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Travels in the Morea

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. After his retirement in 1815, he devoted the rest of his life to topographical and classical studies. These volumes, first published in 1830, contain Leake's authoritative topographical survey of the Peloponnese. Written in the form of a travelogue describing two journeys Leake undertook in the Peloponnese in 1805 and 1806, these volumes provide detailed descriptions of the ancient archaeological sites and the historical geography of the region. Leake was the first scholar to identify many ancient sites in the Peloponnese, and his precise observations led to these volumes becoming authoritative for the classical archaeological sites of the region. Volume 1 recounts his first journey of 1805.

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Travels in the Morea

VOLUME 1

WILLIAM MARTIN LEAKE



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IN
THE MOREA.
—
VOL. I.

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TRAVELS
IN
THE MOREA.

WITH
A MAP AND PLANS.

BY
WILLIAM MARTIN LEAKE,
F.R.S. ETC.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

MDCCCXXX.

PREFACE.

THE very limited success of the principal works descriptive of Greece, which have lately been published, shew how difficult it is to render travels in that country agreeable to the general reader, and may serve in part to explain the long delay which has occurred in the publication of the present volumes. The new condition of the Peloponnesus will equally account for their being now submitted to the public. Greece, in fact, abstracted from its ancient history, has, until very recently, been no more than the thinly peopled province of a semi-barbarous empire, presenting the usual results of Ottoman bigotry and despotism, relieved only by the occasional resistance of particular districts to their rapacious governors, or of armed bandits to the established authority. It was almost entirely by connexion with ancient history that Greece, or its inhabitants, or even its natural productions, could long detain the traveller by furnish-

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ing matter of interest to his inquiries, whence arises a continual reference to the Greek and Roman authors, and a frequent necessity for citing even their words, which gives to travels in Greece a *learned aspect*, by no means calculated to obtain for them that success which is indicated by an extensive circulation, more especially as the demand for such works on the continent of Europe is speedily supplied by translations, published at a much smaller expense than is possible in England.

When the journeys were undertaken, of which the following pages contain a diary, the Peloponnesus had been very little explored, and no description of it had been made public, except those by Wheler and Chandler, of some small portions adjacent to the sea coast. The real topography of the interior was unknown, and the map of ancient Greece was formed only by inference from its historians and geographers, although, having been densely populated, divided into numerous small states, and in a high state of improvement in the arts of peace and war, it is, above all others, the country which particularly requires a minute geographical examination for the elucidation of its literature, or, in other words, a map upon a large scale, formed from actual surveys. The delineation of the Peloponnesus, which accompanies the present volumes, is

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very far from attaining these requisites: nevertheless, it is the result of more than fifteen hundred measurements with the sextant and theodolite, made from every important geodæsic station, which circumstances would admit of my employing, corrected or confirmed by a few good observations of latitude. The coast line has been adopted from the nautical surveys executed under the orders of the Admiralty by Captains Smyth and Copeland, of the Royal Navy, as far as their surveys extended. The unsurveyed coast, which comprehends the entire Argolic Gulf northward of Cape Iéraka, together with the Straits of Petza and Ydhra, will undoubtedly require considerable correction.

The reader will not be long in discovering, that the critical remarks on ancient history or geography which occur in the following pages, are not taken from the Author's manuscript journal exactly in the form in which they are now submitted to the public. The itinerary itself has received only such emendations as a compressed diary requires, to be intelligible; but the commentaries just alluded to, although their basis was laid in the form of notes in the journeys described, and by confronting the text of the ancient authors with the actual locality to which they relate, have been amplified and brought

into their present form at the Author's leisure. In defence of the frequent occurrence of translated extracts it may be remarked, that in general such extracts afford the most perspicuous and even the shortest mode of resolving the questions which arise out of the authority cited; and that of the two authors most frequently quoted, namely, Strabo and Pausanias, there exists no translation in the English language of the former, and of the latter only one, which scarcely deserves the name.

Although the description of the ancient cities of Peloponnesus, which I have extracted in an abridged form from Pausanias, relate in some instances to places, of which not a vestige now remains to illustrate the Greek topographer, I have nevertheless introduced them all, because, by the addition of a few pages, the present work is thus rendered more complete, and because the reader is thus enabled to compare every part of Peloponnesus as Pausanias found it, with the view which it presented to the follower of his steps, after an interval of sixteen centuries. I am, moreover, much inclined to believe, that the descriptions which the ancient traveller has given of the cities of Greece—of their distribution, mode of decoration, monuments, and productions of art, would, if better known, be useful to the cultivators of the

fine arts in general; that they might have a tendency to assist the public discrimination on these subjects; and that they are particularly worthy of the attention of those upon whom depends the erection of monuments and public works of every kind, in regard to which few persons will be so hardy as to assert, that the good taste of this nation has kept pace with its wealth and expenditure.

Every person who has frequent occasion to write the proper names of a foreign language, which has a written character different from his own, finds the necessity of attempting some uniform mode of representing the foreign sounds. To effect this object completely or consistently, is very difficult. The surest method is to write every name in both characters, by which the reader is furnished with the means of correction, and is quickly habituated to the author's method. Although I have been guided by this principle in the following Work, I have not thought it necessary on all occasions to write the modern name in Greek characters, because the resemblance between the Greek alphabet and our own, arising from the original affinity of Hellenic and Latin, is so great, that all the modern Greek vowel sounds may be correctly represented by the corresponding Italian vowels;

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the diphthongs in modern Greek being all either resolved into simple vowel sounds, or into syllables : thus, ϵ and $αι$ have both the sound of the Italian e ,—and η , ι , $\epsilon\iota$, $ο\iota$, $\upsilon\iota$, have all the sound of the Italian i ,— $αυ$ is av , and $ευ$, $εφ$ in Italian. By this mode, therefore, of representing the vowel sounds, by employing a few particular forms to express the sounds of some of the consonants which are either peculiar to Greek, or are pronounced differently from their corresponding letters in the other alphabets of Europe, and by noting the accent where it is necessary, modern Greek words may be written in the Roman character so as to render their correct pronunciation easy to any person ignorant of the Greek alphabet. The anomalous consonant sounds I have represented as follows. B by V , such being invariably its sound in modern Greek. Γ by Gh ; but as the guttural sound of γ is much more remarkable before the slender than the hard vowels, I have confined the use of the gh to the former. Δ , which is sounded by the Greeks like our th in *thus*, by dh . Θ , which is our th in *think*, by th . As K after Γ or N has the sound of G ; Π after M that of B ; and T after N that of D , I have represented them accordingly. In many names of non-Hellenic origin, there occurs a sound which seems, like many other corruptions of language, to have

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been introduced about the same period of time into Greece and Italy; it is that of the English *ch*, or Italian *c* before the slender vowels, equivalent to the English *ch*, and German *tsch*. It is represented in modern Greek by *Tz*, a combination of letters unknown to the ancients. I have expressed the sound by *Tj*; but as it is rather a foreign innovation than congenial to the Greek tongue, I have only indicated it in the names where it is particularly remarkable, and have generally represented *Tz* by *Tz*, which in truth is the politer utterance of that combination even in words or forms, which have evidently been borrowed from the Slavonic, as for instance in the *χαϊδευτικά*, or diminutive terminations in *ιτζι*, *ιτζα*. In like manner *σσ* or *σ* before *ι* is very commonly pronounced, especially in names of places, like *sh* in English, but this also appears to be a rustic rather than the true pronunciation, for which reason I have not thought necessary often to notice it in writing the modern Greek names in our own characters.

As accent is an important guide in reading foreign languages, without which no stranger, however familiar he may be with the elements of a language, can know whether he is right in the utterance of words of two syllables and upwards, I have placed the ac-

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cent on all modern Greek words, written in the Roman character, which require that distinction, omitting it when not required, on the ground that all unnecessary distinctions in typography tend only to multiply errors. Thus I have not accented monosyllables, nor even disyllables, unless when the accent is on the last syllable; and I have always used the Greek acute, because, although modern orthography employs all the three ancient accents, it makes no distinction in their power.

The choice of difficulties which presents itself in every endeavour to represent the names of one language, by means of the alphabet of another, is particularly shewn by the example of the Romans, who, notwithstanding the connexion of their language with the Greek, seem never to have established any unvarying rule for rendering Greek names into Latin. Under these circumstances it may be permitted to a writer in any of the modern European languages, to adopt some uniform method for his guidance, even though he should occasionally employ a form not found in the Latin authors; provided always that it can be done without materially deviating from their practice; for it is obvious that the Latin method of writing Greek names is the most proper for all nations using the Latin alphabet, and that to attempt any systematic change in the me-

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thod of the Romans, would be an useless pedantry, and a defiance of established custom, leading to endless inconsistencies, as some recent examples demonstrate. I have thought it better to yield to custom in regard to the most common words, such as Athens, Thebes, Corinth, Athenian, Argive, Spartan, Alexander, Philip, but have adhered to the Latin terminations in the subordinate places, or territorial divisions, or gentile adjectives, as in the instance of Tegeatæ, Phigalenses, Cynurii, Sciritæ. In general I have reduced the Greek termination to the corresponding Latin letters, without inquiring whether that exact form is to be found in the Latin authors, who undoubtedly were, like ourselves, generally guided in this respect by the ear. The representation of the diphthong *ei* by *ei*, seems to be an improvement upon the common practice of the Romans, and is now so often adopted by English writers as hardly to need any apology. It should be observed, however, that no great precision on this point is attainable, *ei* and *i* having been used indifferently in the later ages of Greece, not only in a great number of Greek proper names, but even in other words. The termination *ov* neuter I have rendered by *um*, *os* masculine or feminine by *us*, *os* neuter by *os*, ω always by *o*.

The *Italic print*, by which ancient names are occasionally distinguished in these volumes, has been employed for the purpose of obviating the ambiguity which might sometimes arise without such a distinction, when ancient and modern names are blended together in the same passage. It is intended only to remind the reader at a glance, that the name in *Italics* is no longer in use, and that it belongs only to the ancient geography of Greece.

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The Plates are to be arranged at the *end* of each Volume, in the order marked in the corner of the Plates.

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