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William Martin Leake

Excerpt

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TRAVELS  
IN  
NORTHERN GREECE.

THIRD JOURNEY.

CHAPTER XXII.

EPIRUS, LEUCAS, ITHACA, CEPHALLENIA.

Departure from Corfú—Capes *Leucimæ*, *Amphipagus*—Islands *Sybota*—Arpítza, *Chimerium*—Parga, *Toryne*—Ai Iánni, *Buchætium*—Porto Fanári, *Glycys Limen*, or *Elæa*—Elía—Riniássa—Agriapidhiá—Amaxíkhí in Lefkádhá—Kaligóni, *Leucas*—*Dioryctus*—Meganisí—Kálamo—Gulf of Molo in *Ithaca*—Mount *Neritum*—Skhino, Dhexiá, Vathý—*Echinades*—Aetó—Anoí—Oxoí—Polis—Mount *Neium*, *Rheithrum*—*Alcomenæ*—*Ægilips*—*Crocyleia*—*Dulichium*—*Oxeiæ* or *Thoæ*—Frikes—Kióni—Port Lía—Fountain *Arethusa* and rock *Corax*—Samo in Kefalonía, *Same*—*Siege of Same* by *Fulvius*—Puláta—Farakláta—Argostóli—Kraniá, *Cranii*—Lixúri, *Pale*—Population and productions of Kefalonía—*Proni*, *Assus*, *Atella*, *Taphus*, *Heraclia*, *Erissus*, *Panormus*.

CORFU, 9th September, 1806.—Having engaged a vessel to carry me through the *Ægean* to Mount *Athos*, we set sail this evening from the

port of Kastrádhēs, *Italicè* Castrai. The vessel is of 55 tons, and one of those called by the Venetians Manzera, carrying square or latine sails, according to the state of the weather. The captain refused to put to sea on a Tuesday until the sun was down, that day being considered unlucky by all classes of Greeks: nor would he consent to sail in the daytime, as he feared the effects of the *μαρίασμα*, or *cattivo occhio*, of those who may envy him for the beauty of his vessel.

Sept. 10.—From the low sandy point of Léf-kimo in Corfú, the ancient Leucimne, or Leucimme, to Cavo Bianco, probably the Amphipagus of Ptolemy, the coast of Corfú has a N. and S. direction for 6 or 7 miles, nearly parallel to that of Epirus, and thus forms the southern entrance of the channel of Corfú: the breadth is five miles, but is narrowed to four between Cape Bianco and the islands which preserve their ancient name Sybota, by extensive shallows adjoining the former Cape. Similar shoals encircle Cape Léf-kimo, but as they stretch chiefly to the northward, and the channel is here wider, they are not so inconvenient to navigation as the former. There is a sheltered bay between the two principal Sývota, and another between the inner island and the main. In the latter I anchored in a Russian brig of war in May last. The adjacent district on the continent is named Vrakhaná, and consists of several dispersed hamlets, among which, on the shore opposite to the inner island of the Sývota, are two towers belonging to Murtzo, an Albanian chief. These occupy apparently the site of the place which Thucy-

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XXII.]

EPIRUS.

3

dides calls “the continental Sybota<sup>1</sup>,” and where, after the second naval action between the Corcyraei and Corinthians, in the year before the beginning of the Peloponnesian War, the Corinthians erected a trophy, while the Corcyraei, who equally claimed the victory, set up their trophy “at the insular Sybota<sup>2</sup> :” whence it would seem that there were villages of that name on either side of the inner strait or harbour. Midway between the outer Sývota and Parga is Cape Varlám, commonly called Formajo by the seamen of Italy and the Seven Islands. Immediately north of it, is a retirement of the coast with a sandy beach, above which are cultivated slopes round some dispersed hamlets, all known by the name of Arpítza. Near the shore are the remains of a Hellenic fortification now called Erimókastro.

Parga, and the heights behind it, covered with olive groves and gardens, have a very pleasing appearance from the sea. The town is situated on the steep side of a conical rock, which divides a small recess of the coast into two bays, both exposed to the Garbino, and consequently dangerous in winter, except for small boats, which may shelter close under the town, or behind some rocks on the southern side of the southern port. The ridge which connects the promontory with the neighbouring mountain and separates the two ports, is covered with a street of houses, and there is another on the beach of the southern port. On the rock

<sup>1</sup> τροπαῖον ἔστησαν ἐν τοῖς      <sup>2</sup> ἀντέστησαν ἐν τοῖς ἐν τῇ  
ἐν τῇ ἠπειρῷ Συβότοις.—Thu-      νήσῳ Συβότοις.  
cyd. l. 1, c. 54.

stands a fortress, in which resides the Bey sent from Constantinople to receive the tribute; the place being governed in the same manner as Préviza <sup>1</sup>.

About six miles to the south-eastward of Parga is the entrance of Splantza, or the harbour of Fanári, the ancient Glycys Limen, into which the *Acheron* discharges itself. The intermediate coast has a direction first due east, and then south; exactly in the angle is Ai Iánni, or St. John, which is the best harbour in this part of the coast. Porto Fanári is small and shallow, and therefore frequented only by small vessels, which load the corn and kalambókki of the plain of Fanári. The port is easily known by an interval of low coast between steep hills, and by a remarkable precipice on one side of the entrance. As at *Buthrotum*, the water of this bay is rendered almost sweet by the great river which is discharged into it; whence the ancient name Glycys Limen. Suli is a conspicuous object rising behind this part of the coast; on the heights a little to the southward of Porto Fanári is the village of Klaréntza, and below it a small harbour and some magazines for the sardéles, which are caught in great plenty, in and near Porto Fanári. The coast is steep but well cultivated as far as Cape Agriapidhiá, the heights above which are seen from Corfú.

There is no situation between Porto Fanári and the port *Comarus* of *Nicopolis*, now Mýtika, indicating any great probability of an ancient site: I am informed, however, that some Hellenic remains exist

<sup>1</sup> See Vol. I. p. 177.

at Klaréntza. The most conspicuous object is the castle of Riniássa<sup>1</sup>, situated at the foot of a maritime ridge, which is separated by some elevated valleys from the range extending from Zálongo towards Suli. Two miles to the north of it is a small harbour named Elía.

Some difficulty occurs in adjusting the ancient names on the coast between the channel of *Corcyra* and *Nicopolis*. Arpítza I believe to be the place named *Chimerium*, where the Corinthians stationed their fleet, and established a camp on returning to the Epirote coast in the summer following their defeat by the Corcyraei near Paxi<sup>2</sup>, at the same time that they formed another camp at Actium for the protection of Leucas and their other allies in that quarter. The station of the Corcyraei was at Leucimne<sup>3</sup>; and in those positions the hostile forces remained the whole summer without coming to action. Previously to the second battle between the same two parties, which occurred three years after the first, *Chimerium* was again the station of the Corinthian fleet, while that of the Corcyraei was at Sybota. On this occasion, Thucydides describes Chimerium as a cape and harbour on the Epirote coast, between the rivers

<sup>1</sup> Ῥηνιάσσα.

<sup>2</sup> In the year B.C. 435, Thucyd. l. 1, c. 29, et seq. The historian does not exactly state where this battle took place, but the Corinthians who were in their route to Epidamnus had met the herald of the Corcyraei off Actium, and the latter, after the battle, planted their trophy

on Cape Leucimne or Leucimne. The action, therefore, occurred probably between Paxú and Cape Varlám.

<sup>3</sup> ἔστρατοπεδεύοντο ἐπὶ Ἀκτίῳ καὶ περὶ τὸ Χειμέριον τῆς Θεσπρωτίδος . . . . ἄντεστρατοπεδεύοντο δὲ καὶ οἱ Κερκυραῖοι ἐπὶ τῇ Λευκίμμῃ νασί τε καὶ πεζῶ.—Thucyd. l. 1, c. 30.

Acheron and Thyamis<sup>1</sup>. We find, accordingly, that Cape Varlám is about midway between the mouths of those two rivers, and that the bay of Arpítza, being exactly opposite to Cape Bianco, was peculiarly well placed to observe the entrance of the channel of Corfú, and to prevent an enemy stationed at Léfkiμo from sailing out of it unobserved. The historian does not, indeed, refer to Chimerium as a fortress, but seems to describe it as a harbour dependent upon Ephyre. But I have frequently had occasion to observe, that places noticed only in history as mountains, harbours, or promontories, are proved by existing ruins to have been also fortresses: and in the present instance, the words of Pausanias and Stephanus afford some presumption that Chimerium was more than a mere cape or harbour<sup>2</sup>. If the remark of Pausanias were verified, who states that fresh water, similar to that of the Deine on the coast of Argolis<sup>3</sup>, rose in the sea near Chimerium,

<sup>1</sup> ἀπὸ Λευκάδος πλέοντες, ὁρμίζονται εἰς Χειμέριον τῆς Θεσπρωτίδος γῆς. ἔστι δὲ λιμὴν, καὶ πόλις ὑπὲρ αὐτοῦ κεῖται ἀπὸ θαλάσσης, ἐν τῇ Ἐλαιάτιδι (al. Ἐλειάτιδι) τῆς Θεσπρωτίδος, Ἐφύρη· ἔξεισι δὲ παρ' αὐτὴν Ἀχερουσία λίμνη εἰς τὴν θάλασσαν· διὰ δὲ τῆς Θεσπρωτίδος Ἀχέρων ποταμὸς βέων ἐσβάλλει εἰς αὐτὴν, ἅψ' οὐ καὶ τὴν ἐπωνυμίαν ἔχει· βεῖ δὲ καὶ Θύαμις ποταμὸς ὀρίζων τὴν Θεσπρωτίδα καὶ Κεστρίνην, ὧν ἐντὸς ἡ ἄκρα ἀνέχει τὸ Χειμέριον· οἱ

μὲν οὖν Κορίνθιοι τῆς ἠπείρου ἐνταῦθα ὁρμίζονται τε καὶ στρατόπεδον ἐποιήσαντο.—Thucyd. l. 1, c. 46.

<sup>2</sup> γλυκὺ δὲ ὕδωρ ἐκ θαλάσσης δῆλόν ἐστιν ἐνταῦθά τε ἀνὼν ἐν τῇ Ἀργολίδι καὶ ἐν τῇ Θεσπρωτίδι κατὰ τὸ Χειμέριον καλούμενον.—Pausan. Arcad. c. 7. Χειμέριον, ἄκρα Θεσπρωτίας. Τὸ ἔθνηκόν, Χειμεριεύς.—Stephan. in voce.

<sup>3</sup> For the Deine, see *Travels in the Morea*, vol. ii. p. 480.

there would remain no doubt on the subject. As to the mention of Ephyre by Thucydides in connection with Chimerium, it can only be reconciled with the situation which I have attributed to the latter, by supposing Thucydides to have employed the word *ὑπὲρ* in its widest sense, and merely for the purpose of introducing a notice of the rivers Acheron and Thyamis, and of the position of Chimerium between them, for the historian himself, compared with Strabo, leaves no doubt that Ephyre, afterwards named Cichyrus, stood not far above the discharge of the Acherusia and Acheron into the *Glycys Limen*<sup>1</sup>, which is twelve or fourteen miles distant from Cape Varlám. But it is obvious that no cape near Port Fanári, nor any other position, such as Parga if we might suppose that place to have been the ancient Chimerium, can be so well adapted to the circumstances related by Thucydides as the harbour of Arpítza and Cape Varlám.

<sup>1</sup> Εἰσὶ δὲ νησίδες τὰ Σύβοτα, τῆς μὲν Ἠπείρου μικρὸν ἀπέχουσαι, κατὰ δὲ τὸ ἔϋρον ἄκρον τῆς Κορκυραίας, τὴν Λευκίμνην, κείμεναι. Καὶ ἄλλαι δ' ἐν τῷ παράπλῳ νησίδες εἰσὶν οὐκ ἄξια μνήμης. Ἐπειτα ἄκρα Χειμέριον καὶ Γλυκὺς λιμὴν εἰς ὃν ἐμβάλλει ὁ Ἀχέρων ποταμὸς, ῥέων ἐκ τῆς Ἀχερουσίας λίμνης, καὶ δεχόμενος πλείους ποταμοὺς ὥστε καὶ γλυκαίνειν τὸν κόλπον· ῥεῖ δὲ καὶ ὁ Θύαμις πλησίον. Ὑπέρεκται δὲ τούτου μὲν τοῦ κόλ-

που Κίχυρος ἢ πρότερον Ἐφύρα, πόλις Θεσπρωτῶν· τοῦ δὲ κατὰ Βουθρωτῶν ἢ Φοινίκη. Ἐγγυὲς δὲ τῆς Κιχύρου πολίχμιον Βουχαίτιον Κασσωπαίων, μικρὸν ὑπὲρ τῆς θαλάττης ὄν.—Strabo, p. 324. It is easy to perceive that Strabo has borrowed his information, in this passage, from others; in placing the Thyamis near the Glycys Limen, he follows probably the negligent expression of Thucydides.

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Parga, I am inclined to believe, was the ancient Toryne, which Octavianus, coming from the Ionian sea, occupied with his fleet, and from whence he proceeded to offer battle to Antonius at the entrance of the strait of Actium. Ptolemy, indeed, may be thought to leave some doubt whether *Toryne*, or *Torone* as he writes it, was at Parga, or at Port St. John, as he names only the following places, and in this order: "the mouth of the Thyamis, Sybota, Torone, the mouth of the Acheron, Port Elæa, Nicopolis;" whence it may be said that St. John being a safer and more capacious harbour than that of Parga, will correspond better to *Toryne*. St. John lies however in an angle of the coast, not very easily entered or quitted by a fleet, and was not so convenient for the purpose of Octavianus as Parga. It was more probably the harbour of *Buchætium*<sup>1</sup>, a town described by Strabo as situated at a small distance from the sea, and not far from Cichyrus or Ephyre, the remains of which city still exist at a ruined monastery on the right bank of the Vuvó or *Cocytus*, at an equal distance from Porto Fanári and from the harbour of St. John, and not more than two hours from either.

Elía, the name of the small harbour between

<sup>1</sup> The Buchetii were skilful fishermen, but not even a Buchetian could catch a hyca.

Ἐξ ἀλῶς οὐδ' ἕκην ἀνέρα Βουχέτιον

Ἐλκειν.

Fragm. Callimach. ap. Etymol. Mag. voce Βούχεται.

On the difficulty of catching the hyca, see Hermippus and Philetas ap. Athen. l. 6, c. 22.



Klaréntza and Riniássa, seems to show that the *Elæa*, which Ptolemy places on this coast, between the mouth of the Acheron and Nicopolis, was there situated. On the other hand, Thucydides, by describing the Eleatis as the district where the Acherusia discharged itself into the sea, affords strong reason for believing that the reading of Scylax is correct, which represents the port Glycys to have been also called Elea<sup>1</sup>, and that as no Thesprotian city of this name is noticed by any ancient author, the harbour was named Elea, and the surrounding district Eleatis, from the marshy nature of the neighbouring country, which, as it affects even the water of the harbour, was the more likely to attach that name to it. It may not have been until long after the time of Thucydides and Scylax, that for Elea was substituted the still more descriptive Glycys Limen, as the name of the harbour. It must be confessed, however, that the modern name, *Elía*, together with the words of Ptolemy, which represent the mouth of the Acheron and the harbour of *Elæa* as distinct places, are adverse to this conclusion, and that the question is rather doubtful.

The maestrale, which at this season seldom sets in till the afternoon, falls about sunset, and we are

<sup>1</sup> Μετὰ δὲ Χαονίαν Θεσπρωτοί εἰσιν ἔθνος . . . ἔστι δὲ αὐτῇ ἐνλίμενος· ἐνταῦθα ἐστὶ λιμὴν ᾧ ὄνομα Ἐλεῖδ (Ἐλεία)· εἰς τοῦτον τὸν λιμένα ποταμὸς ἐξίησιν Ἀχέρων καὶ λίμνη Ἀχερουσία, ἐξ ἧς ὁ Ἀχέρων ῥεῖ ποταμὸς.—Scylax in Θεσπρωτοί.

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becalmed till midnight, when begins the usual gulf wind from Prévryza, which carries us to the northern promontory of Lefkádha at nine in the forenoon of Sept. 11.—From this precipitous cape the coast runs south-westward as far as Cape Dukáto, consisting, without intermission, of the same description of bold cliffs, of which the celebrated *Leucate* forms the still more remarkable termination. At the northern cape the coast makes a sudden curve to the eastward, and a sandy beach begins, from which, midway towards Amaxíkhi, branches the low promontory of Plaka. This spit of sand makes an angle to the north-west, and then retires in the opposite direction until at a short distance from the coast of Xerómero it assumes a direction parallel to that shore, forming the northern entrance of the lagoons, which separate the island of *Leucas* from *Acarmania*. The fortress of Aghía Mavra stands exactly at the re-entering angle of the promontory, where the strait is narrowest, and covers the whole breadth of the Plaka. It is now occupied by a Russian garrison of 500 men. We land at the foot of the walls, and after answering a few questions from the fort, proceed to the Sanitá in the town, walking along the narrow summit of an aqueduct which crosses the lagoon and conveys water to the fort. It is supported by about 260 arches, and is 1300 yards in length.