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NEWLY DISCOVERED SITES NEAR SMYRNA.

No part of the Greek world is richer in tradition and in the memories of a prehistoric past than the district that lies within the limit of a day's excursion from Smyrna. In the small but fertile plain that surrounds the head of the gulf, a great power existed long before the Ionians emigrated from Greece to Asia Minor. The names of Niobe, Tantalus, Pelops, are all most intimately connected with Mount Sipylus. The mountain was one of the chief seats of the worship of the goddess called Cybele by the Greeks; and in that worship the connection between Greece and the East is more apparent than in almost any other. Any new traces of this old empire must therefore have some value; and though the following notes are the result only of a first preliminary survey, they may give some new information about a race that is as yet too little known.

A Turk, the trusty and intelligent servant of a very kind English friend, had accompanied us in several excursions; and he told me of some ruins near his village that had hitherto escaped notice. M. Weber, an archaeologist in Smyrna, went with us in our visit to the spot.

Soon after passing from the level plain of Bournabat on to the rough hilly tract which stretches from north to south, connecting Sipylus with Olympus, the road divides. The southern branch leads through the village of Kavakli-Deré; the northern, which lies much higher and keeps close to the line of the ancient road, passes by a *café* called Belcaivé. In the angle where the roads separate is a Turkish cemetery on the site of a temple. A few columns remain *in situ*, and fragments scattered about show that the building is of the Roman period.

During a hasty survey we observed no inscriptions. Overhanging Belcaivé is a hill of about 1,300 feet in height, of which the summit, from this side, seems to form a long plateau. This hill is a very prominent object in the view seen from Smyrna to the east, and on this account, probably, has been taken as the central point of a sketch attached to the Admiralty charts. On approaching it from the west its appearance is still more striking; it seems like a broad cone severed, as if by the hand of man, from the range of Sipylus. On the west and south its sides are generally precipitous, much more so than on the east and north, but in one place in the southern face a glen breaks the rocky wall, and running up into the plateau, makes its southern boundary concave towards Belcaivé. After five or ten minutes ascent from the *café* the entrance to this glen is reached, which is closed by a Cyclopean wall of polygonal stones. The

stones are of various sizes; some are small, others are six feet long. They are so fitted together as to produce a level surface. Its height is generally from six to ten feet, but at some places it has been broken down to a much lower level. Its thickness is about twenty feet, consisting of two similar fronts, with the interval filled, apparently by loose stones and earth. It runs from rock to rock across the entrance to the glen in a curve convex to the approacher; and no gateway has ever existed in it. Its length must be at least 150 feet. It would attract the eye of every traveller on the road, at certain points of which it would be in view, were it not for the dense thorn-bushes which clothe the

whole slope, except where there are bare rocks. These bushes both conceal the wall and render the ascent difficult, and on this account the remains have escaped the notice of almost every traveller. The summit is an elongated plateau, measuring about 1,800 feet round, and is completely encircled by a very massive wall. The stones are roughly squared and laid in horizontal courses. The thickness of the wall can scarcely be ascertained owing to its peculiar construction and ruinous state.

Among pottery of a plainer character, numerous fragments of Greek ware are scattered over the surface, some of a very early period, others with the well-known black Hellenic glaze. No fragments with figures painted on them were found. At some time after the city was destroyed the surface was cleared for agriculture, and the stones thrown up in heaps. A little digging under one heap made me certain that the ground had not been disturbed since the destruction of the city.

Towards the west end of the plateau there is a rocky hillock, which gives the whole hill the conical appearance that it has from the west, and conceals the plateau from the view of a spectator on that side. On this small hill is built the Acropolis, which is very similar in style to the Acropolis of Old Smyrna.¹ The natural rock is taken advantage of to the utmost, and walls are built where it fails. For example, the south-west

¹ A description of Old Smyrna is given, with a plan, in Curtius' *Beiträge zur Geschichte Klein-Asiens*, Berl. Akad. *Abhandl.* 1872; but a much

more careful and full account will be found in M. Weber's just published work, "*Le Sipylos et ses Ruines.*"

corner is simply bare rock slightly cut and smoothed; about four feet from the corner the rock fails, and is continued by an artificial wall along the western side. The corner of the rock projects a little beyond the line of the wall. On the Acropolis at Old Smyrna the middle part of the western wall is natural rock, but the two ends are artificial; and there also the rock projects beyond the line of the wall. In both cases the stones used for building are small, carefully squared and fitted blocks of the common trachyte of the country. This Acropolis is many times larger than that of Old Smyrna. Inside it, in the centre of the hill, there is a large square chasm in the rock, about twelve or fifteen feet deep, which may possibly have been used as a cistern. On the south slope of the hillock the lines of at least four walls can be traced. Abutting on the wall to the east is a small circular ruin which may have been, as M. Weber thought, a ruined tumulus like those near Old Smyrna. It is not more than eight feet in diameter. Further to the east, where the hillock rises above the level of the plateau, several flat shelves have been cut in the rock near one another at the same level, but not in one line. In these shelves small oblong sinkings have been made to a depth of about two inches. I counted ten of them. They are evidently made to hold the foundation of the outer wall of the Acropolis. A little to the north-east may be traced the line of several walls, built of squared stones like the Acropolis; they meet one another always at right angles, and evidently formed one building of considerable size.

The site commands the road which passes at the foot of the hill. In ancient time this was the road from Smyrna to Sardis, and thence into the interior of Asia Minor; and until the Hermus-valley railway was constructed, all merchandise from the Upper Hermus-valley and the country eastward entered Smyrna by this route. On the other side of the pass, at the village of Nymphi, there is another bold hill, isolated from the mountain range to the south. On it, besides the mediaeval castle on the summit, there are remains of early walls, built of much larger blocks of stone than the Acropolis of Old Smyrna. This fortress, like that in the pass, commands the road between Smyrna and Sardis. It must have been a strong place in early time; in the Hellenic period it seems to have sunk into decay, and again

under Byzantine and Genoese rule to have become a town of importance.

On another extensive plateau six hundred feet beneath the hill over Belcaivé, towards the east, Mr. Dennis and myself found, during a subsequent visit, clear traces of a Hellenic city. Scraps of pottery and tiles were scattered about in profusion, in character exactly like the pottery of the upper city. Most of the fragments are plain red ware, but distinctively Greek ware is quite well represented. We saw some rough holes recently dug, and were told that three large jars had been found, but no bones. This lower plateau adjoins the hill on which the upper city stands, and on it evidently the majority of the inhabitants lived.

Looking at the character of all these remains one sees that a Greek city of considerable size once stood here. The contrast between the utter ruin of the fortifications on the summit and the good preservation of the wall at the foot of the hill is very striking. Now, as Mr. Dennis pointed out, the wall at the foot is an outwork to defend the entrance to a glen that runs deep into the side of the hill; an enemy attacking the city would gain an advantage by finding an entrance to the glen. On the other hand, the outwork is of no value in itself, and we might argue that a victorious enemy had destroyed the upper fortifications and left the wall at the foot as not of any consequence. The pottery found is, in the majority of cases, of a primitive kind; on such a site as Erythrae, the great mass of the pottery is late.

On these grounds I venture an hypothesis.

The Greek immigrants occupied the Lydian city of Old Smyrna, with the small Acropolis that is still standing. The Greek Smyrna rapidly grew into an important city. It seems not to have been a great colonising and sea-faring state, like Miletus or Phocaea, but rather to have depended on the inland trade of which it is the natural coast terminus. The little Lydian Acropolis, which might be placed inside a respectable English dining-room, ceased to be a suitable centre for a city which doubtless ruled a wide country round about. The Greeks therefore founded a colony on the magnificent site which I have just described. Here they commanded the road and the two valleys of Smyrna and Nymphi. The colony, if we may judge from the

remains, was of far greater importance than the mother city; and this colony was the city destroyed by Alyattes. Here the Greek life centred, and here the Greek remains are found. The old Acropolis remained overhanging the harbour, but Alyattes did not take the trouble to destroy it with the same completeness with which he destroyed the more dangerous city. It still remains to find the Necropolis of the colony and thus prove or disprove the conjecture I have advanced.

The other site of which I propose to give a short account lies on a hill at the extreme northern limit of the level ground surrounding the Gulf of Smyrna. It is perhaps the most interesting relic of antiquity in the valley, as it gives the impression of greater antiquity than either of the two fortresses that we have just been describing.

Looking northward, from the quay of Smyrna across the gulf, we see the western part of Mount Sipylus sloping upward from a valley that opens on the sea at Cordelio. The effect is as if the spectator stood on the *λογεῖον* of a gigantic Greek theatre, of which the valley and the gulf formed the *ὀρχήστρα* and *πάροδοι*. Then straight opposite in the central wedge of the *κοῖλον* formed by the gradual ascent of Sipylus,¹ the eye is caught a little way up the slope by a bold hill whose summit looks like a cubical rock rising clear over the surrounding hills to about half the height of the highest point of Sipylus. The hill is now called Ada, "the island." Old Smyrna stands on the extreme right-hand point of the *κοῖλον*.

M. Weber, who was convinced that some ruins ought to be found in this part of Sipylus, between Old Smyrna and the ancient Temnos, corresponding to the Hieron of Cybele, noticed by Pausanias, was so impressed by this remarkable-looking hill that he started from Smyrna expressly to examine it. He was not disappointed, but discovered on the summit remains of considerable extent, and of the highest interest, which he found no difficulty in identifying as the Hieron. M. Weber published an account of this discovery, identifying the Hieron of Cybele with

¹ The modern name of this part of Sipylus is Yamanlar Dag, from the village of Yamanlar. It has been suggested by M. Fontrier that *σπήλαιον*, the name of a landing-place below the mountain, is simply *Σιπύλαιον*.

The name ceased to have meaning to the popular mind, and was changed to a word that gave a distinct sense. The sound is almost the same in modern pronunciation. No caves occur at the place.

these ruins, and the throne of Pelops with a point on the highest summit of Sipylus ; but the description was buried in a local paper and never met with the recognition that its interest undoubtedly deserved. It was only from a chance allusion in the *Σμυρναϊκά* of Κυρ. Τσακύρογλος, that I learned of the proposed identification ; and the next day the brief description published by M. Weber this year in the *Μουσείου* of the Evangelical School in Smyrna, came into my hands. It was a point of much interest to see the place, and examine on the spot the arguments in favour of the proposed identification. There remained also the summit of Sipylus still unexamined, where the throne of Pelops was conjecturally placed ; and, though it is probable that this name was applied to the summit of a hill commanding a fine view, without any artificial addition, still there was always the possibility of finding some natural appearance, perhaps aided by the hand of man, to suggest the name. We therefore lost no time in visiting the place. On the first expedition almost all our time was spent in finding the way. Though visible from Smyrna, the hill is not in sight from the northern side of the gulf, nor from Bournabat, the side from which we started ; and the process of examining all the remarkable-looking hills in Sipylus is a slow one. On reaching the summit we had time only to take a hasty view of the ruins, collect some of the fragments of pottery that were scattered about, and make some sketches of the styles of building. A second visit gave us more time to examine the hill, though an unlucky accident made it impossible to take measurements for a plan. But it is easy to see that M. Weber's hypothesis as to the purpose of the ruins is at least inadequate ; he was probably so much absorbed in the ruins on the summit of the hill, that, like us on our first visit, he failed to notice the much more extensive traces of walls on the west and north sides of the hill. A brief account of the whole is necessary to make any criticism of his view intelligible.

From the highest point of Western Sipylus (Yamanlar Dagħ), extend two lofty ridges, the one towards the mouth of the Hermus, the other towards the eastern extremity of the gulf near Bournabat. These ridges form the upper tier of the *κοίλον* in the natural theatre that we have described. Between them a number of lower ridges radiate from the central point and sink

gradually into the plain. Midway in one of these ridges, but far above them all rises the hill we speak of, like a cone, to the height of about 1,600 feet. Near the top, a wall extends almost completely round the hill, and at this point the cone is truncated. Inside the wall is a plateau, more or less level, about 200 feet in diameter, in the centre of which rises a square mass of rock with perpendicular sides about thirty feet high. A similar rock projects over the southern brow of the hill, making a wall unnecessary at this side, as one might drop a stone over the southern face, nearly 150 feet to the slope of the hill. These two 'gigantic altars,' as M. Weber calls them, are connected by a lower ridge, with flat surface and perpendicular sides about fifteen feet high, so that the whole forms an oblong mass

stretching across the plateau from north to south. West of this, and parallel to it, a lower ridge projects from the plateau towards the south. Between the perpendicular walls of these two ridges lies a narrow steep valley. It is closed at the top by the wall surrounding the plateau. In general this wall runs nearly in a circle round the hill; but it goes across the top of this valley in a straight line about eighty feet long. This part of the wall is Cyclopean; the stones are of various shapes and sizes, but none are larger than two feet by two and a half. They are roughly fitted together, and often open spaces are left between them; but on the whole the surface looks smooth and regular and the effect is good. The wall, which is several feet thick and about ten feet high, seems never to have risen above the level of the plateau, but rather to have been a support for it.

On the Acropolis of Erythrae near the summit I have seen a wall similar in style, and obviously built for the same purpose.

After crossing the lower ridge which projects to the south at this point, the wall goes along the western side of the hill. It is here built of carefully squared stones, about twenty-seven inches long by fifteen inches high. Few of them are left; there are never more than two courses in position, with some scattered about. In the middle of the western side is a gateway, about four feet wide. The road entered at a very oblique angle. It evidently passed round the north side of the hill. Down the northern slope, at the level where the hill parts from the chain, of which it is a member, there are again traces of a roadway cut through a small eminence. This is exactly the path by which the ascent is easiest for one coming from the Gulf of Smyrna.

Along the north side of the hill, the wall that surrounds the plateau is very rude and slight. After the careful building on the west we have first stones slightly cut, and placed with a rude appearance of tiers, and afterwards mere round fragments loosely piled up. The natural rock however makes a wall less necessary in this part. The stones are piled on the top of a rock, which is from three to ten feet in height. On the north-east, where this rock is highest, and where the wall is no longer required, a curious niche, like a sentry-box, is seen. It is in part at least artificial, its sides are three flat stones while another forms a roof overhead. Inside this it is possible to stand and look out over the natural battlement. This niche was in the front of a square tower, two of the side walls of which still can be traced. They are built of the same squared stones as the west wall and are more than three feet thick.

Before reaching this tower we passed a hole in the plateau. It is now almost filled up; but was once built regularly, and two of the walls built of stones placed so as to give a rude appearance of tiers can still be seen to a depth of about four feet. These two walls meet at a right angle.

Immediately beyond this tower there may have been a gate, as M. Weber states; but the wall can hardly be traced beyond this point, though it evidently extended round to the base of the lofty rock.

If we now ascend the oblong ridge we find that the rock in the centre of the plateau has been left in its natural state. Only

in one place is there a hole shaped like a grave and full of earth ; it may possibly be artificial. Graves like it are scooped out of the limestone rock on a promontory south of Erythrae, which is known to have been a city before the Greek immigration ; they probably did not belong to a Greek race, as bones only were found in them. It is in the other rock that M. Weber discovered the most interesting remains. At its north-east corner there is an entrance from the lower part of the ridge into an oblong chamber, fourteen feet broad, which penetrates into the rock till it attains a total length of twenty-one feet. At one time, apparently, there were walls of the natural rock on the north and east, only a narrow doorway having been made at the corner ; but these rock walls seem afterwards to have been destroyed and replaced by artificial walls. These walls differ from all the others described, thin layers of lime being used between the stones. In the floor of this chamber, but not exactly in the centre, is sunk an inner chamber. The accumulated rubbish, and an enormous boulder dislodged from the rock above make it impossible, at present, to see the depth of this chamber or its shape at the back. From east to west it is about six feet and a half broad. The north end is semicircular ; but as the south end is covered, it can only be asserted that the length was not less than twelve feet. The walls of this inner chamber are most beautifully built in courses about a foot high, six courses are visible at one end.

On the top of this southern rock, beyond the chamber, there is an oval depression now filled with earth. In the central part of the rocky ridge there is a similar depression but round ; and again on the plateau, the road entering by the gate on the west appears to lead direct into another depression very much larger than the other two.

On the northern and western slopes of the hill, walls can still be traced on a far greater scale than at any other place I have seen in the neighbourhood of Smyrna. They are all built exactly in the same style as the western wall surrounding the plateau ; on one stone there seemed to be small oblong sinkings as if for metal clamps. Several times one could trace the outline of square chambers of various sizes. Time, however, failed us, and we could not examine half of the slope.

Various as are the styles of building, they seem all to have

been employed (with perhaps the exception of the wall where lime is used) by the same race, each for a distinct purpose. Where a very massive wall is needed the Cyclopean style is suitable. Where the rock forms a natural wall, a still ruder style of building is put above it. Where a wall of no great thickness is required in a more level place, or where a house is to be built, carefully squared stones are used. Judging from the adaptation of the style to the purpose in view, we should therefore be led to the conclusion that the inner chamber in the rock was something peculiarly important or sacred, a tomb or a sanctuary.

Considering the dimensions of the ruins on the slope of the hill, we can hardly agree with M. Weber in finding on the summit simply the sacred precinct of the Mother Goddess. I should be more inclined to see here the Acropolis of an ancient city. The analogy of the Acropolis of Erythrae impressed me very much. There, also, there is Cyclopean building near the summit supporting a small plateau, and lower down is a wall of squared stones (different, however, in style from the building on this hill) which possibly may have surrounded the Acropolis completely.

It does not, however, follow that M. Weber is wrong in his hypothesis. It may well be that after the city had decayed, the sanctity of an ancient worship was still attached to the place, and the Greeks still came to the Hieron of the Mother Goddess on the old Acropolis. It may be some confirmation of this theory that, whereas no pottery undoubtedly Greek was found on the hill at Kavakli - Deré two fragments of Hellenic ware of the fifth or fourth century were picked up on Ada. At each place hundreds of fragments were examined.

As to the throne of Pelops, it may well be that the summit of Ada was known by this name. Though the view to the north is cut off by the higher range, a very wide prospect remains east, south, and west. Moreover the hill is far the most suitable point for a survey of the plain in which the Bay of Smyrna lies, and which might be regarded as a little kingdom, defended by mountain chains on every side. Then whether the shrine were in the rock chamber or in some building lower down the hill we should still have the throne of Pelops *ἐν κορυφῇ τοῦ ὄρους*

ὑπὲρ τῆς Πλαστήνης μητρὸς τὸ ἱερόν (Paus. v. 13, 7). It must however be confessed that the words of Pausanias in which the definite article is used before ὄρους are more naturally interpreted as referring to the highest point of Sipylus itself; but it is in general not safe to press the words of a Greek description so close.

But it would be premature to speculate on the character of the ruins till a more thorough investigation has been made. If this could be accompanied with some slight excavation, which might be very easily done, as the steep slope leaves no possibility for great accumulation of earth, much would probably be learned about the character of the race which built these walls. I have reason also to believe that in the six or eight miles between Old Smyrna and the ruins on Ada, discoveries may yet be made. Again on the other side of Old Smyrna M. Weber has found, on the hill near Bournabat, an ancient fortification, which can be distinctly traced below the rude walls of a modern *mandra*, or fold; but the description of it I must leave for his forthcoming publication, *Le Sipylos et ses Ruines*. Since all these ruins, close to and within easy reach of Smyrna, have remained almost unknown till lately, there is great hope that a careful examination of Mount Sipylus might show many remains of the Lydian Empire that have escaped the ravages of time and the notice of travellers.

W. M. RAMSAY.