

WILEY



Review: Professor Ramsay's Work on Phrygia. Review

Author(s): Charles W. Wilson

Review by: Charles W. Wilson

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (Feb., 1896), pp. 190-193

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1773730>

Accessed: 27-06-2016 09:20 UTC

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at

<http://about.jstor.org/terms>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



Wiley, The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to The Geographical Journal

diligent in furnishing us with geographical information of great value, and the Society has again to thank him for the present interesting communication. The Society is also indebted to our other Honorary Corresponding Member, Dr. Edwin R. Heath, for transmitting a copy of Colonel Pando's important letter.

PROFESSOR RAMSAY'S WORK ON PHRYGIA.—REVIEW.*

By Sir CHARLES W. WILSON, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., etc.

PROF. Ramsay's important work on Phrygia is dedicated to the supporters of the Asia Minor Exploration Fund, amongst whom the Royal Geographical Society has ever been prominent. The liberal contributions of the Society have been more than justified, for rarely in the history of exploration has so much been accomplished at such small cost. It is almost impossible to exaggerate the value, to students of historical geography, of the results obtained by Prof. Ramsay, Mr. Hogarth, and the gentlemen who have either accompanied them or followed in their footsteps. A flood of light has been thrown on the history and geography of Asia Minor; on the art, social life, commercial relations, and religious customs of the various races that have inhabited the country; on the status of Christians and the Church in the Provinces under the Roman emperors; and on the changing fortunes of the long struggle that ended in the triumph of the crescent and supremacy of the Turk.

Prof. Ramsay has published many of the results of his labours in his 'Historical Geography of Asia Minor'—a work issued by this Society as one of its Supplementary Papers, and in numerous communications to the Hellenic and other societies. But these must, in some sense, be regarded as introductory to the greater work which he has always had in view, and of which the present volume is a first instalment. His scheme has been to make an absolutely fresh work founded on the ancient authorities alone, in which the geographical situation, the natural surroundings, and the commercial advantages of each city should be set forth in an account of its history. As geographers, we may regret that he has adopted the plan of a 'local history.' We lose the broad generalization which is of such importance to geographical science, but we have in its place well-drawn pictures of local life and scenery, and we must allow that an historian of Phrygia would have found any other course beset with difficulties.

In accordance with his scheme, Prof. Ramsay has parcelled out Phrygia into districts, and his intimate knowledge of the country has enabled him to bring clearly before us the influence that geographical

* 'The Cities and Bishoprics of Phrygia.' By W. M. Ramsay, D.C.L., LL.D., etc. Vol. i. ('The Lycos Valley and South-Western Phrygia'). Clarendon Press. 1895.

position and topographical environment have had upon the social and political condition of the inhabitants of the various towns and localities which he describes.

The first volume opens with a general description of the Lycos valley, its scenery, its ethnology, and its history. Through the valley ran the "Eastern Highway," which, under Roman administration, was one of the most important thoroughfares in the empire; and in it were situated large towns, such as the Lydian Hierapolis, the Phrygian Colossai, the Carian Attouda, the Seleucid Laodiceia, and the Pergamenian Tripolis. In the diffusion of Christianity the valley played a prominent part, and in after-ages it was the scene of constant fighting between the Byzantines and the Seljûk Turks. As the nomads spread over the valley, the population decreased, and the land passed out of cultivation. Hierapolis was deserted, the Laodiceans moved to Denizli, the Colossians to Khonai, and the Trapezopolitans to Kadi Keui; and their descendants, partly Christian, partly Moslem, may still be found in those places. There has been little mixture of race; neighbouring villages remain distinct from each other in blood and in manners, and some of the customs have possibly been handed down from Phrygian, Seleucid, or Pergamenian ancestors. A pagan god or Christian saint appears as a Moslem *dede* or heroized ancestor; a Christian bishoprick succeeds to the priesthood of an old *hieron*; and a place of pilgrimage sometimes turns out to have been a noted shrine of Artemis or Sabazios.

A very full account is given of Laodiceia, a city founded by Antiochus II. to strengthen the hold of the Seleucid monarchy on the country, and partly peopled by Syrians. Under the Roman emperors it was one of the richest cities in Asia, a centre of banking and financial transactions, and a manufacturing town noted for its fine cloth, its carpets, and its various kinds of garments. These features, as Professor Ramsay points out, are referred to in the letter to the Church of the Laodiceans (Rev. iii. 14-18). Amongst the many interesting remains of the old town are those connected with the water-supply, including an inverted stone syphon, similar in construction to the syphons at Patara, and near Jerusalem, by which the water was carried across a valley. A sketch is given of the great Zenonid family, one of whom, M. Antonius Polemo, "addressed cities as his inferiors, emperors as by no means his superiors, and the gods as his equals." Many curious details will be found respecting the religion, games, and dress of the people, and of the various officials and municipal authorities who managed the affairs of the city.

In describing Hierapolis, the "Holy City," special attention is naturally drawn to its religious character, and to the hot springs whose remarkable deposits are visible from nearly every point in the valley. Professor Ramsay makes a happy suggestion that the Ploutonion—a hole reaching deep into the earth, from which issued a mephitic vapour

—was deliberately filled up and covered over by Christians, who believed it to be the very dwelling-place of Satan. Equally happy is the view that the “Brotherhood of Youths,” mentioned by Ibn Batuta, had its origin in the *Xenoi Tekmoreioi*, or “Guest-friends who use the sign.” The trade guilds, mentioned in the inscriptions of Hierapolis, date from a very early period of history, and have survived to the present day, especially amongst the Armenian population of Asia Minor.

One of the most interesting chapters is that dealing with the cities in the Middle Mæander valley. In this, one of the richest districts of the interior, fifteen cities, towns and villages, are now placed, where only one was known before. The inscriptions found here have supplied much new and valuable information on the social life of the people before they were completely Hellenized, and on the habits and customs of the priests and other persons who lived in the sacred villages near the great *hiera* of Asia Minor. In connection with the sacred animals, attention is called to the fact that they were the animals of a pastoral people, and that all, excepting the sheep, appear in the Hittite hieroglyphs. From this latter fact, Prof. Ramsay infers that the hieroglyphs originated in the vast level, treeless plains of Asia Minor. He has also adopted the view that Khitasar, the Hittite monarch who fought with Rameses II., was the ruler of a great empire, having its capital at Pteria. This view will probably turn out to be correct when the mounds of Northern Syria have been excavated, and more light is thrown on the Hittites and their empire.

It is interesting to find that so many traces of the old village system, as described in the text, have survived to the present day. Each village has still, in some measure, its separate individuality and administration; and its own territory held to a large extent under the communal system. Many of the more valuable inscriptions have been found in the obscurer districts of Asia Minor, and some of those of the Middle Mæander valley have supplied a word that has a peculiar interest in connection with the letters of Ignatius.

After noticing the Phrygian cities of the Lower Mæander valley, Prof. Ramsay describes Colossai, which in early times was the great city of the Lycos valley. Colossai gradually declined as Laodiceia rose to importance; and the stories of the gradual removal of the Colossians to Khonai, on a lofty spur of Latmos, and of the destruction of the great church of St. Michael by Seljûk Turks under the leadership of a Greek renegade, are well told. The questions connected with the accuracy of Herodotus' description of the Lycos gorge, which were discussed in the author's ‘Church in the Roman Empire,’ are again briefly noticed. There is no reason to believe that the Lycos ever flowed for five stadia in an underground channel in the immediate vicinity of Colossai; and the explanation given that the real source of the river is in Lake Anava, whence it runs underground to Kodja Bash, appears to

be correct. In connection with Colossai, there are good descriptions of the old Eastern Highway, and of the later Byzantine road to the east, which, instead of following the old road to Apameia, turned north to the Mæander valley, near Sibia, and crossed the hills beyond it by the *Duz Bel*.

Some of the most interesting passages in the book are those that relate to the imperial estates in the Killanian plain. These estates were farmed to contractors, and were managed by a procurator who was an imperial freedman, and managers who were imperial slaves. The land was cultivated by the natives, who paid rent for their farms. The procurator, who represented the imperial authority, maintained public order by a corps of police, and marked and preserved the boundaries of the properties. The estates appear to have belonged to the Pergamenian kings, from whom they passed to the Roman emperors. At a later period they came into the hands of a branch of the imperial family, and they seem to have been owned by the Annia Faustina who married the Emperor Elagabalus.

It may be added that each chapter of Prof. Ramsay's book is followed by appendices, containing the more important inscriptions in the district described, lists of the bishops, and discussions on disputed points. There is also a clear map, showing the natural features and the ancient sites in South-Western Phrygia. In transliterating Turkish words, the adoption of the French form *dj* for *j*, and *tch* for *ch*, is, we think, to be regretted.

Prof. Ramsay's 'Local History of Phrygia' will, we venture to think, when completed, be the most important work of the kind that has been published in this country in recent times; and the thanks of geographers and scholars alike are due to the delegates of the Clarendon Press for undertaking its publication.

M. MARCEL DUBOIS ON COLONIAL SYSTEMS AND COLONIZING PEOPLES.*

By G. G. CHISHOLM, M.A., B.Sc.

THIS work is in a large measure avowedly polemical. It is called forth by the author's conviction of the erroneous nature of some of the views expressed, more particularly of M. P. Leroy-Beaulieu in his 'History of Modern Colonization,' as well as of Seeley and his French translator M. Rambaud. M. Dubois wishes especially to protest against the current belief that the French are not a colonizing nation, and that their failure is due, like that of many other nations, to the inferiority of their methods as compared with the liberal policy to which England owes her success

* 'Systèmes Coloniaux et Peuples Colonisateurs. Dogmes et Faits.' Paris: G. Masson, 1895.