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NOTES FROM THE SPORADES, ASTYPALAEA, TELOS, NISYROS, LEROS.

THESE notes are part of the results of a journey undertaken by us in the summer of 1906. We have been led to put them together in the hope that they may be of some service to other travellers, and perhaps serve as a basis for a fuller and more perfect account of the islands concerned. Any references not given in footnotes to the text will be found in the Bibliography at the beginning.

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Telos. Herodotus vii. 153, cf. Schol. ad Pind. *Pyth.* ii. 27; Strabo, x. 488; Pliny, *Hist. Nat.* iv. 23; Scylax, c. 99; Stephanus, *s.n.*; Buondelmonte c. 16; Boschini, *op. cit.* p. 18; *Portolano del Mare*, p. 23; Randolph, *op. cit.* p. 24; Piacenza, *op. cit.* p. 159; Coronelli, *Isola di Rodi*, pp. 72, 89, 262 *seqq.* 333; Dapper, *op. cit.* p. 161; Frieseman, *op. cit.* p. 80; Lord Sandwich, *Voyage round the Mediterranean*, 1799, p. 339; Lacroix, *Îles de la Grèce*, p. 194; Cuinet, *Turquie d'Asie*, i. p. 403; *Mediterranean Pilot*, iv. 3rd Ed. 1900, p. 164; Bent, *J.H.S.* 1885, p. 233; Ross, *Reisen auf d. griech. Inseln*, iv. p. 42; Vincenz, *Globus*, 1900, pp. 46-8; Inscriptions, *I.G.* xii. 3129. Coins, Head, *Historia Numorum*, p. 543. Maps, Kiepert, *Westl. Kleinasien*, xiii.; Admiralty Chart, 1898. History, etc. Holleaux, *Rev. de*

Phil. xvii. p. 184; Vertot, *Histoire des Chevaliers Hospitaliers*, ii. p. 301, 397; Murray's *Asia Minor*, p. 367. Modern Greek dialect, etc. Χαβιαράς, Ζωγραφείος Ἀγών, p. 265.

Nisyros. Eustathius ad *Iliad* ii. 676, et ad Dion. Perieg. 530; Herodotus, vii. 99; Diodorus, v. 54, xiv. 84; Strabo, x. 488, xiv. 656; Pausanias, i. 2. 4; Pliny, *Hist. Nat.* v. 133; Scylax, c. 99; Apollodorus, i. 38; Stephanus, *s.n.*; Buondelmonte, c. 17; *Portolano del Mare*, p. 23; Boschini, *op. cit.* p. 18; Randolph, *op. cit.* p. 24; Piacenza, *op. cit.* p. 163; Coronelli, *op. cit.* 320 *seqq.*; Dapper, *op. cit.* p. 178; Frieseman, *op. cit.* p. 66; Lacroix, *op. cit.* p. 195; Ross, *op. cit.* ii. pp. 67 *seqq.*; Pantelides, *B.C.H.* 1891, p. 488; Cuinet, *op. cit.* i. p. 438; Hiller von Gaertringen, *Arch. Anz.* 1896, p. 23; Id., *Thera*, i. p. 374; Σταματιάδης, Χρυσάλλης, 1869, i. p. 481; Ἀνδριωτάκης, Πλάτων, x. p. 351, xi. p. 78; Inscriptions, *I.G.* xii. 3. 86 *seqq.* Coins, Head, *Historia Numorum*, p. 537, *B.M.Cat. Caria*, p. 222. Maps, etc. Kiepert, *loc. cit.*; Admiralty Chart, *loc. cit.*; *Mediterranean Pilot*, iv. 3rd. Ed. 1900, p. 166; Murray's *Asia Minor*, p. 366. Modern Greek dialect, Παπαδόπουλος, Ζωγραφείος Ἀγών, p. 381.

Leros. A full bibliography and account of the island is given by Bürchner, *Die Insel Leros* (München, 1898). To the references given by him should be added: Randolph, *op. cit.* p. 57; Piacenza, *op. cit.* p. 229; Olivier, *Voyage dans l'Empire Othoman*, iii. p. 351, Pls. 20, 21.

§ 1.—ASTYPALAEA.

This island, although so rich in inscriptions,¹ has few other Hellenic antiquities. This is probably due to the fact that the mediaeval castle of the Quirini and the modern town (Chóra) occupy the sites of the ancient acropolis and city (Fig. 1). They stand on a high promontory that juts out to the east at the south end of the isthmus, between the two parts of the island. The promontory is capped by a steep rock accessible only from one side; this acropolis is now occupied by the castle, whose entrance yet bears the arms of the Quirini, while inside it there still exists the inscription² of Giovanni Quirini, its builder. Within the castle, which is still inhabited, is a maze of narrow streets and crooked courts. In one house there is a late Greek grave relief, much weathered and of a common type. In the town also one or two houses have built into them some battered pieces of sculpture, and several churches on its outskirts are built almost entirely of squared marble blocks. Similar blocks and inscriptions are common both in the town and castle.

The only traces of Hellenic building still to be seen, are below the

¹ *I.G. loc. cit.*

² Ross, *op. cit.*

acropolis to the north, close by the church called Megále Panaghía. Here there is a terrace wall, somewhat over two metres high, polygonal in style and built of big blocks, two of which measure respectively '75 by 1'10 m. and 1'45 by 1'40 m. It may be as early as the fifth century. Here we were told a 'platform of marble' was found with some inscriptions. The following inscription is supposed to come from this site :¹—

ΛΑΚΡΙΝΗΣΠ
ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝΙΗ
ΑΝΕΘΗΚΕ:Ε
ΓΕΝΟΜΕΝΟ

FIG. 1.—ASTYPALAEA, THE TOWN AND CASTLE.

The stone is broken on the right ; the letters are well shaped and have no apices. We may thus assume that there was here a shrine of Apollo, for whose cult in the island we have other epigraphic evidence.² A little below this spot other 'marbles' have been dug out by the natives, but nothing is visible on the surface.

Outside the town, beyond the spring on the north side of the neck

¹ We were shewn this secretly and not allowed to copy it, so the transcription is from memory only.

² *I.G.* xii. 3, 185.

uniting the promontory with the backbone of the island, is the church of the Haghioi Anárgyroi. To the west of it so many broken terracottas are said to have been found, that a local adventurer bought the land and excavated in the hope of finding an Athena temple, but the site, which is on a steep hill-side, shews nothing to support this idea, and does not seem big enough for an important shrine. The church, however, contains several antique blocks, two Doric capitals, and a late inscription.¹

In the rich valley called Livádhia (Meadows) to the south-west of the town, is a place called Hellenikó. Here there is nothing to be seen except remains of late houses, although the natives aver that 'squared marble blocks' exist here.

Two hours distant from the town on the south-west coast is the Kastro of Haghios Ioannis, mentioned, but not visited by Ross. This stands on a steep isolated rock near the sea and is difficult to approach. The Kastro consists of a central round tower with outworks; it is built of small stones and mortar, and is probably a mediaeval fort. Near by is a fertile glen (Perivólia, Gardens), whose trickling streams and shady trees make it a paradise compared with the bare wind-swept uplands. In the centre of the south part of the island is the now deserted village, Armenokhóri. Here, as only too often in Astypalaea, one sees fields that have too long lain fallow, grass-grown threshing-floors and traces of felled trees.

On the east coast of the northern half of the island lies the bay of Agrilídhí. Here close to the beach are ruins of houses, and the church of Haghios Ioannis close by contains two inscriptions. Another part² of one of these inscriptions is built into the castle of the Quirini, and we may thus assume that both the blocks at Agrilídhí were transported by sea from Chóra. Thus it is probable that the settlement here was late and unimportant. On the low hill that divides this valley from that of Vathý to the west, is the ruined church of Haghios Georgios. Its plan is somewhat interesting: at the east end there is only one apse at the end of the nave; the north aisle, which still stands, is divided into four bays roofed with barrel-vaults that run north and south.

Half an hour distant from this church is the land-locked harbour of Vathý, whose narrow entrance opens southwards on the bay, west of the

¹ *I.G.* xii. 3, 235.

² *I.G.* xii. 3, 180, 181.

central isthmus. At the head of the harbour, in a ruined and nameless church, are some square blocks, an altar base, a Doric and a late Corinthian capital, and the gable of a late grave monument. Since this is the best harbour in the island for small vessels,¹ it is not surprising to find Greek remains here. On the rocky spit on the north side are the ruins of a Hellenic watch tower. The walls of the tower, which is not quite square, are 1.10 m. thick, and built of hewn blocks laid in courses, but with irregular joints. The most noticeable feature is the manner in which the rough foundation course projects, forming a plinth before the walls as much as .35 m. wide² (Fig. 2). The door is away from the harbour entrance.

FIG. 2.—TOWER AT VATHY, ASTYPALAEA.

Against the eastern corner a late enclosure has been built. To the south of the tower are the remains of the walls of a large court, the plan of which, as far as can now be determined, is shewn in Fig. 3. It seems to have had an inside wall on the west and south, and the line of the outer wall is not continuous. The court has also a separate gate, also away from the harbour mouth. Apparently the tower was built first, and the court was added later, since the walls are not bonded together, and, if it were part of the original plan, the tower would have been entered from it. The walls of the court are similar in style, but less than a metre thick. The

¹ Cf. the tower at Hellenikó in Skopelos, *Athen. Mitt.* 1906, p. 126. 3.

² The *Mediterranean Pilot* says there is a bar at the mouth with only nine feet of water on it.

south wall, although so little of it survives, probably joined the tower at its southern angle.

Towers such as this are very common throughout the islands of the

FIG. 3.—GROUND PLAN OF TOWER AT VATHY, ASTYPALAEA.

Aegean. The best known is the famous example in Andros¹; next in

¹ Fiedler, *Reisen durch alle Teile Griechenlands*, ii. Pl. 4; Ross, *Reisen auf d. griech. Inseln*, ii. p. 12; Le Bas-Landron, *Voyage Arch. Îles*, Pl. 2; German Institute, Athens, Photos, Nos. 2485, 2487, 2488, 2489, 4157.

importance is the well known tower at Haghia Marina in Keos,¹ in which is and there are two others; there are two in Seriphos,² one in Kythnos,³ one well preserved specimen in Naxos,⁴ about a dozen in Siphnos,⁵ two in Skiathos,⁶ four in Skopelos (Peparethos),⁷ one in Skyros,⁸ and twelve in Amorgos.⁹ Besides these there are doubtless many others, including the two in Leros described below.¹⁰ These towers are round or square, and stand either alone or with an adjacent court. Round and square towers occur in the same island, for instance Skopelos and Amorgos, and both are found with or without courts. The Andros tower is the best round one, and that at

FIG. 4.—TOWER AT HAGHIA TRIADHA, AMORGOS.

Haghia Triádha in Amorgos (Figs. 4, 5) is the best square example. Since no special study has yet been made of these towers it is impossible to dogmatize about them. The views expressed by Ross¹¹ still hold the field. They are found as a rule in the fertile parts of the islands at a considerable

¹ Ross, *op. cit.* i. p. 132; Bröndsted, *Voyages et Recherches*, i. p. 26, Pl. X.; Savignoni 'Εφ. 'Αρχ. 1896, p. 230. Fig. 4.

² Ross, *op. cit.* i. pp. 132, 136.

³ Ross, *op. cit.* i. p. 120.

⁴ Ross, *op. cit.* i. p. 43.

⁵ Ross, *op. cit.* i. pp. 132, 139; Γκίων, 'Ιστορία τῆς νήσου Σ., p. 124.

⁶ *Athen. Mitt.* 1906, p. 104.

⁷ *Athen. Mitt.* 1906, p. 126.

⁸ *Athen. Mitt.* 1906, p. 277.

⁹ Ross, *op. cit.*, ii. p. 43 with plan, Pl. I.; Μηλιαράκης, 'Αμοργός, p. 46: the other towers are at 'Ρίχτα (round), 'Αγιος Παῦλος, Τρυπητή, Τερλάκη, 'Εξωμεριά (round), Στρούμβους, Κορνακοπός, τὸ Πυργί, Πύργος τοῦ Γιαννούλη, 'Αρμένισσα, Περιστεριά. Cf. Tsountas-Manatt, *The Mycenaean Age*, p. 261. Fgs. 135, 136.

¹⁰ Furtwängler's map of Aegina (*Aegina* II) marks five towers.

¹¹ *Op. cit.* I. p. 132.

distance from a town; he therefore supposed that they served as temporary refuges for the population of those districts in case of a sudden raid—the tower would shelter the men, and the court the flocks. Some, however, such as this one in Astypalaea, were perhaps intended rather as forts to ward off an attack, than as refuges.

The fort at Kataphýghi close to the north-west end of the central isthmus, which Ross thought Hellenic, is very similar in plan and construction to that at Haghios Ioannis already described; it also is probably mediaeval. At the head of Port Maltezána on the east of the isthmus there are more ruins of the same period.

As we have noticed above the depopulation of the island, a few re-

FIG. 5.—TOWER AT HAGHIA TRIADHA, AMORGOS. (Front View.)

marks on this point will perhaps not be out of place. In the southern half, only the valley of Livádhia and the glen of Perivólia are really cultivated; the districts of Armenokhóri and Panormós are in partial cultivation, although most of this part is good arable land, but the hills require planting; on the isthmus there is a fine stretch of good land at Maltezána, but it is not well tilled. The northern half is almost entirely given up to sheep rearing, a circumstance which precludes all chance of tree growing. There are three cultivable regions, Vathý, Agrilídhí, and Vaí, but a large part of the land lies fallow. The present population is about 1500, and is steadily decreasing; many natives of Astypalaea have settled at Scála Nova near Ephesus. This is due to the decay of agriculture, caused by

disafforestation and consequent scarcity of water, as well as by lack of means of communication, and it is quite likely that before long history will repeat itself and the island will again become almost deserted. By the beginning of the fifteenth century Astypalaea had so suffered from the constant wars and continual piratical raids that it was almost depopulated. In 1413 Giovanni Quirini, lord of the island, recolonized it and built the castle, but by 1470 under his son Francesco I the population had sunk to 400. As to its condition in the seventeenth century the authorities differ widely,¹ but to judge from most of their evidence and from the signs of past prosperity that are now to be seen in the island, it probably recovered a good deal in this and the succeeding century. Its latest decline perhaps began early in the nineteenth century, when western European manufactures ruined the Levant trade. Nowadays its condition is miserable, the island barely producing enough to support the present population; as for horses, for which the island was once famous, there are only two, and these from our own personal experience cannot possibly be called good.

§ 2.—TELOS.

As the traveller approaches this island it appears to be even more desolate and hilly than most of the Archipelago, but when he has once entered the bay of Plagió, a broad fertile tree-covered plain appears between the hills. From the landing-place in the south-eastern corner of the bay, it is a pleasant walk of half an hour to the village of Meghalochorió, the capital of the island. This, like many towns in the Aegean,² is hidden from the sea, for fear of corsairs; it stands at the foot of a high hill, on which are the ruins of the mediaeval capital, probably the San Stefano of the Italians. This hill was also the ancient Acropolis, and on its southern slope, which runs up from the modern village, are the remains of the Hellenic city and its walls.

¹ The *Portolano del Mare* in 1656 says the island was *dishabitata*, but places it on the route for a voyage from Venice to Rhodes and Cyprus. But Boschini in 1658 says it was inhabited. Randolph in 1687 tell us the inhabitants had not long since agreed to pay a tribute of 1000 dollars a year. Piacenza in 1688 gives a glowing description of the island, probably much exaggerated. It produced good horses, cheese, wine, corn, and fruit, and possessed several villages. He estimates the population at 4500. His account is followed and probably copied by Dapper, Frieseman, and Lacroix.

² E.g. the old town of Leros, and Mandráki in Nisyros.

As one reaches the top of the castle hill, one notices that the lower part of the southern wall seems to be Greek; the stones are laid in regular courses without mortar, but are very small. Just on the right of the gate the lower part is polygonal and looks early (Fig. 6). The mediaeval entrance is built over the remains of the Hellenic gate, which is out of the centre of the later archway. There are two steps outside the door which, as shewn by the traces on the doorstep, was double and 1.55 m. wide; the holes for the central bolt and the hinges are still visible.

FIG. 6.—THE ACROPOLIS GATE, TELOS.

Inside the gateway, 1.60 m. from the door, is a flight of steps which lead up to the level space where now stands the church of St. Michael (*Taxiάρχης*). Three steps (.40 m. wide and .25 m. high) lead to a small landing (1.05 m. wide), beyond which there are four more steps and a flight of ten to the left (Fig. 7). These stairs probably formed part of the propylaea in front of a temple of Athena Polias or Zeus Polieus,¹ standing on the site of the existing church. This was Ross' opinion, and it seems correct, since in front and at the side of the church good Hellenic walls are still to

¹ Cf. the inscription *I.G.* xii. 3. 40, which was found in front of the church.

be seen. The church is also built of squared blocks, quantities of which lie scattered about. Bent thought that the temple still existed, and had been converted into a church: this is hardly possible; the squared blocks of the walls are set with mortar, and parts of the inscription that is built in with them, are found on two other blocks¹ that lie loose; the plan of the church also does not seem very like that of a temple.

The Acropolis is small, and covered with the débris of late houses.

FIG. 7.—STEPS ON ACROPOLIS, TELOS.

These seem to deserve Boschini's account of them, *quelli che vi vivono hanno le loro habitationi più costo da animali che da huomini*. The Hellenic circuit may be traced all round in the lower part of the mediaeval walls. At the north-east corner the Greek wall still stands to a considerable height.

The rock on which the castle stands is precipitous on all but the

¹ *I.G.* xii. 3. 31, 32, 33.

south side, where the gate is. The wall of the lower town accordingly does not bond with the enceinte of the Acropolis, but ends at the foot of the precipice. To the south-east the wall is clearly traceable below the cliff: it is built in a late polygonal style (Fig. 8); eight courses still stand, and the wall, 1.30 m. thick, is built solid. Not far from the cliff is a tower at a set-back in the wall. From here the wall can be traced in a gradually curving line down the hillside into the village, where it turns and ascends the hill again towards the precipice on the west side of the Acropolis. All

FIG. 8.—POLYGONAL WALL, TELOS.

the lower part of the wall is built of squared blocks laid in regular courses, of which as many as six are often preserved; the best preserved part is just above the church, where twelve courses are still standing (Fig. 9).

Within this enceinte, on the steep slope above the village there are still to be seen the terrace walls that probably once supported houses or roads¹; most of these are built of roughly shaped blocks laid in irregular courses, but they do not seem to be earlier than the fourth or fifth century, since the corners are as a rule drafted (Fig. 10). Outside

¹ Stamped amphora handles are often found here.

the town, on the slopes between it and the landing-place, graves are often found. It was here apparently that Bent excavated.

The only other Hellenic remains are to be seen in the east of the island in the rich plain of Livádhia, below Mikrochorió, the other of the two villages. Here an isolated rocky hillock called Kástello rises at the foot of the hills some little distance from the sea ; round it can be seen remains of an Hellenic wall, the Mycenæan fort of the *Mediterranean Pilot* ;

FIG. 9.—CITY WALL, TELOS.

below on the sea-side is part of a tower and of the wall adjoining it. Eight irregular courses of rough blocks survive : above, on the side against the hills, a corner can be distinguished, which is in a similar style, but is not so well preserved. These remains are probably of an outlying fort, intended to protect the cultivators of the fertile plain, which is more than two hours distant from the capital, from a sudden raid by enemies.

Besides these classical ruins, Telos is comparatively rich in mediaeval

castles ; the principal one is of course that of San Stefano on the site of the ancient Acropolis, probably built by the Knights of St. John, since the island was held by them until the fall of Rhodes in 1522.¹ The castle contains nothing remarkable except the church of St Michael mentioned above, which seems to shew a few Gothic elements.

Midway between the two villages is a fort called Mesariá. In Mikrochoriό itself is a mediaeval watch-tower, and high above the village, looking over the bay to the west, is the ruin called τοῦ Λάμπρου τὸ Κάστρο, probably the Lamprida of the Italians. In this same district, on a high hill above the plain of Livádhia, is a similar fort called Ἀγριο Συκί. On the

FIG. 10.—TERRACE WALL, TELOS.

other side of the island, on the mountain to the west of the southern bay, and two hours from Megalochoriό is a fourth fort called ὁ τοῦ Κολάζα.

The mediaeval name of the island was Piscopia. Coronelli says, *Altri la chiamarano Dilusano ; Episcopi la disse Sofiano, e finalmente lo stuolo de' Moderni col Negro Piscopia. Quest' ultimo nome vuol dire 'Guarda lontano.'*² He mentions two castles, San Stefano and Zuchalora, Zuccora, or Caucalora. Piacenza, besides these, speaks of the Lamprida referred to above, Proso, and Cychalo ; he says Zuccora was in the east, Buondelmonte places it in the west, where Boschini also puts it ; Piacenza marks Cychalo ; very likely this is only another name for Zuccora, which

¹ Torr, *Rhodes in Modern Times*, p. 24.

² The same explanation is given by Buondelmonte, who mentions two towns only.

Coronelli calls Caucalora. There seems to be no hope of identifying any of these castles with the existing forts. Piacenza's map is apparently quite fanciful.

In 1366 Barelo Assanti of Ischia, *Borghese di Rodi* received the island in feud for an annual payment of two hundred gold florins, in 1373 it became a magistral domain.¹ During the grand-mastership of Pierre d'Aubusson in 1479 the 'Bacha Paleologue'² attacked the island, then garrisoned by the knights, and though he breached the walls, failed to take it³; the corsair Camali made a fruitless raid in 1505,⁴ and in 1522 on the fall of Rhodes, Telos became Turkish.

Another explanation of the name Piscopia as 'Bishop's Island' may perhaps be confirmed by Randolph's statement that it had been the seat of a bishop, but had lately (1687) been united to the see of Rhodes. Possibly the Sabinus, bishop of Delos,⁵ who attended the council of Chalcedon, was really bishop of Telos.

On the sea-ward side of the steep mountain in the west of the island is the monastery of its patron saint Haghios Panteleimon. This unfortunately we were unable to visit.

§ 3.—NISYROS.

Mandráki, the chief town of Nisyros, is built at the north-western corner of the island by the site of the Greek and mediaeval capitals. Here is a long and somewhat narrow hill, cut off by a low valley to the south, and by a deep ravine to the east, and further defended by precipitous cliffs against the sea. On this hill stood the Greek town, whose walls can still be traced; on the top of the hill to the south they are well preserved, and the gate at the south-eastern angle is almost perfect. This gate is placed in a set-back close to the corner tower (Figs. 11, 12), and is entered obliquely as usual,⁶ but contrary to the Vitruvian canon, the tower that guards it is not on the right or shieldless side of those entering. The gate is two metres wide, and there were two doors, single or double, whose

¹ Coronelli, *op. cit.*, *loc. cit.*

² The renegade Manuel Palæologus, second son of Thomas, last Despot of the Morea, and nephew of Constantine XI the last Byzantine Emperor.

³ Vertot, *op. cit.* p. 301.

⁴ Vertot, *op. cit.* p. 397.

⁵ Lequien, *Oriens Christ.* i. p. 945.

⁶ Vitruvius, i. 5. 2; cf. the gates at Pergamum, *Athen. Mitt.* 1902, p. 40, Figs. 7, 8.

position is shown by the holes for the bolts or bars on either side; it is partly buried in the soil, and half its width has been built up by the owner of the vineyard to which it now gives entrance; it is roofed by six massive blocks from 3·60 to 4 metres long. The gate as well as the wall is built of squared blocks of black volcanic stone, said to come from a quarry on the south side of the island. On either side of the gate angle is a tower to give further protection to this weak point.

Ready access to the top of the wall is afforded by two flights of steps,

FIG. II.—THE GATE, NISYROS.

of which that to the north of the gate is almost perfect (Fig. 13). Following the southern wall from the gate to the sea, on the west we find four more towers and one other set of steps. The second tower from the sea is in excellent condition,¹ and still stands to its original height—nineteen courses—as shewn by the presence of some of the guttering blocks *in situ* at the top. The wall throughout is built in

¹ Hiller von Gaertringen, *Thera* I, p. 374, 40.

regular courses, whose jointing is not often irregular; its thickness by the gate varies from 3.50 to 4 metres, elsewhere it is not above three metres. To the north of the gate, on the other side of the angle beyond the steps mentioned, a second staircase¹ and two more towers are traceable before the circuit is too much destroyed to be readily distinguished. The inscription ΔΑΜΟΣΙΟΝ ΤΟ ΧΩΡΙΟΝ ΠΕΝΤΕ ΠΟΔΕΣ ΑΠΟ ΤΟ ΤΕΙΧΕΟΣ² on the first tower north of the gate is interesting, since two similar inscriptions are known, one at Paros³ and the other in the tower at Ephesus,

FIG. 12.—PLAN OF GATE, NISYROS.

miscalled St. Paul's Prison⁴: here five feet were to be left clear before the wall, at Paros only three, and at Ephesus forty feet inside and fifty feet outside. On the other hand Philo⁵ recommends that as much as sixty cubits should be left unoccupied; the object of course was to prevent an enemy obtaining assistance in scaling the walls from trees or houses. The inscription is of the fourth century, and thus dates the wall, but

¹ Hiller von Gaertringen, *op. cit.* p. 374, 43.

² *I. G.* xii. 3, 86.

³ Dittenberger, *Sylloge*¹, 308.

⁴ Benndorf, *Jahreshefte*, 1899, *Beiblatt*, p. 33.

⁵ *Τειχοποιικῶν*, § 11; cf. Benndorf, *loc. cit.*

the style of building changes to the south of the inscription, and the gate section is apparently later than the rest. The thickness of this part is remarkable, and recalls the later Hellenistic wall at Miletus,¹ so perhaps this portion of the walls of Nisyros is of the same period, the third century B.C.² The frequency of the flights of steps also seems unusual in existing Greek fortifications, the best examples of which are at Miletus³ and Priene⁴; in the latter city round the whole enceinte there are only three staircases, here we have four in a very small space.

From the point where it is destroyed, the conjectural line of the wall can be followed down to the sea on the north, where stands the castle

FIG. 13.—WALL FROM INSIDE SHOWING STAIRS AND GATE, NISYROS.

of the Knights of Rhodes. In the foundations of this fort are many traces of Hellenic work, especially to the east. To the south of the castle there is a break in the line of the hill, which was perhaps made by the knights as a kind of fosse. The castle now contains only

¹ Wiegand, *Arch. Anz.* 1902, p. 148.

² Ross says (*op. cit.* p. 70) that part of the wall on the south is polygonal. This is due apparently to late restoration, since Hellenic work is visible below.

³ *Arch. Anz.* 1901, p. 193, Fig. 4. Ramps as well as steps occur here.

⁴ Wiegand-Schrader, *Priene*, p. 42, Fig. 27. Similar stairs occur in the walls of Messene (*Expédi. de Morée*, I. pl. 39) and the Piræus (*B.C.H.* 1887, p. 205, 1888, Pl. XV.). The stairs at the Piræus seem to have been called κλίμακες (*I.G.* ii. 1. 167, l. 46), κλιμακτῆρες (*Ἐφ. Ἀρχ.* 1900, p. 84, l. 6), and ἀναβασμοί (*B.C.H.* 1888, p. 355).

a monastery built above the rock church, Panaghía Spilianí, where incubation is practised.¹ Mrs. Bent states that the monastery used to issue paper money² which passed as small change. This has long since been stopped by the government, but such a custom is not unknown elsewhere.³

The old town of Mandráki is built in the ravine to the east of the

FIG. 14.—MANDRÁKI AND THE CASTLE OF THE KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN, NISYROS.

castle and is invisible from the sea (Fig. 14) ; the modern town now spreads further east over the flat land, which is said by the natives to have

¹ This is probably the cave referred to by Buondelmonte : *aa trionem in pede montis, contigua maris, spelunca constitit, ad quam circumstantes, doloribus oppressi, accedunt, et diu morati, in patriam incolumes revertuntur*. Boschini and Piacenza mention a wood possessing the same properties ; possibly this is a mistake on their part.

² *Journal Anthropological Institute*, 1885, p. 402.

³ Mrs. Bent mentions a similar case in Samos, where two of the notes were worth a penny, that is apparently twenty paras. Mr. Hasluck tells us of the following cases in Mysia ; at Aboulliond (Apollonia ad Rhyndacum) the church of St. George issues card checks with the figure of the saint ; the colours vary with the values, which are five and ten paras ; in the Cyzicus peninsula the church of the *Λωδοόχος Πηγὴ* at Yeni Keui issues brass bracteates with the name of the church, which pass as five paras ; at Ermeni Keui ('Armenian village') similar bracteates worth five paras are issued with an Armenian inscription ; at Vathý the church uses brass German counters stamped with the value, five, ten, and twenty paras. Tozer gives details of similar church currencies in Thasos and Samothrace (*Islands of the Aegean*, pp. 295 and 336).

been the ancient harbour. There does not now seem to be much reason for this belief, though Ross apparently agreed to it, and says that thirty years before his visit there was a marsh here. The terrace wall, which he mentions, at the foot of the eastern hills still exists, and is built of large rough-hewn blocks laid in irregular courses. Above it tombs are often found, and quite recently the torso of a late grave statue was found here. All the lower slopes of these eastern hills are full of graves, so that there seems no doubt that they were outside the town. Whether the ancient harbour was where the natives believe it to have been, must be left an open question.

The only other remains of antiquity in Nisyros are the ruins of late Roman baths by the hot springs near Pali, at the chapel called Panaghia Thermiani; these have been described elsewhere by Dr. Pantelides.¹ The ruins called τὰ Ἑλληνικά close by at the north-eastern cape of the island seem to be mediaeval, although local tradition places here the temple of Poseidon.

Buondelmonte says that the island possessed five castles, Mandrachi, Palaeocastro, Pandenichi, Nicea and Argos. Palaeocastro is the modern name for the Greek wall described above, and it hardly seems possible that it and Mandráki formed separate towns. Nicea is almost certainly the modern Νικιά at the south-eastern corner; close to it is a small mediaeval castle called Παρλέττια, now deserted. Argos is the name now given to a district in the south, where there is the mediaeval castle ὁ Σταυρό described by Ross. Here are said to be other antique quarries, as well as those for millstones seen by Ross. Piacenza also mentions five towns, Nichia, Mandrachi, Paltro, Pandenichi, and Argo. The worthlessness of his map is shewn by the fact that he places Nichia and Mandrachi in the same place. Paltro is apparently the same as Palaeocastro. Pandenichi is perhaps to be identified with the third existing castle, that in the village of Emporió on the hill above Pali. This fort stands in the middle of the village and is still partly inhabited. It has two gates—from the east and west; on the other two sides the rock is precipitous.

Nisyros is a volcanic island, and its crater is mentioned both by classical and mediaeval writers as being active. The volcano is still active to-day as a *solfatara*, its present outlet being in the valley just below Νικιά

¹ B.C.H. *loc. cit.*

(Fig. 15). An attempt made some years ago to work the sulphur proved a failure. The hot springs at Pali, near Mandráki and elsewhere on the sea-shore, are due to volcanic action. Telos, the west end of Cos and the barren islands between Cos and Nisyros are also volcanic.¹

The island is to-day rich, fertile, and well wooded, although it possesses only two springs of fresh water, one near Pali, and the other just below Emporió. It well deserves its Turkish name of 'Fig Island,' and in addition to this fruit produces in abundance grapes, almonds, olives, and vallonia.²

There is no need to repeat here the classical and mediaeval history of

FIG. 15.—THE CRATER, NISYROS.

the island, which is easily accessible in the works of Hiller von Gaertringen and Coronelli; in antiquity it was partly independent, and partly subject to Rhodes; in the middle ages it was, till the Ottoman conquest, under the Knights of Rhodes.

To the east are two desert islands, *Περγούσα* and *Παχιά*.³ On the latter there is one, and on the former two, Hellenic watch-towers, and the barren rock of Strongyli to the north is said to have a mediaeval fort. None of these however had we time to examine.

¹ We could hear nothing of the deep salt lake in the interior mentioned by Coronelli and Piacenza.

² The acorn-cups of the Vallonia oak used for dyeing and tanning.

³ Wrongly called by Kiepert 'Perigusa' and 'Rakhia.'

§ 4.—LEROS.

The island has been so fully described by others that we only wish to add some supplementary remarks on the Hellenic remains. Of the ancient capital no trace survives, though it was probably where the modern town and the mediaeval castle now stand.

The best known ruins on Leros are those on the shore of the northern harbour of the island at Parthéni, supposed from the name to be the site of the temple of Artemis Parthenos. Here on a rocky knoll are some Hellenic ruins, in which Oikonomopoulos¹ recognised a temple *in antis*, believing it to be that of Artemis; Paton,² however, has rightly corrected this opinion. As he says, there was here merely a tower, 8·50m. square,

FIG. 16.—TOWER AT PARTHENI, LEROS.

built of squared blocks with drafted corners, laid in regular courses (Fig. 16). Twenty metres from the east side of the tower are a corner and part of the wall of a court, built in the same style; we have then to recognise here merely one of the usual island watch-towers such as we have discussed above. Amongst the débris on the site we found a fragment of a brick, inscribed -ΜΠΥ. As Paton says, the exact site of the temple of Artemis Parthenos has still to be found, nor must it as yet be identified with the mediaeval monastery ruins on the shore near the tower.

The only other Greek work on the island is to be seen at the small fort of

¹ *Λερίαις*, p. 164.

² *Classical Review*, 1894, p. 376.

Xerókambo (Fig. 17), in the extreme south. It stands on a rocky hill that commands the bay of Lákki to the north, as well as that of Xerókambo.

FIG. 17.—FORT AT XEROKAMBO, LEROS.

Oikonomopoulos¹ published a plan of this fort, but was led into error by including the later walls, for the fort has been rebuilt in later times, and

FIG. 18.—PLAN OF FORT AT XEROKAMBO.

a chapel built within it. Our plan (Fig. 18) shews how much Hellenic

¹ *Op. cit.* p. 166.

wall still exists. The wall on the south side of the chapel cannot have been set back very much, since in front of the chapel door there are remains of a mosaic pavement. The wall is built of squared blocks with straight joints laid in regular courses, of which as many as six or seven are still standing; it is about one metre wide, and composed of two thicknesses of blocks bonded at intervals; the corners are drafted. It is impossible to decide whether we have here a tower and court of the usual type, or a small acropolis; in any case, to judge from its style, it does not seem earlier than the latter part of the fourth century; the mosaic pavement is made of rather coarse black, brown, and white tesserae, in which a geometrical pattern of the network type can be made out. It is quite possible that it is late Greek work.

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