

BOOK X.

GREECE.

SUMMARY.

The Tenth Book contains Ætolia and the neighbouring islands; also the whole of Crete, on which the author dwells some time in narrating the institutions of the islanders and of the Curetes. He describes at length the origin of the Idæan Dactyli in Crete, their customs and religious rites. Strabo mentions the connexion of his own family with Crete. The Book contains an account of the numerous islands about Crete, including the Sporades and some of the Cyclades.

CHAPTER I.

1: SINCE Eubœa¹ stretches along the whole of this coast from Sunium to Thessaly, except the extremity on each side,² it may be convenient to connect the description of this island with that of Thessaly. We shall then pass on to Ætolia and Acarnania, parts of Europe of which it remains to give an account.

2. The island is oblong, and extends nearly 1200 stadia from Cenæum³ to Geræstus.⁴ Its greatest breadth is about 150 stadia, but it is irregular.⁵

¹ In the middle ages Eubœa was called Egripo, a corruption of Euripus, the name of the town built upon the ruins of Chalcis. The Venetians, who obtained possession of the island upon the dismemberment of the Byzantine empire by the Latins, called it Negropont, probably a corruption of *Egripo* and *Ponte*, a bridge. *Smith*.

² This expression is obscure; probably it may mean that Eubœa is not equal in length to the coast comprehended between Sunium and the southern limits of Thessaly.

³ C. Lithada. The mountain Lithada above the cape, rises to the height of 2837 feet above the sea.

⁴ C. Mantelo.

⁵ The real length of the island from N. to S. is about 90 miles, its extreme breadth is 30 miles, but in one part it is not more than 4 miles across. See *Smith* art. Eubœa.

Cenæum is opposite to Thermopylæ, and in a small degree to the parts beyond Thermopylæ: Geræstus¹ and Petalia² are opposite to Sunium.

Eubœa then fronts³ Attica, Bœotia, Locris, and the Malians. From its narrowness, and its length, which we have mentioned, it was called by the ancients Macris.⁴

It approaches nearest to the continent at Chalcis. It projects with a convex bend towards the places in Bœotia near Aulis, and forms the Euripus,⁵ of which we have before spoken at length. We have also mentioned nearly all the places on either side of the Euripus, opposite to each other across the strait, both on the continent and on the island. If anything is omitted we shall now give a further explanation.

And first, the parts lying between Aulis (Chalcis?) and the places about Geræstus are called the Hollows of Eubœa, for the sea-coast swells into bays, and, as it approaches Chalcis, juts out again towards the continent.

3. The island had the name not of Macris only, but of Abantis also. The poet in speaking of Eubœa never calls the inhabitants from the name of the island, Eubœans, but always Abantes;

“they who possessed Eubœa, the resolute Abantes;”⁶
 “in his train Abantes were following.”

Aristotle says that Thracians, taking their departure from Aba, the Phocian city, settled with the other inhabitants in the island, and gave the name of Abantes to those who already occupied it; other writers say that they had their name from a hero,⁷ as that of Eubœa was derived from a heroine.⁸ But perhaps as a certain cave on the sea-coast fronting the

¹ Cape Mantelo.

² Strabo is the only ancient author who describes a place of this name as existing in Eubœa. Kiepert and the Austrian map agree in giving the name Petaliæ, which may here be meant, to the Spili islands.

³ ἀντίπορθμος.

⁴ Eubœa has various names. Formerly (says Pliny, b. iv. c. 12) it was called Chalcedontis or Macris, according to Dionysius and Ephorus; Macra, according to Aristides; Chalcis, from brass being there first discovered, according to Callidemus; Abantias, according to Menæchmus; and Asopis by the poets in general.

⁵ The narrow channel between the island and the mainland.

⁶ Il. ii. 536, 542.

⁷ From Abas, great grandson of Erectheus.

⁸ From Eubœa, daughter of the river Asopus and mistress of Neptune.

Ægean Sea is called Boos-Aule, (or the Cow's Stall,) where *Io* is said to have brought forth Epaphus, so the island may have had the name Eubœa¹ on this account.

It was also called Oché, which is the name of one of the largest mountains² there.

It had the name of Ellopia, from Ellops, the son of Ion; according to others, he was the brother of Æclus, and Cothus, who is said to have founded Ellopia,³ a small place situated in the district called Oria of the Histiaëotis, near the mountain Telethrius.⁴ He also possessed Histiaëa, Perias, Cerinthus, Ædepsus,⁵ and Orobiaë, where was an oracle very free from deception. There also was an oracle of Apollo Selinuntius.

The Ellopians, after the battle of Leuctra, were compelled by the tyrant Philistides to remove to the city Histiaëa, and augmented the number of its inhabitants. Demosthenes⁶ says that Philistides was appointed by Philip tyrant of the Oreitæ also, for afterwards the Histiaëans had that name, and the city, instead of Histiaëa, was called Oreus. According to some writers, Histiaëa was colonized by Athenians from the demus of the Histiaëeis, as Eretria was from the demus of the Eretrieis. But Theopompus says, that when Pericles had reduced Eubœa, the Histiaëans agreed to remove into Macedonia, and that two thousand Athenians, who formerly composed the demus of the Histiaëans, came, and founded Oreus.⁷

4. It is situated below Mount Telethrius, at a place called Drymus, near the river Callas, on a lofty rock;⁸ whence perhaps because the Ellopians, the former inhabitants, were a mountain tribe,⁹ the city had the name of Oreus. Orion, who was brought up there, seems to have had his name from the place. But according to some writers, the Oreitæ, who had a

¹ From εὔ, well, and βοῦς, a cow. The ancient coins of the island bear the head of an ox.

² Mount St. Elias, 4748 feet above the level of the sea. Bochart derives the name from an eastern word signifying "narrow."

³ At the base of Ploko Vuno.

⁴ Mount Galzades, celebrated for producing medicinal plants. Theophrastus, Hist. Plant. b. ix. c. 15 and 20.

⁵ Dipso, according to Kiepert.

⁶ Philipp. iii.

⁷ Not the town named Histiaëa-Oreus, which was on the sea-coast.

⁸ Livy, b. xxxi. c. 46.

⁹ διὰ τὸ ὄρειον εἶναι.

city of their own, being attacked by the Ellopians, migrated, and settled with the Histiaans, and although it was a single city it had both appellations, as Lacedæmon and Sparta were the same city. We have said, that the Histiaotis in Thesaly had its name from the people who were carried away from this country by the Perrhæbi.

5. As Ellopia induced us to commence our description with Histiaæ and Oreus, we shall proceed with the places continuous with these.

The promontory Cenæum is near Oreus, and on the promontory is situated Dium,¹ and Athenæ Diades, a town founded by Athenians, and overlooks the passage across the strait to Cynus. Canæ in Æolia received colonists from Dium. These places are situated near Histiaæ, and besides these Cerinthus, a small city, close to the sea. Near it is a river Budorus, of the same name as the mountain in Salamis on the side of Attica.

6. Carystus² lies at the foot of the mountain Oche, and near it are Styra³ and Marmarium,⁴ where is a quarry, from which are obtained the Carystian columns. It has a temple of Apollo Marmarinus, where there is a passage across to Halæ-Araphenides. At Carystus there is found in the earth a stone,⁵ which is combed like wool, and woven, so that napkins are made of this substance, which, when soiled, are thrown into the fire, and cleaned, as in the washing of linen.⁶ These places are said to be inhabited by colonists from the Tetrapolis of Marathon, and by Steirieis. Styra was destroyed in the Maliac (Lamiac?) war by Phædrus, the general of the Athenians. But the Eretrians are in possession of the territory. There is also a Carystus in Laconia, a place belonging to Ægys, towards Arcadia; from whence comes the Carystian wine, spoken of by Alcman.

7. Geræstus⁷ is not mentioned by Homer in the Catalogue of the Ships; it is however mentioned by him elsewhere;

¹ Kiepert accordingly places Dium near the modern Jaitra, but the Austrian map places it to the N. E. of Ploko Vuno.

² Castel Rosso. The landing-place of the Persian expedition under Datis and Artaphernes, B. C. 490. Herod. b. vi. c. 99.

³ Sturæ.

⁴ The ruins are indicated as existing opposite the Spili islands.

⁵ λίθος φύεται.

⁶ τῆ τῶν λίνων πλύσει.

⁷ C. Mantelo.

“The vessels came to Geræstus by night ;”¹

which shows, that the place being near Sunium lies conveniently for persons who cross from Asia to Attica. It has a temple of Neptune the most remarkable of any in that quarter, and a considerable number of inhabitants.

8. Next to Geræstus is Eretria, which, after Chalcis, is the largest city in Eubœa. Next follows Chalcis, the capital as it were of the island, situated immediately on the Euripus. Both these cities are said to have been founded by Athenians before the Trojan war; [but it is also said that] after the Trojan war, Æclus and Cothus took their departure from Athens; the former to found Eretria, and Cothus, Chalcis. A body of Æolians who belonged to the expedition of Pen-thilus remained in the island. Anciently, even Arabians² settled there, who came over with Cadmus.

These cities, Eretria and Chalcis, when their population was greatly augmented, sent out considerable colonies to Macedonia, for Eretria founded cities about Pallene and Mount Athos; Chalcis founded some near Olynthus, which Philip destroyed. There are also many settlements in Italy and Sicily, founded by Chalcidians. These colonies were sent out, according to Aristotle,³ when the government of the Hippobataë, (or Knights,) as it is called, was established; it was an aristocratical government, the heads of which held their office by virtue of the amount of their property. At the time that Alexander passed over into Asia, they enlarged the compass of the walls of their city, including within them Canethus,⁴ and the Euripus, and erected towers upon the bridge, a wall, and gates.

9. Above the city of the Chalcidians is the plain called Lelantum, in which are hot springs, adapted to the cure of diseases, and which were used by Cornelius Sylla, the Roman general. There was also an extraordinary mine which produced both copper and iron; such, writers say, is not to be found elsewhere. At present, however, both are exhausted.

¹ Od. iii. 177.

² As this statement is unsupported by any other authority, Meineke suggests that the word Arabians (*Ἀραβες οἱ*) is an error for Aradii (*Ἀράδιοι*).

³ Repub. b. iv. c. 3.

⁴ According to the Scholiast in Apollon. Rhod. Argon. b. i. v. 77, Canethus was a mountain on the Bœotian side of the Euripus.

The whole of Eubœa is subject to earthquakes, especially *the part near the strait*. It is also exposed to violent subterraneous blasts, like Bœotia, and other places of which I have before spoken at length.¹ The city of the same name as the island is said to have been swallowed up by an earthquake.² It is mentioned by Æschylus in his tragedy of Glaucus Pontius ;

“Euboïs near the bending shore of Jupiter Cenæus, close to the tomb of the wretched Lichas.”

There is also in Ætolia a town of the name of Chalcis,

“Chalcis on the sea-coast, and the rocky Calydon,”³

and another in the present Eleian territory ;

“they passed along Cruni, and the rocky Chalcis,”⁴

speaking of Telemachus and his companions, when they left Nestor to return to their own country.

10. Some say, that the Eretrians were a colony from Masticus in Triphylia, under the conduct of Eretrieus ; others, that they came from Eretria, in Attica, where now a market is held. There is an Eretria also near Pharsalus. In the Eretrian district there was a city, Tamynæ, sacred to Apollo. The temple (which was near the strait) is said to have been built by Admetus, whom the god, according to report, served a year⁵ for hire.

Eretria,⁶ formerly, had the names of Melaneïs and Arotria. The village Amarynthus, at the distance of 7 stadia from the walls, belongs to it.

The Persians razed the ancient city, having enclosed with multitudes the inhabitants, according to the expression of Herodotus,⁷ in a net, by spreading the Barbarians around the walls. The foundations are still shown, and the place is called ancient Eretria. The present city is built near it.

The power which the Eretrians once possessed, is evinced by a pillar which was placed in the temple of Diana Amarynthia. There is an inscription on it to this effect, that their processions upon their public festivals consisted of three thousand heavy-armed soldiers, six hundred horsemen, and

¹ B. i. c. iii. § 16.

² B. ix. c. ii. § 13.

³ Il. ii. 640.

⁴ Od. xv. 295.

⁵ *ἐνιαυτόν* for *αὐτόν*. *Meineke*.

⁶ Near Palæo-castro.

⁷ Herod. b. iii. c. 149, and b. vi. c. 101.

sixty chariots. They were masters, besides other islands, of *Andros, Tenos, and Ceos*. They received colonists from Elis, whence their frequent use of the letter R, (ρ ,)¹ not only at the end, but in the middle of words, which exposed them to the raillery of comic writers.

Æchalia,² a village, the remains of a city destroyed by Hercules, belongs to the district of Eretria. It has the same name as that in Trachinia, as that near Tricca,³ as that in Arcadia, (which later writers call Andania,) and as that in *Ætolia* near the Eurytanes.

11. At present Chalcis⁴ is allowed, without dispute, to hold the first rank, and is called the capital of the Eubœans. Eretria holds the second place. Even in former times these cities had great influence both in war and peace, so that they afforded to philosophers an agreeable and tranquil retreat. A proof of this is the establishment at Eretria of the school of Eretrian philosophers, disciples of Menedemus; and at an earlier period the residence of Aristotle⁵ at Chalcis, where he also died.

12. These cities generally lived in harmony with each other, and when a dispute arose between them respecting Lelantum, they did not even then suspend all intercourse so as to act in war entirely without regard to each other, but they agreed upon certain conditions, on which the war was to be conducted. This appears by a column standing in the Amarnythium, which interdicts the use of missiles. [For with respect to warlike usages and armour, there neither is nor was any common usage; for some nations employ soldiers who use missile weapons, such as bows, slings, and javelins; others employ men who engage in close fight, and use a sword, or charge with a spear.⁶ For there are two methods of using the spear; one is to retain it in the hand; the other, to hurl it like a dart; the pike⁷ answers both purposes, for it is used in close encounter and is hurled to a distance. The sarissa and the hyssus are similarly made use of.]⁸

¹ A common practice of the Dorians.

² B. viii. c. iii. § 6.

³ In Thessaly.

⁴ Negropont. It was one of the three cities which Philip of Macedon called the chains of Greece. Brass ($\chi\alpha\lambda\kappa\acute{o}\varsigma$) was said to have been first found there.

⁵ He retired there B. C. 322.

⁶ δόρυ.

⁷ κοντὸς.

⁸ ἡ σάρισσα καὶ ὁ ὑσσός. Probably an interpolation. *Groskurd*.

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