

COMPENDIUM
OF
ANCIENT GEOGRAPHY,

BY
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TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH

ILLUSTRATED WITH MAPS,

CAREFULLY REDUCED FROM THOSE OF THE PARIS
ATLAS, IN IMPERIAL FOLIO;

WITH A MAP OF ROMAN BRITAIN,

FROM THE

LEARNED JOHN HORSLEY, M.A. F.R.S.

AND WITH PROLEGOMENA AND NOTES BY THE TRANSLATOR.

CALCULATED

For Private Libraries, as well as for the Use of Schools.

His eye might here command wherever stood
City of old or modern fame, the seat
Of mightiest empire; from the destin'd walls
Of CAMBALU, seat of Cathaian Khan,
And SAMARCHAND by OXUS, Temir's throne,
By AGRA and LAHOR of Great Mogul,
Down to the GOLDEN CHERSONESE—
And utmost Indian isle TAPROBANA. Parad. Lost, B. xi.

ORNARI RES IPSA NEGAT, CONTENTA DŒCERI.

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were the Numides ; and as they lived without fixed dwellings, the circumstance might have given occasion to an ambiguity in this name, and that of Nomades*, both terms being of Greek origin. A land abundantly fertile by nature, was left without culture ; for, in the words of Strabo, its inhabitants abandoned their fields to savage beasts, to exhaust themselves by predatory warfare. The dominion which the Carthaginians established in this country, must have operated a change in the national character of the natives ; and the author above-cited reports of Masinissa, whose attachment to the Romans in the second Punic war had rendered him powerful, that he contributed much to the civilisation of the Numidian nation. But Numidia having been distinguished from Africa, it is of this separately that we now proceed to speak. (

A F R I C A.

It is enveloped by the sea on two sides : on the east, from the bottom of the smaller Syrtis

* *Numidius, pastoralis, & νῆμα, pasco.*

to the *Hermæum* promontory, or that of Mercury, now Cape Bon ; and, on the north, from this promontory to the limits of Numidia. Its name is recognised in that of Frikia, which has remained to a principal canton of this country, that is traversed by the *Bagradas* in its course to the sea ; while the name of the river is also preserved in the form of Megerda. It may be added, that a line of division between the provinces of Africa and Numidia appears given by that which separates the kingdoms of Tunis and Algier. The country adjacent to the Syrtis was distinguished by the name of *Byzacium*. It was also named *Emporia* ; and its great fertility in corn might have caused it to be regarded as a magazine of provisions, which was resorted to by sea. There was a city of the same name with that of the country ; and the Arabian geography makes known its position under the name of Beghni. Among the maritime cities, the first that presents itself in the order we have adopted, is *Macomedes*, distinguished by the surname of *Minores* from another of the same name, which we have already seen at the bottom of the great Syrtis ; this being what is now called el-Mahrés. The town of *Thenæ* preserves the name of Taineh ; and Skafes, which is now the most frequented port on this coast,

appears to have replaced *Taphrura*. This name, which seems derived from the Greek term *Taphros*, signifying a trench, may relate to that which the second Scipio caused to be drawn to *Thenæ*, according to Pliny, to fix the limits of the country conceded to the kings of Numidia. At no great distance from the shore, the little isle of *Cercina*, separated from a smaller isle by a narrow canal, retains its name in the form of Kerkeni. Though there be no mention of *Caputuada* till the reign of Justinian, we may say that the point called Capoudia indicates it. At some distance from the sea, a place named el-Jem, in which, among many remains of antiquity, there is seen an amphitheatre, answers to the position of *Tysdrus*. A peninsula on which a prince, who is said to have descended from Mohammed by Fatima, constructed in the tenth century a fortress under the name of Mahdia, and which the Franks name Africa, appears to have been the site of the *Turris Hannibalis*, whence that famous Carthaginian departed when he retired to Asia. In this part of Africa, conquered by the Arabs in the first age of Islamism, the position of Kairwan, distant from the sea, and which Ocba, who made this conquest, chose for the residence of the governors of the country, under the authority of

the Khalifs, is taken by conjecture for the *Vicus Augusti*.

Continuing to follow the coast, we discern the name of *Tapsus*, which a victory obtained by Cæsar has rendered memorable, in that of a place called *Demsas*. By a similar indication, the position of *Lemta* shows that of *Leptis*, which, notwithstanding the qualification of *Minor*, in contradistinction to that in the Tripolitane, was far from being inconsiderable. *Hadrumentum*, whose name is also written without the aspiration, appears in the first rank among the cities of Byzacium. Its present condition is unknown; but a neighbouring place, mentioned in a subsequent age under the name of *Cabar Susis*, is existent in Susa: and *Horrea Cælia* is well known in the vulgar denomination of *Erklia*. From this position the maritime country takes the name of *Zeugitana*, without our knowing whether under this name it extended as far inland as to correspond with the limits of the department that was afterwards named *Proconsularis*. In this passage to another province, where the strand of the continent appears driven in by the sea, there is remarked at some distance from the shore a place which, under the name of *Grasse*, now *Jerads*, was a palace furnished

with delicious gardens in the time of the Vandalic kings. We know that, compelled to cede entire Spain to the Visigoths, the Vandals invaded Africa, which they possessed for near a century immediately preceding the reign of Justinian, who re-conquered it. On the coast, Hammamet indicates in this name the *Aquæ Calidæ* of this canton. There is known a *Neapolis* in Nabel; also a *Curubis* in Gurbés, and *Clypea* in Aklibia; the position of which is followed immediately by the *Hermæum Promontorium*, which we had occasion to cite before.

At the bottom of the gulf which this promontory bounds on one side, a creek, of which the narrow entrance is called the Goulette*, penetrates as far as *Tunes* or *Tunetum*, which, since the entire ruin of Carthage, has become the capital city. A point which bends in the figure of a crescent moon, called Cape Carthage, is that of a peninsula which made the site of the famous city of this name. But it is not now, as heretofore, a land almost insulated: for the sea, retired from its ancient

* *Goulette*, an appellative word for the narrow entrance to a harbour, appears to be used here as a proper name, and therefore is not translated.

shore, has left uncovered an extensive beach between the point just mentioned and that named Porto Ferino, near a promontory which terminates the opposite side of the gulf. An isthmus of twenty-five stadia, or three miles, in breadth, which joined the peninsula to the main, is no longer to be distinguished from it; and what is still called el-Marza, or the Port, is at a considerable distance from the sea. The circuit of three hundred and sixty stadia given to this peninsula, must be of the shortest measure, to be commensurate with the twenty-four miles assigned by another authority to the vast enclosure comprehending the city with its ports. It had a citadel, named *Byrsa*, on an eminence; and an interior port, excavated by human labour, as its name of *Côthôn** denoted. Founded by the Tyrians, the name *Carthada*, which they gave it, signifies in the Phœnician language the new city. And this name in the Greek writers is not, as in the Latins, *Carthago*, but *Carchedon*. Destroyed by the younger Scipio one hundred and forty-six years before the Christian æra; its re-establishment, projected by Cæsar, was executed by Augustus; and Strabo, writing under Tiberius, speaks of Carthage as one of

* *Kathê, poculum.*

the most flourishing cities of Africa. Its second destruction by the Arabs, under the khalifat of Abdal-Malec was towards the end of the seventh century. Among its ruins are discovered cisterns; and in the country are the remains of an aqueduct proceeding from a place named Zowan, considerably distant towards the south.

Inclining towards Utica we meet the *Bagradas*, whose mouth was formerly nearer to Carthage than it is at present. For it had changed its course to pass under the position of ancient Utica, which was anciently separated from it by the site of a camp, which the advantage of situation had recommended to the choice of the first Scipio, and which, from the family of this great captain, is cited in more than one passage of history by the designation of *Castra Cornelia*. *Utica*, whose name in the Greek writers is read *Ithyca*, a Tyrian colony as well as Carthage, and even of prior foundation, was the principal city of this country in the time which elapsed between the destruction of Carthage and its re-establishment. There is mention of a place which has supplanted it, under the name of Satcor, in the history of the conquest of the country by the Arabs. The Mesjerda,

after traversing a small pool which heretofore separated the camp of Scipio from Utica, continues its course to Porto-Ferino, which is covered by a point named formerly *Apollinis Promontorium*, now Ras Zebid. On the coast which then looks to the north, *Hippo Zarytas* was thus surnamed by distinction from *Hippo Regius*, by reason of its situation among artificial canals, which afforded the sea entrance to a navigable lagoon that was adjacent. The alteration of its name into that of Ben-zert, as we find it in the Arabian geography, preserves some affinity with its ancient denomination which the practice of seamen, in calling it Biserte, has totally extinguished. The last place to be mentioned on this coast is *Tabraca*, of which the little isle of Tabarca preserves the name. We know of no other river that may be the *Rubricatus* of Ptolemy, than that which falls into the sea opposite this isle. It is also the *Tusca*, which according to Pliny bounds Africa on the side of Numidia, and is now the Wad-el-Berber. Ascending by it to some distance, we recognise, in the name of Vegja, a considerable city which by Sallust is named *Vacca*, and by others *Vaga*.

The interior country remains now to be in-

spected. Ascending by the Bagradas, we find *Tuburbo* under the same name; and *Tucaborum*, in Tucaber. Another *Tuburbo*, distinguished by the surname of *Majus*, whose position is south of Tunis, and widely distant from the preceding, appears also in the form of Tubernok. In the name of Wad-el-Bul, which a river received by the Bagradas bears; that of *Bulla*, surnamed *Regia*, is evident. It is only by being near *Tagaste*, a Numidian city, and the native place of St. Augustine, that the position of *Madaurus*, the city of Apuleius, is judged. That which is now called Urbs, and otherwise Kef, where are remains of antiquity, is *Sicca Venera*; although an English traveller*, to whose information we owe much topographical intelligence of this country, makes a distinction between these names, as appropriate to two several positions. We find the name of *Tucca*, with ancient vestiges, in a place named Tugga; but which cannot be the same with *Tucca Terebinthina* of the Roman Itinerary. It must here be said, that the positions given by Ptolemy appear in such disorder, that we have no other means of assigning suitable places to them than by following the traces of Roman

* Dr. Shaw. D.

ways, which abound more in this part of Africa than in any other country of the ancient Itineraries. These means are, nevertheless, not without difficulty, as the author has experienced in many attempts. *Zama*, memorable for the victory of Scipio over Hannibal, is given as immediate to another place on one of these ways ; though there is reason, from other circumstances, to form a doubt of its true position. One is astonished to find that of *Musti**, which by a similar problem has a place assigned to it in the centre of Africa, appear in the Ecclesiastical Notices as an episcopal see of Numidia, rather than of the proconsular province. *Ammadera* may be now Hedra. *Sufetula*, a considerable city, to judge of it by the concourse of many ways, is found in Sbaitla. *Septimunicia* is mentioned as being at the foot of a great mountain named *Burgaon*, which appears to be a continuation of *Usaletus*, retaining the name of Uselet.

What remains of the province of Africa is that part of Byzacium, which stretches towards the south. To arrive at it, we must traverse arid and desert places, as history tes-

* *Musti* appears in the Itinerary ninety-two miles from Carthage, on the circuitous route by *Tebeste* to *Cesarea*.

tifies in speaking of the forced march effected by Marius to surprise *Capsa*, a great city, which, from its difficulty of access, was judged by Jugurtha a proper deposit for reserved treasure. The position of it is known, and its name is pronounced *Cafsa*. *Thale* is likewise spoken of with circumstances which, in relation to the preceding, appear to suit the position of *Telepte*, in the Roman Itinerary. We are indebted to the English traveller for the recognisance of a long and narrow lake, divided in two by a ford, and which represents, under the African names of Faroun and el-Loudeah, the *Paludes* called *Tritonis* and *Libya* in antiquity. The first of these communicated the epithet of Tritonia to Minerva ; who, it is pretended, first revealed herself in these places. What are found on this mere, under the names of Toser and Nefta, indicate the positions of *Tisurus* and *Nepte*. A military post on this frontier, called *Turris Tamalleni*, is discovered in the name of Tamelem ; and the country is that now called Beledul-Gérid, or the Region of Grasshoppers.