

XI. *On the first Peopling of this Island. Written by the Reverend Dr. Haviland, Rector of North Pederwin in Cornwall, 1755.*

ALTHOUGH this island must have been peopled from the adjacent continent, yet I think it must have been first inhabited by the posterity of some of the other sons of Japhet (although by which of them no one can at present presume to determine), and not by any of the descendants of Gomer, by what name soever called ; and there seems to be good authority to support this opinion.

PEZRON was fixed to a favourite hypothesis, and his principal intention was, to give a plausible account of Gomer and his family, and to trace out their several migrations into Europe, which he was to support by the best evidence he could get, and in which he spared no pains. Yet, after all, they are precarious and inconclusive, being chiefly collected from history remarkably fabulous. Hence he took no notice of any of the other sons of Japhet, nor concerned himself, when they were dispersed, or where they were settled. If he had, he must have discovered, that Javan and Tubal, and perhaps Tiras, with their families, had taken possession of the southern parts of Europe, and the isles of the sea ; and continued their migrations farther westward long before any of Gomer's posterity could have come into it. This discovery would have been founded on much stronger reasons than any which he hath given for the original peopling of Europe by the Gomerians.

THE holy Scripture affords sufficient evidence to shew, that Javan was the first possessor of Greece, and Tubal of Italy. It is very usual in those writings to give the name of the Patriarch to the country which he planted. Instances are numerous, and thus, in particular, Greece is known by the name of Javan, and

Italy of Tubal. If those Patriarchs had not themselves conducted their families into those countries, it is not probable that they would have had their names. Not only the country, but inhabitants likewise of Greece, were known by the name of Javan: They were called Iaones (the radical letters of Javan) contracted afterwards into Iones. His son Elifha is supposed, from the affinity of the word, to have given his name to Elis, in his settlement in Peloponnesus. And from thence it is very probable that he peopled the isles of the sea, in the proper sense of the word; the islands of the Archipelago, being called in Scripture the isles of Elifha, and perhaps the whole Peloponnesus.

THOUGH the sacred history is silent as to the settlement of Tiras in Europe; yet the affinity of the name hath placed it in Thrace, with as good a reason as any of the settlements of the Gomerian branch. We hear of him no where else; and as he was the younger brother, must take what the others left him. The authors of the Universal History have raised a strong objection against what hath been said, and have declared it monstrously absurd to imagine that these patriarchs could get over the sea into Europe with their numerous retinue, so long before navigation, even by coasting, was known.

THE authority of Scripture is, I think, a full answer to this objection, wherein it is expressly mentioned, that by the sons of Japhet the isles of the sea were divided. But how can these things be? is the old question of infidels, who, because they cannot answer it, arrogantly affirm, that these things could not be. To give a proper weight to their objection, they should have given some reasonable proof of the truth of their assertion, and have ascertained the time when, the place where, and on what occasion, navigation was first attempted. But it is wild and extravagant to contradict the authority of Scripture, by an unwarrantable presumption, that since there could be no other way for Javan and his brethren to get into Europe, but by crossing the Hellespont, it was impossible for him to take that way, because he had not, nor could have, proper means for this purpose.

ON the other hand, if the Scripture permits me to maintain the contrary assertion, and supplies me with reasons to defend and support it, I may be indulged in a liberty of taking it, and affirm, that Javan and his brethren, with their families, did cross the streights into Europe, and that they were furnished with means effectual for making their attempt successful.

I IMAGINE that it may be laid down as a rule, that, in these first migrations of the Patriarchs for replenishing the earth, the fathers, or the heads of the family, remained in their primary situation, and detached off their sons to their respective settlements, when they were increased to a competent number for that purpose, who in their turn took the same method, and removed their posterity to a distant country.

After the general dispersion at Babel, Japhet with all his descendants is supposed to have settled in the lesser Asia; a small allotment for so numerous a family as his was expected to become, from the promise of God made to him by his Father Noah, of the great enlargement of it. Hence, whilst himself remained in this situation, he sent his sons to take possession of, and people the several countries appointed them for their respective habitations. Four of them dispersed themselves eastward in Asia, through Cappadocia, &c. along the Euxine and Caspian seas, and in time extended themselves much farther. The progress of the other three was stopped by the sea, and Hellespontic streights, by which they were hemmed in on the one side, and by their father and brethren on the other sides. It is not unreasonable, in these circumstances of their situation, to suppose, that their father Japhet should prompt and encourage them, and perhaps lay his fatherly commands upon them, to attempt a passage cross these straits, either at the Hellespont or Bosphorus; that he should give them proper advice, instructions and directions which he must have been capable of doing, for making the undertaking feasible and successful. On this occasion, Japhet must have remembered the assurance given to him by Noah, that God would *enlarge*, or as, it is translated in the margin, *persuade* Japhet, that

is, as the word is capable of two significations, if we take it in both, that God, by the influence of his Spirit upon the mind of Japhet, would persuade him to carry on the enlargement and increase of his family, and to use all the proper means for that purpose, and particularly prompt him to this attempt, as the most effectual for fulfilling the promise.

JAPHET had himself worked in the building of the ark ; he knew the manner of its construction, and the design of it, and found by experience that it answered the end for which it was built. He could therefore, and probably did, put his sons in a method of making boats, or vessels, of a like nature, which would be necessary for conveying them and their families across a narrow channel of the sea.

BUT perhaps, after all that hath been said, the invention of boats, or such like floating vessels, convenient for a secure passage over great and deep rivers, must be traced up higher ; for the several material circumstances which attended the forwarding the general dispersion, seem necessarily to require them. Babel was situated in the plains of Shinaar, between the Euphrates and Tigris, very wide and deep rivers. It was impossible for so many people, at the dispersion, to cross those rivers without some such machines to convey them over. It cannot be conceived that they built bridges for that purpose, being a work more difficult to be done than the making of boats. If Javan then was at Babel on the dispersion, he must have seen and used such vessels long before he came to the Hellespont ; which if he found to be broader than the Euphrates, and might imagine, more difficult to be crossed, or more dangerous, he might overcome these obstacles by making his boats larger and stronger. Misraim is supposed to have taken possession of Egypt soon after the dispersion, and must have had such like conveniencies for passing over the Nile, as they had used before at the Euphrates.

IF then, for these reasons, I should say, that these Patriarchs, with their numerous retinue, were thus conveyed into Europe, designed by God to be the lot of their inheritance ; where is the absurdity alledged from the impossibility of the fact ?

THOSE

THOSE who have made the closest search into antient history, for the discovery of the origin of useful arts and inventions, have not succeeded in the most remarkable; and have been puzzled in determining the necessary circumstances of time, place, persons, and the end requisite for the fixing the era of navigation, and building vessels proper for that purpose. Perhaps, what hath been said may, in some measure, supply the omission of the history of this invention; at least give more light to this obscure point than can be had any where else. For what period of time can be assigned more proper for it, than whilst Noah's sons were alive, who worked in the building of the Ark, and could give their sons directions for making something like it, and to be equally boyant on the water? Can any point of that period be better fixed, than that of Javan's and his brethren passing over the Hellespont into Europe, when there was an absolute necessity for such vessels?

MUST not Javan, and his son Elisha in particular, have afterwards used the same means in peopling the isles of the sea, literally taken, which were in sight of one another, as the isles of the Archipelago all are? Certainly the accomplishment of God's promise of his enlargement of Japhet, and promoting his great design, by the general disperſion at Babel for the speedy re-peopling the earth, was a matter of much greater importance than any benefit of commerce could at any time afterwards have been.

IF what hath been mentioned is sufficient to confute the imaginary impossibility of Javan and his brethren's passage into Europe, there was time enough for their descendants to continue their progress, and supply with inhabitants the farthestmost parts of it, France and Spain.

I SUPPOSE, that when these three brethren were safely landed on the European shore, they separated, and took different routs, to preserve their patriarchal authority over their respective families, which would otherwise have interfered; and they were all under their father Japhet's before they left Asia. At this separation, Javan doubtless went into Greece, with his descendants, along the sea coast;

coast; and if Tubal and his posterity were the planters of Italy, their way thither was through the north parts of Greece; which having peopled, might by degrees come into Italy, whilst Tiras took the country directly north from the Hellespont for his share in the division, and inhabited Thrace, and dispersed his progeny, as they increased, still farther.

IF there is any foundation in the reason of the thing, for what I have here advanced, and if Javan and his brethren came into Europe, as hath been with some probability shewed, there must have been a period of some hundreds of years, from the time of Javan's coming into Europe, and the first introduction of the Gomerians, even by Pezron's own account; a period sufficient for supplying the western parts of Europe with inhabitants. The Gomerians continued a long time in Asia along and beyond the Euxine sea, and in the inland countries, far to the south, under different names, some of their own taking, and others as nicknames imposed upon them by their neighbours, before their migration into Europe. During this great period, the three Patriarchs before mentioned had time to people the greatest and most western countries of this part of the world, notwithstanding the many objections they must necessarily meet with, which, though they might stop their progress, yet did not hinder their increasing, whereby they moved forward in more numerous bodies, when those difficulties were removed.

IF Tubal then was the first possessor and planter of Italy, that is the nearest place which I can find to fetch our original inhabitants, and the most likely to have supplied us. Perhaps the nighest part of that country, lying between us and Italy, might have been stocked with people almost as soon as Italy itself. For if Tubal should have remained for some time in the skirts of Italy along the banks of the Po, and the Milanese, untill the usual causes of removing farther, should compel him; and that then finding his company numerous enough for a division, he may have detached one body of them towards France, and the other into the heart of Italy. By this means southern France might have been peopled as soon

as the furthestmost parts of Italy. I was willing to bring them into these western countries, which, being very large, require a longer time for their being inhabited, as soon as I could with reasonable probability.

If then Javan and his brethren, with their families, came into Europe at the time, and in the manner, which hath been represented, there was a period of above 400 year, at the least, between this and the beginning of the Gomerians migration; a period sufficient for stocking all the southern and western parts of Europe with inhabitants.

To what hath been said must be added, that the migration of the Gomerians into Europe is not related as planting of colonies, and furnishing them with inhabitants, but as a warlike expedition, as an invasion and irruption. And they are represented as conquerors, subduing and driving the former inhabitants out of their possessions, or where there was room enough incorporating with them, and, as is always usual with conquerors, compelling them to observe their laws and customs; to learn and speak their language, and take their name.

THIS seems to me to be the case of this island, and the neighbouring continent. They were invaded and subdued, and obliged to take the names of their conquerors, and to quit the original name of their family, which, being by the silence of History wholly lost, was absorbed in the appellation of Celts, Gauls Gomerians, &c. who, having gotten possession of the country, afterwards assumed the claim to be the aborigines of it; whilst those who were really so, might be induced to resign willingly their pretensions to it, and to change their names, out of a vanity, either of being thought the descendants of the eldest branch of Noah's eldest son, rather than a younger; or else, from imagining the appellation of a conquering, more honourable than of a vanquished, nation.