Review: Mr. Frazer's Pausanias

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to ascertain how far the system has been modified by post-glacial changes. I heartily congratulate Sir Martin Conway and Mr. Garwood on their perseverance in returning to the country, and on the valuable results they have brought back.

Sir HENRY HOWORTH, M.P.: I have little to say except to emphasize what has been said so well already. I should like to add, however, that, being a member of Parliament, I have been delighted at the number of graceful adjectives these gentlemen have at command. In regard to the theoretical part of the issue raised by my friend Prof. Bonney and my friend Sir Martin Conway, there is this advantage—that what they have had to put forward is at all events consistent with the laws of physics and with the laws of ice-movement. Occasionally we have had to deal with some terrible theories which have been consistent with neither. The first paper I ever read in my life was when I was seventeen, when I read a paper before this Society on the areas of land that are rising round the two poles, which I mapped out and showed to be fairly continuous. One of the interesting points about Spitsbergen is this—that the evidence shows plainly that very recently the Spitsbergen archipelago has risen from the sea to a very considerable extent, and in that way its climate has been altered very much for the worse. Baron Nordenskiöld showed me some wonderful post-Tertiary shells he had found in Spitsbergen, and pointed out that those shells are not found in Spitsbergen now, but prevail in Southern Norway. This is another strong proof of the same fact. Just as the case of Greenland, where we have the same recent change in climate attested by the fact of the land having risen in the first place, and secondly by the occurrence of similar shells. Possibly the most arctic conditions that ever existed in these islands are not in periods that have gone by long ago, but in the current period; and that while we were suffering from tremendous glaciers in the old days, it would appear—and that is the view of more than one recent Danish explorer in Greenland—that the climate and the temperature were very much more moderate than they are at present in these high latitudes. I must, in conclusion, again repeat how delighted we have all been, both at the graceful discourse and the photographs, and I would say, that if ever I travel in these regions, there is no person other than my wife with whom I would rather travel than with one or other of these two graceful persons.

The CHAIRMAN: I think, at this late hour of the evening, it is almost time to close the meeting. I therefore ask you to allow me to return thanks to Sir Martin Conway for his eloquent lecture. We must all admire the way in which he attacked Spitsbergen, and he has brought the results of his journey before us in a very pleasant manner. I hope you will allow me to include in the vote of thanks Mr. Garwood, whose photographs have given us better pictures of the country than we have ever seen before; in fact, I think they are amongst the best photographs of arctic scenery that I have ever seen at the Society's lectures.

MR. FRAZER'S PAUSANIAS.*

By the Rev. H. F. TOZER.

A NEW edition of Pausanias' 'Description of Greece,' in which that work should be illustrated by the light which modern discovery has thrown on the subjects with which it deals, has long been a *desideratum* among

* Pausanias' 'Description of Greece.' Translated with a commentary, by J. G. Frazer. In six volumes. London: Macmillan & Co. 1898.

scholars and classical archaeologists, but the greatness of the task has hitherto discouraged the boldest spirits from attempting it. For Pausanias' book is in its way unique in literature. Nowhere else can we find so complete an account of an ancient country, especially in respect of the buildings and works of art which it contained. And the period at which it was composed was eminently suitable for such a task, for at no time, in all probability, had the monuments of Greece been so numerous and in so good preservation as they were in the middle of the second century of our era when Pausanias wrote. In places, indeed, decay had then already begun, but this was compensated by the work of restoration which shortly before that date had been promoted by the Emperor Hadrian. But, in addition to remarkable industry in observing these objects, and carefulness in noting down their details, Pausanias was possessed by an extraordinary curiosity concerning the legends and superstitious beliefs which were attached both to the sacred relics preserved in the temples and to natural features of the ground, such as fountains and groves; and stories connected with these are of constant occurrence in his narrative. Now, in respect of both the subjects by which the old archaeologist was thus attracted, an extraordinary advance in knowledge has been made during the last half-century. This has been pre-eminently the age of excavation in Greece, so that, in the course of it, one after another of the most famous ancient sites in that country have been exposed to view, and it has thus been possible to verify the statements of Pausanias on the spot, through the discovery of the buildings and statues which he saw, or of inscriptions relating to them. Again, during this period there has been a remarkable development of the study of folklore, and of the branches of anthropology which are akin to it; so that in numerous instances the portents and marvellous stories which Pausanias records can be paralleled by tales and customs which have been discovered in distant parts of the world, and, instead of being regarded as mere curiosities, can, to some extent, be classified. It is clear that the competent editor of Pausanias should be one who is well versed in both the studies which have just been mentioned.

Such an editor has been found in Mr. Frazer, and the six handsome volumes which compose the present edition furnish ample evidence of his competency for the task. The first of these contains Mr. Frazer's introduction, and his translation of Pausanias' work, by means of which it is brought within the reach of other than classical students; and with the same object in view Mr. Frazer has avoided the use of technical phraseology in his notes, as far as is compatible with a scientific treatment of his subject. The English of the translation is clear and good, and, when the style of Pausanias admits of it—as, for instance, in the history of the Messenian wars—it rises to more than average excellence. The last volume comprises the two indexes, the larger of which, a very

complete one, is devoted to the work itself, the smaller to the notes. The four intermediate volumes contain Mr. Frazer's commentary, which is his most important contribution to the subject. In this the statements of Pausanias are throughout made the starting-points for discussions of theories and for the introduction of fresh information; but to describe it as a body of notes explanatory of that author would give an entirely erroneous view of its contents, especially as regards its archaeological side. In reality, it contains a full account of the discoveries that have been made in Greece up to the present time, together with summaries of the views which have been held concerning the identification of localities and buildings and works of art. The labour which this task represents is enormous, and its value to the student is correspondingly great, because the material from which the information is drawn is largely to be found in foreign periodicals and books in various languages, many of which are not easily accessible. Mr. Frazer has also shown great penetration and a well-balanced judgment in deciding between the conflicting opinions, to which, as might be expected, these discoveries have given birth. In addition to this, he has himself travelled extensively in Greece, and has described a large number of the most important sites from his own observation; by which means the notices of the localities mentioned are rendered more lifelike, and the severity of the scientific treatment of the subject is modified by the introduction of personal impressions. Mr. Frazer's learning is not less conspicuous in those parts of his commentary which deal with folklore, a study with which he had previously shown himself thoroughly conversant in his book, 'The Golden Bough.'

It is no easy matter to give the reader even an approximate idea of the contents of a work of such magnitude as this; it must suffice, by way of illustration, to mention a few instances of what is to be found in it under various heads. As might be expected, the largest amount of space has been devoted to those places where excavations have been carried out on the greatest scale. Thus to Olympia, the ruins of which were laid bare at the expense of the German Government, 153 pages are allotted; and this allowance does not appear excessive, when we consider that Pausanias devoted the greater part of two out of his ten books to that place. It includes also Prof. Treu's restorations of the gables of the temple of Zeus, and Mr. Stuart Jones's conjectural reproduction of the chest of Cypselus from Pausanias' description. To Delphi, the scene of the latest operations of the French School of Athens, 151 pages are assigned; and in this part will be found an account of the serpent column that supported the tripod commemorative of the battle of Plataea, which was dedicated at Delphi, but was removed thence by Constantine the Great to Constantinople, where the column is still standing in the Atmeidan, or hippodrome. In like manner, the work of the British School at Megalopolis, that of the American School

at the *Heraeum* of Argos, and that of the Greek Archæological Society at Eleusis, and at the *Hieron* of Epidaurus, receive their due share of attention. Mycenæ, too, is well described, and the important questions connected with it—the date and origin of the Mycenæan civilization, the relation which it bore to that which is described in the Homeric poems, and the race to which the Mycenæan people belonged—are discussed with excellent judgment. Mr. Frazer's opinion is that the Mycenæan art was of native development on the shores of the *Ægean*, though certain elements in it came from Egypt and Syria; that the forms of that civilization which are found in Crete represent an earlier, the Argolic forms a later, stage in its development; and that the Homeric period was somewhat posterior to that which is represented at Mycenæ.

As regards the geographical features of Greece, perhaps the most important notices which are met with in this work are those which treat of the underground passages, which form the only outlets of the water that collects in many of the inland valleys of that country. The most remarkable instance of this phenomenon is found in the basin of the Copeaic lake, and this is especially interesting at the present time, because that piece of water has quite recently been drained by the construction of artificial passages to carry off its waters, and the area which it previously covered is now a cultivable plain. Mr. Frazer has given us an account, mainly derived from his own observation, both of the modern system of drainage by which this change has been effected, and of similar attempts which were made in antiquity, for of these latter conspicuous traces remain. The corresponding features which are found in the lakes of Pheneus and Stymphalus in Arcadia, and the periodical disappearances of those pieces of water arising from the opening of the subterranean passages which drain them, are also interestingly described. An equal tribute of praise must be given to the discussions of the arguments relating to certain localities which are disputed at the present day. Conspicuous among these is the question of the position of the fountain of Enneacrunus at Athens. Pausanias' description of this has long been a standing puzzle, for he evidently conceived of it as lying in the valley between the hills of the Pnyx and the Areopagus; and Dr. Dörpfeld, who has recently excavated this neighbourhood, has with great, though somewhat over-subtle, ingenuity maintained the correctness of this view. Mr. Frazer, however, is so strongly impressed with the waterless character of this site, and with the almost unanimous testimony of ancient writers in favour of the traditional position of that fountain in the neighbourhood of the bed of the Ilissus, that he decides unhesitatingly against his author and his modern champion. In respect of another disputed point in Athenian topography—the position of the river Eridanus—Mr. Frazer is at one with Dr. Dörpfeld. This stream has usually been identified with the one which rises at the monastery of Kæsariani, on the side of Mount Hymettus, and joins the Ilissus on

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its left bank, and this view was still maintained by Ernst Curtius in his latest work, 'Stadtgeschichte von Athen' (1891). But Dr. Dörpfeld, relying on the statements of ancient writers concerning the objects which are in its neighbourhood, and especially on the remark of Callimachus, that in his time its water was so foul that cattle would not drink of it, concludes that the Eridanus flowed from the south-western slopes of Mount Lycabettus, and passed through the northern part of Athens, in doing which it would easily be converted into a public sewer; and these arguments appear to Mr. Frazer to be conclusive.

The maps and plans which accompany these volumes are of great service in elucidating the text, and the numerous illustrations will be invaluable to students of Greek sculpture. Altogether, Mr. Frazer is to be congratulated on having produced a monumental work, which is a storehouse of learning and research.

PROPOSAL FOR AN EXPEDITION TO SANNIKOFF LAND.

By Baron E. von TOLL.

ON the oldest map of the New Siberia islands, dating from the year 1811, the outlines of two lands are marked, and they bear the inscription, "Land sighted by Sannikoff." One of these stretches on the map from the meridian of the northern point of the Fadéyev island to the longitude of the "High Cape" of the New Siberia island, while the other is marked in the north-west of the island Kotelnýi.

Jacob Sannikoff was a Yakutsk merchant,* who undertook a series of bold journeys to the New Siberia islands from 1805 to 1811, and was first a *promyshlennik* (hunter) in the service of Syrovatski, who had then the monopoly of exploitation of mammoth-tusks in the Liakhov islands; later on he accompanied Mathias Hedenström in his journeys. Sannikoff was one of the discoverers of the New Siberia islands, and we are indebted to him for some very important information concerning the peculiar nature of the islands, which information was transmitted to the world through Hedenström's writings. The first, although unsatisfactory, topographical survey of the islands was made by the topographer Pshenitsyn. Sannikoff was also the first to spend a full summer on the northern island of the New Siberia archipelago. During that stay, he had the opportunity of sighting with his sharp eyes, on clear summer days, those two lands situated the north of the islands, Kotelnýi, Fadéyev and New Siberia, and their supposed outlines were marked on the above-mentioned map according to his indications. His and Hedenström's attempts to reach those lands in sledges drawn by dogs were, however, unsuccessful, because open spaces amidst the ice (*polynias*) soon compelled both explorers to return.

Ten years after the completion of the Hedenström and Sannikoff's journeys, the Imperial Russian Ministry of the Navy sent out the well-known expedition of Lieut. Anjou, which had to settle the topography of the New Siberia Islands, as well as the question relative to the existence of the lands sighted by Sannikoff. After two unsuccessful attempts, made in 1821 and 1822, to overcome with dog-sledges the obstacles offered by the *torosses* (ice-heaps) and *polynias*, Lieut. Anjou declared, in a report addressed to the authorities in 1822, that he was ready to renew the attempt in a boat, starting from the island Kotelnýi, or Fadéyev, but

* More correctly a burger (*myeschanin*) of Zyryan origin, as his descendants said.