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Robert Walpole (1781–1856), great-nephew and namesake of Britain's first prime minister, was a classical scholar and clergyman. After graduating from Trinity College, Cambridge, he visited Greece and the Middle East. This work, first published in 1817 and reissued here in its second edition of 1818, consists of extracts from the unpublished papers of J. B. S. Morritt, John Sibthorp, Philip Hunt, J. D. Carlyle and other travellers, with descriptions of antiquities, and notes by the editor. The topics vary considerably and reflect the wide interests of contemporary educated and travelled men at a time when many were extending their Grand Tour to the Eastern Mediterranean. They include discussions of the weakness of the Turkish government, observations on natural history, accounts of Greek Orthodox monastic libraries including those of Mount Athos, and descriptions of Greek pottery and archaeological excavations. The book remains a rich source for scholars from a wide range of disciplines.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04402-8 - Memoirs Relating to European and Asiatic Turkey: And Other Countries of the East

Robert Walpole

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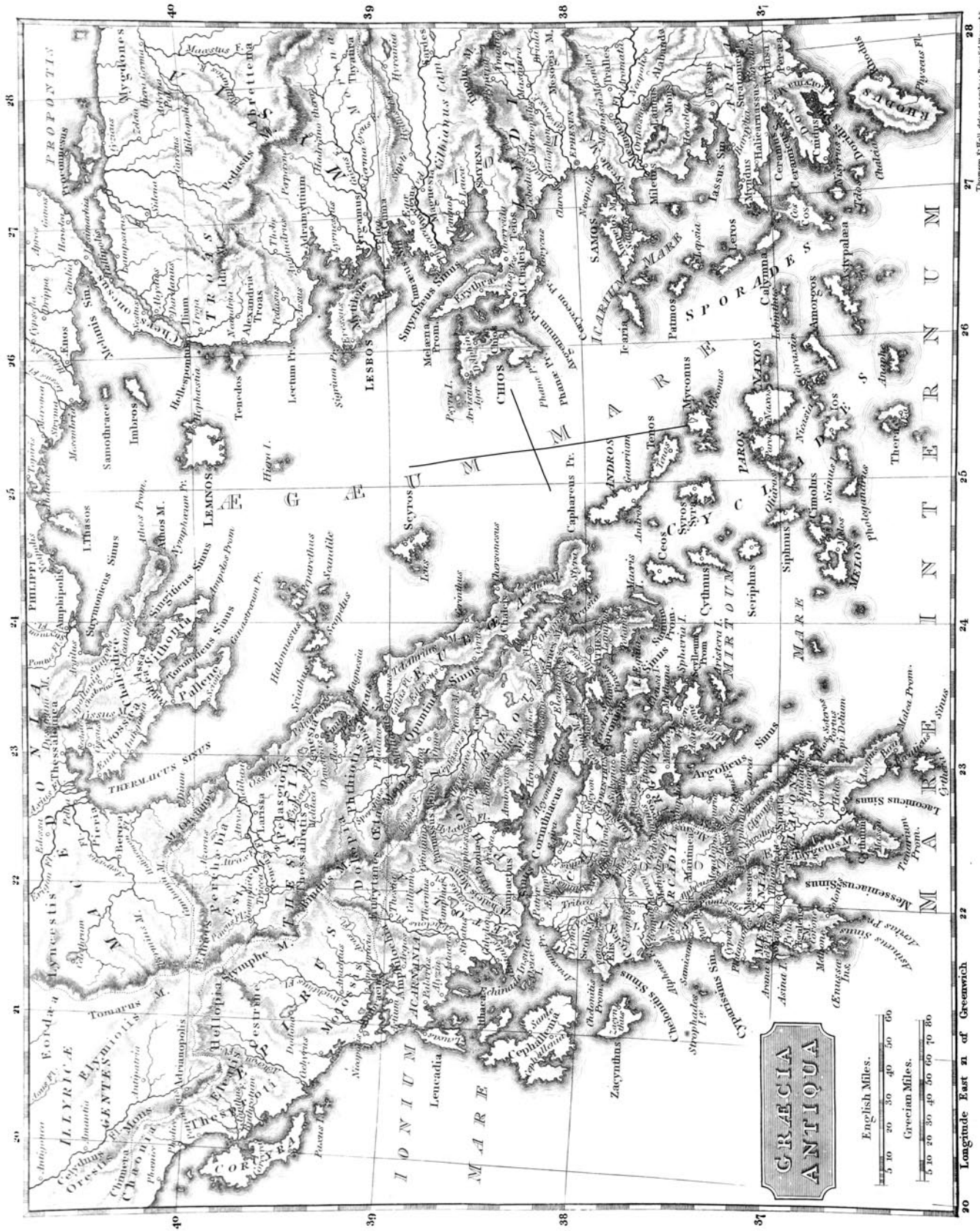
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MEMOIRS
RELATING TO
EUROPEAN AND ASIATIC
TURKEY,
AND
OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE EAST;

EDITED FROM MANUSCRIPT JOURNALS,

BY

ROBERT WALPOLE, M. A.

THE SECOND EDITION.



Evaus del et sculp'

ΛΗΚΥΟΟΣ

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PREFACE.

THE information derived from those who visit various provinces of the Turkish empire is of a very different nature from that which is collected in travelling through parts of civilised Europe. In the former case, we not only become acquainted with a people whose habits, institutions, religion, policy, and usages, are entirely opposite to those which we find in Christian Europe; but from researches connected with the geography and natural history of these countries we are able to explain many passages of the sacred writers, as well as of other ancient authors; the customs * also and modes of life which

* Travellers who have visited parts of Syria and Egypt make frequent mention of customs and habits of life similar to those which prevailed in the time of the writers of the Old and New Testament; but no one, before Captain Light, ever pointed out a singular opinion still existing in the East, and which was common in Palestine 1800 years ago, respecting the use of saliva in certain diseases of the body. See the account in this volume, p. 421., of the person at Ibrim in Nubia applying for a cure of the head-ache; and of the woman at Hermonthis in Egypt, who requested C. Light to spit on her eyes. “How far spittle was accounted wholesome for weak eyes,” says Lightfoot, in his Hebrew and Talmudical exercitations on John ix., “we may learn from the following tale relating to R. Meir.” We shall extract a part of it. “Is there ever a woman, said Rabbi Meir, among you, skilled in muttering charms over eyes? the woman said, R. I am not skilled; however, saith he, do thou spit seven times on my eyes, and I shall be healed.” See Mark viii. 23. and vii. 33.

The passage from Capt. Light’s Journal should be inserted in any future edition of Harmer.

still prevail in Syria and Egypt, afford occasionally excellent illustrations of the Holy Scriptures ; and coins, vases, inscriptions, throw light on the state of the arts among the Greeks, on different parts of their history ; and on the palæography and dialects of their language.

But no person is qualified to pay equal attention to the various subjects which present themselves to his notice, in a journey through European and Asiatic Turkey ; and any acquaintance with the geography, natural history, statistics, and antiquities of these countries is often obtained with great difficulty, even by those who are best prepared to direct their attention to such pursuits.

A selection, therefore, from the journals of different travellers, may be the means of bringing together in a single volume a greater variety of information than we can expect to find in the work of any individual.

Although the publications of our countrymen, as well as of others who have recently visited the Levant, have added many valuable materials to those which we before possessed, relating to different parts of the Turkish empire, yet the field of enquiry is so wide, that much remains still to engage the notice and attention of future travellers. Our knowledge of these countries is necessarily acquired by slow degrees ; various circumstances occasionally interrupt the researches of those who explore them ; some provinces, in consequence of the want of an able and efficient system of government, are exposed to the incursions of robbers and wandering tribes ; through these the traveller is obliged to pass in haste ; at other times, sickness, arising from the heat of the climate or from the season of the year, impedes his progress. The want of ready communication with the inhabitants, together with the ignorance and jealousy so frequently displayed by them, are obstacles to his acquiring the information which he seeks. To these, we must add the dangers he incurs in exploring the more uncivilised districts of the empire.

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While, therefore, we are thus prevented from obtaining a more complete knowledge of these countries, it is hoped that an attempt to supply the deficiencies of it, according to the plan adopted in the present work, will be favourably received.

The observations of those whose papers are now published for the first time, are communicated either in the form of journals and letters, or detached essays. There are advantages attending each of these separate modes; in the former, the remarks of the traveller are given as they presented themselves to his mind on the spot, without any unnecessary amplification or expansion; and in adopting the latter method, the writer by subsequent reading and enquiry is able to bestow more attention on the subject than is consistent with the form of a mere narrative or journal.

There are, indeed, many subjects which have not been sufficiently illustrated, either in the present work, or in those already published, relating to the Turkish empire. Yet every information of an original kind, and drawn from authentic sources, is of importance; and if those Europeans who are settled in the great cities of the East would note down carefully their remarks, and institute enquiries on various subjects, we should soon be in possession of many new documents. A residence on the spot affords excellent opportunities for acquiring or correcting information. Materials for the valuable work of Dr. Russell were prepared in this manner; and during the twelve years which were passed by D'Arvieux in the Levant, he collected a greater number of facts respecting the Turks, their manners and customs, than Europeans in general have been able to acquire. There are many objects of research which the transient traveller, however inquisitive, cannot investigate fully; these may fall more properly under the observation of those who are resident in the country.

It is to be regretted that a plan suggested by the Editor of Russell's Aleppo, in his preface to that work, has never yet been adopted.

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He proposes that a collection of books on astronomy, ancient geography, and natural history, together with a few instruments, should be placcd in each of the commercial settlements in the Levant; and that heads of enquiry under the form of queries should be adapted to the respective stations. There can be little doubt that a well-arranged plan of this nature would conduce materially to our knowledge of parts of Greece and Asia. It would stimulate enquiry, and direct usefully some portion of that time which might be spared by persons engaged in commercial pursuits, or by those who are resident as consuls in some of the cities of the East.

If this plan, or one similar to it, cannot be easily carried into effect, the Editor hopes, that at different intervals of time selections will be made, partly from the papers of those travellers, who, although they have been prevented by death from completing their labours, may have left behind them remarks too valuable to be forgotten; partly from the observations of others, who may have directed their enquiries to new subjects, or have examined less frequented districts of the Turkish empire. If the journals of these travellers should be judged by the authors of them too small to form separate publications, still they may properly find their place in a volume, which shall incorporate and connect them with the remarks of others relating to the same countries.

The Editor now proceeds to acknowledge the obligations which he has received from those gentlemen who have communicated to him the different papers and remarks which are published for the first time in the present volume.

An Account of a Journey through the District of Maina, in the Morea, p. 33.

THIS extract, from the papers of Mr. Morritt, relates to a part of Greece which has seldom been explored. Indeed an account so full

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and so detailed of the character and manners of the Mainots* is nowhere to be found. The district of the Peloponnesus occupied by them is the portion of it bordering on the Messenian and Laconian gulfs. The spirit of piracy and plunder which made them so long the terror of the Archipelago and neighbouring seas, appears to have been softened in some degree by commercial pursuits. A traveller in the early part of the seventeenth century thus describes them :

* The Mainots are called by Constantine Porphyrog. *κάστρου Μαΐνης οικήτορας*, de Ad. Imp. c. 50. On the eastern part of the country occupied by them they are joined by the Tzacones descended from the ancient Laconians, and inhabiting a district of the Morea between Nauplia and Epidaurus Limera. Many Doric forms are retained by the Tzacones in their language; some instances of which are given by Villoison. They say *ὄχθρῆ* for *ἐχθρῆ* (in Sappho we find *ὄρπετὸν* for *ἐρπετὸν*), *χάρκη* for *χάρτη*; (the Dorians said *ἄλλοκα* for *ἄλλοτε*), also *θουγάτηρ* and *ψουχά*. They use *νάυτα* and *προφήτα*, the Homeric nominative, instead of *νάυτης* and *προφήτης*. — See the Prolegom. ad Hom. xlix. and his MS. notes on Pindar, referred to by Schæfer, p. 96. in Greg. de D. and Leake's Researches, p. 200.

We learn from Mr. Hawkins, that the names of the villages of the Tzaccuniotes are Prasto, Castanitza, and Sitena; they have also a few hamlets or summer habitations under the name of Kalivia. All these belong to the province of Mistra, though they are situated in the Villaète of Agios Petros. Prasto, in respect to its Greek population, is nearly equal to Tripolizza, containing from 800 to 1000 houses. Except a few small plains on the sea-coast, the country of Tzaccunia is entirely mountainous, and of course it is not productive of corn, but supports very numerous flocks of goats and sheep. Cheese, therefore, is the principal object of exportation; and next to this, Prino Cocci, or scarlet grains, which are gathered from the Prinari or Quercus Ilex. The inhabitants are celebrated for their skill in draining ground, and in conducting water; and are preferred to all others in executing works of this kind in the Ionian islands. A considerable part of the whole population not finding employment at home migrate either periodically, at particular seasons of the year, or for a certain time. Many, for instance, visit Patras, where they are occupied in attending to the currant vineyards. About three hundred leave Tzaccunia every year for Zeitun near Thermopylæ, where they are employed during three months in the cultivation of the rice grounds. It is computed that about the same number are resident at Constantinople, most of whom follow the occupation of Baccalides (grocers and purveyors of victuals). The bread-sellers in that city are chiefly Armenians; but the hirelings whom they employ to grind the corn in horse-mills and to bake the bread are Tzaccuniotes.

“Agreste et ferox genus hominum lorica induti, arcum in manibus gestant, et nullius parent imperio; sed rapinis et latrociniis assueti obscuram ducunt vitam, Christiani nomine, sed reipsa barbari et exleges plane.” Cotovic, Itin. 61.

*Remarks added to the Journal of Mr. Morritt, illustrating Part of his Route through the ancient Messenia and Laconia: — from the Papers of the late Dr. Sibthorp, p. 60.**

“IN the year 1784, Professor Sibthorp projected his first tour into Greece, and engaged a draftsman of great excellence, Mr. F. Bauer, to be the companion of his expedition; they arrived in Crete in 1786. This island and many other parts of the Levant were examined by Dr. Sibthorp in that and the following year; and he was enabled to collect a large mass of documents respecting the birds, and fishes, and plants of those celebrated countries, and to satisfy many enquiries respecting the state of agriculture and medicine among the inhabitants of them.

“Dr. Sibthorp’s constitution had suffered much from the fatigues and exertions undergone by him during his journey into Greece; yet sensible how much was still wanting to perfect the undertaking which he had originally designed, he determined to devote himself to the further prosecution of it, namely the botanical investigation of Greece, and especially the determination of the plants mentioned by its classical authors.

“In 1794, he again set out for Turkey; and was joined at Constantinople by Mr. Hawkins, who had accompanied him during part of

* These remarks are published by the permission of Mr. Hawkins, to whom the Editor is also indebted for many communications, which are properly noticed, wherever they occur, in this work.

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his former tour. They visited the plain of Troy, the isles of Imbros and Lemnos, the peninsula of Athos, passed some time in Attica; proceeded on their journey to the Morea, where they spent two months, examining the most interesting parts of that province.

“ They reached Zante on the 29th of April, and there Dr. S. parted from the faithful companion of his journey, whom he was destined never to see again, but in whose friendship he safely confided in his last hours. Mr. H. returned to Greece; the Professor left Zante for Otranto; on the voyage he was detained by a contrary wind at Prevesa, and visiting the ruins of Nicopolis caught a severe cold, from which he never recovered. It seems to have proved the exciting cause of that disease, which had long been latent in the mesenteric and pulmonary glands, and which terminated in a consumption. He arrived in England in 1795, and died at Bath in 1796, in the 38th year of his age.

“ The posthumous benefits which Dr. S. has rendered to his beloved science are sufficient to rank him among its most illustrious patrons. By his will, dated 1796, he gives a freehold estate in Oxfordshire to the University of Oxford, for the purpose of first publishing his *Flora Græca*, in ten folio volumes, with 100 coloured plates in each, and a *Prodromus* of the same work, in octavo, without plates. His executors, the Hon. T. Wenman, J. Hawkins, and T. Platt, Esquires, were to appoint a sufficiently competent editor of these works, to whom the MSS. drawings and specimens were to be confided. They fixed upon the writer of the present article, who has now nearly completed the *Prodromus*, and the second volume of the *Flora*. In preparing the latter work, the final determination of the species, the distinctions of such as were new, and all critical remarks have fallen to his lot; he has also revised the references to *Dioscorides*, and with Mr. Hawkins's help, corrected the modern Greek names. When these publications are finished, the annual sum of 200l.

is to be paid to a professor of Rural Economy, and the remainder of the rents of the estate above mentioned is destined to purchase books for him.”*

Journey in Asia Minor : — from Parium to the Troad : — Ascent to the Summit of Ida : — the Salt Springs of Tousla : — the Ruins of Assos. — From the Papers of Dr. Hunt, p. 84.

IN this journey, Dr. Hunt was accompanied by the late Professor Carlyle. In their survey of the Troad, they were conducted by their guides to a part of the country which no traveller has yet visited. Of the magnificent ruins at Assos, there has been hitherto no published account; they are slightly mentioned in the *Voyage Pittoresque* of M. de Choiseul.

The Editor acknowledges his obligations to Shute Barrington, Lord Bishop of Durham, and to George Tomline, Lord Bishop of Lincoln, for the letters of the late Professor Carlyle, addressed to them from Constantinople and other parts of Turkey, p. 152.

Various and contradictory reports had been circulated at different times, respecting the contents of the library of the Seraglio. Toderini (T. 2. Letterat. Turches) was informed that it contained many volumes in the Oriental dialects, and some manuscripts of the Greek and Latin writers. In answer to the enquiries of the Abbé Sevin, it was said, that the MSS. had been burnt. Dositheus, in his *History of the Patriarchs of Jerusalem*, printed in 1715, mentions the library of the Greek emperors as still existing. The late Pro-

* The account in the text, relating to Dr. Sibthorp, is taken, by permission of Sir J. Smith, from a more enlarged memoir printed in Rees's *Cyclopædia*.

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fessor Carlyle was requested by Mr. Pitt and the Bishop of Lincoln to direct his attention particularly, during his residence at Constantinople, towards obtaining some satisfactory information on this subject; and one of his letters contains a very detailed and valuable statement, the result of his researches and personal enquiries.

The accuracy of the account given by Mr. Carlyle, has been strongly confirmed by the publication of some part of the journals of M. Girardin, who was ambassador from France at the Porte, in the year 1685. It appears from the enquiries that were then made, that the Greek MSS. and books in the library amounted to about 200. A renegado Italian, in the service of the Selictar, the chief officer of the Seraglio, brought away* from it many of the works at successive times; and fifteen of these volumes, written partly on vellum, partly on paper, were selected by Besnier, the Jesuit, and purchased by him for the ambassador. The remainder of the Greek works were sold at Pera; *ils ont été vendus sur le pied de 100 livres chacun: ainsi il n'en reste plus de cette langue dans le sérail.* This account †, (with which Mr. Carlyle was entirely unacquainted,) corresponds with the statement given by him to the Bishop of Lincoln. He found in the library many works in the Oriental dialects; but none written in Greek. ‡

* The plunder of the library had already commenced in 1638, as we learn from a letter of Greaves: "I have procured, among other works, Ptolemy's Almagest, the fairest book that I have seen; stolen by a Spahy, as I am informed, out of the King's library in the Seraglio." Vol. ii. p. 437.

† It was not published in the life-time of Professor Carlyle. See "Notice des MSS. du Roi." T. viii.

‡ An Arabic translation of a lost work of Aristotle, *πολιτεῖαι πολεῶν*, existed at Constantinople so late as the 1089th year of the Hegira; and is quoted by Hadjee Kalfa, who lived at that time, in his *Bib. Orient.* See Villoison, in *Ac. des Inscr.* xlvii. 322. The discovery of this MS. would be a literary acquisition of some value.

Of the MSS. which were procured by M. Girardin, and were afterwards brought to Paris, two were consulted by Wyttenbach and Larcher; a manuscript of Plutarch, by the former; and one of Herodotus, by the latter.

Mount Athos, from the Papers of Dr. Hunt, p. 198.

AT the time when the capital of the Greek empire was in danger of being attacked by the Turks, the most valuable of the manuscripts of the learned Greeks were taken to Mount Athos, as a place of safety. The libraries of Paris, Vienna, and Moscow, contain many which have been brought from that peninsula*; and persons have been sent at different times to procure others, which are preserved in some of the convents. We have, however, no recent or authentic account of the actual state of the monastic institutions at Athos. Dr. Hunt and Professor Carlyle, during a residence of three weeks there, collected much information relating to them, and examined with particular attention the different libraries † on the Holy Mountain.

Remarks on Parts of Bœotia and Phocis; from the Journals of Mr. Raikes, p. 298.

* Some have supposed that the entire copy of Livy was to be found at Athos. — Gibbon's *Miscell. Works*, Vol. iii. p. 375.

† Many of the MSS. in these libraries were probably written by the monks who exercised the office of calligraphs; others were given as presents on particular occasions. Maximus gave a manuscript of Chrysostom with some books to the monastery of Dionysius. Gregory, Bishop of Elasson (the ancient Oloosson in Thessaly), presented a manuscript of the Gospel of St. John to the convent of Pantocratos. — *Mém. de l'Institut*. 1815.

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The Plain of Marathon, from the Papers of the late Colonel Squire, p. 329.

IN the year 1802, Colonel Squire was engaged with Colonel Leake and Mr. Hamilton in a tour through parts of Greece; the plain of Marathon, the defile of Thermopylæ, and the site of the battle of Plataea were particularly examined by them; and plans of these spots so celebrated in the history of Greece, were taken.

“The surveys,” to use the words of Colonel Squire*, “were made from a base measured by a chain; the principal points being ascertained by angles observed with a theodolite.” It is probable, that the delay of publishing these plans arose from a desire of collecting some additional details, and thus rendering them more full and perfect. The topographical sketch, which is now engraved from the papers of Colonel Squire, however incomplete, will serve to illustrate the observations made by him and his companions on the spot. More accurate geographical information respecting this and other parts of Greece, may be shortly expected from Sir W. Gell, Mr. Hawkins, and Colonel Leake, who have applied themselves with great industry, to a survey of different districts of this country. *Nos meilleurs cartes de ce pays ne sont encore que des cartes hypothétiques.* Translation de Strabon. T. iii. 101.

* John Squire, late Lieutenant-Colonel in the Royal Corps of Engineers, was an officer of distinguished talents. His death is sincerely lamented by his relatives; and by those who had various opportunities of being acquainted with the excellences of his heart and understanding. He served his country in Egypt, South America, Holland, and Spain; and died at Truxillo during the Peninsular war, A. D. 1812, in the thirty-third year of his age, the victim of excessive fatigue and exertion.

Ἡ μάλα δὴ περὶ σείῳ λύγρον πότμον ἔκλυε πάτρα.

The extracts from Colonel Squire's papers are printed by permission of the Rev. E. Squire.

Observations relating to some of the Antiquities of Egypt, from the Papers of the late Mr. Davison, p. 350.

NATHANIEL DAVISON, Esq. was British consul at Algiers : he accompanied Mr. Wortley Montague to Egypt, in the year 1763 ; resided eighteen months at Alexandria ; as many at Cairo ; and from that place visited frequently the pyramids of Giza.*

During his stay in Egypt, he made some excursions in the vicinity of Alexandria with the Duke de Chaulnes ; they afterwards embarked together on board of the same vessel for Europe. While they were performing quarantine in the Lazaretto at Leghorn, the Duke contrived by means of a false key to obtain and copy Mr. Davison's papers and drawings. † Coming afterwards to London, he advertised a publication of his own researches with drawings by Mr. Davison, whom he called his secretary. ‡ The design of the work was laid aside, in consequence of a strong remonstrance on the part of Mr. Davison, conveyed in a letter to the Duke, Sept. 9. 1783, the very day on which the latter expected an engraver to wait upon him. A proposal of a joint publication was then made to Mr. D., which he declined. Two plates from Mr. Davison's drawings are engraved in Sonnini's travels, and must have been communicated by the Duke.

* Mr. D. died in 1809. His Journals, Plans, and Drawings are in the possession of his widow, Mrs. Davison, of Alnwick, in Northumberland, and his nephew Dr. Yelloly, of Finsbury-square. From these papers the Editor has been permitted to select the extracts now published for the first time in the present volume.

† This is stated on the authority of Mr. Meadley (the author of the life of Paley), who was well acquainted with Mr. Davison.

‡ This tract, in which Mr. D. is called the secretary to the Duc de Chaulnes, is in the possession of Mr. Meadley.

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The merit of the discovery* of the room in the great pyramid at Giza, over the chamber which contains the Sarcophagus, is due solely to Mr. Davison: no traveller before or since his time has examined it; nor has any one been induced by curiosity to descend so far into another part of the same building. Very little was known of the catacombs of Alexandria before he examined them. they seem to have been scarcely noticed by preceding travellers. He was the first who surveyed the whole of these extensive cemeteries; and the plan of the Necropolis among his papers, is nearly as full and complete as that which was afterwards made by the French.

Remarks on the Manners and Customs of the Modern Inhabitants of Egypt; from the Journals of Dr. Hume.

Journal of a Voyage up the Nile, between Philæ and Ibrim, in Nubia, in May 1814, by Captain Light.

On the Topography of Athens; communicated by Mr. Hawkins.

On the Vale of Tempe; by the same.

On the Syrinx of Strabo, and the Passage of the Euripus; by the same.

* Mr. D.'s discovery is mentioned by Niebuhr and Bruce: the former says, "Je ne fus pas assez heureux pour y découvrir une chambre, jusqu' alors inconnue, et qui fut découverte après notre départ par Mr. Davison." Vol. i. p. 161. The latter says, "Mr. D. discovered the chamber above the landing place." Vol. i. p. 41. Maillet had been forty times in the pyramid, and had no knowledge of the chamber.

Panoramic View of Athens, illustrated by Mr. Haygarth.

Letter from Mr. Morritt to Dr. Clarke, respecting the Plain of Troy.

The Architectural Inscription brought from Athens, explained and translated by Mr. Wilkins.