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Peloponnesiaca

William Martin Leake (1777–1860) was a British military officer and classical scholar specialising in reconstructing the topography of ancient cities. He was a founding member of the Royal Geographical Society and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1815. First published in 1846, this volume was originally intended as a supplement to Leake's authoritative topographical survey of the Peloponnese, *Travels in the Morea*, also reissued in this series. The book is organised as a series of articles referencing historical sites, providing detailed descriptions of artefacts, sites and geographical features mentioned in *Travels in the Morea*, using information from the French Commission of Geography, Natural History and Archaeology which visited the area between 1829 and 1831. Leake was the first scholar to identify many ancient sites in the Peloponnese, and his precise observations led to his publications becoming authoritative for the classical archaeological sites of the region.

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A Supplement to Travels in the Moréa

WILLIAM MARTIN LEAKE



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PELOPONNESIACA:

A

SUPPLEMENT

TO

TRAVELS IN THE MORÉA.

BY

WILLIAM MARTIN LEAKE, F.R.S.

HONORARY MEMBER OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AT BERLIN,
CORRESPONDENT OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE AT PARIS.

LONDON:

J. RODWELL, NEW BOND STREET.

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P R E F A C E.

THE following pages contain a series of questions of ancient history and geography, supplemental to "Travels in the Moréa," which have arisen since the publication of that work, chiefly in consequence of the increased facilities given to the examination of the Peloponnesus by its liberation from the Turkish yoke.

The opportunity afforded by that event was eagerly embraced by the French Government,—under all its forms a liberal promoter of the advancement of science. In the year 1829, a numerous and select Commission of Geography, Natural History, and Archæology, was sent to the Peloponnesus, and there employed during two years, under the dangers and difficulties of an ungenial climate, and a country

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[More information](#)

desolated by the effects of one of the most cruel wars recorded in history. The most important result of these labours has been a map, on a scale of the two hundred thousandth part of a degree of latitude, or twenty-one English inches and three-fifths. That which accompanies the present volume has been reduced from the French map on a scale of something more than a third, but not without some variations, a few of which will find their justification in the occasional strictures on the French map¹, made by M. Bory de St. Vincent, Colonel d'Etat Major, and Head of the Commission of Physical Sciences, but who was not engaged, either on the triangulization or the topography of the

¹ Particularly in the Section des Sciences Physiques, i. p. 244, and ii. p. 52. In the former place occurs the following remark : " Nous devons faire au lecteur l'aveu que cette partie du pays et notre route depuis Sidheró-kastro jusqu'à Pávlitza est totalement défigurée dans la feuille 3 de la Planche III. Il faut pour mieux se reconnaître dans notre relation avoir recours à la carte de Gell, dont nous nous faisons un devoir de proclamer la supériorité pour l'itinéraire que nous suivons."—The map to which M. Bory alludes was constructed, the positions fixed, and the names inserted by me. All the topographical details were the work of Sir William Gell.

survey. Another deviation from the French authorities will be found in the modern names, the orthography of which has been made conformable to the rules followed in my other works relating to Greece, as explained in the Preface to "Travels in the Moréa:"—to these rules, notwithstanding the preference given to a different method by some of the most learned travellers in Greece, I continue to adhere, because, to those unacquainted with a living language, that mode of writing its names is the most useful, which informs the ear as well as the eye. There seems no reason why in this respect the modern Greek should be treated differently from the Turkish, Arabic, or Persian; as in all these languages, whenever ambiguity is apprehended, or greater etymological accuracy required, it is easy to add the name in its proper characters.

The position of some of the ancient names in the map, which accompanies these pages, forms a third kind of deviation from the authority of the great French work; my conclusions on the ancient positions differing occasionally from those of the French geographers, as well as from those of some recent German writers, and not unfrequently from my

former self. For this change of opinion, no apology is necessary, geography being made up of approximations, although it is by no means the only science in which error or uncertainty leads to certainty and truth.

The proper mode of representing Hellenic names by the English alphabet is a larger question, and affects modern works of every class relating to Greek literature. Presuming that, as our letters are Latin, the ancient Roman method is the best, and that exceptions from that rule should be for the purpose alone of indicating more correctly the orthography of the Greek word, I have not deviated on the present occasion from that principle, as exemplified on former occasions, unless when the Latin termination of a name, differing from the Greek in its gender, the Roman form has been preferred to the Latinized Greek, as more euphonious. Thus mountains, which in Greek are generally neuter, and in Latin masculine, afford a choice between the terminations *um* and *us*, the latter of which is more agreeable to the ear. The most eminent of the living historians of Greece remarks, in support of his method of rendering Greek names into Eng-

PREFACE.

ix

lish, that “he should not fear much severity of censure, if those only should condemn him, who have tried the experiment themselves.” In fact, it is impossible in any manner to avoid inconsistencies without falling into a pedantic rejection of forms sanctioned by long usage, and introducing others, which no effort is likely to render familiar in our language.

CONTENTS.

SUPPLEMENT TO TRAVELS IN THE MOREA,
 VOL. I.

PAGE	
1	Brazen tablet of <i>Olympia</i> .
4	<i>Olympia</i> .
108	River <i>Anigrus</i> .
109	1. Temple of <i>Neptune Samius</i> . 2. River <i>Acidon</i> .
110	1. Height of <i>Mantineia</i> . 2. Temple of <i>Minerva Alea</i> at <i>Tegea</i> .
111	Gates of <i>Mantineia</i> .
112	Upper or <i>Tegeatic Alpheius</i> .
115	Bridges of <i>Laconia</i> .
118	The Greek arch.
127	Entasis.
129	Mistrá.
135	Moréa in the thirteenth century.
157	Romaic language in the thirteenth century.
160	<i>Therapne, Amyclæ, Bryseæ, Alesia, Messapeæ, Pharis</i> . Rivers <i>Tiasa, Phellia</i> .
166	<i>Heilotæ, Pericæci, Spartans</i> .
168	1. Roman milestone in <i>Helos</i> . 2. <i>Hyperteleatum</i> .
169	<i>Asopus, Cyparissia</i> .
170	<i>Ægia, Croceæ</i> .
171	Kakavulia.

xii CONTENTS.

PAGE	
172	1. <i>Teuthrone</i> . 2. <i>Las</i> , <i>Hypsi</i> , rivers <i>Sinenus</i> and <i>Scyras</i> , <i>Dictynnæum</i> , fountain <i>Cnaco</i> .
174	<i>Pyrrhichus</i> .
175	<i>Hippola</i> , Cape Matapán, <i>Psamathus</i> , Port <i>Achilleius</i> .
178	<i>Cetylus</i> , <i>Thalamæ</i> , <i>Pephnus</i> , the Lesser <i>Pamissus</i> .
180	1. <i>Gerenia</i> , <i>Alagonia</i> . 2. River <i>Pamissus</i> .
181	<i>Linnæ</i> .
190	<i>Pylus</i> of <i>Messenia</i> , island <i>Sphacteria</i> .
194	1. The three <i>Pylæ</i> . 2. <i>Sela</i> .
195	<i>Asine</i> , <i>Colonis</i> , <i>Coryntheium</i> , <i>Corone</i> .
197	Bridge of Mavrozúmeno, near <i>Messene</i> .

SUPPLEMENT TO TRAVELS IN THE MOREA,

VOL. II.

198	Was Epaminondas, the <i>οικιστής</i> of <i>Megalopolis</i> ?
200	1. Ancient fortress at Londári. 2. <i>Methydrium</i> .
203	Heights of <i>Peloponnesian</i> mountains.
204	O'siva, or I'sova.
205	1. <i>Heræa</i> of <i>Arcadia</i> . 2. <i>Thelpusa</i> .
206	1. <i>Zerethra</i> of <i>Lusi</i> . 2. Sources of the <i>Erymanthian Aroanius</i> .
207	1. Examples of Greek masonry of a mixture of stone and brick. 2. River <i>Peirus</i> .
208	At what time was <i>Olenus</i> abandoned by its inhabitants?
209	River <i>Larissus</i> .
210	Glaréntza, Khlemútzi, <i>Chelonatas</i> .
213	1. River <i>Jardanus</i> . 2. <i>Pheia</i> .
217	<i>Macistus</i> .
218	1. <i>Harpinna</i> . 2. <i>Rasa</i> .
219	<i>Pylus</i> of <i>Eleia</i> , <i>Marganeæ</i> , <i>Amphidolia</i> , <i>Acroreia</i> , <i>Opus</i> , <i>Thalamæ</i> .
220	Sandaméri, river of <i>Scollis</i> .
221	<i>Paus</i> , <i>Scotane</i> , forest <i>Soron</i> .
222	River <i>Arsen</i> , <i>Tropæa</i> .
224	1. Heights of the <i>Erymanthian</i> summits. 2. River <i>Aroanius</i> of the <i>Cleitoria</i> .
225	<i>Lycuria</i> .
226	1. Tzernotá. 2. River <i>Tragus</i> . <i>Rheunus</i> . <i>Nasi</i> .
227	<i>Leucasium</i> , <i>Mesoboa</i> , <i>Oryx</i> , <i>Halus</i> , <i>Thaliadcs</i> . Temple of <i>Cercs Eleusinia</i> in the <i>Thelpusæa</i> .

CONTENTS.

xiii

PAGE	
229	1. <i>Elymia</i> . 2. Road from <i>Mantineia</i> to <i>Methydrium</i> . Mount <i>Ostracine</i> .
231	Road from <i>Heræa</i> to <i>Megalopolis</i> . <i>Buphagium</i> , <i>Melæneæ</i> , <i>Maratha</i> .
233	Road from <i>Megalopolis</i> to <i>Messene</i> . River <i>Carnion</i> , <i>Gatheæ</i> , <i>Cromi</i> , <i>Ægys</i> .
235	Road from <i>Megalopolis</i> to <i>Carnasium</i> . River <i>Mallus</i> , <i>Phædria</i> , <i>Carnasium</i> .
236	Road from <i>Megalopolis</i> to <i>Sparta</i> . River <i>Theius</i> , <i>Phalæsiæ</i> , <i>Belemina</i> .
238	Road from <i>Megalopolis</i> to <i>Methydrium</i> . River <i>Helisson</i> , <i>Anemosa</i> , <i>Tricoloni</i> , <i>Zætia</i> , <i>Hypsus</i> , <i>Thyræum</i> , <i>Pavoria</i> , <i>Phalanthus</i> , <i>Curriculum Atalantes</i> .
241	Road from <i>Megalopolis</i> to <i>Mænalus</i> . Temple of <i>Ceres</i> in <i>Helos</i> . River <i>Elaphus</i> , <i>Paliscius</i> , <i>Pertætheæ</i> , <i>Dipæa</i> , <i>Lycoa</i> , <i>Sumatia</i> , the <i>Triodi</i> , <i>Mænalus</i> .
244	Road from <i>Megalopolis</i> to <i>Phigaleia</i> . <i>Despæna</i> , <i>Lycosura</i> , Mount <i>Lycæus</i> . Hippodrome and stadium. Temples of <i>Pan</i> and <i>Apollo Parrhasius</i> . River <i>Plataniston</i> .
247	Road from <i>Megalopolis</i> to <i>Pallantium</i> and <i>Tegea</i> . <i>Ladoceia</i> , <i>Hæmonia</i> , <i>Aphrodisium</i> , <i>Athenæum</i> , <i>Asca</i> , <i>Oresthasium</i> , fortress <i>Athenæum</i> .
248	<i>Malkeæ</i> , <i>Leuctrum</i> .
249	<i>Zerethra</i> of the <i>Mantinico-Tegeatic</i> plain.
251	Pyramidal sepulchre westward of Argos.
252	1. Rocks <i>Pallantides</i> in Mount <i>Creium</i> . 2. <i>Nauphia</i> was named <i>Ἀνάπλιον</i> by the Byzantine Greeks. 3. <i>Παλαμῆδιον</i> was probably an ancient name.
254	Sculpture over the gate of <i>Mycenæ</i> not formed of green basalt, but of limestone.
255	Ancient treasuries at <i>Mycenæ</i> . The greatest properly called the Treasury of <i>Atreus</i> .
258	<i>Heræum</i> of the <i>Argeia</i> . Rivers <i>Eleutherium</i> and <i>Asterion</i> . The hills <i>Eubæa</i> , <i>Acræa</i> . The region <i>Prosymna</i> .
265	The ancient theatre at Argos.
266	1. Aqueduct of <i>Argos</i> . 2. Rivers <i>Inachus</i> , <i>Charadrus</i> . <i>Ænoe</i> .
268	1. <i>Lyrcæia</i> . 2. <i>Mideia</i> , <i>Prosymna</i> , <i>Phyllus</i> .

PAGE

- 270 1. Mount *Arachnæum*, anciently called *Sapysclaton*, qu. *Hogselaton* ?
 2. Was the extant temple in *Ægina* a temple of Minerva, or that of *Jupiter Panhellenius* ? *Cea*, the ancient capital of *Ægina*. Temples of *Damia* and *Auxesia*, of *Aphæa*, and of *Hebe*. Altar of *Jupiter*.
- 278 *Methana*.
- 279 1. *Molygium*. 2. The *Argolic Acte*. *Hermione*. Road thither from *Træzen*. *Eilei*. Temple of *Ceres Thermasia*. The Promontories *Scyllæum* and *Bucephala*. Islands near the latter. Promontories *Colyergia*, *Buporthmus*. Islands *Hydrea*, *Tricrana*, *Aperopia*. Mountains *Pron*, *Coccygium*. *Halice*, *Mases*, *Struthus*, *Didymi*, *Asine*, *Eire*. Islands *Pityussa*, *Irine*, *Ephyre*.
- 294 *Thyrea* (at Luku), *Astrum*, *Anthene*.
- 296 River of Luku.
- 297 Hellenic sites on the road from *Thyrea* to *Lerna*. *Hermæ* of the triple boundary between St. Peter's and *Arákhova*.
- 298 *Tyrus*, *Zarax*, *Cyphanta*.
- 302 River *Tanus*.
- 304 On the Tzakonic dialect.
- 339 1. Réonda. 2. Boundaries of *Cynuria*, *Eva*, river *Charadrus*.
- 341 1. Road from *Brasææ* to *Sparta*. Forest of Mount *Parnon*.
 2. Road from *Thyrea* to *Sparta*. *Caryæ*, *Sellasia*, *Pyrrii Castra*. Mounts *Barbosthenes*, *Thornax*. Rivers *Cenus*, *Gorgylus*. Battle of *Sellasia*.
- 350 *Carystus*, *Pentelophi*, *Onogli*, *Stathmi*, *Cenus*, *Denthiades*. Temple of *Jupiter Pythæus* on Mount *Thornax*. *Poliasium*.

SUPPLEMENT TO TRAVELS IN THE MOREA,

VOL. III.

- 354 Ancient treasury near *Vafió*. River *Takhúrti*.
- 356 The Homeric cities of *Laconia*. *Messe* (at *Mistrá*). Mountains *Taletum* and *Evoras*. *Eleusinium*, *Derrhium*, *Harpleia*.
- 361 North-eastern *Laconia*. *Geronthræ*, *Marius*, *Glympia*, *Selinus*, *Polichna*.

CONTENTS.

XV

PAGE	
366	<i>Tripolitis</i> of <i>Laconia</i> . <i>Carystus</i> , <i>Belemina</i> , <i>Pellana</i> . 2. River <i>Carnion</i> .
367	<i>Inert Plain</i> . Roads <i>Prinus</i> , <i>Climax</i> . Grove of <i>Ceres</i> on Mount <i>Alesius</i> . <i>Melangeia</i> , <i>Nestane</i> , <i>Field of Mæra</i> , Fountain <i>Arne</i> . Road <i>Xenis</i> . Monuments of the <i>Peliades</i> and <i>Phæzi</i> . Monument and pass of <i>Areithous</i> . Retired vale of the <i>Mantinnice</i> mentioned by <i>Xenophon</i> .
377	The <i>Mantinic Comæ</i> . <i>Mæra</i> , <i>Elymia</i> .
380	River <i>Ophis</i> .
381	<i>Ptolis</i> or old <i>Mantineia</i> .
383	1. <i>Katavóthra</i> near <i>Kakúri</i> . 2. Rivers and <i>katavóthra</i> near <i>Skotini</i> . 3. Fountain, river, and lake of <i>Stymphalus</i> .
384	<i>Zerethra</i> and lake of <i>Pheneus</i> . Inundations of the <i>Pheneatice</i> .
387	1. <i>Arcadian zerethra</i> . 2. Fountain on Mount <i>Khelmós</i> . 3. <i>Bura</i> , <i>Ceryneia</i> . Cavern of <i>Hercules Buraicus</i> .
389	Effects of the rivers on the maritime country of <i>Achaia</i> .
390	<i>Pellene</i> , <i>Mysæum</i> , <i>Cyrus</i> .
391	River <i>Langeia</i> , now <i>Longo</i> .
392	Height of the <i>Acro-Corinthus</i> .
393	1. Amphitheatre of <i>Corinth</i> . 2. Temple of <i>Apollo</i> at <i>Corinth</i> .
395	Hellenic walls across the <i>Isthmus</i> . <i>Posidonium</i> . Theatre, and stadium.
397	<i>Crommyon</i> , <i>Sidus</i> .
398	1. <i>Solygeia</i> , <i>Rheitus</i> . 2. Temple of <i>Juno Acræa</i> , <i>Peiræum</i> , <i>Ænoe</i> .
400	Teneatic gate of <i>Acro-Corinthus</i> , temple of <i>Lucina</i> . <i>Tenca</i> .
401	<i>Buphia</i> or <i>Phæbia</i> , <i>Tricarana</i> , <i>Thyamia</i> .
402	<i>Titane</i> .
403	River of <i>Pellene</i> . <i>Olurus</i> , <i>Donusa</i> , <i>Aristonautæ</i> . River <i>Sys</i> or <i>Sythas</i> .
405	Mount <i>Chelydorea</i> . <i>Phelloe</i> and its river.
406	1. River <i>Erasinus</i> in the <i>Buraice</i> . 2. Fortress of <i>Minerva</i> . Port <i>Erimeus</i> .
408	<i>Rhypes</i> .