

Zeylah — coffee, dye, and ghee, with ivory in small quantities, and ostrich feathers, form the articles of export; and though probably the present ruler, Sheikh Sherwarkhi Ali Saleh, will by his wise form of government eventually open the trade to Hurrur, it is a thing to be looked forward to, and does not exist at present. I should average the quantity of gums exported from the Somali coast at 1500 tons, though occasionally, after a good season, I believe that the Mijjertheyn tribe alone export nearly that quantity.

XIII.—*Remarkable Localities on the Coast of Epirus.* By JAMES HENRY SKENE, Zante. (Communicated by Mr. Greenough.)

[Read 12th June, 1848.]

Chimerium.

AFTER the defeat of the Corinthian naval force by that of Corcyra in the year 435 B.C., we read that the fleet of the former lay in the harbour of Chimerium, on the coast between the mouths of the rivers Acheron and Thyamis, and that the fleet of the latter was anchored at Sybota. The hostile forces are stated to have thus remained during a whole summer without meeting in battle;* and that three years afterwards also these respective fleets again occupied the same stations.† Chimerium is here described by Thucydides as being in the Elaiatis, and dependent on the town of Ephyra. The best work on the topography of this part of Greece ‡ attempts to prove that Chimerium was Arpitza, although its learned author admits that there exist objections to this conclusion. He is obliged, for instance, to give a forced meaning to the word *ἰπῆρ*, which is used by Thucydides to convey the relative positions of the town of Ephyra and the harbour of Chimerium; because Cape Varlam, which he supposes to be the Chimerian promontory, is, by his own avowal, 12 or 14 miles from the probable site of Ephyra. The bay also, which he considers to be the harbour, is described by himself as being “a retirement of the coast with a sandy beach:” now this would be but a poor station for a fleet during many months, as the place happens to be exceedingly exposed to violent winds and heavy seas from the north and west, without any kind of shelter whatever. Moreover, such a beach would hardly be called a

* Thucyd., l. 1, c. 29 et seq.

† Ibid. l. 1, c. 46.

‡ Colonel Leake's Northern Greece, vol. iii. p. 5 et seq.

λιμὴν or “harbour” by Thucydides, as that of Chimerium is. The same modern traveller mentions a place called Agio Janni, or St. John, not far from his supposed Chimerium, and he adds, that “it is the best harbour in this part of the coast,” but without suggesting any ancient name for it, further than vaguely hinting that it may be the post of the ancient town of Buchetium. It cannot be supposed that so good a haven should have been overlooked by the ancients: and not only is there no apparent reason why this should not be Chimerium, but also there are strong appearances in favour of the idea that it is. First, Agio Janni is a harbour fit for a fleet to anchor in, and remain perfectly safe during a summer. Secondly, it is not more than a mile and a half distant from the supposed ruins of Ephyra. And thirdly, it is also between the mouths of the Acheron and the Thyamis. Therefore the description of Thucydides corresponds with Agio Janni; but there is a much stronger argument than these, and one which will, it is hoped, prove that this new topographical identity is correct.

I had occasion recently to sail into the port of Agio Janni in a small yacht, during a dark night, and blowing hard with violent squalls. In beating into the harbour I was astonished to perceive the sea become suddenly as calm as a mirror, although the wind was increasing, but the calmness lasted only for a moment, and had the appearance as if a few barrels of oil had been emptied over the waves in a particular spot. It was too late that night to make any investigation into the causes of this, but on the next morning I returned with a light breeze in search of the spot, and found a circular space of perfectly smooth water, the diameter of which might be about 40 feet; and it appeared to be raised above the surface of the surrounding sea. The water rose from beneath with such violence as to form a series of small circular waves beyond the ring diverging from the centre, which was turbid, and bubbled up like a spring. We steered across it, and found that the cutter’s head swerved about as in a whirlpool, which convinced me that it was occasioned by a powerful submarine source, or perhaps the outlet of one of the Katabothra, or subterranean channels, which flow out of the lake of Jannina.

Now Pausanias mentions the fact of these phenomena existing on the coast of Argolis, and in Thesprotia, near the place called Chimerium, ἐν τῇ Θεσπρωτίδι κατὰ τὸ Χειμέριον καλούμενον.* The modern topographer† above alluded to thus describes the Deine of Argolis in his travels in the Morea:‡—“This is a copious source of fresh water rising in the sea, at a quarter of a

* Pausanias, *Arcad.*, 7. 2.

† Colonel Leake.

‡ Vol. ii. p. 480.

mile from a narrow beach under the cliffs. The body of fresh water appears to be not less than fifty feet in diameter. The weather being very calm this morning, I perceive that it rises with such force as to form a convex surface, and it disturbs the sea for several hundred feet around. In short, it is evidently the exit of a subterraneous river of some magnitude, and thus corresponds with the *Deine* of Pausanias, who remarks, in the *Arcadics*, that the waters of the plain, in the *Mantinice*, called *Ἄγγρον*, or the *Inert*, flow towards a chasm, and that, after a subterraneous course, they re-appear at the *Deine*, towards the place in the *Argolis* called *Genethlium*; "here sweet water," he adds, "rises out of the sea, in the same manner as near *Chimerium*, in *Thesprotis*." * These two phenomena, therefore, strongly resemble each other, and they may well be mentioned by the ancient geographer as being similar. The modern geographer, in his travels in Northern Greece, † says himself that "if the remark of Pausanias were verified, who states that fresh water, similar to that of the *Deine* on the coast of *Argolis*, rose in the sea near *Chimerium* (that is, near *Arpitz*, which he considers to be *Chimerium*), there would remain no doubt on the subject."

The circle of smooth water at *Agio Janni* being also fresh, it therefore appears to be proved that that harbour, and not *Arpitz*, is the ancient *Chimerium*, and that the *Chimerian* promontory is consequently the cape which encloses it, and not *Cape Varlam*, as supposed by the author of the work just quoted. He concludes his argument on the subject of the *Deine* of *Argolis* with the following words, which may equally well be applied to *Agio Janni* and *Chimerium*: "The phenomenon itself is of too singular a kind, and answers too exactly to the words of Pausanias, to allow of any reasonable doubt of the identity." ‡

It is not without diffidence that I thus venture to start a novel opinion which is in contradiction to that of so distinguished an archæologist as Colonel *Leake*; but having chanced to discover a new datum on the subject, which, as far as I know, has not yet been noticed, I trust that a suggestion founded on it may not be considered presumptuous on my part.

The town of *Parga* stands nearly opposite to the small island of *Paxo*, which is one of the seven *Ionian States*; it is built on a rocky peninsula which separates two small bays, and which is so steep, that from the sea the houses almost appear to be

* Paus., lib. viii. cap. 7.

† Vol. iii. p. 6.

‡ Travels in the Morea, vol. ii. p. 481.

constructed one above another. A strong, though small Acropolis, defends the town, rising on the summit of the rock like a mural crown, and the harbour is protected by a small fortified island. The country around is rich in picturesque attractions, and the land in the vicinity of the town is abundantly fertile; it boasts of 80,000 olive-trees, fruitful gardens, and groves of citron-bushes, yielding a considerable revenue, and the attachment of the Pargariotes to their native soil was justified by many other advantages sufficiently obvious to those who visit the spot. The produce of citrons, many of them growing to the size of a man's head, was exported to Trieste, and a part of it found its way even as far as Poland, where it was made use of by the Jews for their religious festivals.

The modern town cannot date more than four centuries back, as the ruins now called Palæo, or Old Parga, were occupied before that period. By some Parga is considered to be the Ephyra of the ancient Greek geographers, while others hold, with more apparent probability, that the latter town stood on the right bank of the Cocytus, where there is now a ruined monastery.

Parga offers greater coincidences with the data belonging to the ancient Toryne, or Torone, where Octavianus anchored his fleet when going from the Ionian Sea to the Straits of Actium in order to offer battle to Antony. It may also be Buchetium, which the Epirotic allies of the Roman consul, M. Fulvius Nobilior, selected as a safe place for the imprisonment of certain Etolians whom they had taken near Cephallenia.*

This district was called Elaiatis from its riches in olive-trees, and the environs of Parga are still famed for their oil, but there may have been olive-trees near the Cocytus, now the Vuvò, where Ephyra probably stood. It was the town, according to Pausanias, in which Theseus and Pirithous were confined by Aidoneus or Pluto, king of the Molossi, after the failure of their attempt to carry off Proserpine. Saint Donatus is now the patron of this country, and it is curious that the common name given him by the peasants, *Ai Donat*, should resemble so much the name of its ancient king *Aidoneus*.†

About five miles to the south-east of Parga a much safer harbour invites the weather-strained bark, but a strong current flowing from it renders the access difficult, unless the wind is fair and strong. The entrance is narrow, being merely a gap between two lofty cliffs, but a wide and tranquil bay lies within: this haven, now called Porto Phanari, is considered to

* Polyb., l. 27, c. 9 (l. xxii. Tauchn.).

† Leake's Northern Greece, vol. i. p. 234.

be the Glykys Limen of the ancients, and with much more appearance of authority than that which was brought to bear on the port of Gomenitza.

The river which falls into Porto Phanari, and creates the constant reflux at the mouth of the harbour, is consequently concluded to be the Acheron of antiquity: it waters a vast plain, on which there are several villages, and which formed a part of the Plutonian dominions. The descent of Orpheus to the infernal regions was probably founded on a journey to this country; and the spot from which he looked back, like Lot's wife, and lost his Eurydice, may have been somewhere on the hills of Soul, which he must have traversed. A stream which is tributary to the Acheron, and which is now called the Vuvo, is supposed to be the Cocytus; while a small lake through which the former flows, is identified with the Acherusia Palus.

The accurate Thucydides,* when relating the course followed by the Athenian fleet from Leucadia to Corcyra, that is, from Santa Maura to Corfu, describes the river Acheron, the Glykys Limen, the Acherusian Lake, the Chimerian promontory, and the mouth of the Thyamis, in a manner which at once brings conviction with it, that these localities are the modern Porto Phanari with its environs, and the Calamas,† which proves that the Acheron fell into a bay small enough for the fresh water to diminish its saltness, which is the case with Porto Phanari, but not with the bay of Gomenitza.

The very ancient writer Scylax has the following passage, which illustrates and corroborates Strabo's topography of the Acheron: 'Ἐνταῦθα ἐστὶ λίμνην, ᾧ ὄνομα 'Ελαία' εἰς τοῦτον τὸν λιμένα ποταμὸς ἐξίησιν Ἀχέρων, καὶ λίμνη Ἀχερουσία, ἐξ ἧς ὁ Ἀχέρων βεῖ ποταμὸς. The harbour is here called Elæa, but it seems to have borne that name before it was known as the Glykys Limen. Livy‡ also confirms these authors by a statement which is thought to have been borrowed from the lost books of Polybius: "et Acheronte amni quem ex Molosside fluentem in stagna inferna accipit Thesprotius sinus."

This proves at least that the Lake of Jannina could have nothing to do with the Acherontian regions, as Meletius thought, and indeed it is surprising that, with such a mass of contradicting evidence, he should ever have found any one to agree with him and to follow his errors. Ptolemy's description also corresponds perfectly with Porto Phanari, and Eustathius gives the same data in his Commentary on the tenth book of the Odyssey. Pausanias likewise agrees with all these authori-

* Lib. 1, 46.

† Lib. 7, p. 324.

‡ Lib. 8, c. 24.

ties, and adds a testimony respecting the river Cocytus, which militates against the theory of that stream flowing into the Lake of Jannina, as none of those which do fall into it are remarkable for the taste of the water. He says, πρὸς δὲ τῇ Κιχύρῳ : λίμνη τε ἐστὶν Ἀχερουσία καλουμένη· καὶ ποταμὸς Ἀχέρων ῥεῖ δὲ καὶ Κωκυτὸς ὕδωρ ἀτερπέστατον.*

This epithet is fully applicable to the flavour of the stream which joins the river, whose mouth is Porto Phanari. Cichyrus is merely another name which was borne at a later date by the town of Ephyra. The Acherusian Palus, supposing the small lake to be it, is three miles long, and one and a half broad; no pestilential vapour emanates from it, but malaria is common here, and the ancients, ignorant of the nature of the marsh miasma, may have attributed its effects to deadly effluvia emitted by the infernal lake. The name of Glykys Limen, or harbour of sweet waters, has been lost to the Porto Phanari, but it has been preserved, not far distant from it, in that of a village called Glyky. So many depositions combined must leave little doubt as to the identity of these localities, and must completely refute the pretensions of the plain of Jannina to mythological honours, unless indeed, and it is far from being unlikely, some future discovery may prove that, although it may not be the realms of Pluto, it is the favourite haunt of the Dodonean Jupiter.

* Pausan. Attica, c. 17.