

**THE PLAIN OF TROY DESCRIBED: AND  
THE IDENTITY OF THE ILIUM OF HOMER  
WITH THE NEW  
ILIUM OF STRABO PROVED, BY  
COMPARING THE POETS NARRATIVE  
WITH THE PRESENT TOPOGRAPHY**

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The Plain of Troy Described: And the Identity of the Ilium of Homer with the New Ilium of Strabo Proved, by Comparing the Poets Narrative with the Present Topography by Charles Maclaren

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**CHARLES MACLAREN**

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By CHARLES MACLAREN, F.R.S.E.,

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LONDON, AND EDINBURGH.

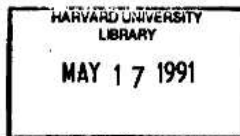
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Uti fructum ex historiarum lectione satis magnum capere non possumus, nisi locorum in quibus res gestae sunt situm accurate tenemus: Ita deo tanta, quanta esse potest, voluptas ex Iliada lectione capitur, nisi fixam habeamus animo fidem locorum quatenusque, in quibus Ilium aetiam fuit, et Inter Troianos et Achivos esse pugnatum.—HERVET, *NOTAS AD ILIAD. VI.*



DEDICATED

TO

**JAMES PILLANS, ESQ.,**

PROFESSOR OF HUMANITY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH,

IN TESTIMONY OF

THE AUTHOR'S ESTEEM FOR HIS CHARACTER

AS A SCHOLAR, A GENTLEMAN,

AND A FRIEND.





## P R E F A C E.

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THE first edition of this work was published in 1822, and bore on its title-page the respected Firm of Archibald Constable & Co. I was aware that the subject of which it treats could interest only a very narrow literary circle, and as it lay under the further disadvantage of receiving very little aid from the periodical press, I had no right to be surprised at the very limited sale it obtained. Firmly believing, however, that my researches had conducted me to the true solution of the problem, which has now been under discussion for half a century, I was not discouraged. New truths of more value to the world than any I had to communicate, sometimes slumber unappreciated for a generation, and while I waited with patience, the lapse of years did not fail to bring me what I deemed compensation for the neglect my book experienced. In 1844 I had the pleasure to see my argument for placing Troy on the site of Strabo's New Ilium translated into French, and published in Paris, with warm commendation, by Mr Barker Webb, an English gentleman who had spent some time in the Troad. It is true, he assigned a site to the Homeric city a small space eastward from mine; but this was done on very slight grounds,

and under the idea, (an erroneous one), that the spot he selected had the approval of Demetrius and Strabo, as if the opinion of these two ancient writers settled the question, though repudiated by the Greek and Roman world. Besides, while not adopting in precise terms my conclusion, that Troy occupied the hill now named Hisarlik, he very honestly gave my reasons for placing it there, and I have little doubt that his readers generally became my disciples. At a later period I had the satisfaction of finding my opinion as to the site of the poet's Ilium, corroborated by two authorities of the highest rank in all questions connected with ancient geography. The first is Mr Grote, in his profound and philosophical History of Greece, a book, in my humble opinion, destined to take its place at the head of all the British Historical works published in the present century. I find my second authority in Dr William Smith's Dictionary of Greek and Roman Geography, (article "Ilium"), the most complete and carefully written work on the subject in existence. The concurrence of two such able independent enquirers in my fundamental conclusion, that the Ilium of Homer was identical with the pretended *New Ilium* of Strabo—to say nothing of the mass of additional evidence adduced in this edition—justifies me in looking forward to its universal acceptance at no distant day.

An inquiry into the site of Troy is often referred to as a typical example of purely idle and useless questions. Yet the number and price of the numerous volumes on the subject published in the present century tell a different tale; nor will the past history of the poems permit us to doubt that the question will possess an interest as long as men continue to read the Iliad, and this is a pleasure they will not in all probability deny themselves for some thousand years to come.

A deep obscurity, to the regret of the learned world, rests on the origin of the two noble poems, on the time, place, and manner of their birth, which may for ever baffle the penetration of critics; but this leaves their substantial merits unimpaired, and it is enough for us to know that at a period long antecedent to the existence of prose annals, the *Iliad* had taken its place as the great national Epic of the Greek race, was sung at the courts of princes, and at civil and religious festivals, and was universally accepted as a true portion of Greek History, arrayed in the garb of poetry. Perhaps it is not too much to say, that no books, the product of the human intellect, have so sure a guarantee for immortality as the poems of Homer. They have charmed the most highly cultivated minds in the world for three thousand years; and in addition to their poetical merits, they possess a moral interest which can never die in the singularly graphic picture they present to us of the arts, manners, customs, religious and civil institutions, of a highly gifted people, at an early and chivalrous stage of its national life, which has long passed away, and of which no other memorial remains.

Though the poems of Homer have come down to us crowned with the eulogies of a hundred generations, his title to the homage paid to him has not passed unchallenged, and this too in very recent times. Passing over old Vico and Perrault, Frederick Augustus Wolf, a celebrated German scholar, broached a theory in 1795, which spread consternation among the poet's admirers. After a laborious examination of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, he came to the conclusion that the poems existed originally in the shape of detached songs or ballads, the works of various poets living at different times, which were handed down by oral tradition for a long period, and first committed to writing in the age of Pisistratus, by