

## BOOK VI.

### ITALY.

#### SUMMARY.

The Sixth Book contains the remainder of Italy, and the regions within the Adriatic, as far as Macedonia; likewise a description of Apulia, Calabria, the country by the Ionian Gulf, together with the adjacent islands, from Sicily to the Ceraunian mountains, and on the other side as far as Carthage, and the small islands lying near to it.

#### CHAPTER I.

1. AFTER the mouth of the Silaro,<sup>1</sup> is Leucania, and the temple of Argive Juno, founded by Jason. Near to this, within 50 stadia, is Posidonia.<sup>2</sup> Sailing thence, towards the high sea, is the island of Leucosia,<sup>3</sup> at a little distance from the main-land. It bears the name of one of the Sirens, who according to the mythology was cast up here, after having been precipitated with her companions into the deep. The promontory<sup>4</sup> of the island projects opposite the Sirenussæ,<sup>5</sup> forming the bay of Posidonium.<sup>6</sup> After having made this cape there is another contiguous bay, on which is built the city which the Phocæans called Hyela when they founded it, but others Elea from a certain fountain. People in the present day call it Elea. It is here that Parmenides and Zeno, the Pythagorean philosophers, were born. And it is my opinion that through the instrumentality of those men, as well as by previous good management, the government of that place was well arranged, so that they successfully resisted the Leucani and the Posidoniataë, notwithstanding the smallness of their district and the inferiority of their numbers. They are

<sup>1</sup> The ancient Silaris.

<sup>2</sup> Pesti.

<sup>3</sup> It is now called Licosa, and sometimes Isola piana; several vestiges of buildings were discovered on the island in 1696. *Antonin. della Lucan.* p. ii. disc. 8.

<sup>4</sup> Capo della Licosa.

<sup>5</sup> Punta della Campanella.

<sup>6</sup> Golfo di Salerno.

compelled, therefore, on account of the barrenness of the soil, to apply to maritime trade chiefly, to employ themselves in the salting of fish, and in such other occupations. Antiochus<sup>1</sup> says that when Phoecea was taken by Harpagus, the general of Cyrus, those who had the means embarked with their families, and sailed under the conduct of Creontiades, first to Cynos and Marseilles, but having been driven thence, they founded Elea;<sup>2</sup> the name of which some say is derived from the river Elees.<sup>3</sup> The city is distant about two hundred stadia from Posidonia. After this city is the promontory of Palinurus. But in front of the Eleatis are the Cœnotrides, two islands<sup>4</sup> having good anchorage.<sup>5</sup> And beyond Palinurus are the promontory, harbour, and river of Pyxus;<sup>6</sup> the three having the same name. This colony was founded<sup>7</sup> by Micythus, then governor of Messina in Sicily; but those who were located here, except a few, abandoned the place. After Pyxus are the gulf,<sup>8</sup> the river,<sup>9</sup> and the city<sup>10</sup> of Lainis. This, the last<sup>11</sup> city of the Leucani, situate a little above the sea, is a colony<sup>12</sup> of the Sybarites, and is distant from Elea 400 stadia. The whole circuit of Leucania, by sea is 650 stadia. Near to Lainis is seen the tomb of Draco, one of the companions of Ulysses, and the oracular response, given to the Italian Greeks, alludes to him:

<sup>1</sup> Strabo here cites the historian Antiochus, but it is surprising that he does not rather cite the writer from whom Antiochus seems to have borrowed this account, we mean Herodotus, who relates it (lib. i. § 164). But Strabo, probably, looking upon Herodotus as a collector of fables, chose rather to yield to the authority of Antiochus, who had written very accurate memoirs upon Italy, and who was, likewise, himself a very ancient author, (Dion. Halicarn. Antiq. Rom. lib. i. § 12,) and flourished about 420 years before the Christian era.

<sup>2</sup> Or Velia, founded 532 B. C., mentioned by Horace, Epist. I. xv. 1, "Quæ sit hyems Velia, quod cœlum, Vala, Salerni."

<sup>3</sup> The modern Alento.

<sup>4</sup> Now unknown.

<sup>5</sup> Pliny affirms that these two islands were called, the one Pontia, the other Ischia; "Contra Veliam Pontia et Ischia, utræque uno nomine Cœnotrides, argumentum possessæ ab Cœnotriis Italiae." Hist. Nat. lib. iii. § 13. If this reading be not faulty, Pliny will have placed in the latitude, of which our author is now giving a description, a small island bearing the same name, *Pontia*, as the island lying off Cape Misenum.

<sup>6</sup> The Buxentum of the Latins.

<sup>7</sup> 471 years before the Christian era.      <sup>8</sup> Gulf of Policastro.

<sup>9</sup> Now the river Laino.

<sup>10</sup> Called Laino in the time of Cluverius. Lib. iv. cap. 14.

<sup>11</sup> Upon this coast.

<sup>12</sup> Founded about the year 510 B. C.

“Some day, around the Dragon’s stony tomb,  
A mighty multitude shall meet their doom.”

For the Greeks of Italy, enticed by this prophecy, marched against Laius, and were defeated by the Leucani.<sup>1</sup>

2. Such, along the shores of the Tyrrhenian Sea, are the possessions of the Leucani, which at first did not reach to the other sea;<sup>2</sup> the Greeks who dwelt on the Gulf of Tarentum possessed it. But before the coming of the Greeks there were no Leucani, the Chones<sup>3</sup> and Cœntri possessed these territories. But when the Samnites had greatly increased, and expelled the Chones and Cœntri, and driven the Leucani into this region, while the Greeks possessed the sea-coast on both sides as far as the straits, the Greeks and the Barbarians maintained a lengthened contest. The tyrants of Sicily, and afterwards the Carthaginians, at one time making war against the Romans, for the acquisition of Sicily, and at another, for Italy itself, utterly wasted all these regions. The Greeks, however, succeeded in depriving the ancient inhabitants of a great portion of the midland country, beginning even as early as the Trojan war; they increased in power, and extent of territory, to such a degree, that they called this region and Sicily, the *Magna Græcia*. But now the whole region, except Tarentum, Rhegium, and Neapolis, has become barbarian,<sup>4</sup> and belongs partly to the Leucani and Bruttii, partly to the Campani; to these, however, only in name, but truly to the Romans; for these people have become Roman. However, it is incumbent on one who is treating of uni-

<sup>1</sup> About the year 390 before the Christian era.

<sup>2</sup> i. e. the Gulf of Tarentum.

<sup>3</sup> Strabo seems here to distinguish the Chones from the Cœntri, and the Cœntri from the Greeks. According to Clavier (*Ital. Antiq.* cap. 16, p. 1323) here was a double error: “not only (says he) Aristotle, but Antiochus, according to Strabo’s own testimony, positively affirmed that the Chones and Cœntri were one and the same nation, and Dionysius of Halicarnassus (*Antiq. Roman.* lib. i. § 11) makes no doubt that the Cœntri were of Greek origin.” But Mazochi justifies the distinction between the Chones and the Cœntri, and shows cause to doubt that the Cœntri were of Greek origin.

<sup>4</sup> ἐκβεβαρῶσθαι. We think with Mazochi (*Prodrom. ad Heracl. pseph. diatrib.* 2, cap. 7, sect. 2) that, by the above word, Strabo probably expressed that, at the time when he wrote, Tarentum, Rheggio, and Naples were the only cities founded by the Greeks in Italy, which, although become Roman, retained the language, laws, and usages of their mother country.

versal geography, to speak both of things as they now are, and of some of those that have been, and especially when they are important. Of the Leucani, who border upon the Tuscan Sea, mention has already been made; those who possess the midland regions dwell above the Gulf of Tarentum, but these, as well as the Bruttii, and the Samnites themselves, the progenitors of both, have been so maltreated [by the Romans], that it is difficult to determine the boundaries of each people. The reason of this is, that there no longer remains separately any of the institutions common to these nations; and their peculiarities of language, of military and civil costume, and such particulars, have passed away; besides, even their places of abode, considered separately and apart, possess nothing worthy of observation.

3. We will narrate in a general manner what we have gathered concerning the Leucani, who dwell in the interior, without too much care in distinguishing them from their neighbours, the Samnites. Petilia<sup>1</sup> is considered as the metropolis of the Leucani, and is still well peopled. It owes its foundation to Philoctetes, who was compelled to quit Melibœa on account of civil dissensions. Its position is so strong, that the Samnites were formerly obliged to construct forts around it for the defence of their territory. The ancient Crimissa, situated near these places, was also founded by Philoctetes. Apollodorus, in his description of the ships [of the Greeks], narrates concerning Philoctetes, that, according to certain writers, this prince having disembarked in the district of Crotona, settled on the promontory of Crimissa, and built the city of Chone<sup>2</sup> above it, from which the inhabitants were called Chones; and that certain colonists being sent by him into Sicily, to the neighbourhood of Eryx,<sup>3</sup> with Ægestus the

<sup>1</sup> It has been well observed by Cramer in his *Ancient Italy*, that Strabo confused this Petilia of the Leucani with another better known of the Bruttii, the foundation of which was attributed to Philoctetes. It is observed by Antonini that Strabo contradicts himself, by ascribing to Philoctetes the origin of a town in Leucania, for he states a few lines further on that that hero occupied a part of the coast near Crotona, which was in the territory of the Bruttii. Strabo's account, however, of the existence of a Leucanian Petilia is confirmed by many inscriptions of early date. The ruins of the town remain on the Monte della Stella. Antonin. della Lucan. p. i. disc. 8. Romanelli, tom. i. p. 350.

<sup>2</sup> According to some judicious antiquaries, the site of Chone is located at Casabuona, near Strongoli.

<sup>3</sup> Trapani del Monte.

Trojan, founded Ægesta.<sup>1</sup> In the inland districts are also Grumentum,<sup>2</sup> Vertinæ,<sup>3</sup> Calasarna,<sup>4</sup> and other small villages, reaching as far as Venusia,<sup>5</sup> a city of some importance. This, however, I consider to be a Samnite city, as are also those which are next met with on going into Campania. Above the Thurii lies the district called Tauriana.<sup>6</sup> The Leucani are of Samnite origin. Having vanquished the Posidoniates and their allies, they took possession of their cities. At one time the institutions of the Leucani were democratic, but during the wars a king was elected by those who were possessed of chief authority: at the present time they are Roman.

4. The Bruttii occupy the remainder of the coast as far as the Strait of Sicily, extending about 1350 stadia. Antiochus, in his treatise on Italy, says that this district, which he intended to describe, was called Italy, but that previously it had been called Ænotria. The boundary which he assigns to it on the Tyrrhenian Sea, is the river Lao,<sup>7</sup> and on the Sea of Sicily Metapontium, the former of which we have given as the boundary of the Bruttii. He describes Tarentum, which is next to Metapontium,<sup>8</sup> as beyond Italy, calling it Iapygian. He also relates that, at a more ancient period, those who dwelt on this side the isthmus, which lies next the Strait of Sicily, were the only people who were called Ænotrians and Italians. The isthmus is 160 stadia across between the two gulfs, namely, that of Hipponium,<sup>9</sup> which Antiochus called Napitinus, and

<sup>1</sup> The ruins of this city, which was anciently called also Egesta, Acesta, and Segesta, may be seen at Barbara, in the valley of Mazzara.

<sup>2</sup> Kramer,<sup>3</sup> following the suggestion of Xylander, has printed Γρουμεν-  
τόν. I am inclined, however, to think that Ηουμεντόν, the reading of  
Manuscripts, is correct. According to Barrio, it occupied the situa-  
tion of Gerenza, on the right bank of the Nieto.

<sup>3</sup> Verzine on the Nieto. (Barr. lib. iv. cap. 18. Maraf. lib. iii. c. 18.)

<sup>4</sup> Calasarna is supposed by the Calabrian topographers to accord with  
the site of Campania.

<sup>5</sup> Venosa, situated about 15 miles south of the Aufidus. It was a  
colony of importance before the war against Pyrrhus. After the disaster  
at Cannæ, it afforded a retreat to Varro and the few who escaped that  
signal overthrow. Horace was born there in the year of the city 688.  
About six miles from Venosa, on the site named Palazzo, was the Fons  
Bandusiæ. (Chaupy, Des c. de la maison de Camp. d' Horace, tom. iii.  
p. 538.)

<sup>6</sup> Cluvier thought that we should read Θουριανή instead of Ταυριανή.

<sup>7</sup> Laos, now Lao.

<sup>8</sup> Torre di Mare.

<sup>9</sup> Golfo di S. Eufemia.

that of Scylletium.<sup>1</sup> The circumnavigation of the peninsula, which is comprised between this isthmus and the strait, is 2000 stadia. He says that afterwards the names of Italy and of the Ænotrians were extended as far as Metapontium and the Siritis; the Chones, a people of Ænotrian descent, and highly civilized, inhabited these districts, and called their country Chone. However, this author has written in a very loose and old-fashioned manner, without giving any definite boundaries to the Leucani and Bruttii. Now Leucania is situated on the Tyrrhenian and Sicilian Seas, extending on one coast from the Silaro<sup>2</sup> to the river Lao, and on the other from Metapontium<sup>3</sup> to Thurii. Along the continent it stretches from the country of the Samnites, as far as the isthmus between Thurii and Cerilli,<sup>4</sup> near the Lao. This isthmus is 300 stadia<sup>5</sup> across. Beyond are the Bruttii, who dwell on the peninsula; in this is included another peninsula, which is bounded by the isthmus between Scylletium<sup>6</sup> and the Hipponiate gulf.<sup>7</sup> The nation received its appellation from the Leucani, for they call run-aways Bruttii, and they say that formerly they ran away from them when employed as shepherds, and that afterwards their independence was established through the weakness [of the Leucani], when Dion [of Syracuse] was prosecuting a war against [the younger] Dionysius, and fomented hostilities amongst all.<sup>8</sup> This is all we shall remark as to the Leucani and Bruttii.

<sup>1</sup> Golfo di Squillace. Scylletium was once a Greek city of note, communicating its name to the gulf. Servius observes that the Athenians who founded the colony were returning from Africa. There was a Greek inscription found in 1791 relative to the *Λαμπαδηδρομία*, which seems to confirm the tradition of the Athenian origin of Scylletium. It was the birth-place of Cassiodorus.

<sup>2</sup> *Σίλαρις*. The Silaro, which divides Lucania from Campania, takes its rise in the Apennines, in a district which formerly belonged to the Hirpini; and after receiving the Tanager, now Negro, and the Calor, now Calore, falls into the Gulf of Salerno. Silius Italicus (viii. 582) states that this river possessed the property of incrusting twigs with a calcareous deposit:

“Nunc Silarus quos nutrit aquis, quo gurgite tradunt  
Duritiem lapidum mersis inolescere ramis.”

At its mouth was a haven named Portus Albernus.

<sup>3</sup> Torre di Mare.

<sup>4</sup> Cirella,

<sup>5</sup> This measure, upon our charts, is 330 Olympic stadia. Gosselin.

<sup>6</sup> Golfo di Squillace.

<sup>7</sup> The Golfo di S. Eufemia.

<sup>8</sup> *ἔξετάραξεν ἅπαντας πρὸς ἅπαντας*. Lit. “He stirred up every body

5. From the Lao the first city is the Temesa<sup>1</sup> of the Bruttii, which at present is called Tempsa. It was founded by the Ausonians; afterwards the Ætolians, under the command of Thoas, gained possession of it. These were expelled by the Bruttii; Hannibal and the Romans have overthrown the Bruttii.<sup>2</sup> In the vicinity of Temesa is the Heroum of Polites, one of the companions of Ulysses. It is surrounded by a thick grove of wild olives. He was treacherously slain by the barbarians, and became in consequence very wrathful, and his shade so tormented the inhabitants that they submitted to pay him a tribute, according to the direction of a certain oracle. Thus it became a proverb amongst them, "Let no one offend the hero of Temesa," for they said that [for a long time he<sup>3</sup>] had tormented them. But when the Epizephyrian Locrians took the city, they feign that Euthymus the pugilist went out against him, and having overcome him in fight, constrained him to free the inhabitants from tribute.<sup>4</sup> They say that the poet intended this Temesa, and not the Tamassus<sup>5</sup> in Cyprus, (for it is said that the words are suitable to either,<sup>6</sup>) when he sings,

against every body." It is conceived that the hostilities of the Bruttii were fomented by Dion in order to prevent the tyrant Dionysius from deriving any aid from his Leucanian allies. The advancement of the Bruttii to independence is computed by Diodorus Siculus to have taken place about 397 years after the foundation of Rome, that is, 356 before the Christian era.

<sup>1</sup> The situation of Temesa has not yet been fully determined. Cluverius fixes it about ten miles south of Amantea, near Torre Loppa. Romanelli observes, however, that Cluverius has not allowed for the difference between the ancient and modern computation of distance. To rectify this oversight, he makes choice of Torre del piano del Casale, nearly two miles north of Torre Loppa, as the locality of this ancient site. The silver coins of Temesa are scarce. They have the Greek epigraph, ΤΕΜ.

<sup>2</sup> After the second Punic war it was colonized by the Romans, who called it Tempsa, B. C. 195.

<sup>3</sup> We concur with Kramer in approving the proposition of Groskurd to understand the words ἐκεῖνον μὲν οὖν διὰ πολλοῦ as having been originally written in the text immediately before ἐπικεῖσθαι αὐτοῖς.

<sup>4</sup> They had been compelled to sacrifice a virgin annually in order to appease his disturbed spirit.

<sup>5</sup> Borgo di Tamasso.

<sup>6</sup> These words in parenthesis seem to have been interpolated by the transcribers of our author. Both Temesa and Tamassus were rich in metal, but the spelling of the name in Homer is more in accordance with Temesa than Tamassus, and other poets have alluded to it, as Ovid. Met. xv. 706,

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