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978-1-108-05081-4 - Itinerary of the Morea: Being a Description of the Routes of that Peninsula

William Gell

Excerpt

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PATRASS.

PATRAS, called by the Italians Patrasso, and by the natives Patra, has a population of about 10,000 souls. The Turkish governor has the title of Vaivode, and there are resident consuls of the principal European States. The trade consists chiefly in currants and skins. The city, which is the see of a Greek Metropolitan, is situated on an agreeable eminence, projecting from Mount Boidia, the ancient Panachaicon, and is surrounded by vineyards. The plain on the south produces grain, olives and oranges, and is well cultivated. In it, at the distance of about a mile from the town, is a most magnificent cypress, which has assumed the form of a cedar: Spon and Wheeler measured it, since which time it has much increased in bulk. In the walls of the castle were several fragments of sculpture. The lower tower with the powder magazine, has lately been destroyed by lightning. The remains of antiquity are few and insignificant; part of a Doric frieze and a few small capitals of the Ionic and Corinthian orders, are found in the streets. At the house of the family of Paul may be discovered a curved brick wall, which is called the Odeum. West of the castle, 1,200 yards from the city, on the beach, is the church of Saint Andrea, now a ruin. It has been surrounded with walls, at the angles of which

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were circular towers. Here the saint was buried, and from this church he is said to have appeared at the battle of Lepanto. At the church of St. Andrea is the Well mentioned by Pausanias as the oracular fountain of Ceres. The Port is about 1,000 yards north of the city, and is scarcely better than an open road, though the anchorage is good. On the shore is a custom-house, with magazines. Of the mountains on the Ætolian side of the gulph, the peaked summit now called Kaki Scala is the ancient Taphiasus and yet emits the foetid odour noticed by Strabo. To the right, or east, was Macynia, near a spot now marked by a tower. To the left of Taphiasus, on the shore, was Lycorna, or Halicyrna, the ruins of which are yet visible. Calydon was 30 stadia, or 3 miles inland, probably near a place now called Kabro limne. The magnificent mountain of Chalcis, now Galata, succeeds to the west, and beyond it is the mouth of the Evenus, now Phidari, or Ophitari, forming a long and dangerous shoal toward Cape Papa. Beyond this are the salt marshes, or Lake of Mesalongia.

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VOSTIZZA TO PATRAS.

- ii. m. Quitting the Platanus of Vostizza,
- .. 10 A cape runs out to r.
 - .. 20 A river, or broad torrent.
 - .. 20 A well l.
 - .. 3 Cross a river.
 - .. 37 Cross a bridge. A church l. with tiles and vestiges, perhaps of Rhypæ.
 - .. 25 More fragments of pottery.
 - .. 3 Village Longos.
 - .. 17 Great torrent.
 - .. 33 A brook. The plain ends. There is another path through the mountains to the left.
 - .. 7 A khan, prettily situated in a bay at the foot of the chain of Mt.Voidia PANACHAICON. Pretty woods. The khan is called Lampiri.
 - .. 30 Fountain. A cape r. Beautiful scenery. A church l.
 - .. 5 A derveni, or guard.
 - .. 14 A sourie r. below the road.
 - .. 8 A church r. The road is carried on the side of the mountain. The sea r.
 - .. 19 Cross a stream.
 - .. 10 On l. a magnificent water-fall, perhaps 400 feet high.
 - .. 12 Cross a stream. Fine scenery.
 - .. 7 Another stream.

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H. M.

- .. 5 Having descended to the shore, a lake l. anciently a port, close to which, on a tumulus, are ancient blocks, possibly a trophy. The low promontory of Drepanum, still so called, commences after passing a second lake, or ruined port, with a church upon a tumulus r.
- .. 60 Opposite to Epacto, or Naupacto, by the Italians called Lepanto. A tumulus, which is so large it may be natural, l. Broken tiles.
- .. 63 The coast low. The castle of the Morea, a mile distant, r: this is upon the cape anciently called Rhion.
- .. 62 Still in a level country. Having crossed a river (perhaps the Milichos) where the plain is about 2 miles wide, the cultivation of Patras begins and the hills called Skata Bouna approach the road.
- .. 25 Patras.

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VOSTIZZA TO METOCHI OF MEGASPELIA.

II. M.

At Vostizza, a modern town on the site of the ancient Ægium, is a magnificent platanus on the beach, the trunk of which is 38 feet in circumference and the branches spread 60 feet on each side. There is a copious fountain under it. The anchorage is not safe with a northerly wind. The town is on a flat, to which there is an ascent from the shore, through a subterraneous passage cut in the rock. Here is a mosque, and about 2,000 inhabitants. The houses are not contiguous, but straggling; and, excepting inconsiderable fragments of the Doric order, contain very few vestiges of antiquity.

- .. 35 A great river.
- .. 20 A tumulus l.
- .. 7 Zeugalathio village, 200 yards r.
- .. 17 Cross a mill-stream by a bridge. Sandy point l.
- .. 12 Cross river.
- .. 34 An orange garden and villa. Myrtles and anemonies. A warm situation, though open to the north. Poplars are in full leaf here in the middle of March.
- .. 13 On the hill r. the cave of Hercules. It is accessible by climbing among the bushes.

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Before the cave is a terrace wall, and holes in the rock for beams indicate a roof or portico in front. The cavern itself has been much enlarged by art, and a number of niches for votive offerings attest its ancient sanctity.

.. 13 After passing a well l. and leaving the main road l. ascending by a steep road among pines, see l. the foundations of a temple, r. a sepulchral cave.

.. 3 A metochi of Megaspelia—which is 4 hours distant.

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MEGASPELIA TO VOSTIZZA.

H. M.

- Having descended to the bridge below Megaspelia,
- .. 10 Cross another bridge with a pretty mill.
 - 35 After a very steep ascent toward Mt. Phteri, cross a bridge.
 - .. 37 On a top, whence is a most magnificent view of the Gulph of Corinth, with Parnassus, Helicon, and Pindus beyond—on the side of Achaia also the country is picturesque and magnificent.
 - .. 30 On another summit a most extensive and beautiful prospect.
 - .. 35 A fount near a species of isthmus, connecting the more lofty range of mountains with a high top covered with the ruins of an ancient city. This city was Bura, as may be learned from the cave of Hercules Buraicus on the north side of the rock. The whole country exhibits strong marks of the violence of earthquakes.
 - .. 8 Cross the foundations of 4 walls once securing the pass between the city and the mountain, a fountain l. Turn r. under the perpendicular rocks of Bura. L. a picturesque glen, with a stream running from Mt. Phteri. A fine fountain said to be among the ruins.

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H. M.

- 68 Ruined mill l. on the sea-coast. Quit the mountains and cross the river.
- 21 The road quits the bed of a torrent, in which it lies for a considerable distance. The plain on the coast is ill cultivated and about three quarters of a mile wide. The city of Helice, once on the r. of the road, was swallowed up by an earthquake in the 100th olympiad: it contained a magnificent temple of Neptune, whence he was called Heliconiades.
- 25 A village l. distant one mile.
- 10 A mill 500 yards l.
- 10 Village l. and a few dwellings on the shore r.
- 6 A tumulus r.
- 14 A rapid river, sometimes only the bed of a torrent—The Selinus.
- 12 The ruins of a bridge from which the river has strayed.
- 19 Town of Vostizza, on the site of the ancient Ægium.

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METOCHI OF MEGASPELIA TO ACRATA.

H. M.

- .. 5 At the foot of a steep descent among pines turn r. on the bank of the river of Kalabrita, in a most magnificent glen.
- .. 10 Cross the river by a bridge and turn l. The chasm through which the stream is precipitated is perhaps one of the most stupendous scenes in the world. The rocks on each side are generally perpendicular, and wherever there is a projection they are fringed with trees and verdure.
- .. 12 Turn r. again along the coast, with the sea on l.
- .. 17 L. a curious rock shaped by art, with a step, either a tomb, a pedestal, or an altar.
- .. 11 Cross a wall. Broken tiles. The sea close on l. The mountain r.
- .. 9 Cross a brook.
- .. 6 Traces of ancient carriages in the rock, and a cave.
- .. 3 Cultivation and a cape l.
- .. 12 Cross a river from Diokophto, or Duokopto, a village about one hour distant r.
- .. 10 The road lies again on the foot of the hills, with the sea close on l.
- .. 5 A cape l.
- .. 30 R. a cave and niches.

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H. M.

- 6 In a rock r. niches, probably natural.
- 4 A mill below on l. and source close to the sea.
A low cape l.
- 14 The khan of Acrata on the bank of a rapid river. On the mountain above it there is said to be a palaio kastro, probably near Diokophto.

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