XXXII. *An Account of a Coin struck at Cyparissia. In a Letter to the President, by the Rev. Stephen Weston, B. D. F. R. S. and F. A. S.*

Read 10th November, 1808.

MY LORD,

THE next Coin,^a which I lay before your Lordship and the Society, is also, like the last, unpublished. It is of middle brass, and one of those towns permitted by the Emperors to be autonomous, and live under their own laws. The coins of Cyparissia are mostly imperial, and Sestini says (the best authority for Greek cities) always so; but here is an exception. On the right side is probably a head of Bacchus, with a lock on the forehead, disposed like a horn, with which that god is represented, 'Accedant capiti cornua Bacchus eris.' Behind the head is Roma, in Greek letters. On the reverse is a figure standing, with a branch in its right hand, and a quiver at its back. Before it, from top to bottom, are three inscriptions; first KOI for KOINON, next two dates, ΛΑ. ΚΕ. 31, 25. Behind it is ΚΤΠΑΡΙΣΣΙΑ; and under the name of the town a monogram of Κ kappa, alpha. Κα points out the concordia at different periods with Imperial Rome, of which the dates are recorded.

Cyparissia was in Messenia, near the coast, according to Strabo, lib. viii. p. 359; and, by the report of Pausanias, famous for its wine, and its fountain, that burst out on Bacchus's striking the ground with his thyrsus.

I have the honour, my Lord, to remain,

Your Lordship's most humble servant,

STEPHEN WESTON.

Edward Street, Portman Square,
Nov. 1, 1808.

^a Plate XIV. Fig. 5.