

**THE SECOND BOOK OF
THE TRAVELS
OF NICANDER
NUCIUS OF CORCYRA**

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The Second Book of the Travels of Nicander Nucus of Corcyra by Nicander Nucus

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NICANDER NUCIUS

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THE
SECOND BOOK
OF THE
TRAVELS OF NICANDER NUCIUS,
OF CORCYRA.

EDITED FROM THE ORIGINAL GREEK MS. IN THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY,
WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION,
BY THE REV. J. A. CRAMER, D.D.
PRINCIPAL OF NEW INN HALL, AND PUBLIC ORATOR
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.



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INTRODUCTION.

THE curious production which now appears for the first time in print under the auspices of the Camden Society, is taken from a MS. preserved in the Bodleian Library, but originally belonging to Archbishop Laud, as appears from the following note inscribed in the fly-leaf: "Liber Guil. Laud. Archiepi. Cant. et Cancellar. Universit. Oxon. 1637." It is a small quarto volume, written on paper in characters which betoken a period not later than the middle of the sixteenth century. It is unfortunately, however, imperfect, as several leaves have been entirely torn out; and some few have undergone a partial mutilation. Those that remain amount to the number of fifty-five. Had no other copy of the work been in existence, there would have been no means of ascertaining the extent of the loss which the Oxford MS. has sustained. From a notice, however, in Montfaucon's

Biblioth. Bibliothecarum, t. i. p. 502, I was led to infer, that another and more complete copy was preserved in the Ambrosian Library at Milan. The following is the notice referred to in the Catalogue of that Library: "Nicandri Nuncii (r. Nucii) Coreyrensis Historiarum Libri tres." From which it appears, that the entire work consisted of three books, whereas the Bodleian MS. only contains the two first; nor is the second even complete, a small portion of it having been torn out at the end. I suspect, indeed, that this last MS., having been written in England, never had the third book in it, this having been added by our author subsequently.

It would have been most satisfactory to have inspected myself the Ambrosian MS. and to have completed from its more ample contents the deficiency of the Oxford copy; but my engagements not permitting me to leave England, the Rev. Ch. Balston of C. C. C. in this University, in his way through Milan in the summer of 1840, obligingly undertook to inspect the MS.; and to obtain, if possible, for me, a transcript of the portion wanting in ours. Mr. Balston readily obtained a sight of the MS. and ascertained from a comparison of its contents, that the deficiency of the Oxford copy amounted to about eight or ten pages; and he was enabled also to inform

me, which was of consequence, that the Second Book of Nicander alone related to the History of England. He was, however, unable to obtain the desired transcript; nor was a subsequent application, made through the Rev. S. Reay, Laudian Professor of Arabic, more successful: it being intimated in reply to that gentleman, as a reason for withholding the copy, that there was an intention, on the part of one of the officers of the Ambrosian Library, of publishing the work in question.

Being thus precluded from the assistance I had hoped to derive from Milan, I have been under the necessity of publishing the Oxford MS. in its imperfect state. Should, however, as it is to be hoped, the publication of the entire work of Nicander Nucus take place from the Ambrosian copy, the defect will be more than rectified; and all regret at the failure of my application will be entirely removed.

Respecting Nicander Nucus, our author, I have been able to collect no other information than what he himself has supplied us with in the First Book of his Travels, a short sketch of which will be the most appropriate mode of introducing him to the reader.

He states in the opening of his work, which is dedicated to a friend, whose name does not appear, that whilst residing at Venice, whither he had been driven

from his own country by various misfortunes, there arrived in that city an embassy from the Emperor Charles V. to the Court of the Sultan Solyman. The chief person employed on this service was Gerardus, a native of Flanders, who is described as a person of great learning and acquirements, and versed not only in Greek and Latin literature, but also in Hebrew, as his numerous writings on that language abundantly testify. Nicander having been previously known to the Ambassador, waited upon him in the course of his stay at Venice, and made an offer of his services during the journey he was about to undertake to Constantinople, which having been courteously accepted, he was presently admitted into the Ambassador's suite, and travelled with him through Illyria and Thrace to the Turkish capital. Our Author does not enter into any details in this part of his travels, since he wrote, as he states, for his countrymen, who were sufficiently acquainted with Constantinople and Turkish affairs, but were more ignorant respecting the state of those countries which are situate in the western parts of Europe. Passing then rapidly over the journey to the Bosphorus, and the return of the embassy to Venice, he commences the descriptive part of his narrative from the latter city on his way to the Low Countries, whither he