

THE
NATURAL HISTORY
OF
PLINY.

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TRANSLATED,
WITH COPIOUS NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS

BY THE LATE
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VOL. II.

LONDON: GEORGE BELL & SONS, YORK STREET,
COVENT GARDEN.

1890.

878
P728
V. 2

LONDON:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, LIMITED,
STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS.

25152

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OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

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2 WEEKS' BOOK

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BOOK VI.

AN ACCOUNT OF COUNTRIES, NATIONS, SEAS, TOWNS,
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WHO NOW EXIST, OR FORMERLY EXISTED.

CHAP. 1. (1.)—THE EUXINE AND THE MARYANDINI.

THE Euxine¹ Sea, which in former times had the name of Axenus,² from the savage and inhospitable character of the nations living on its borders, by a peculiar whim of nature, which is continually giving way before the greedy inroads of the sea, lies between Europe and Asia. It was not enough for the ocean to have surrounded the earth, and then deprived us of a considerable portion of it, thus rendering still greater its uninhabitable proportion; it was not enough for it to have forced a passage through the mountains, to have torn away Calpe from Africa, and to have swallowed up a much larger space than it left untouched; it was not enough for it to have poured its tide into the Propontis through the Hellespont, after swallowing up still more of the dry land—for beyond the Bosphorus, as well, it opens with its insatiate appetite upon another space of immense extent, until the Mæotian lakes³ unite their ravening waters with it as it ranges far and wide.

That all this has taken place in spite, as it were, of the earth, is manifested by the existence of so many straits and such numbers of narrow passages formed against the will of

¹ Or the "Hospitable" Sea, now the Black Sea.

² Or the "Inhospitable."

³ The streams which discharge their waters into the Palus Mæotis, or Sea of Azof.

nature—that of the Hellespont,⁴ being only eight hundred and seventy-five paces in width, while at the two Bospori⁵ the passage across may be effected by oxen⁶ swimming, a fact from which they have both derived their name. And then besides,⁷ although they are thus severed, there are certain points on which these coasts stand in the relation of brotherhood towards each other—the singing of birds and the barking of dogs on the one side can be heard on the other, and an intercourse can be maintained between these two worlds by the medium even of the human voice,⁸ if the winds should not happen to carry away the sound thereof.

The length of the borders of the Euxine from the Bosphorus to the Lake Mæotis has been reckoned by some writers at fourteen hundred and thirty-eight miles; Eratosthenes, however, says that it is one hundred less. According to Agrippa, the distance from Chalcedon to the Phasis is one thousand miles, and from that river to the Cimmerian Bosphorus three hundred and sixty. We will here give in a general form the distances as they have been ascertained in our own times; for our arms have even penetrated to the very mouth of the Cimmerian Straits.

After passing the mouth of the Bosphorus we come to the river Rhebas,⁹ by some writers called the Rhesus. We next come to Psillis,¹⁰ the port of Calpas,¹¹ and the Sagaris,¹² a famous

⁴ Straits of the Dardanelles or of Gallipoli, spoken of in B. iv. c. 18, as seven stadia in width.

⁵ The Thracian Bosphorus, now the Channel or Straits of Constantinople, and the Cimmerian Bosphorus or Straits of Kaffa, or Yeni Kale.

⁶ From βούς, an ox, and πορός, “a passage.” According to the legend, it was at the Thracian Bosphorus that the cow Io made her passage from one continent to the other, and hence the name, in all probability, celebrated alike in the fables and the history of antiquity. The Cimmerian Bosphorus not improbably borrowed its name from the Thracian. See Æsch. Prom. Vinc. l. 733.

⁷ This sentence seems to bear reference to the one that follows, and not, as punctuated in the Latin, to the one immediately preceding it.

⁸ It is not probable that this is the case at the Straits of Kaffa, which are nearly four miles in width at the narrowest part.

⁹ Now the Riva, a river of Bithynia, in Asia Minor, falling into the Euxine north-east of Chalcedon.

¹⁰ Probably an obscure town.

¹¹ On the river Calpas or Calpe, in Bithynia. Xenophon, in the Anabasis, describes it as about half way between Byzantium and Heraclea. The spot is identified in some of the maps as Kirpeh Limán, and the promontory as Cape Kirpeh.

¹² Still known as the Sakaria.

river, which rises in Phrygia and receives the waters of other rivers of vast magnitude, among which are the Tembrogius¹³ and the Gallus,¹⁴ the last of which is by many called the Sangarius. After leaving the Sagaris the Gulf of the Mariandyni¹⁵ begins, and we come to the town of Heraclea,¹⁶ on the river Lycus;¹⁷ this place is distant from the mouth of the Euxine two hundred miles. The sea-port of Acone¹⁸ comes next, which has a fearful notoriety for its aconite or wolf's-bane, a deadly poison, and then the cavern of Acherusia,¹⁹ the rivers Pædopides, Callichorus, and Sonantes, the town of Tium,²⁰ distant from Heraclea thirty-eight miles, and the river Billis.

CHAP. 2. (2.)—PAPHLAGONIA.

Beyond this river begins the nation of Paphlagonia,²¹ by some writers called Pylæmenia;²² it is closed in behind by the country of Galatia. In it are Mastya,²³ a town founded by the

¹³ Now called the Sursak, according to Parisot.

¹⁴ Now the Lef-ke. See the end of c. 42 of the last Book.

¹⁵ The modern Gulf of Sakaria. Of the Mariandyni, who gave the ancient name to it, little or nothing is known.

¹⁶ Its site is now known as Harakli or Eregli. By Strabo it is erroneously called a colony of Miletus. It was situate a few miles to the north of the river Lycus.

¹⁷ Now called the Kilij.

¹⁸ Stephanus Byzantinus speaks of this place as producing whetstones, or *ἀκοναί*, as well as the plant aconite.

¹⁹ This name was given to the cavern in common with several other lakes or caverns in various parts of the world, which, like the various rivers of the name of Acheron, were at some time supposed to be connected with the lower world.

²⁰ Now called Faliös (or more properly Filiyos), according to D'Anville, from the river of that name in its vicinity, supposed by him and other geographers to be the same as the ancient Billis, here mentioned by Pliny. By others of the ancient writers it is called Billæus.

²¹ Paphlagonia was bounded by Bithynia on the west, and by Pontus on the east, being separated from the last by the river Halys; on the south it was divided by the chain of Mount Olympus from Phrygia in the earlier times, from Galatia at a later period; and on the north it bordered on the Euxine.

²² In the Homeric catalogue we find Pylæmenes leading the Paphlagonians as allies of the Trojans; from this Pylæmenes the later princes of Paphlagonia claimed their descent, and the country was sometimes from them called Pylæmenia.

²³ Suspected by Hardouin to have been the same as the Moson or Moston mentioned by Ptolemy as in Galatia.

Milesians, and then Cromna,²⁴ at which spot Cornelius Nepos also places the Heneti,²⁵ from whom he would have us believe that the Veneti of Italy, who have a similar name, are descended. The city also of Sesamon, now called Amastris,²⁶ Mount Cytorus,²⁷ distant sixty-three miles from Tium, the towns of Cimolis²⁸ and Stephane,²⁹ and the river Parthenius.³⁰ The promontory of Carambis,³¹ which extends a great distance into the sea, is distant from the mouth of the Euxine three hundred and twenty-five miles, or, according to some writers, three hundred and fifty, being the same distance from the Cimmerian Bosphorus, or, as some persons think, only three hundred and twelve miles. There was formerly also a town of the same name, and another near it called Armene; we now find there the colony of Sinope,³² distant from Mount Cytorus one hundred and sixty-four miles. We then come to the river Evarchus,³³

²⁴ It is mentioned by Homer, Il. ii. 855, as situate on the coast of Paphlagonia.

²⁵ Strabo also, in B. xii., says that these people afterwards established themselves in Thrace, and that gradually moving to the west, they finally settled in the Italian Venetia, which from them took its name. But in his Fourth Book he says that the Veneti of Italy owe their origin to the Gallic Veneti, who came from the neighbourhood known as the modern Vannes.

²⁶ This city, ninety stadia east of the river Parthenius, occupied a peninsula, and on each side of the isthmus was a harbour. The original city, as here mentioned, seems to have had the name of Sesamus or Sesamum, and it is spoken of by that name in Homer, Il. ii. 853, in conjunction with Cytorus. The territory of Amastris was famous for its growth of the best box-wood, which grew on Mount Cytorus. The present Amasra or Hanasserah occupies its site.

²⁷ See the last Note

²⁸ Otherwise called "Cinolis." There is a place called Kinla or Kinoglu in the maps, about half-way between Kerempeh and Sinope, which is the Kinuli of Abulfeda, and probably the Cirolis or Cimolis of the Greek geographers.

²⁹ The modern Estefan or Stefanos.

³⁰ Now known by the name of Bartin, a corruption of its ancient appellation.

³¹ It still retains its ancient appellation in its name of Cape Kerempeh: of the ancient town nothing is known.

³² Now called Sinope, or Sinoub. Some ruins of it are still to be seen. The modern town is but a poor place, and has probably greatly declined since the recent attack upon it by the Russian fleet. Diogenes, the Cynic philosopher, was a native of ancient Sinope.

³³ The boundary, according to Stephanus Byzantinus, also of the nations of Paphlagonia and Cappadocia. As Parisot remarks, this is an error,

and after that a people of the Cappadocians, the towns of Gaziura³⁴ and Gazelum,³⁵ the river Halys,³⁶ which runs from the foot of Mount Taurus through Cataonia and Cappadocia, the towns of Gangre³⁷ and Carusa,³⁸ the free town of Amisus,³⁹ distant from Sinope one hundred and thirty miles, and a gulf of the same name, of such vast extent⁴⁰ as to make Asia assume the form of a peninsula, the isthmus of which is only some two hundred⁴¹ miles in breadth, or a little more, across to the gulf of Issus in Cilicia. In all this district there are, it is said, only three races that can rightly be termed Greeks, the Dorians, the Ionians, and the Æolians, all the rest being of barbarian origin.⁴² To Amisus was joined the town of Eupatoria,⁴³ founded by Mithridates: after his defeat they were both included under the name of Pompeiopolis.

arising from the circumstance of a small tribe bearing the name of Cappadocians, having settled on its banks, between whom and the Paphlagonians it served as a limit.

³⁴ On the river Iris. It was the ancient residence of the kings of Pontus, but in Strabo's time it was deserted. It has been suggested that the modern Azurnis occupies its site.

³⁵ In the north-west of Pontus, in a fertile plain between the rivers Halys and Amisus. It is also called Gadilon by Strabo. D'Anville makes it the modern Aladgiam; while he calls Gaziura by the name of Guedes.

³⁶ Now called the Kisil Irmak, or Red River. It has been remarked that Pliny, in making this river to come down from Mount Taurus and flow at once from south to north, appears to confound the Halys with one of its tributaries, now known as the Izchel Irmak.

³⁷ Its site is now called Kiengareh, Kangreh, or Changeri. This was a town of Paphlagonia, to the south of Mount Olgasys, at a distance of thirty-five miles from Pompeiopolis.

³⁸ A commercial place to the south of Sinope. Its site is the modern Gherseh on the coast.

³⁹ Now called Eski Samsun; on the west side of the bay or gulf, anciently called Sinus Amisenus. According to Strabo, it was only 900 stadia from Sinope, or $112\frac{1}{2}$ Roman miles. The walls of the ancient city are to be seen on a promontory about a mile and a half from the modern town.

⁴⁰ He means the numerous indentations which run southward into the coast, from the headland of Sinope to a distance of about one degree to the south.

⁴¹ On examining the map, we shall find that the distance is at least 300 miles across to the gulf of Issus or Iskenderoon.

⁴² Not speaking the Greek language.

⁴³ A part of it only was added to Eupatoria; and it was separated from the rest by a wall, and probably contained a different population from that

CHAP. 3. (3.)—CAPPADOCIA.

Cappadocia⁴⁴ has in the interior Archelais,⁴⁵ a colony founded by Claudius Cæsar, and past which the river Halys flows; also the towns of Comana,⁴⁶ watered by the Sarus, Neocæsarea,⁴⁷ by the Lycus,⁴⁸ and Amasia,⁴⁹ in the region of Gazacene, washed by the Iris. In Colopene it has Sebastia and Sebastopolis;⁵¹ these are insignificant places, but still equal in importance to those just mentioned. In its remaining districts there is Melita,⁵² founded by Semiramis, and not far from the Euphrates, Diocæsarea,⁵³ Tyana,⁵⁴ Castabala,⁵⁵ Magnopolis,⁵⁶

of Amisus. This new quarter contained the residence of the king, Mithridates Eupator, who built Eupatoria.

⁴⁴ The boundaries of Cappadocia varied under the dominion of the Persians, after the Macedonian conquest, and as a Roman province under the emperors.

⁴⁵ Founded by Archelaüs, the last king of Cappadocia. In Hamilton's *Researches*, the site has been assumed to be the modern Ak-serai, but that place is not on the river Halys, as Leake supposes. It is, however, considered that Ak-serai agrees very well with the position of Archelais as laid down in the Itineraries, and that Pliny may have been misled in supposing that the stream on which it stood was the Halys.

⁴⁶ Also called by the name of Chryse, or "Golden," to distinguish it from another place of the same name in Pontus. It is generally supposed that the town of Al-Bostan, on the Sihoon or Sarus, is on or near the site of this Comana.

⁴⁷ Now called Niksar, according to D'Anville, though Hardouin says that it is Tocat. Parisot remarks, that this place belonged rather to Pontus than to Cappadocia.

⁴⁸ A small tributary of the Iris, or Yeshil-Irmak, mentioned in the next Chapter.

⁴⁹ Still called Amasia, or Amasiyeh, and situate on the river Iris, or Yeshil Ermak. It was at one time the residence of the princes of Pontus, and the birth-place of the geographer Strabo. The remains of antiquity here are very considerable, and extremely interesting.

⁵¹ Both to the west of Neo-Cæsarea. According to Tavernier, as quoted by Hardouin, the modern name of Sebastia is Sivas.

⁵² Which gave name to the district of Melitene, mentioned in c. 20 of the last Book.

⁵³ Near Nazianzus, in Cappadocia, the birth-place of Gregory Nazianzen. The traveller Ainsworth, on his road from Ak Serai to Kara Hisar, came to a place called Kaisar Koi, and he has remarked that by its name and position it might be identified with Diocæsarea. Some geographers, indeed, look upon Diocæsarea and Nazianzus as the same place.

⁵⁴ Its ruins are still to be seen at Kiz Hisar. It stood in the south of Cappadocia, at the northern foot of Mount Taurus. Tyana was the

Zela,⁵⁷ and at the foot of Mount Argæus⁵⁸ Mazaca, now called Cæsarea.⁵⁹ That part of Cappadocia which lies stretched out before the Greater Armenia is called Melitene, before Commagene Cataonia, before Phrygia Garsauritis, Sargarausene,⁶⁰ and Cammanene, before Galatia Morimene, where their territories are divided by the river Cappadox,⁶¹ from which this people have taken their name; they were formerly known as the Leucosyri.⁶² From Neocæsarea above mentioned, the lesser Armenia is separated by the river Lycus. In the interior also there is the famous river Ceraunus,⁶³ and on the coast beyond the town of Amisus, the town and river of Chadisia,⁶⁴ and the town of Lycastum,⁶⁵ after which the region of Themisceyra⁶⁶ begins.

native place of Apollonius, the supposed worker of miracles, whom the enemies of Christianity have not scrupled to place on a par with Jesus Christ.

⁵⁵ Some ruins, nineteen geographical miles from Ayas, are supposed to denote the site of ancient Castabala or Castabulum.

⁵⁶ This place was first called Eupatoria, but not the same which Mithridates united with a part of Amisus. D'Anville supposes that the modern town of Tchenikeb occupies its site.

⁵⁷ Or Ziela, now known as Zillah, not far south of Amasia. It was here that Julius Cæsar conquered Pharnaces, on the occasion on which he wrote his dispatch to Rome, "Veni, vidi, vici."

⁵⁸ Still known by the name of Ardgeh-Dagh.

⁵⁹ Its site is still called Kaisiriyeh. It was a city of the district Cilicia, in Cappadocia, at the base of the mountain Argæus. It was first called Mazaca, and after that, Eusebeia. There are considerable remains of the ancient city.

⁶⁰ Hardouin remarks, that the district of Sargarausene was not situate in front of Phrygia, but lay between Morimene and Colopenene, in the vicinity of Pontus.

⁶¹ Now known as the Konax, a tributary of the Halys, rising in Mount Littarus, in the chain of Paryadres.

⁶² Or "White Syrians." Strabo says that in his time both the Cappadocian peoples, those situate above the Taurus and those on the Euxine, were called Leucosyri, or *White* Syrians, as there were some Syrians who were black, and who dwelt to the east of the Amanus.

⁶³ It is doubtful whether this is the name of a river or a town. Notwithstanding its alleged celebrity, nothing is known of it.

⁶⁴ Hecatæus, as quoted by Stephanus Byzantinus, speaks of Chadisia as a city of the Leucosyri, or Cappadocians. Neither the river nor the town appears to have been identified.

⁶⁵ Probably on the river of that name, which has been identified with the Mers Imak, a river two or three miles east of the Acropolis of Amisus.

⁶⁶ The extensive plain on the coast of Pontus, extending east of the river Iris, beyond the Thermodon, and celebrated as the country of the

CHAP. 4.—THE REGION OF THEMISCYRA, AND THE NATIONS
THEREIN.

The river Iris brings down to the sea the waters of the Lycus. In the interior is the city of Ziela,⁶⁷ famous for the defeat of Triarius⁶⁸ and the victory of C. Cæsar.⁶⁹ Upon the coast there is the river Thermodon, which rises at the fortified place called Phanarœa,⁷⁰ and flows past the foot of Mount Amazonius.⁷¹ There was formerly a town of the same name as the river, and five others in all, Amazonium, Themiscyra, Sotira, Amasia, and Comana,⁷² now only a Manteium. (4.) We find here the nations of the Genetæ,⁷⁴ the Chalybes,⁷⁵ the town of Cotyorum,⁷⁶ the nations of the Tibareni and the Mossyni, who make marks upon their bodies,⁷⁷ the people called Macro-

Amazons. At the mouth of the Thermodon was a city of the same name, which had been destroyed by the time of Augustus. It is doubtful whether the modern Thermeh occupies its site.

⁶⁷ The same place apparently as is mentioned in the last Chapter under the name of Zela.

⁶⁸ Valerius Triarius, one of the legates of Lucullus, in the war against Mithridates. Plutarch tells us that Lucullus was obliged to conceal Triarius from the fury of his troops.

⁶⁹ Over Pharnaces, the son of Mithridates.

⁷⁰ Now called the Thermea.

⁷¹ Still called Mason-Dagh.

⁷² He alludes to Comana, in Pontus, the site of which is now called Gumenek, near to which, on the Tocat-su, the modern name of the Iris, Hamilton found some remains of a Roman town, and part of a bridge apparently of Roman construction. The language of Pliny seems to imply that it had become in his day nothing beyond a *manteium* or seat of an oracle.

⁷⁴ Strabo speaks of a promontory called Genetes; and Stephanus Byzantinus mentions a river and port of the same name.

⁷⁵ Strabo places the Chaldei, who, he says, were originally called Chalybes, in that part of the country which lies above Pharnacia (the modern Kerasunt).

⁷⁶ Or Cotyora. According to Xenophon, this was a colony of Sinope, which furnished supplies for the Ten Thousand in their retreat. The place was on a bay called after the town. Hamilton, in his *Researches, &c.*, Vol. i., is of opinion that Cotyorum may have stood on the site of Ordou, where some remains of an ancient port, cut out of the solid rock, are still visible. He remarks, however, that some writers suppose that Cotyora was the modern bay of Pershembah, which is more sheltered than Ordou. Cotyora was the place of embarkation of the Ten Thousand.

⁷⁷ Similar to what we call tatooing. Parisot suggests that these people

cephali,⁷⁸ the town of Cerasus,⁷⁹ the port of Chordule, the nations called the Bechires⁸⁰ and the Buzeri, the river Melas,⁸¹ the people called the Macrones, and Sidene with its river Sidenus,⁸² by which the town of Polemonium⁸³ is washed, at a distance from Amisus of one hundred and twenty miles. We next come to the rivers Iasonius⁸⁴ and Melanthius,⁸⁵ and, at a distance of eighty miles from Amisus, the town of Pharnacea,⁸⁶ the fortress and river of Tripolis;⁸⁷ the fortress and river of Philocalia, the fortress of Livio polis, but not upon a river, and, at a distance of one hundred miles from Pharnacea, the free city of Trapezus,⁸⁸ shut in by a mountain of vast size. Beyond this town is the nation of the Armenochalybes⁸⁹ and the

may have been the ancestors of the Mongol tribes who still dwell in tents similar to those mentioned by Mela as used by the Mossyni.

⁷⁸ Or the "long-headed people."

⁷⁹ Its site is not improbably that of the modern Kheresoun, on the coast of Asia Minor, and west of Trebizond. Lucullus is said to have brought thence the first cherry-trees planted in Europe.

⁸⁰ It has been remarked, that Pliny's enumeration of names often rather confuses than helps, and that it is difficult to say where he intends to place the Bechires. We may perhaps infer from Mela that they were west of Trapezus and east of the Thermodon.

⁸¹ Now the Kara Su, or Black River, still retaining its ancient appellation. It rises in Cappadocia, in the chain of Mount Argæus.

⁸² Still called by the same name, according to Parisot, though sometimes it is called the river of Vatisa. More recent authorities, however, call it Poleman Chai.

⁸³ On the coast of Pontus, built by king Polemon, perhaps the Second, on the site of the older city of Side, at the mouth of the Sidenus.

⁸⁴ Probably near the promontory of Jasonium, 130 stadia to the north-east of Polemonium. It was believed to have received its name from Jason the Argonaut having landed there. It still bears the name of Jason, though more commonly called Bona or Vona.

⁸⁵ Sixty stadia, according to Arrian, from the town of Cotyora.

⁸⁶ Supposed to have stood on almost the same site as the modern Kheresoun or Kerasunda. It was built near, or, as some think, on the site of Cerasus.

⁸⁷ Still known by the name of Tireboli, on a river of the same name, the Tireboli Su.

⁸⁸ Now called Tarabosan, Trabezun, or Trebizond. This place was originally a colony of Sinope, after the loss of whose independence Trapezus belonged, first to Lesser Armenia, and afterwards to the kingdom of Pontus. In the middle ages it was the seat of the so-called empire of Trebizond. It is now the second commercial port of the Black Sea, ranking next after Odessa.

⁸⁹ The "Chalybes of Armenia." See p. 21.

Greater Armenia, at a distance of thirty miles. On the coast, before Trapezus, flows the river Pyxites, and beyond it is the nation of the Sanni⁹⁰ Heniochi. Next comes the river Absarus,⁹¹ with a fortress of the same name at its mouth, distant from Trapezus one hundred and forty miles.

At the back of the mountains of this district is Iberia, while on the coast are the Heniochi, the Ampreatæ,⁹² the Lazi, the rivers Acampsis,⁹³ Isis,⁹⁴ Mogrus, and Bathys,⁹⁵ the nations of the Colchi, the town of Matium,⁹⁶ the river Heracleum and the promontory of the same name,⁹⁷ and the Phasis,⁹⁸ the most celebrated river of Pontus. This river rises among the Moschi, and is navigable for the largest vessels a distance of thirty-eight miles and a half, and for small ones very much higher up; it is crossed by one hundred and twenty bridges. It formerly had many cities of note on its banks, the more famous of which were Tyndaris, Ciræum, Cygnus, and Phasis⁹⁹ at its mouth. But the most celebrated of them all was Æa, fifteen miles¹ distant from the sea, where the Hippos and the Cyaneos,² rivers of vast size, flow into it from opposite directions. At the present day its only place of note is Surium, which

⁹⁰ Theodoret says that the Sanni, and the Lazi, subsequently mentioned, although subdued by the Roman arms, were never obedient to the Roman laws. The Heniochi were probably of Grecian origin, as they were said to have been descended from the charioteers of the Argonauts, who had been wrecked upon these coasts.

⁹¹ Or Apsarus, or Absarum. Several geographers have placed the site of this town near the modern one known as Gonieh. Its name was connected with the myth of Medea and her brother Absyrtus. It is not improbable that the names Acampsis and Absarus have been given to the same river by different writers, and that they both apply to the modern Joruk.

⁹² It is suggested by Hardouin that these are the same as the Zydretæ mentioned in the Periplus of Arrian, and by him placed between the Heniochi and the Lazi.

⁹³ See note 91.

⁹⁴ Supposed to be the same as the modern Tshorok.

⁹⁵ Or "Deep" River. This stream may possibly be identified by observing that Pliny places only one river between it and the Phasis.

⁹⁶ Probably the Madia of Ptolemy, who places it in the interior.

⁹⁷ At the present day called Eraklia, according to Parisot.

⁹⁸ Now called the Faz or Rhioni.

⁹⁹ Still called El Faz or Poti.

¹ This place was in reality thirty-seven miles and a half from the sea. It was said to have been the native place of the enchantresses Circe and Medea.

² The rivers Hippos and Cyaneos do not appear to have been identified.

derives its name from the river which flows at that spot into the Phasis, and up to which place the Phasis is navigable for large vessels, as we have already³ mentioned. It receives also some other rivers, wonderful for their number and magnitude, and among them the Glaucus.⁴ At the mouth of the Phasis, at a distance of seventy miles from Absarus, are some islands, which, however, have no name. After passing this, we come to another river, the Charieis,⁵ and the nation of the Salæ, by the ancients called Phthirophagi,⁶ as also Suani.⁷ The river Chobus⁸ flows from the Caucasus through the country of the Suani. The river Rhoas comes next, then the region of Ecreteice, the rivers Singames,⁹ Tarsuras,¹⁰ Astelephus,¹¹ Chrysorrhœas, the nation of the Absilæ, the castle of Sebastopolis,¹² one hundred miles distant from Phasis, the nation of the Sannigæ, the town of Cygnus,¹³ and the river and town of Penius.¹⁴ We then come to the tribes of the Heniochi,¹⁵ who are distinguished by numerous names.

CHAP. 5. (5)—THE REGION OF COLICA, THE NATIONS OF THE ACHÆI, AND OTHER NATIONS IN THE SAME PARTS.

Below this lies the region of Pontus known as Colica,¹⁶ in

³ In the previous page.

⁴ Now called the Tchoroosu.

⁵ It is doubtful whether this is the same river as that mentioned by Strabo under the name of Chares. D'Anville says that its modern name is Enguri.

⁶ Or "Feeders on Lice;" so called, according to Strabo, from the extreme filthiness of their habits.

⁷ There is a nation in this vicinity still called by a similar name. Professor Pallas, who visited them, says that nothing can equal their dishonesty, rapacity, and voracity. Parisot suggests that they are probably the descendants of the Phthirophagi of Pliny.

⁸ Now called the Khalira, according to D'Anville.

⁹ Now called the Hati-Scari, according to D'Anville.

¹⁰ Now the Okhum, according to D'Anville.

¹¹ Now the Mosti-Skari, according to D'Anville.

¹² Still called Savastopoli, according to Hardouin.

¹³ This must not be confounded with the other place of the same name mentioned in the present Chapter. See p. 10.

¹⁴ Hermodäus suggests Pityus as the correct reading.

¹⁵ The Sanni Heniochi; one of these nations has been already mentioned in the last page.

¹⁶ Inhabited anciently by the Coli, and constituting the northern portion of ancient Colchis.

which the mountain chain of Caucasus bends away towards the Riphæan mountains, as we have previously¹⁷ mentioned; one side running down towards the Euxine and the Lake Mæotis, the other towards the Caspian and the Hyrcanian sea. The remaining portion of these shores is peopled by savage nations, the Melanchlæni,¹⁸ and the Coraxi, who formerly dwelt in Dioscurias,¹⁹ near the river Anthemus, now deserted, but once a famous city; so much so, indeed, that we learn from Timosthenes, that three hundred nations, all of different languages, were in the habit of resorting to it, and in later times we had there one hundred and thirty interpreters for the purpose of transacting business. There are some authors who are of opinion that this place was built by Amphitus and Telchius, the charioteers²⁰ of Castor and Pollux, from whom it is generally understood that the nation of the Heniochi sprang. After passing Dioscurias we come to the town of Heracleium,²¹ seventy miles distant from Sebastopolis, and then the Achæi,²² the Mardi,²³ and the Cercetæ,²⁴ and, behind them, the Cerri and the Cephalotomi.²⁵ In the innermost part²⁶ of this district there was Pityus,²⁷ a city of very considerable opulence, but

¹⁷ In B. v. c. 27.

¹⁸ Or nation "with the black cloaks," from some peculiarity in their dress.

¹⁹ This was the great trading-place of the wild tribes in the interior; and so numerous were they, that the Greeks asserted that there were seventy different languages spoken in the market of Dioscurias.

²⁰ Whence the appellation *Heniochi*, from the Greek *ἡνιοχός*.

²¹ There were two places called Heracleium on this coast, one north and the other south of the river Achæus: probably the latter is here meant.

²² Said to have been descended from the Achæans or Greeks who accompanied Jason in the Argonautic Expedition, or, according to Ammianus, who resorted thither after the conclusion of the Trojan war.

²³ Probably meaning the "martial people," or the "people of Mars." This was the title, not of a single nation, but of a number of peoples distinguished for their predatory habits.

²⁴ This people occupied the N.E. shore of the Euxine, between the Cimmerian Bosphorus and the frontier of Colchis. Their name is still in existence, and is applied to the whole western district of the Caucasus, in the forms of Tcherkas, as applied to the people, and Tcherkeskaia or Circassia, to the country.

²⁵ Hardouin suggests that these ought to be read as forming one name, the "Cerri Cephalotomi," and suggests that they were so called from their habit of cutting off the heads of their slain enemies.

²⁶ Meaning, nearly in the extreme corner of Pontus.

²⁷ In the time of Strabo this was a considerable sea-port, and after its

destroyed by the Heniochi; behind it are the Epageritæ, a people of Sarmatian origin, dwelling upon the range of the Caucasus, and beyond them, the Sauromatæ. It was with these people that Mithridates²⁸ took refuge in the reign of the Emperor Claudius: and from him we learn that the Thalli²⁹ join up to them, a people who border on the eastern side upon the mouth³⁰ of the Caspian sea: he tells us also that at the reflux the channel is dry there. Upon the coast of the Euxine, near the country of the Cercetæ, is the river Icarusa,³¹ with the town and river of Hierus, distant from Heracleium one hundred and thirty-six miles. Next to this, is the promontory of Cruni, after passing which, we find the Toretæ upon a lofty ridge of mountains. The city of Sindos³² is distant from Hierus sixty-seven miles and a half; after passing which, we come to the river Setheries. (6.) From thence to the entrance of the Cimmerian Bosphorus the distance is eighty-eight miles and a half.

CHAP. 6.—THE CIMMERIAN BOSPORUS.

The length of the peninsula³³ which projects between the destruction by the Heniochi, it was restored, and served as an important frontier fortress of the Roman empire against the Scythians.

²⁸ This was Mithridates, king of Bosphorus, which sovereignty he obtained by the favour of the emperor Claudius, in A.D. 41. The circumstances are unknown which led to his subsequent expulsion by the Romans, who placed his younger brother Cotys on the throne in his stead.

²⁹ Hardouin thinks that the Thalli inhabited the present country of Astrakan.

³⁰ It was the ancient opinion, to which we shall find frequent reference made in the present Book, that the northern portion of the Caspian communicated with the Scythian or Septentrional ocean.

³¹ Mentioned only by Pliny. It is supposed to answer to the present Ukrash river; and the town and river of Hierus are probably identical with the Hieros Portus of Arrian, which has been identified with the modern Sunjuk-Kala.

³² Inhabited by the Sindi, a people of Asiatic Sarmatia. They probably dwelt in and about the modern peninsula of Taman, between the Sea of Azof and the Black Sea, to the south of the river Hypanis, the modern Kouban. The site of their capital, Sindos, or Sinda, is supposed to have been the modern Anapa. Parisot conjectures that this place was one of the ancient settlements of the Zigeunes, the modern Bohemians or Gypsies. He seems to found his opinion upon some observations of Malte Brun (*Précis de Géographie*, vol. vi.) upon the origin of the Gypsy race, which will amply repay the perusal.

³³ The peninsula on which Taman or Timoutarakan is situate.

Euxine and Lake Mæotis, is not more than sixty-seven miles and a half, and the width across never less than two jugera:³⁴ it has the name of Eion.³⁵ The shores of the Bosphorus then take a curve both on the side of Europe and of Asia, thus forming the Mæotis. The towns at the entrance of the Bosphorus are, first Hermonassa,³⁶ next Cepi,³⁷ founded by the Milesians, and then Stratoclia and Phanagoria,³⁸ and the almost deserted town of Apaturos,³⁹ and, at the extremity of the mouth, Cimmerium,⁴⁰ which was formerly called Cerberion. (7.) We then come to Lake Mæotis, which has been already mentioned⁴¹ in the description of Europe.

CHAP. 7.—LAKE MÆOTIS AND THE ADJOINING NATIONS.

After passing Cimmerium, the coast⁴² is inhabited by the Mæotici, the Vali, the Serbi,⁴³ the Arrechi, the Zingi, and the Psessi. We then come to the river Tanais,⁴⁴ which discharges

³⁴ The *jugerum* was 100 Grecian or 104 Roman feet in length.

³⁵ Signifying in Greek the "sea-shore."

³⁶ Lying between Singa and Phanagoria. Rennell fixes it at the opening of the lake into which the Kouban flows.

³⁷ Or the "gardens," from the Greek *κηποι*. A town of the Cimmerian Bosphorus, founded by the Milesians. Dr. Clarke identifies the modern Sienna with it, and the curious Milesian sculptures found there confirm the supposition.

³⁸ Its ruins are supposed to be those near Taman, on the eastern side of the Straits of Kaffa. It was the great emporium for all the traffic between the coasts of the Palus Mæotis and the countries on the south of the Caucasus, and was chosen by the kings of Bosphorus as their capital in Asia.

³⁹ A town of the Sindæ; it possessed, like Phanagoria, a celebrated temple of Aphrodite Apaturos, or Venus "the Deceiver," whence probably its name.

⁴⁰ Clarke identifies it with the modern Temruk, but Forbiger with Eskikrimm.

⁴¹ See B. iv. c. 24.

⁴² That lying on the east of the Sea of Azof. It seems impossible to identify the spot inhabited by each of these savage tribes. Hardouin says that the modern name of that inhabited by the Mæotici is Coumania.

⁴³ Parisot suggests that this tribe afterwards emigrated to the west, and after establishing themselves in Macedonia, finally gave its name to modern Servia. He remarks, that most of these names appear to have been greatly mutilated, through the ignorance or carelessness of the transcribers, no two of the manuscripts agreeing as to the mode in which they should be spelt.

⁴⁴ Or Don. It flows into the Sea of Azof by two larger mouths and

itself into the sea by two mouths, and the banks of which are inhabited by the Sarmatæ, the descendants of the Medi, it is said, a people divided into numerous tribes. The first of these are the Sauromatæ Gynæocratumeni,⁴⁵ the husbands of the Amazons. Next to them are the Ævazæ,⁴⁶ the Coitæ,⁴⁷ the Cicimeni, the Messeniani, the Costobocci, the Choatræ, the Zigæ,⁴⁸ the Dandarii, the Thyssagetæ, and the Iyræ,⁴⁹ as far as certain rugged deserts and densely wooded vallies, beyond which again are the Arimphæi,⁵⁰ who extend as far as the Riphæan Mountains.⁵¹ The Scythians call the river Tanais by the name of Silis, and the Mæotis the Temarunda, meaning the "mother of the sea." There is⁵² a city also at the mouth of the Ta-

several smaller ones. Strabo says that the distance between the two larger mouths is sixty stadia.

⁴⁵ From the Greek *γυναικοκρατουμενοι*, "ruled over by women." It is not improbable that this name was given by some geographer to these Sarmatian tribes on finding them, at the period of his visit, in subjection to the rule of a queen. Parisot remarks, that this passage affords an instance of the little care bestowed by Pliny upon procuring the best and most correct information, for that the Roman writers had long repudiated the use of the term "Sauromatæ." He also takes Pliny to task for his allusion to these tribes as coupling with the Amazons, the existence of such a people being in his time generally disbelieved.

⁴⁶ Hardouin suggests from *εὐάζω*, "to celebrate the orgies of Bacchus."

⁴⁷ Perhaps from *κοίτη*, a "den" or "cavern," their habitation.

⁴⁸ Parisot suggests that they may have been a Caucasian or Circassian tribe, because in the Circassian language the word *zig* has the meaning of "man." He also suggests that they were probably a distinct race from the Zingi previously mentioned, whom he identifies with the ancestors of the Zingari or Bohemians, the modern Gypsies.

⁴⁹ The more common reading is "Turcæ," a tribe also mentioned by Mela, and which gave name to modern Turkistan.

⁵⁰ The Argippæi of Herodotus and other ancient authors. These people were bald, flat-nosed, and long-chinned. They are again mentioned by Pliny in C. 14, who calls them a race not unlike the Hyperborei, and then, like Mela, abridges the description given by Herodotus. By different writers these people have been identified with the Chinese, the Brahmins or Lamas, and the Calmucks. The last is thought to be the most probable opinion, or else that the description of Herodotus, borrowed by other writers, may be applied to the Mongols in general. The mountains, at the foot of which they have been placed, are identified with either the Ural, the western extremity of the Altai chain, or the eastern part of the Altai.

⁵¹ Generally regarded as the western branch of the Ural Mountains.

⁵² The former editions mostly have "there was," implying that in the time of Pliny it no longer existed. The name of this place was Tanais; its ruins are still to be seen in the vicinity of Kassatchei. It was founded-

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