A

HISTORY OF GREECE

FOR

HIGH SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

BY

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collections all the pictures have been selected excepting the "Eirene and Plutus," taken by permission from Gardner's *Handbook of Greek Sculpture*, and the "Hermes of Praxiteles," the original photograph of which has been furnished me by the publishers. Under my direction Mr. William Leonard Snow made the map of "Physical Greece," and Miss Lida Shaw King made all the other full-page maps Some of these — especially the "Mycenæan Age" and "Greece at the Dawn of History," which are distinctly original — have required patience and care in the collection and sifting of the material. Miss King and Mr. Snow are pupils of mine whose able assistance I am glad to acknowledge.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

THE ancient Greeks were the most gifted race the world has known, — a people with whose achievements in government and law, in literature, art, and science, every intelligent person ought to be acquainted. Not only is the story of Greece in itself interesting and attractive, but the thoughts and deeds of her great men are treasures preserved in history for the enrichment of our own lives.

This volume is intended as an aid to the study of the subject. While the "Helps" furnished by the closing chapter indicate a method of digesting the material, — a method of training the whole mind rather than the mere memory, — the marginal references are a guide to the use of the Greek authors, from whom chiefly we derive our knowledge of the history, thought, life, and character of this magnificent race. An acquaintance with the works of the historians, orators, poets, and philosophers of Greece, in the original language or even through good translations, is no mean part of a liberal education.

Not only were the Greeks by nature the most gifted of men, but they occupied a country which, more than any other in the world, favored the growth of enterprise, intelligence, imagination, and taste. As it is impossible, without taking the country into account, to appreciate this many-sided development, it has been my aim throughout the

book, by bringing the geography into immediate connection with the history, to show the influence of surroundings on character.

Though the Greeks were constantly at war, we must not lay too much stress on the details of their campaigns and battles. It is far more profitable to learn the character and achievements of the great men, whatever their field of activity, to follow the development of the social and political life, and to enter into the spirit of the civilization. Is it too much to hope that this book may do a good service in directing the attention of the reader to the nobler and more instructive aspects of Greek life?

CAMBRIDGE, December 12, 1898.

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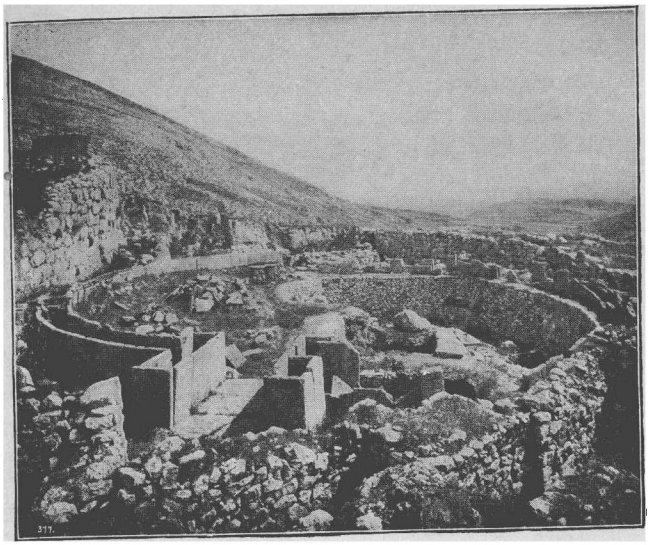


ROYAL TOMBS AT MYCENÆ

HISTORY OF GREECE

CHAPTER I

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE GREEKS—THE PREHISTORIC AGE (TO ABOUT 700 B.C.)

THE people from whom the ancient Greeks were descended once lived, with other kindred races, probably in the great steppe which extends across southern Russia into Asia, and is bounded on the south by the Black, the Caspian, and the Aral seas. As these races gradually separated and moved apart in various directions, the ancestors of the Greeks journeyed southward into the peninsula now named Greece. They came in bands, which we call tribes, each under its

Origin of the Greeks. P. 331.

chief; their warriors travelled on foot, dressed in skins and armed with pikes and with bows and arrows, while their women and children rode in two-wheeled ox-carts. They found Greece, their future home, a rugged, mountainous country, with narrow valleys and only a few broad plains. Everywhere were dense forests haunted by lions, wild boars, and wolves. Here and there the invaders halted and built their villages, — mere groups of rude, round huts of brush and clay, with roofs of grass or reeds. In time of peace, the new settlers tended their herds of goats, sheep, swine, and cattle; and many a hard fight they had to protect their flocks from the savage beasts: "Herdsmen were following with their kine, four of them, and nine dogs fleet of foot came up behind. Then two terrible lions among the foremost kine seized a loud-roaring bull, who bellowed mightily as they attacked him, and the dogs and young men sped after him. The lions rent the great bull's hide and were devouring his vitals and his black blood, while the herdsmen in vain urged on their dogs, for these shrank from biting the lions, but stood hard by and barked."

Il. xviii, 577 ff.

Life in early Greece.

In the fertile valleys the villagers dug the ground with a sharp stick and raised wheat, barley, flax, and some garden vegetables. But they owned no farms, as they had not yet learned that land was valuable; they could get all they needed by fighting for it, and they had no thought of staying long in one place. Every man went armed to protect his life and property. One village was continually fighting with another, and the people who had settled homes lived in constant fear of attack from fresh invaders. The villagers, therefore, built no good houses, planted no orchards or vineyards, but stood ever ready to gather their scanty wealth into ox-carts and to join their tribe in search of more fertile fields or homes less exposed to the enemy. Thus the Greeks

Thuc. i, 2–8.

kept moving about and fighting among themselves for many years, perhaps for centuries. The time during which they lived in tribes and villages in this unsettled manner we may term the Tribal Age.

Eastern and western coasts.

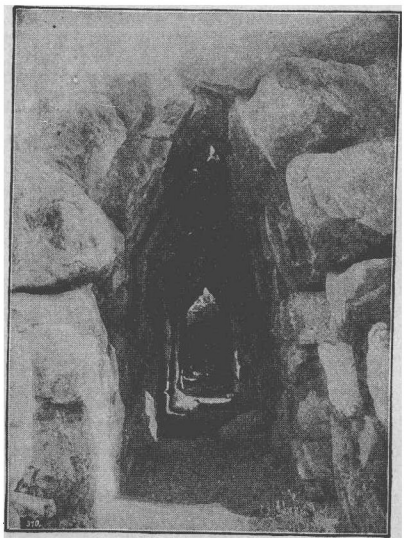
On the west of their country they found a nearly straight coast line, with steep shores making it difficult to reach the water's edge; and, as they looked over the sea, they saw few islands to tempt them from the mainland. But those who came to the eastern coast found harbors everywhere and islands near at hand. They began at once to make small boats and to push off to the islands.

The Phœnicians bring civilization.

But they must have been astonished when they saw for the first time strange black vessels, much larger than their own, entering their bays. These were Phœnician ships from Sidon, an ancient commercial city, and in them came "greedy merchant men, with countless gauds" for trading with the natives. Though in most respects the Greeks were then as barbarous as the North American Indians, they were eager to learn and to imitate the ways of the foreigners. The chieftains along the east coast welcomed Asiatic arts and artisans. From these strangers they gradually learned to make and use bronze tools and weapons, and to build in stone. Contented in these homes, they outgrew their fondness for roving. Skilled workmen from the East built walled palaces for the native chiefs; artists decorated these new dwellings, painted, carved, and frescoed, made vases and polished gems. Those chieftains who were wise enough to receive this civilization gained power as well as wealth by means of it. With their bronze weapons they conquered their uncivilized neighbors, and, in course of time, formed small kingdoms, each centring in a strongly fortified castle.

Earliest kingdoms.

It is interesting to notice where these kingdoms were situated. Greece, before it was inhabited by man, stood far higher above the level of the sea than it does now; but for some cause it sank till it was half-drowned in water. The sea covers the earlier coast plain and washes the base of the mountains; so that there is no continuous strip of farm land along the shores of Greece as there is in the United States; but the mountain streams deposited soil enough to form small but fertile deltas. The earliest kingdoms occupied these rich lands, generally bordering upon a good harbor, and in many a case the king from his castle perched upon some hilltop could look over his whole realm. Just outside the castle walls the leading men of the kingdom grouped their houses in a small city. One of these communities was Tiryns, on a low flat hill about a mile from the Argolic Gulf, the oldest city, so far as we know, in Europe. Its walls were of huge, unshaped stones, built, the myths would make us believe, by a race of giants called Cyclopes. Within these defences was a great palace. It contained a multitude of apartments, including courts and halls for men and women; a bathroom with conduit



GALLERY IN THE WALL OF TIRYNS

Tiryns.

and drains; sleeping rooms, corridors, and porticos. The palace and walls tell a vivid tale of the wealth and luxury of the king, and of his unlimited authority over the lives and labor of his subjects. All this required time; many generations or even centuries may have elapsed between the landing of the first Phœnician sailors on the shores of Greece and the building of the first castle.

It is only recently that Dr. Schliemann has unearthed the foundation of this palace; but an epic poet sang about it, or one like it, twenty-five centuries or more ago. The following is his idealized description of a palace resembling that of Tiryns: — Cf. p. 10.

"Meanwhile Odysseus went to the famous palace of Alcinoüs, and his heart was full of many thoughts as he stood there or ever he had reached the threshold of bronze. For there was a gleam as it were of sun and moon through the high-roofed hall of great-hearted Alcinoüs. Brazen were the walls that ran this way and that from the threshold to the inmost chamber, and round them was a frieze of blue, and golden were the doors that closed in the good house. Silver were the door-posts that were set on the brazen threshold, and silver the lintel thereupon, and the hook of the door was of gold. And on either side stood golden hounds and silver, which Hephæstus[1] wrought with his cunning, to guard the palace of great-hearted Alcinoüs, being free from death and age all their days. And within were seats arrayed against the wall this way and that, from the threshold to the inmost chamber, and thereon were spread light coverings finely woven, the handiwork of women. There the Phæacian chieftains were wont to sit

The palace.

Od. vii, 84 ff.

[1] The artisan god.

eating and drinking, for they had continual store. Yea, and there were youths fashioned in gold, standing on firm-set bases, with flaming torches in their hands, giving light through the night to the feasters in the palace. And he had fifty handmaids in the house, and some grind the yellow grain on the millstone, and others weave webs and turn the yarn as they sit, restless as the leaves of the tall poplar tree; and the soft olive oil drops off that linen, so closely is it woven. For as the Phæacian men are skilled beyond all others in driving a swift ship upon the deep, even so are the women the most cunning at the loom, for Athena hath given them notable wisdom in all fair handiwork and cunning wit. And without the courtyard, hard by the door, is a great garden, of four ploughgates, and a hedge runs round on either side. And there grow tall trees blossoming, pear trees and pomegranates, and apple trees with bright fruit, and sweet figs and olives in their bloom. The fruit of these trees never perisheth, neither faileth, winter or summer, enduring through all the year. Evermore the West Wind blowing brings some fruits to birth and ripens others. Pear upon pear waxes old, and apple upon apple, yea, and cluster ripens upon cluster of the grape, and fig upon fig. There, too, hath he a fruitful vineyard planted, whereof the one part is being dried by the heat, a sunny plot on level ground, while other grapes men are gathering, and yet others they are treading in the wine-press. In the foremost row are unripe grapes that cast the blossom, and others there be that are growing black to vintaging. There, too, skirting the furthest line, are all manner of garden beds, planted trimly, that are perpetually fresh, and therein are two fountains of water, whereof one scatters his streams all about the garden, and the other runs over against it beneath

The garden.

the threshold of the courtyard, and issues by the lofty house, and thence did the townsfolk draw water. These were the splendid gifts of the gods in the palace of Alcinoüs."

Mycenæ, "rich in gold," is younger than Tiryns; but because it was better situated, its king in course of time became ruler of all Argolis. Dr. Schliemann and others have unearthed in Mycenæ not only the walls and palace, but also private houses, the homes of lords and servants. From these discoveries it is possible to learn how the people of Mycenæ lived, and even what they wore and ate.[1] But the most remarkable objects which they found were the tombs and their contents. In some of these tombs "lay the bodies of the prehistoric rulers of Mycenæ. In two of them lay three women, their heads adorned with lofty gold diadems, their bodies covered with plates of gold which had been sewn on their dresses. In four graves lay bodies of men, varying in number from one to five, some wearing masks or breastplates, all adorned with gold, not less profusely than the women, and buried with arms and utensils, with vessels of gold and silver, with a wealth of objects of use and luxury sufficient to stock a rich museum at Athens, and fairly astonish those who see it for the first time." Other tombs are magnificent stone structures shaped like beehives, described by Pausanias as "underground buildings of Atreus and his sons, where their treasures were." One of them is still known as the "Treasury of Atreus." The people of this age believed, no doubt, that the souls of men after death enjoyed all this splendor in their tombs.

Mycenæ. *Il.* xi, 46.

P. Gardner, p. 64.

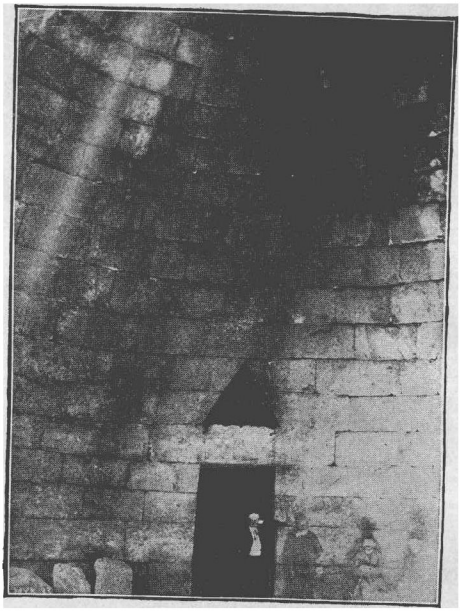
Pausanias, ii, 16.

We call the civilization of this time "Mycenæan," but

[1] For an interesting account of this, Tsountas and Manatt, *The Mycenæan Age*, chs. iv, vi.

Area of the Mycenæan civilization.

there were many other cities like Mycenæ, though less grand. While barbarous tribes were still roaming over the interior, these cities near the coast and on the islands



"TREASURY OF ATREUS" AT MYCENÆ

were gradually developing. Asiatic culture, planted on Greek soil, was preparing the way for our modern life.

Colonization of the Ægean islands and coasts.

The Mycenæan civilization was at its best from about 1500 to 1000 B.C. During this period the Greeks were outgrowing the peninsula, and were settling the islands and east coast of the Ægean Sea. They could pass without danger, without losing sight of land, across its entire breadth. Indeed, from the mountains of southern Eubœa the Greeks could look quite across the sea to the hills of Chios. From Attica they settled the Cyclades near by,

Cf. p. 3.

and then the adjacent coast country of Asia Minor, which was afterwards named Ionia. The people of Attica, of Ionia, and of the islands between belonged therefore to one great race, the Attic-Ionic, just as the inhabitants of the United States and of England form one race, the Anglo-American. In like manner the Dorians took possession of the south Ægean islands and coasts, while the Æolians settled north of the Ionians. These are the three great historic races of the Greeks.

Greece, or Hellas, defined.

We are not to think of these colonists as leaving Greece to settle in foreign lands, but rather as extending the boundaries of their own country. Greece, or Hellas, was the country of the Greeks, or Hellenes,[1] wherever they might be; at the time which we have now reached — 1000 B.C. — the name included, in addition to the peninsula, most of the islands of the Ægean Sea and the larger part of the western coast of Asia Minor.

Ionia.

1000–700 B.C.

Hdt. i, 142.

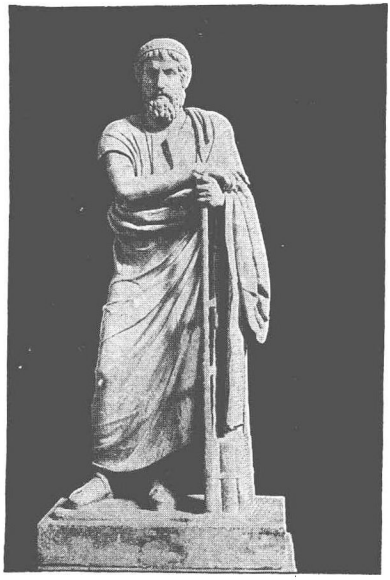
The colonists had less wealth than the people of the mother country, but they enjoyed greater freedom, and were more vigorous in body and mind. During the next three centuries, while the Mycenæan culture was declining, the colonists in the Ægean were building up a new civilization far higher than that which they had left behind them on the continent. "Of all men whom we know, the Ionians had the good fortune to build their cities in the most favorable position for climate and seasons." Civilizations have been born in the most fertile spots on earth, where the struggle for existence has not been all-absorbing, where men could easily produce food, clothing, and shelter, and have some leisure to think of other things than the mere necessities of life. Thus the earliest civ-

[1] In this book, Greece and Hellas, Greeks and Hellenes, are used synonymously; cf. pp. 40, 103 and n. 2.

ilization of the world was, as Herodotus says, "the gift of the Nile." In like manner Ionia, because of its fertile soil, its delightful climate, and its openness to the sea, threw off Asiatic influence and became the birthplace of the first distinctly European civilization.

Homer and the Epic Age.

We can learn the character and customs of the early Ionians from their minstrels, who travelled about and sang to the kings and nobles. These wandering bards were the makers of the two great epic poems, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. The *Iliad*, composed mainly in the tenth and ninth centuries B.C., is for us the oldest piece of European literature. The best modern authorities believe that it was not the work of one poet, but grew up gradually in the following manner. Some Æolian minstrel of Asia Minor began it by composing a tale of considerable length to glorify Achilles, a mythical hero; Ionian minstrels took up the story and enlarged it, bringing into it their own ideas and myths. One by one they introduced into the poem new heroes, with their warlike deeds, so as to be continually furnishing the hearers with something novel



IDEAL STATUE OF HOMER
(Vatican Museum)