

THE PLAINS OF TROY

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The plains of Troy by Henry W. Acland

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HENRY W. ACLAND

**THE
PLAINS OF TROY**

TO
THE VERY REVEREND
THOMAS GAISFORD D.D.

DEAN OF CHRIST CHURCH
AND
REGIUS PROFESSOR OF GREEK IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

THE DRAWING
DESCRIBED IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES
IS BY PERMISSION DEDICATED
AS A
SMALL TOKEN OF RESPECT AND GRATITUDE.

PREFACE.

I SHOULD not have ventured to publish, especially in this place, the Drawing, for the illustration of which this Paper is designed, had I not been requested to do so by many friends, and encouraged by the advice of Members of the University, to whose opinion I owe the highest deference.

The Drawing was made during three visits to the Troad in the year 1838, without a thought of publication; and in the description, (although I kept a copious journal,) I have preferred, wherever it was possible, quoting from the works of authors well known.

I had at first intended to state the theories of the most able writers on the subject, especially of those who have visited the Troad, and to point out such opinions as on the spot appeared to me the most probable. But a weak state of health, the original cause of my visiting the Mediterranean, has forced me to curtail this design; and I hope this may be admitted as some apology for the condition in which my Paper now appears.

A brief description of the country visible from the tumulus from which the Drawing is taken, will form the sole subject of the following pages.

My only wish is, that, incomplete as both the Drawing and the description may appear, they may afford some pleasure and information to lovers of classic ground, especially to such as have not within their reach the larger and more expensive works written on the subject.

The basis of the Map is taken from the latest Admiralty survey; and I trust I may be excused in expressing my acknowledgments to CAPTAIN BEAUFORT, R.N. D.C.L. for the kind assistance which he has afforded me.

Ch. Ch. Oxford,
Oct. 19, 1839.

THE
PLAINS OF TROY,

&c.

THE Drawing of the Plains of Troy, which I am about to describe, was taken from a tumulus that stands elevated two hundred and sixty feet above the sea, generally known by the name of the tumulus of *Æsyetes*. It is distinguished on the Map by a red spot, and it will there be seen, that, by its situation on one side of the Plains of Troy, at a considerable distance both from the site of the city and from the Hellespont, it is well fitted for a station whence to observe the localities of the whole neighbourhood. No hills lie between it and the Plain: it commands both the source and mouth of the Bounabashi-chai or Scamander, ten miles of the course of the Mendere or Simois, the Hellespont, and the *Ægean* Sea, with as much of the range of *Ida* as can be seen from any one spot in the vicinity of the Plain. In describing the objects successively presented to the eye from this height, we begin on the left hand, although Troy itself is on the extreme right; but the Map, if carefully looked at, together with the points of the compass marked above, and the names arranged in order below the Drawing, will give a sufficient notion of the

relative position of the places about to be described; and thus the site of Troy, though last in the series of objects, will be presented with an interest enhanced rather than impaired by its position. This arrangement was adopted by Sir Wm. Gell, whose invaluable work on the Troad would make these pages wholly unnecessary, were they not recommended by their shorter and less costly form.

To obtain the best notion of the subject from a drawing on so limited a scale, it would be well to examine only a quarter of the compass at one time, thus confining the attention to one quarter of the whole extent. In this way we can more easily follow the turning round of the body, which takes place in examining the circle of the horizon.

THE range of high ground, seen on the left of the
 Ida. Drawing, forms part of the most westerly district of Ida; "for Ida was not a single mountain, nor a single chain of mountains, but a mountainous region extending in its greatest length from the Promontory of Lectum to Zeleia, and in breadth from the Hellespont to the neighbourhood of Adramyttium. So that it occupied, by its ridges and ramifications, the whole of the tract called anciently Lesser Phrygia*."

The point which first reaches the sea, being about ten miles from the tumulus of *Æsyetes*, is near Alexandria Troas, which will hereafter be more particularly described. It is now mentioned merely that it may not be confused with the more distant land beyond it, which is Lesbos (Metelin or Mitylene.) Major Rennell, from whose Observations on this district

* Major Rennell's Observations on the Topography of the Plains of Troy, page 17.

the above statement concerning Ida is taken, contends, that the whole range was in the form of a Greek delta, of which the three parts were situated as follows. The First or Eastern range extends from the Hellespont to the head of the gulf of Adramyttium, including in its extent the peak Gargarus or Cotylus. The Second or Western runs parallel to the Ægean Sea; it commences to the East of the Plain of Troy, and runs down towards Lectum, but does not quite reach it. It is this range which we see on the left of the Drawing. From its roots the point of Alexandria Troas runs into the sea, and from behind it rises the island of Mitylene. The Third range extends along the Southern Coast of Lesser Phrygia. If this account of Ida be correct, it explains a geographical error which has been laid upon Homer, namely, that the Granicus and Scamander both rise in Ida—or rather, to use his own expression, in the Idæan mountains^b. Now the Granicus does rise in the Eastern range just mentioned; the Scamander in the roots of the Western range by the walls of Troy; and the Mendere or Simois, I may add, in that part of the chain now called Kasdagh, that is Gargarus.

It appeared necessary to notice the great extent of Ida, because hereafter, when it is seen again on the other side of the Drawing, confusion may arise from not clearly understanding that Ida was a district.

The dark point in which Ida appears first to reach

^b Ἰσσοὶ ἀπ' Ἰδαίων ὀρέων ἄλλα τε ποταμοὶσι,
 Ῥῆσός θ', Ἐπτάπορος τε, Κάρησός τε, Ῥοδῖος τε,
 Γρήνικός τε, καὶ Αἰσῆτος, εἰδός τε Σκάμανδρος,
 καὶ Σιμόεις. Iliad. xiii. 19.

the sea is, as has been already observed, near Alexandria Troas, now Eski Stamboul. There are a few wretched hovels on the sea shore, about a quarter of a mile from the site of the ancient port. The principal ruins are nearly a mile inland, and they are so conspicuous from vessels on the *Ægean*, that they were formerly supposed to be the palace of Priam, and are by sailors still so called.

To Dr. Chandler's account I can add nothing, but for the convenience of the reader I quote it here. "This City was begun by Antigonos, and from him first called Antigonos; but Lysimachus, to whom, as a successor of Alexander, it devolved, changed the appellation in honour of the deceased king. In the war with Antiochus it was eminent for its fidelity to the Romans, who conferred on it the same privileges as the cities of Italy enjoyed. Under Augustus, it received a Roman colony, and increased. It was then the only considerable place between Sigéum and Lectos, and was inferior to no city of its name, but Alexandria in Egypt^b.

"Alexandria Troas was seated on a hill, sloping toward the sea, and divided from Mount Ida by a deep valley. On each side is an extensive plain, with water-courses. The founders it is possible were aware, that, like Tenedos, it would derive many advantages from its situation on the coast near the mouth of the Hellespont.

"The Port of Troas, by which we landed, has a hill rising round it in a semicircle, and covered with rubbish. Many small granite pillars are standing, half buried, and much corroded by the spray. It is likely the vessels were fastened to them by ropes. A

^b Strabo, p. 593.