

I. GEOGRAPHY AND ETHNOLOGY OF ITALY.

I. 1. GEOGRAPHY.

I. THE name *Italia* was originally confined to the extreme south of the south-west portion of the Apennine peninsula. Such Italy. is the sense given to the name by the Greek historian, Antiochus of Syracuse (*fl.* 423 B.C.), as quoted by Strabo (p. 254). The region subsequently included in the name extended only as far as Metapontum on the bay of Tarentum and Poseidōnia on the Western Sea. The Iapygian peninsula, east of the bay of Tarentum, was distinguished from Italy by Thucydides (vii 33); and the pine-trees of the Bruttian peninsula were described by Theophrastus as the pine-trees of *Italia*, as contrasted with those of Latium (*H. P.* v 8). The region north of Poseidonia was once known as *Opicia* or *Tyrrhenia*. In its narrowest sense, *Italia*, 'the land of oxen', had an earlier alternative designation in *Oenotria*, 'the land of wine'. To the Greeks the whole peninsula was vaguely known as the 'western land', *Hesperia* (*Aen.* i 534). The name *Ausōnia*, originally applied to the territory of the *Ausōnes* or *Aurunzi* S.E. of Latium, was extended to the whole peninsula, and, similarly, the 'Saturnian land', confined by Ennius to Latium, is synonymous in Virgil with the whole of Italy (*Georg.* ii 173).

Under the Roman Republic, *Gallia Cisalpina* was technically outside the limits of Italy, which then extended, on the north-west, as far as the Auser, near Pisa, and, on the north-east, to the Rubicon; but, in popular language and in poetry, in Cicero and Caesar, and also in Virgil, *Italia* was applied to the whole peninsula, although it was not until shortly after the death of Caesar and Cicero that *Gallia Cisalpina* was merged in Italy.

The Italian peninsula is formed by the mountain system of the Apennines which is deflected in a south-east direction from the western portion of the Alps. But, while the loftiest summits of the Alps rise, at Mont Blanc and Monte Rosa, to more than 15,000 feet above the level of the sea, the highest part of the Apennines, the *Gran Sasso d' Italia*, is less than 10,000 feet in height, and hardly reaches the line of perpetual snow.

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The chain of the Apennines leaves a vast plain to the east, in the valley of the Pădus; smaller plains, to the west, in the lands of the *Latini* and *Campani*; and, finally, a long stretch of fairly level ground, to the east, in Apulia. Near the isolated cone of Mons Vultur, at the meeting-point of Apulia, Samnium, and Lucania, the mountain-chain parts in two directions, that on the east declining into the low hills of the ancient Calabria, while, in the west, it maintains a far loftier elevation, rising as high as 7000 feet before it descends to the Sicilian strait.

The mountains of the peninsula enclose many valleys and table-lands connected with each other by easy passes. The Adriatic coast, owing to its lack of harbours, was unattractive to the Greek colonist. Ancōna, which derived its Greek name from the 'elbow' of land which protected its port, was the only Greek colony on that coast, and it was founded at no earlier date than 380 B.C. But, as soon as the southern promontory of that coast was turned, there were many bays and harbours on the southern and the western shores, beginning with the bay of Tarentum and ending with the bay of Cumae, which at an early date were lined with Greek colonies and thus received the name of *Magna Graecia*.

2. While the Italian peninsula resembles that of Greece in its temperate climate, and in its possession of valleys and plains interspersed among mountains of moderate elevation, there are not a few important points of contrast. The shores of Greece are not only penetrated by many inlets, but are also washed by seas studded with innumerable islands, which invited even the most timorous seamen to maritime and commercial enterprise. On the other hand, the coasts of Italy and Sicily have but a few islands, and those scattered in separate groups, at a considerable distance from one another, such as the Lipari and the Pontian islands, and those near the isle of Ilva. As compared with Greece, Italy, 'the land of cattle', with its grassy slopes and its alluvial plains, was better adapted for agriculture and for pasture than for maritime adventure.

While the outlets of Greece looked towards the east, those of Italy looked to the west. The eastern coast of the Adriatic was of little consequence to Greece, and its western coast was of as little consequence to Italy, so that the two peninsulas stood back to back, and developed independently in two opposite directions, Greece towards the east and Italy towards the west. It was not until after the completion of five centuries from the foundation of Rome, that a Greek freedman of Tarentum became the earliest of Roman poets (240 B.C.), and that Rome entered into diplomatic relations with Greece (228).

3. Italy, in the widest sense of the term, consists of three regions, the Northern, the Central, and the Southern. **Northern Italy** was divided into three districts, known as *Liguria*, *Gallia Cisalpina*, and *Venētia*. **Liguria** extended inland from the coast of the Maritime Alps and the north-western Apennines to the river

Northern
Italy.

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Padus and the land of the Taurini. The inhabitants were regarded by the Romans as a rude race combining craft and deceit with hardihood and courage (Cic. *Agr.* ii 95, *Sest.* 69; and Virg. *Georg.* ii 168, with Servius on *Aen.* xi 700). **Venetia** lay to the north-east of the lower course of the Padus, reaching across the Athësis to the springs of the Timäuus and the peninsula of Histria. Near the south of that peninsula lay the city of Pöla, with its celebrated amphitheatre, its temples, and its *Porta Aurea*. Towards the north was Tergeste (*Trieste*), and across the gulf of that town stood the far more famous Aquileia, described by Ausonius as the ninth city of the Empire. Pätäuium, the birth-place of Livy, was the capital of the land of the *Vënëti*, when the city of Venice was still unborn.

Between *Venetia* and *Liguria*, and bounded by the Alps and Apennines, lay **Gallia Cisalpina**, a vast level expanse 200 miles in length by 60 to 100 in breadth, parted into the two regions of *Gallia Transpadana* and *Cispadana* by the great river Padus, Virgil's 'fluuiorum rex Eridanus' (*Georg.* i 481).

The passes leading into Gaul crossed the Alps at the following points. (1) The *Col di Tenda* between the Maritime and Ligurian Alps; (2) the *Col d'Argentiëre*, south of the Cottian Alps; (3) *Mont Genève*, north of those Alps; (4) *Mont Cenis*, south of the Graian Alps; (5) *Little St Bernard*, north of them; and (6) *Great St Bernard*, west of the Pennine range. The Raetian passes included those now known as (1) the Simplon, (2) the S. Bernardino, (3) the Splügen, (4) the Septimer, (5) the Julier, (6) the Reschen-Scheideck, and (7) the Brenner. There were also the less celebrated passes into Illyria¹.

At the foot of the Alps lay the great lakes of Verbannus (*Lago Maggiore*), Lārius (*Lago di Como*) and Bēnācus (*Lago di Garda*). The first and largest of these is never named by Virgil, who alludes to the great lake of Como, and the tempestuous *Lago di Garda*, in the lines in which he claims the Northern lakes, and the Eastern and Western seas, as part of the glories of Italy (*Georg.* ii 158 f). Cōmum, on the Larian lake, has been immortalised by the younger Pliny, and Sirmio, on the *Lago di Garda*, by Catullus. The *Lago di Lugano*, next in size to the three already mentioned, had in classic days no *uates sacer*, and, indeed, is never named by any ancient author. The Verbannus is united to the Padus by the river Ticinus, celebrated by

Alpine passes.

Lakes and rivers.

¹ For full details, see H. Nissen, *Italische Landeskunde*, i (1883) 155—167. On the controversy as to Hannibal's passage of the Alps, see (1) H. L. Wickham and J. A. Cramer's *Dissertation*, ed. 2, 1828; W. J. Law, *The Alps of Hannibal*, 1866; Mommsen, *H. R.* Book III, chap. iv; K. Lehmann, *Die Angriffe der drei Barkiden auf Italien* (1905) (*Little St Bernard*); (2) Robert Ellis, *Hannibal's Passage*, 1853, and *Ancient Routes*, 1867; T. G. Bonney, in Ball's *Alpine Guide*, § 7, route C; Nissen, *l. c.*; and Oslander, *Der Hannibalweg*, 1900 (*Mont Cenis*); (3) Fuchs, *Hannibals Alpenübergang*, 1897 (*Mont Genève*); (4) Douglas Freshfield, *Hannibal once more*, 1914 (*Col d'Argentiëre*?); and, in general, Arnold's *Second Punic War*, ed. 1886, pp. 362—373.

poets for its placid and pellucid waters (Sil. Ital. iv 83 f), and by historians as the scene of the battle in which the Romans were defeated by Hannibal, who was also victorious on the Trēbia, a southern affluent falling into the Padus west of Placentia. The Larian lake is connected with the Padus by the river Addua, and Benacus by the Mincius, which falls into the Padus near Mantua (*Georg.* iii 14 f). From the Raetian Alps the Athēsis descends a deep gorge, east of the *Lago di Garda*, till it reaches the open country at Verona, the birth-place of Catullus. On a stream that falls into the Padus north of Placentia, lay Mediolanum, the central citadel of the Gallic tribe of Insubres. It was to keep the Gauls in check that Placentia and Cremona were founded on the eve of the Second Punic War, and it was from Placentia that the *Via Aemilia* ran to the south-east, passing Parma and Regium Lepidum and Mūtina and Bononia, and subsequently crossing the Rubicon, and reaching the sea at Arimīnum, the first city in Umbria. On the coast north of Arimīnum was the great naval station of Ravenna, first chosen for that purpose by Pompey, and it was from Ravenna that Caesar set forth on the eventful march that brought him to the Rubicon, Lucan's 'puniceus Rubicon', which flows through the valleys, 'et Gallica certus | limes ab Ausoniis disterminat arua colonis' (i 213 f). It also marks the transition from Northern to **Central Italy**.

4. We follow Caesar to Arimīnum, where we reach the *Via Flaminia*, which skirts the coast to Pisaurum and Fanum Fortunae, Umbria. where it goes up the Metaurus, memorable for the defeat of Hasdrubal, crosses the Apennines and the Nar, and passes Soracte as it draws near to Rome. On the coast below Fanum Fortunae we come to Sena Gallica (*Senigallia*), which recalls the name of the *Galli Sēnōnes*, whose former territory beside the Adriatic was added by Augustus to the region of **Umbria**, which at first was limited to an inland region between the Apennines, the Tiber and the Nar. Here, in the heart of the Apennines, lay Īgūvium (*Gublio*), where the celebrated *Tabulae Eugubinae*, with inscriptions in the ancient Umbrian and Latin alphabets, are still preserved. The Tiber, flowing past Tifernum Tiberinum (*Borgo San Sepolcro*), near the site of the younger Pliny's Tuscan villa, formed the boundary between Umbria and Etruria. Near the southern extremity of Umbria it was joined by the Nar, 'sulphurea Nar albus aqua', coming down from Interamna, where the waters of the *lacus Velinus*, which once devastated the *rosea rura Velini*, are discharged by a channel cut in 271 B.C. by Manius Curius Dentatus, the conqueror of the Sabines, thus forming the famous falls of Terni, which plunge in three successive cascades down a precipice of 650 feet. For the sublime grandeur of these falls the ancients have not a word to say; they only notice the rainbow in the spray above the ravine (Plin. ii 153). Further to the north, in the centre of the uplands south of the Apennines, lay the fertile plain, where the white oxen of Mevania might be seen browsing beside the clear waters of the Clitumnus.

5. From Umbria we cross the Tiber into **Etruria**, a hilly region of vast extent, bounded on the north by the Apennines, and on the west by the marshes of the *Maremma*. The two chief rivers were the Arnus, flowing past Arrētium and Florentia, below the rocky perch of Faesūlae, to the port of Pisae; and the Clanis, slowly moving through the level valley to the little lakes of Clusium, till it mingles its waters with the Tiber. Far above Clusium and the Clanis, ‘Cortona lifts to heaven her diadem of towers’, while to the west the ‘lordly Volaterrae’ looks down on the Tuscan Sea. Further south, from the *Via Aurelia*, which ran along the coast, the isle of Ilva might be seen facing the ‘sea-girt’ promontory of Populonia, while still further southward, near Cōsa, the *Portus Herculis* is formed by another promontory, the *Mons Argentarius*. In the volcanic region of Southern Etruria lie the lakes that fill the craters of several extinct volcanoes. The largest of these is ‘the great Volsinian mere’. Further south, from the road through the Cimian forest, high above a lake of the same name, we catch our first glimpse of Rome; Rome itself was supplied with water from springs on the northern shore of a lake still further south, the *lacus Sābātinus*. To the north of all these lakes, in the triangle formed by Cortona, Clusium, and Perugia, lies the *lacus Trāsīmēnus*, on whose northern shore the Romans were defeated by Hannibal. Near the coast are the sites of Tarquinii and of Caere, and, inland, those of Falerii and of Veii, the latter only twelve miles from Rome.

6. To the south-east of Umbria, and parted from Etruria by the river Tiber, lay the land of the **Sabini**, a land of lofty mountains. To the extreme north, the meeting-point with Umbria and Picenum is marked by the *Montagna della Sibilla*, which corresponds to the ‘Tetrica rupes’ and the ‘mons Seuerus’ of Virgil (*Aen.* vii 713). In the centre rises *Monte Terminillo* (7250 feet), part of the ancient ‘Montes Gurgūres’. Further to the east runs the range of ‘Mons Fiscellus’, the *Gran Sasso d’Italia*, where the Apennines rise to 9815 feet, above the ancient site of Amiternum, the birth-place of Sallust. To the south the Mons Lucretīlis (*Monte Gennaro*), conspicuous in all views to the north-east of Rome, attains an altitude of 4160 feet, while east of Lucretilis lies the little valley of the Digentia, which flows past the Sabine farm of Horace. Though the Nar rises to the north of this region, the only strictly Sabine stream is the Avens, which swells the waters of the *lacus Velinus*, far the largest of the many tarns and meres, which stud the rugged and lofty region round Reate, the birth-place of Varro. We are now on the *Via Salaria* which leads from Rome to Picenum.

7. **Picēnum**, the land of the Picentes, lies between the Adriatic and the Umbrians and the Sabines. In the north, the Greek colony of Ancōna juts out into the sea. The ancient capital was Ascūlum Picenum (*Ascoli*, on the *Via Salaria*), the capture of which in 268 B.C. compelled the Picentes to submit to Rome.

8. South of the Picentes were the **Vestini** and **Marrucini**, separated from one another by the river Aternus, while the lofty valleys, which lay inland from these tribes, were held by the **Paeligni** and the **Marsi**. The climate of these valleys in the heart of the Apennines was one of the coldest in Italy. 'Paeligna frigora' is a proverbial phrase in Horace (*Carm.* iii 19, 8), and Ovid says of his native place in this region:—'Sulmo mihi patria est, gelidis uberrimus undis' (*Tristia*, iv 10, 3). Coming from the Adriatic, the *Via Valeria* passed through Corfinium, the capital of the Paeligni, to the land of the hardy Marsi, who lived round the *lacus Fucinus*, the central point of Italy, itself 2176 feet above the sea, with many lofty mountains looking down upon it. On the south-west shore lay the 'lucus Angitiaë', the sacred grove of a Marsic goddess. The simples gathered on the Marsic mountains were of no avail, we may remember, to stay the death of one of Virgil's heroes, the soldier-priest 'fortissimus Umbro':—

'Te nemus Angitiaë, uitrea te Fucinus unda,
Te liquidi fleuerunt lacus' (*Aen.* vii 759 f).

The lake had no natural outlet and was liable to sudden rises which flooded the lands of the Marsi. A scheme for tapping the water by means of a tunnel more than a mile long was carried out by the Emperor Claudius (Pliny, xxxvi 124; Tac. *Ann.* xii 56 f). In 1862 this memorable work was restored and greatly extended by the enterprise of Prince Torlonia, which has converted the lake into a fertile farm of 36,000 acres.

9. **Lātium** was originally simply the land of the **Lātini**, bounded on the north by the Tiber, and by the Apennines and the Tyrrhenian Sea, while to the south-east it extended no further than the Circean promontory. On the coast between Antium and Ostia was **Lāuīnium**, traditionally founded by Aeneas, and, further inland, **Lānūuium** with its temple of Juno Sospita. In the middle of the plain, five miles from the foot of the Apennines, rose the volcanic group of the Alban hills with the Alban lake resting in its green crater, and the Alban mount crowned with the central sanctuary of the Latian Jove looking down on Alba Longa. On a wooded ridge to the north of the Alban hills lay **Tuscūlum**, while to the south was the lake of Nemi (the *lacus Nemorensis*) and the grove of Diana, only two miles north of **Lānūuium**.

Some fourteen miles above the mouth of the Tiber lay, on the left bank of the river, the hills of moderate elevation which formed the site of Rome. Owing to the slight fall of the stream, the low-lying lands between the hills were liable to frequent floods, and the site in general was less healthy and less fertile than that of most of the old Latin towns; but its vicinity to the river rendered it a suitable place for an emporium, while, in the strength of its position, it was well fitted to be the frontier-fortress of Latium. (The *Topography of Rome* is reserved for the third part of the present Chapter.)

Latium, in its widest sense, extended as far as the Mons Massicus on the Campanian border, and thus included the lands of the Hernici, the Volsci and the Aurunci. It was separated from Etruria by its principal river, the Tiber, flowing from the north to Ostia. The Anio, flowing from the north-east and supplying, in the early part of its course, two of the aqueducts of Rome, emerged from the mountains at Tibur and plunged down the rocks in several fine cascades. Soon afterwards it received the sulphurous stream of the Albula, and, winding its way through the plain, washed the lower slopes of the Mons Sacer before uniting its waters to those of the Tiber. A few miles above the confluence of the Anio, the Tiber was joined on the west by the Crēmēra, and on the east by the Allia, which on the same fatal day of the year (July 16) were respectively the scenes of the almost complete extinction of the Fabian gens (477), and of the defeat of the Romans by the Gauls (390).

The lands of the Hernici and Volsci were divided by the Trērus, a tributary stream which flows to the south-east towards the 'rura quae Liris quieta mordet aqua, taciturnus amnis'. The Liris reaches the sea at Minturnae, where Marius lay concealed amid the marshes in 88 B.C., while to the east, some sixty years before, the town of Suessa Aurunca had given birth to Lucilius.

The *Via Latina*, after passing through the Alban hills, south of Tusculum, was joined by an ancient road, which had meanwhile passed through Gabii to Praeneste; it then followed the valley of the Trerus, and after touching Aquinum and Cāsinum (at the foot of *Monte Cassino*) ended in Campania at Cāsīlinum. There it was joined by the *Via Appia*, which had in the meantime taken a straighter course through Aricia and had struck across the Pomptine marshes to Tarrācina, described by Horace, under its earlier name, as 'impositum saxi late candentibus Anxur' (*Sat.* i 5, 26). Passing inland to Fundi and rejoining the sea at Formiae, it then went through Minturnae to Sinuessa, and, crossing the *ager Falernus*, joined the *Via Latina* at Casilinum. It soon entered Capua, and afterwards went on to Beneventum, Tarentum, and Brundisium.

10. Campania was limited at first to the land of the *Campani*, which is not synonymous with *campestres*, or 'the dwellers in the plain', but is the Latin equivalent of *Καππανοί*, the Campania. inhabitants of Capua, from which the *Via Campana* ran to Pūtēōli on the bay of Naples. It subsequently included the hills of the Samnian and Lucanian borders, with the mountainous coast from Cumae to Salernum, as well as the level land bounded to the south-east by the Sīlārus. Its most important river was the Volturnus. From Sinuessa, beyond the Mons Massicus, the *Via Domitia* crossed the mouth of the Volturnus, and skirted the sea-coast until it reached the old Greek colony of Cumae, which gave its name to the *Sinus Cumanus*, better known as the bay of Naples. To the north-west of that bay are the volcanic islands of Aenāria and Prōchýta, and the promontory of Misēnum. Descending from this lofty foreland, we

fringe the shore of the bay of Baiæ, and soon reach the two small lakes, the shallow lagoon of the Lucrine, and the ancient crater now filled with the waters of the Auernus (*Georg.* ii 161 f). We pass the Greek settlements of Dicaearchia (*Pūtēōli*) and Nēāpolis, and Herculaneum and Pompeii, lying exposed to all the perils of Vesuvius, and after crossing the safer strand of Stabiae, find ourselves near the rocky foreland of Surrentum with the famous view of Capreae from the promontory of Minerva. Rounding this, we pass the islands of the Sirens and finally reach the glorious bay of Salerno.

11. Between Campania and the Adriatic lies the mountain-region of **Samnium**, traversed by the *Via Appia*, which passed through the *Fauces Caudinae* shortly before reaching the ancient 'apple-town' of *Μάλοφέντα*, or *Maleuentum*, a name of evil omen, changed by the Romans into Beneuentum (*Plin.* iii 105). The country was also traversed by another route, branching off from Venafrum to Aesernia on the upper Volturnus, by which the Roman armies were wont to reach the heart of Samnium at Bouianum, near the source of the river Tifernus, and at the foot of the mountain of the same name. In the mountains separating Samnium from Campania, the ridge of Mons Tifata, commanding Capua and the Volturnus, was long held by Hannibal in the Second Punic War.

12. **Southern Italy** included Apulia and Calabria to the east, and Lucania and the land of the Bruttii to the west. **Apulia** extended to the south-east, from the territory of the Frentani on the Adriatic, and from the inland border of Samnium to the immediate neighbourhood of Tarentum. In its northern portion, the 'spur of Italy', the wind-swept promontory of Mons Gargānus, with its dense forests of oak-trees, rises above the low hills clad with box and with aromatic herbs frequented by the 'Matin bee', while on the strand below was once washed ashore the lifeless form of Archytas of Tarentum (*Hor. Carm.* i 28, 3; iv 2, 27). The largest of the Apulian rivers is the impetuous Aufidus, which flows to the south of Ascūlum, where the Romans were defeated by Pyrrhus, and, not far from the Adriatic, passes the fatal field of Cannae. The river rises in Mons Vultur, which, from a height of 4363 feet above the level of the sea, looks down on Venusia, the birth-place of Horace, amid the mountains of Apulia immediately to the north of the Lucanian frontier. Born on the confines of both regions, the poet aptly describes himself as 'Lucanus an Apulus anceps; | nam Venusinus arat finem sub utrumque colonus' (*Serm.* ii 1, 35). The lands, in fact, of three peoples meet near this point, and the Venusian region, which is really in Apulia, is regarded by Strabo as on the borders of Lucania and Samnium, and even as belonging to Samnium and not to Apulia (pp. 254, 283). It is immediately within the Apulian border that we find the dwelling-places of the poet's neighbours in his early boyhood:—'quicunque celsae nidum Acheruntiae, | saltusque

Bantinos, et aruum | pingue tenent humilis Forenti'. Six miles south of Venusia, a fountain was still shown in the 12th century as the *fons Bandusinus*, and, although the structure of the fountain has been destroyed, its waters are still abundant. The site of this famous fountain is, however, sometimes placed, not in the land of the poet's birth, but in the immediate neighbourhood of the poet's Sabine farm, beside the waters of the Digentia.

13. The 'heel-piece of Italy', known to the Romans as **Calabria**, was inhabited by the Calabri on the Adriatic coast, and by **Calabria** the Sallentini on the bay of Tarentum. It was known to the Greeks as Messapia or Iapygia. On the Adriatic stands Brundisium, the goal of the Appian way and the port of departure for Greece. South of Brundisium is the site of the little inland town of Rudiae, the birth-place of Ennius, who is described by Ovid as 'Calabris in montibus ortus' (*A. A.* iii 409). West of Brundisium the great city of Tarentum stood at the head of the bay to which it gave its name. The city was built on a rocky promontory that parts the bay from the spacious harbour. Founded by Lacedaemonians in 708 B.C., it was not until 272 that it became subject to Rome. It was famous for the fertility of its surroundings. Its honey (so Horace declares) rivalled that of Hymettus; its olives, those of Venafrum (*Carm.* ii 6, 12—16). Beneath the shade of the pine-woods sung by Propertius, the stream of the Galēsus flowed through the vale of Aulon, which was famed for its vines and for its wool. The wool, which was dyed with the rich purple of the local *murex*, is described by Horace as the 'lana Tarentino uiolas imitata ueneno' (*Ep.* ii i 207). The scallops held in high repute by Roman epicures are still strewn on the shores of the bay and harbour, thus verifying the poet's line:—'pectinibus patulis iactat se molle Tarentum' (*Serm.* ii 4, 34).

14. **Lucania**, parted from Calabria by the river Brădănuş and from Campania by the Silărus, is bounded to the south by the streams of the Laüs and the Crăthis. Near its northern **Lucania** frontier, the farthest city to the west was the Greek settlement founded by Sŷbăris under the name of Poseidōnia, and converted into a Roman colony under the name of Paestum. Virgil (*Georg.* iv 119) tells of its roses that flowered twice in each year, and, in May and November, those roses still bloom¹ amid the ruins of the three great Doric temples, which are never named by any ancient author. South of Paestum lay Vĕlia, the Greek colony of Elĕa, the home of the Eleatic school of philosophy, beginning with Xenophanes, who wrote a long poem on the foundation of the city, in which his successors Parmenides and Zeno were born. To the south-east was the bold foreland of Palinurus (*Aen.* vi 381). To the extreme east of Lucania, on the bay of Tarentum, lay the Achaean colony of Metapontum, with its Doric temple like those of Paestum, and with its memories of the declining years of Pythagoras (*Cic. De Finibus*, v 4).

¹ Cp. Eustace's *Classical Tour*, ii 302, ed. 1841; E. H. Bunbury in Smith's *Dict. of Geogr.*; and § 94 infra.

The neighbouring stream of the Bradanus flows down from Bantia, within the Apulian frontier, some eight miles from which was discovered the bronze tablet of the *lex Bantina*, the most important relic of the Oscan tongue. The mountain-glades of Bantia have been already mentioned. The whole of the Lucanian land abounded in mountain-pastures, to which the flocks were driven when the drought of summer destroyed the herbage of Calabria (*Epod.* i 27). With the exception of a broad strip of plain on the coast between Metapontum and Heraclea, almost the whole of Lucania is filled with the rugged ranges of the Apennines, the highest parts being near the border of Samnium to the north and that of the land of the Bruttii to the south.

15. The land of the Bruttii has no distinctive Latin name beyond that of its inhabitants. Modern writers erroneously speak of *Bruttium*, and the Italians have even transferred to this region the name of *Calabria* which, in ancient times, belonged to the 'heel' and not to the 'toe' of Italy. It was once known as *Oenotria*, 'the land of wine'; and, as we have already seen, it was the earliest part of the peninsula to bear the name of *Italia*, 'the land of cattle'. Among the mountains to the south, extended the vast forests of Sila, the scene of more than one battle of the bulls in Virgil (*Georg.* iii 219; *Aen.* xii 715). Like Italy as a whole, this small portion of the peninsula has been aptly compared to a boot, of which the heel is formed by the Lacinian promontory near Croton; the toe, by the promontory of Leucopetra, and the hollow of the sole, by the bay of Squillace, Virgil's 'nauifragum Scylaceum' (*Aen.* iii 553). Near this bay the ground lies low between the western and the eastern seas. To the north-east, on the river Crāthis, lay the luxurious city of Sýbāris, after the destruction of which, by the people of Crōtōn, the colony of Thurii was founded further inland by the Athenians in 443. The Achaean colony of Croton came for a time (c. 540—530) under the influence of Pythagoras; and one of his pupils, the athlete Milo, was in command of the forces which overthrew the Sybarites (c. 510). Passing two promontories further to the south, we reach a great bend in the shore, where we recall the fact that, in the days when the Roman age was being merged in the Middle Ages, it was on the bay of Squillace that a monastery devoted to classical and to sacred learning was founded by Cassiodorus. Far to the south is the foreland of Zephyrium, the site of a Greek settlement which afterwards removed further north, where, in memory of its earliest and its latest home, it took the double name of Locri Epizephyrii.

The *Via Popilia*, which, in 132 B.C., was extended through the whole of Southern Italy, from Capua to the Sicilian strait, ended at Rhegium, the old Chalcidic colony, which derived its name from the fact that it was at this point that Italy and Sicily were rent asunder¹. But the most

¹ Aesch. ap. Strabo, ἀφ' οὗ δὴ 'Ρήγιον κικλήσκειται, and *Aen.* iii 414-9. The Latin form of the name is *Regium*.