THE
HELLENIC WORLD
The Hellenic World
Williams Engraving Co., N.Y.
Longitude East from Greenwich
GALLIA
IBERIA
BALEARIC IS.
Hemeroscopium
Massalia
Alalia
CORSICA
SARDINIA
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
ETRURIA
ITALY
Rome
Cumae
Neapolis
Posidonia
Elea
SAMNIUM
ADRIATIC SEA
Epidamnus
Tarentum
Sybaris
Thurii
Croton
CORCYRA
MAGNA GRAECIA
Locri
Rhegium
Zancle (Messene)
Naxos
Catana
Leontini
Syracuse
Gela
Acragas
Selinus
Panormus
Segesta
Himera
WESTERN HELLAS
Carthage
IONIAN SEA
CONTINENTAL HELLAS
EPEIRUS
Potidaea
MACEDON
CHALCIDICE
THASOS
THRACE
Sestus
Abydus
Helespont
Propontis
Cyzicus
Byzantium
Bosporus
Odessus
Tanais
Panticapaeum
Chersonesus
BLACK SEA (EUXINE)
Phasis
COLCHIS
Sinope
PAPHLAGONIA
Heraclea
LESBOS
Phocaea
Chalcis
EUBOEA
Delphi
LOCRIS
Athens
Megara
ACHAEA
Corinth
Sparta
EASTERN HELLAS
AEGEAN HELLAS
THERA
Cnossus
CRETE
ASIATIC HELLAS
LYDIA
Maeander R.
Miletus
ASIA MINOR
PAMPHYLIA
CILICIA
LYCIA
Selinus
Soli
Salamis
CYPRUS
Citium
Sidon
Tyre
PHOENICIA
Cyrene
CYRENAICA
LYBIA
Desert
Naucratis
EGYPT
Nile R.

CHAPTER XI

THE SECOND PERIOD OF COLONIAL EXPANSION

About 750–550 B.C.

123. Motives to Colonization. — In an earlier chapter[1] we studied the expansion of the Greeks over the islands and the east coast of the Aegean Sea. This movement, described as the first period of colonization, was somewhat like a migration. It followed no definite plan; and the motives, so far as we can discover them, were the pressure of new invaders in Greece, and land-hunger. The period coincided with the Mycenaean age.

Afterward expansion came nearly to a standstill, to recommence about the middle of the eighth century B.C. From that point it continued for about two hundred years.

In the second period of expansion the first motive to be considered was over-population. This cause was especially active in Achaea and Locris. Here people depended wholly on agriculture and grazing. As the poor soil could not support many in these occupations, and as the population was growing dense, the surplus flowed off in colonies. The same motive was present in the industrial centres; and a new one was added — the desire to found stations for trade in foreign countries. This cause was active in Chalcis, Corinth, Megara, and Miletus — all centres of trade and manufacturing.

A third motive was political unrest. In the more progressive parts of Greece the monarchies had given way to aristocracies and oligarchies (§ 121). The states were often afflicted by internal strife, and the governments were usually harsh and burdensome. Many who felt oppressed and many who were expelled by hostile factions sought new homes in distant lands. Not the least power-

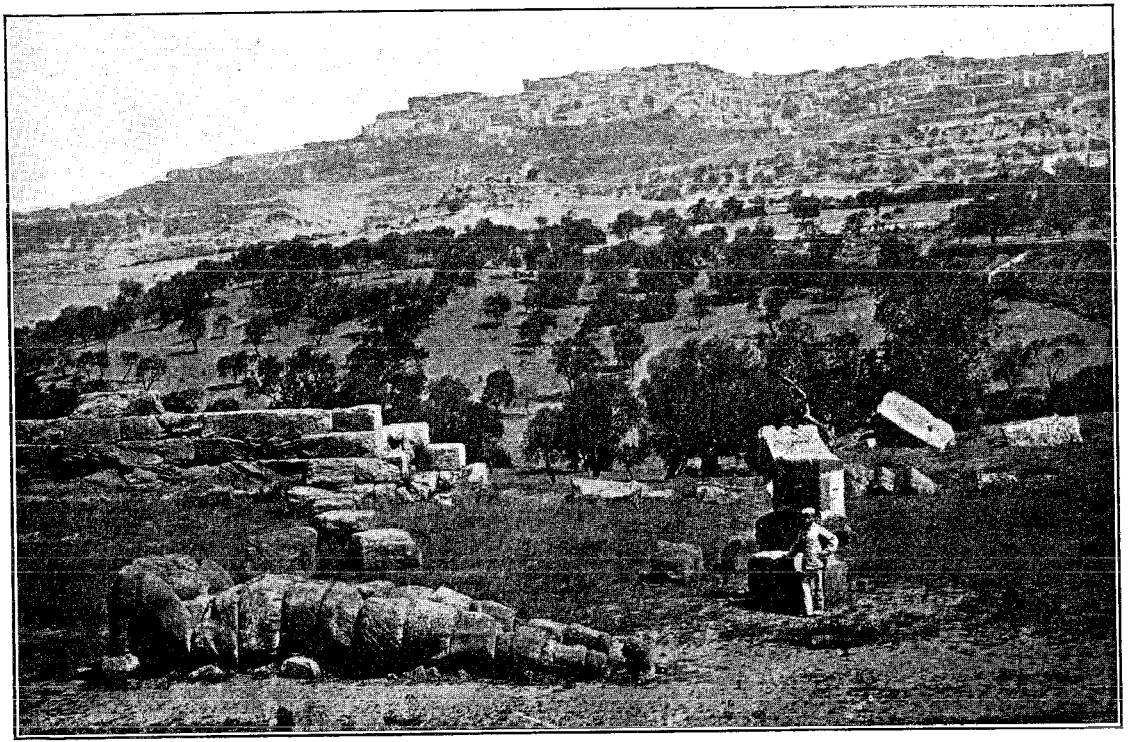
[1] Ch. viii, §§ 92–94.

ful motive was the love of adventure and the longing to see the world, often combined with the fortune-hunting spirit.

124. Organization of a Colony. — When a city planned to send out a colony, it was customary first to ask the advice and consent of Apollo at Delphi. Having obtained his approval, it appointed some noble as "founder," who was to lead the enterprise, to distribute the lands among the settlers, and to arrange the government. Generally the mother city permitted any who wished from neighboring communities to join the expedition. The founder assigned each man his place in the new state, and established a government and religion like those of the mother city. In this connection it is well to notice that every Greek city had in its town hall a sacred hearth on which it always kept fire burning. This hearth was the religious centre of the community, an altar on which the divine founder and ancestor received his sacrifices. It was customary for colonists to carry with them sacred fire from the hearth of the mother city with which to kindle the public hearth of the new settlement, that the religious life of the old community might continue uninterrupted in the new, and that those who went forth to found homes in a strange country might not for a moment be deprived of divine protection.

125. Relation of a Colony to the Mother City. — A mother city preferred, when possible, to keep political control of her colonies. But conditions generally prevented. Colonists, like other Greeks, loved complete independence for their cities, and would not rest satisfied with any other condition. Usually, too, the colonies were distant, communication with the mother city was slow, and all these circumstances combined to render control impossible. Hence as a rule the colony was politically independent. But it remained in close religious and social union with the mother-land. The two states usually traded with each other. They often joined in planting other colonies, and in time of danger they gave mutual assistance. This moral bond was rarely broken.

126. Colonies in Italy and Sicily. — Italy is farther than Asia Minor from the Greek peninsula, and the Ionian Sea is not, like the Aegean, filled with islands; yet the Greeks from the Epeirot coast could look in clear weather across the narrowest part of the sea to the



ACRAGAS

(In the background, the citadel; in front, ruins of the temple of Zeus. The entire space in view was covered by the city. From a photograph)

shore of Italy. There they found a far more fertile soil than they had known in their own homes. Our review of the settlements here will be geographical rather than chronological.

Lower Italy may be compared in form to a boot. In the heel next to the instep is an excellent harbor, on which grew up the great city of Ta-ren'tum. Because of the favorable situation it became renowned for commerce, wealth, and refinement. It was especially influential, too, in giving Greek civilization to the natives of the peninsula. Following the coast-line round the instep, we come to Syb'a-ris, noted for her wealth and luxury. The word Sybarite is still used to designate an excessively luxurious person. Farther south was Cro'ton, the home of famous athletes and physicians. Both cities were Achaean. After they had shown the utmost good feeling toward one another for many years, they engaged in deadly strife in which Sybaris was blotted out of existence (510 B.C.). Locri, farther to the southwest, received its name from Locris, the mother country. This city was renowned for her excellent government. She was the first of all Indo-Europeans to have a written collection of laws.[1] Passing round the toe of the peninsula, we come to Rhe'gi-um, then far north, to Cu'mae near the Bay of Naples. The importance of Cumae lies in this fact, that from her the Romans derived the alphabet and other rudiments of culture. Afterward Naples grew up on the bay of the same name. Cumae, Naples, Rhegium, and some other colonies on the west coast were Chalcidic — founded by Chalcis, Euboea.

In Sicily the same city founded Mes-se'ne[2] on the strait opposite Rhegium, and several other settlements on the east and north coasts. The most important city in Sicily was Syracuse on the eastern coast. In time it became the largest city in Greece. Its "Great Harbor" could shelter the navies of the world. Next in population and wealth was Ac'ra-gas (Latin Ag-ri-gen'tum). The founders built their city on a hill two miles from the sea, and adorned it with temples, colonnades, and beautiful dwellings, while

[1] The Babylonians had a code more than twelve centuries earlier (§ 35). The Romans did not have one till about two centuries later (§ 386).

[2] Originally called Zan'cle, it was renamed Messene after being reënforced, many years later, by a colony from Messenia (§ 142).

all about it they planted vineyards and olive orchards. On account of its brilliancy and beauty, Pindar, the poet, calls it "the eye of Sicily." Tarentum, Syracuse, and Acragas were Dorian colonies.

127. Results of Colonization in the West. — Because of its wonderful fertility, Sicily soon excelled the mother country in wealth. Its cities were mostly on the coast, and for this reason Pindar calls them "a gorgeous crown of citadels," which nearly surrounded the island. The Greeks were prevented from completing the circuit of colonies by Phoenicians,[1] who occupied the west end of Sicily.

The colonization of the West began as early as 750 B.C., and continued about two hundred years. The territory occupied by the Greeks in Italy is called by the Latin name Mag'na Grae'ci-a ("Great Hellas"); while the term "Western Hellas" includes their settlements in both Italy and Sicily. Western Hellas was related to the mother country somewhat as America is now to Europe. It remained politically distinct, but always kept in the closest commercial and intellectual contact. In two respects the western Greeks are important in the history of civilization: (1) they made great contributions to science and the arts, (2) they were the source from which the natives of the West, including the Romans, drew the larger part of their culture.

128. Colonies in Chalcidice. — While the Greeks were planting colonies in Italy and Sicily, they were busy extending their settlements within the Aegean area. On the northwest coast of the Aegean, they found a broad peninsula with three arms reaching far into the sea. It is so rugged and has so long a coast-line that the Greeks who went there to live found it very homelike. Men swarmed to that region to work the copper, silver, and gold mines, and to cut timber for shipbuilding; and as most of them came from Chalcis, they named their new home Chal-cid' i-ce. Pot-i-dae'a, a Corinthian colony, however, became the chief commercial city of the region. In the interior near Chalcidice lived the Macedonians, who spoke a Greek dialect, and were in fact Greeks. But on account of their situation they had made little progress in civil-

[1] § 49.

ization. It was chiefly from the colonies near them that they slowly [1] adopted the improvements in life and the advanced ideas of the more cultured Hellenes. The colonists in this region, accordingly, did for them what the Greeks in the West did for the Romans.

129. Colonies on the Hellespont, the Propontis, and the Black Sea. — While some of the Greeks were working the mines of Chalcidice, others were sailing into the Hel'les-pont to fish and to found settlements along its shores. Others, passing through the Hellespont, explored the coasts of the Pro-pon'tis. Propontis is the water "in front of" the Pontus, that is, of the Black Sea. Of all the settlements in this region the most important was By-zan'ti-um, founded by the little city of Megara. This colony was on the Propontis, at the entrance to the strait of Bos'po-rus. Situated on a magnificent harbor, it engaged extensively in trade. Nearly a thousand years after its founding, it became, under the name of Constantinople, the capital of the Roman empire.

The Greeks pushed on through the Bosporus to explore and settle the coasts of the Black Sea. This water they called simply Pontus — "the Sea" — or more commonly Euxine — "the Hospitable." In time a chain of colonies stretched almost continuously around the sea. Miletus alone is said to have founded more than eighty in this region. The great attraction lay in the rich natural resources. Colchis yielded gold; the southern coast, silver, copper, iron, and timber; the northern coast, cattle, hides, and grain; the sea itself, fish. From the natives slaves were obtained by purchase and kidnapping. The country about this sea accordingly supplied the populous districts of Greece with laborers, food, the precious metals, and raw materials for manufacturing. It had little part in the intellectual life of Hellas, and its civilizing influence did not reach far from the shores.

130. The More Distant Colonies. — The colonies thus far mentioned extended from Greece in different directions almost as continuously as the intervening waters would allow. Other settlements were made on the remotest shores of the Mediterranean.

[1] Till the fourth century B.C. their condition remained like that of the "Homeric" Greeks (§§ 96–99).

In our study of Egyptian history [1] we saw how the later Pharaohs permitted the Greeks to settle at one of the mouths of the Nile. This colony was Nau'cra-tis. In it all the great commercial cities of Greece had their warehouses, chartered by the Egyptian government. The kings of the land sent youths to Naucratis to learn the Hellenic tongue, and began to form alliances with the Greek states. Many Greeks who were eager for knowledge, and had the leisure and the means of travelling, visited Egypt as well as Babylonia to see the strange old country and learn wisdom from its priests. They brought home a few valuable facts about surveying, the movements of the stars, and the recording of events, and with the help of this little treasure of truths their own inventive minds worked out the first real science.

In the opposite direction, the Phocaeans of Ionia rowed their fifty-oared galleys to the southern coast of Gaul, where they founded Mas-sa'li-a [2] on an excellent harbor. From this colony as a centre they established trading stations in the interior as well as along the coast; by means of these settlements they extended their traffic over the whole of Gaul and as far as Britain and the Baltic Sea. In Spain the Greeks founded fewer settlements, owing to its distance as well as to the opposition of the Phoenicians, who were already taking possession of this peninsula.[3]

131. **The Extent of Hellas.** — During this period of colonization the Greeks spread their settlements over a large part of the known ancient world, as the western Europeans have made their home in every part of the modern world. The Greeks were then all that western Europeans now are, — representatives and teachers of the highest existing civilization, carrying their culture everywhere, and everywhere gaining the advantage over others by means of their own superior vitality and intelligence. Hellas included all their settlements on the shores of the Mediterranean and its tributaries, from Egypt to the "Pillars of Heracles," — Strait of Gi-bral'tar, — and from south Russia to the African desert. They were not united under a single government, but were one in blood, one in speech and manners, one in religion.

[1] § 18.

[2] The present Marseilles.

[3] § 49.

Suggestive Questions

1. Why did the colonists of this period go west rather than east? 2. What were the chief attractions of Italy and Sicily to colonists? 3. What were the principal motives to colonization? 4. From the picture opp. p. 107 what may we infer as to the situation of Acragas? Why did the Greeks prefer hilltops as sites for cities? 5. What is the modern name of Rhegium, and what is its present condition? 6. Enumerate (*a*) the chief Ionian, (*b*) the chief Dorian colonies. 7. Which colonies were the more enterprising and progressive, the Dorian or the Ionian? 8. Compare Sparta with Locri; with Tarentum.

Note-book Topics

I. **Colonization in General.** — Fling, *Source Book of Greek History*, 29–40; Holm, *History of Greece*, i. ch. xxi.

II. **Causes and Effects of Colonization.** — Bury, *History of Greece*, ch. ii. § 1; Greenidge, *Handbook of Greek Constitutional History*, ch. iii.

III. **The Part taken by the Oracle in the Colonization of Cyrene.** — Herodotus, iv. 150–164.

IV. **A Tour in Sicily.** — Richardson, *Vacation Days in Greece*, 173–207.

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