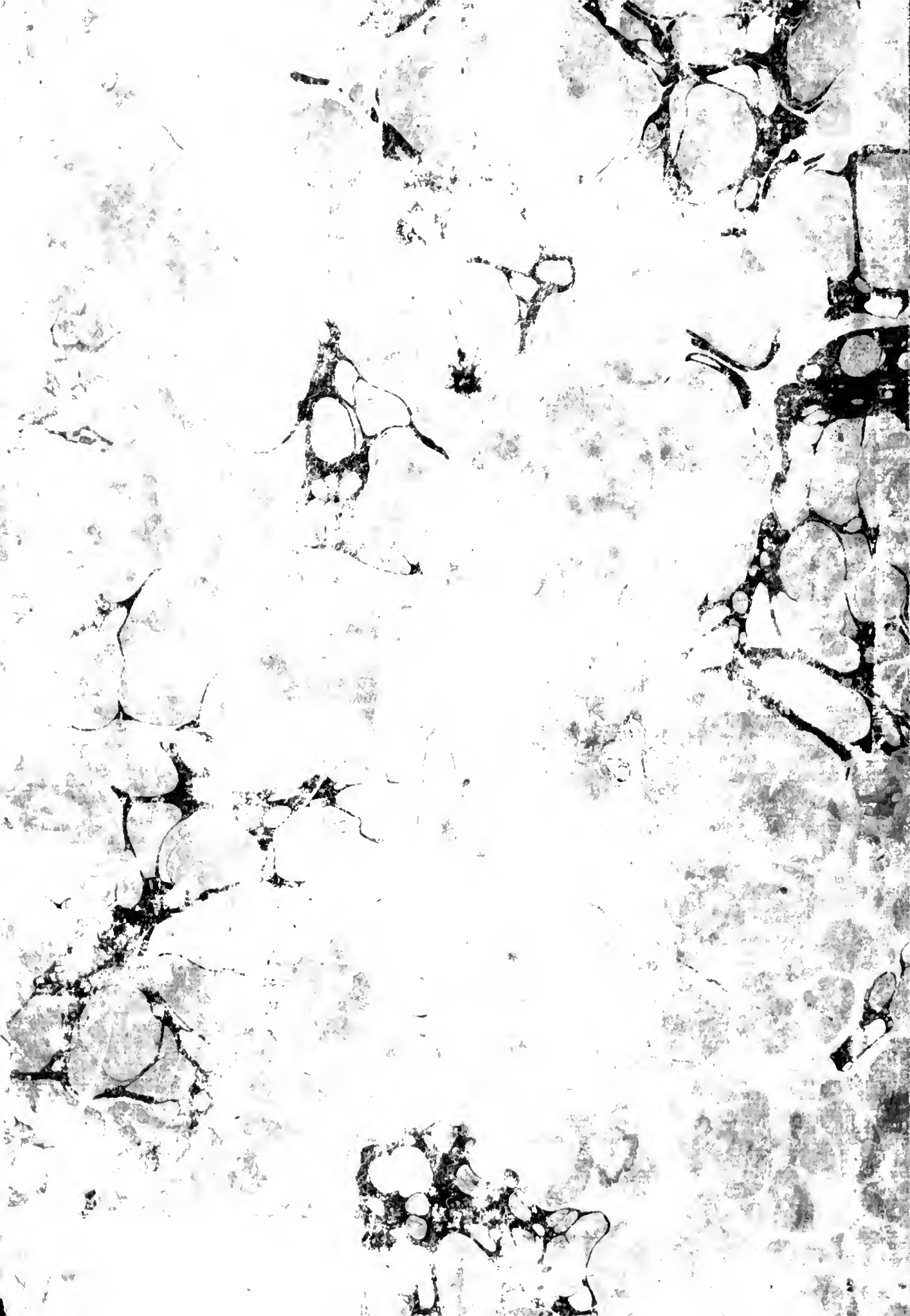
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