

# GILLES PIERRE

THE ANTIQUITIES OF  
CONSTANTINOPLE

Pierre Gilles

**The Antiquities of Constantinople**

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**Pierre Gilles**  
**The Antiquities of Constantinople /**  
**With a Description of Its Situation, the**  
**Conveniencies of Its Port, Its Publick Buildings,**  
**the Statuary, Sculpture, Architecture,**  
**and Other Curiosities of That City**

**TO Richard Banner, Esq;**

**OF PERRY-HALL, IN THE County of STAFFORD**

Sir,

No sooner had my Inclinations prevail'd upon me to publish this Author, but my Gratitude directed me where I should make the Dedication. These Labours are yours by many Obligations. Your Services to me demand them, you have express'd a particular Esteem for Pieces of this Kind, you have assisted me with a valuable Collection of Books in the Translation of them, and you have encourag'd the Performance by the Interest of your Friends; so that if there be any Merit in the Publication of it, 'tis you who are entitled to it.

The Knowledge of *Antiquity* was always look'd upon as a Study worthy the Entertainment of a Gentleman, and was never in higher Estimation among the Nobility and Gentry of *Great Britain* than it is now. And this Regard which the present Age pays to it, proceeds from a wise Discernment, and a proportionable Value of Things. For we never entertain our Curiosity with more Pleasure, and to better Purposes, than by looking into the Art, and Improvement, and Industry of antient Times, and by observing how they excited their Heroes and great Men to virtuous and honourable Actions by the Memorials of *Statuary* and *Sculpture*; the silent Records of their Greatness, and the lasting History of their Glory.

The great Discoveries made of late, and publish'd by a <sup>1</sup>Society of Gentlemen, united in the Search of *Antiquity*, will be lasting Monuments of their Fame in future Times, and will be look'd upon as Arguments of an ingenious Curiosity, in looking into the delectable Situations of Places, in preserving the beautiful Ruines of Antient Buildings, and in setting Chronology in a truer Light, by the Knowledge of Coins and Medals.

But, Sir, what I principally intend in this Dedication, is to do Justice to Merit, and to acquaint the World, That you never look'd upon Licentiousness, and Infidelity, to be any Part of the Character of a fine Gentleman, That Virtue does not sit odly upon Men of a superior Station, and That in you we have an Example of one, who has Prudence enough to temper the innocent Freedoms of Life with the Strictnesses of Duty, and Conduct enough to be Merry, and not Licentious, to be Sociable, and not Austere; a Deportment this, which sets off your Character beyond the most elaborate Expressions of Art, and is not to be describ'd by the most curious Statue, or the most durable Marble. I am, Sir, with very great Regard,

*Your most Oblig'd,*

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<sup>1</sup> The Society of *Antiquaries* in London.

*And most Obedient Servant,  
John Ball.*

## THE PREFACE OF THE TRANSLATOR

*IT is customary upon a Translation to give some Account both of the Author, and his Writings. The Author Petrus Gyllius, as he stands enroll'd among the Men of Eminency, and Figure in polite Learning, I find to be a Native of Albi, in France. He was in great Reputation in the sixteenth Century, and was look'd upon as a Writer of so good a Taste, and so comprehensive a Genius, that there was scarce any thing in the polite Languages, which had escap'd him. As he had a particular Regard for Men of distinguished Learning, so was he equally honour'd, and esteem'd by them. Francis the First, King of France, the great Patron of Literature, and who was also a good Judge of his Abilities, sent him into Italy, and Greece, to make a Collection of all the choice Manuscripts which had never been printed, but in his Passage it was his Misfortune to be taken by the Corsairs. Some Time after, by the Application and Generosity of Cardinal d'Armanac, he was redeem'd from Slavery. The just Sense this munificent Patron had of his Merit, incited him, when my Author had finish'd more than forty Years Travels over all Greece, Asia, and the greatest Part of Africa, in the Search of Antiquity, to receive him into his Friendship, and Family; where, while he was digesting, and methodizing his Labours for the Service of the Publick, he dy'd in the Year 1555, and in the 65<sup>th</sup> Year of his Age.*

*Although it was his Intention to have published all the Learned Observations he had made in his Travels, yet he liv'd to give us only a Description of the Bosphorus, Thrace, and Constantinople, with an Account of the Antiquities of each of those Places. In his Search of what was curious he was indefatigable, and had a perfect Knowledge of it in all its Parts. He had also translated into Latin Theodore's Commentaries on the Minor Prophets, and sixteen Books of Ælian's History of Animals. Petrus Belonius is highly reflected upon, in that being his Domestick, and a Companion with him in his Travels, he took the Freedom to publish several of his Works under his own Name: And indeed such a flagrant Dishonesty in acting the Plagiary in so gross a manner, was justly punish'd with the most severe Censures; since it had been Merit enough to have deserv'd the Praises of the Learned World for Publishing such valuable Pieces, with an honourable Acknowledgment of the Author of them.*

*I have no Occasion to vindicate the Worth and Credit of my Author, whose Fame will live, and flourish, while the Characters given him by Gronovius, Thuanus, Morreri, Tournefort, and Montfaucon are of any Weight. These Great Men have recorded him to future Times, for his deep Insight into Natural Knowledge, his unweari'd Application to the Study of Antiquity, and his great Accuracy and Exactness in Writing.*

*In the following Treatise, the Reader has before him a full and lively View of one of the most magnificent Cities in the Universe; stately, and beautiful in its Natural Situation, improv'd with all the Art and Advantages of fine Architecture, and furnished with the most costly Remains of Antiquity; so that New Rome, in many Instances of that Kind, may seem to excell the Old.*

*I hope my Author will not be thought too particular and exact in describing the several Hills and Vales, upon which Constantinople stands, when it is consider'd, that he is delineating the Finest Situation in the World.*

*The Manner in which he treats on this Subject is very entertaining; and his Descriptions, though with the greatest Regard to Truth, are embellish'd with a Grace and Beauty, almost Poetical. This, I look upon it, was occasion'd by the agreeable Variety of delightful Prospects and Situations, which the Subject naturally led him to describe.*

*The present State of Constantinople, I mean as to the Meanness and Poverty of its Buildings, is attested by all those, who have either seen, or wrote concerning it; so that 'tis not Now to be compar'd with it self, as it stood in its Antient Glory. The Turks have such an Aversion to all that is curious in Learning, or magnificent in Architecture, or valuable in Antiquity, that they have made it a Piece of Merit, for above 200 Years, to demolish, and efface every thing of that Kind; so that this Account of*

*the Antiquities of that City given us by Gyllius, is not only the Best, but indeed the Only collective History of them.*

*In tracing out the Buildings of Old Byzantium, the antient Greek Historians, which he perfectly understood, were of great Service to him; this, with his own personal Observations, as residing for some Years at Constantinople, furnish'd him with Materials sufficient for the present History.*

*The Curious, who have always admir'd the Accuracy of this Work of Gyllius, have yet been highly concern'd, that it wanted the Advantage of Cuts, by which the Reader might have the agreeable Pleasure of surveying with the Eye, what my Author has so exactly describ'd with the Pen.*

*I have therefore endeavour'd to supply this Defect, by presenting to the View of the Reader a Collection of Figures, which do not only refer to such Curiosities as he will find mention'd in the several Parts of my Author, but such as have been describ'd by other later Travellers; and by this Means I hope I have given a compleat View of whatsoever is most remarkable in the Antiquities of Constantinople. The Catalogue and Order of the Cuts is as follows;*

I. *The Thracian Bosphorus, with the Situation of Constantinople, as antiently divided into Wards; from Du Fresne.*

II. *A Delineation of that City, as it stood in the Year 1422, before it was taken by the Turks; from the same.*

III. *The Ichnography, or Plan of the Church of Sancta Sophia; from the same.*

IV. *The whole View of the Church of Sancta Sophia; from the same.*

V. *The outside Prospect of that Church; from the same.*

VI. *The inside View of it; from the same.*

VII. *The Plan of the Church of the Apostles; from Sir George Wheler.*

VIII. *The antient Hippodrom, with the Thebæan Obelisk, and the Engines by which it was erected; from Spon and Wheler.*

IX. *The Three Pillars, viz. the Serpentine and Porphyry Pillars, standing in the Hippodrom, as described by Gyllius, with the Pillar of the Emperor Marcian, since discover'd by Spon and Wheler in a private Garden; from B. Randolph.*

X. *The Historical Pillar, described by Gyllius, and since by Tournefort; from Du Fresne.*

XI. *A View of the Seraglio Point, with a Representation of the present Imperial Palace, and the Church of Sancta Sophia; from B. Randolph.*

*When this Impression was almost finished, a learned Gentleman of the University of Oxon, to whom my best Acknowledgments are due, communicated to me a valuable Passage, relating to the Statues of Constantinople, demolished by the Romans, which he transcribed from the Second Book of Nicetas Choniata, a MS. in the Bodl. Lib. I have added a Translation of it by way of Appendix; and I presume that the Reader will look upon it as a curious and an agreeable Entertainment.*

## **THE PREFACE OF THE AUTHOR, Describing the Situation of *Constantinople*, the Conveniences of its Port, and the Commodities in which it abounds**

Constantinople is situated after such a Manner in a *Peninsula*, that 'tis scarce bounded by the Continent; for on three Sides 'tis inclosed by the Sea. Nor is it only well fortified by its natural Situation, but 'tis also well guarded by Forts, erected in large Fields, extending from the City at least a two Day's Journey, and more than twenty Miles in Length. The Seas that bound the *Peninsula* are *Pontus*, or the *Black Sea*, the *Bosporus*, and the *Propontis*. The City is inclosed by a Wall formerly built by *Anastasius*. 'Tis upon this Account that being secured as it were by a double *Peninsula*, she entitles her self the Fortress of all *Europe*, and claims the Preheminence over all the Cities of the World, as hanging over the Straits both of *Europe* and *Asia*. For besides other immense Advantages peculiar to it, this is look'd upon as a principal Convenience of its Situation, that 'tis encompassed by a Sea abounding with the finest Harbours for Ships; on the South by the *Propontis*, on the East by the *Bosporus*, and on the North by a Bay full of Ports, which can not only be secured by a Boom, but even without such a Security, can greatly annoy the Enemy. For the Walls of *Constantinople* and *Galata* straitning its Latitude into less than half a Mile over, it has often destroy'd the Enemies Ships by liquid Fire, and other Instruments of War. I would remark farther, that were it secured according to the Improvements of modern Fortification, it would be the strongest Fortress in the World; viz. if the four ancient Ports, formerly inclosed within its Walls by Booms, were rebuilt; two of which (being not only the Ornament, but the Defence of old *Byzantium*) held out a Siege against *Severus* for the Space of three Years; nor could it ever be obliged to a Surrender, but by Famine only. For besides the Profits and Advantages it receives from the *Propontis* and *Ægean* Sea, it holds an absolute Dominion over the *Black Sea*; and by one Door only, namely by the *Bosporus*, shuts up its Communication with any other part of the World; for no Ship can pass this Sea, if the Port thinks fit to dispute their Passage. By which means it falls out, that all the Riches of the *Black Sea*, whether exported or imported, are at her Command. And indeed such considerable Exportations are made from hence of Hydes of all Kinds, of Honey, of Wax, of Slaves, and other Commodities, as supply a great Part of *Europe*, *Asia* and *Africa*; and on the other hand, there are imported from those Places such extraordinary Quantities of Wine, Oil, Corn, and other Goods without Number, that *Mysia*, *Dacia*, *Pannonia*, *Sarmatia*, *Mæotis*, *Colchis*, *Spain*, *Albania*, *Cappadocia*, *Armenia*, *Media*, *Parthia*, and both Parts of *Scythia*, share in the great Abundance. 'Tis for this Reason, that not only all foreign Nations, if they would entitle themselves to any Property in the immense Wealth of the *Black Sea*, but also all Sea Port and Island Towns are obliged to court the Friendship of this City. Besides, 'tis impossible for any Ships to pass or repass, either from *Asia* or *Europe*, but at her Pleasure, she being as it were the Bridge and Port of both those Worlds; nay, I might call her the Continent that joins them, did not the *Hellespont* divide them. But this Sea is thought, in many Respects, to be inferior to that of *Constantinople*; first, as it is much larger, and then, as not having a Bay as that has, by which its City might be made a *Peninsula*, and a commodious Port for Ships: And indeed if it had such a Bay, yet could it reap no Advantage of Commerce from the *Black Sea*, but by the Permission of the People of *Constantinople*. *Constantine* at first began to build a City upon *Sigeum*, a Promontory hanging over the Straits of the *Hellespont*; but quitting that Situation, he afterwards pitch'd upon a Promontory of *Byzantium*. *Troy*, I acknowledge, is a magnificent City, but they were blind, who could not discover the Situation of *Byzantium*; all stark blind, who founded Cities within View of it, either on the Coast of the *Hellespont*, or the *Propontis*; which though they maintain'd their Grandeur for some Time, yet at present are quite in Ruins, or have only a few Streets remaining, and which, if they were all rebuilt, must be in Subjection to *Constantinople*, as being superior in Power to all of them. Wherefore we may

justly entitle her the Key, not only of the *Black Sea*, but also of the *Propontis* and the *Mediterranean Sea*. *Cyzicus* (now called *Chazico*) is highly in Esteem, for that it joins by two Bridges the Island to the Continent, and unites two opposite Bays, and is, as *Aristides* informs us, the Bond of the *Black*, and the *Mediterranean Sea*; but any Man, who has his Eyes in his Head, may see, that 'tis but a very weak one. The *Propontis* flows in a broad Sea, between *Cyzicus* and *Europe*; by which Means as a Passage is open into both Seas, though the People of *Cyzicus* should pretend to dispute it; so they on the other hand, should the People of *Hellespont* or *Constantinople* contest it with them, could have no Advantage of the Commerce of either of those Seas. I shall say nothing at present of *Heraclea*, *Selymbria*, and *Chalcedon*, seated on the Coast of the *Propontis*, anciently Cities of Renown, both for the Industry of their Inhabitants, and the Agreeableness of their Situation; but they could never share in the principal Commodities of other Towns of Traffick, in the Neighbourhood of the Port of *Constantinople*, which was always look'd upon as impregnable. The Harbours of those Cities have lain for a considerable time all under Water, so that they were not of sufficient Force to sail the *Bosporus* and the *Hellespont*, without the Permission of the Inhabitants of those Places: But the *Byzantians* rode Masters of the *Black Sea*, in Defiance of them all. *Byzantium* therefore seems alone exempted from those Inconveniencies and Incapacities which have happen'd to her Neighbours, and to many other potent and flourishing Cities, which for several Years having lain in their own Ruins, are either not rebuilt with their ancient Grandeur, or have changed their former Situation. All its neighbouring Towns are yet lost: There is only the Name of *Memphis* remaining. Whereas *Babylon*, seated in its Neighbourhood, from a small Fort, is become a large and populous City; and yet neither of them is so commodious as *Constantinople*. I shall take no Notice of *Babylon* in *Assyria*, who, when she was in her most flourishing State, had the Mortification to see a City built near her, equal in Largeness to her self: Why is not *Alexandria* rebuilt, but because she must support her self more by the Industry of her People, than the Agreeableness of her Situation? 'Twas the Sanctity of *St. Peter*, and the Grandeur of the *Roman* Name, that contributed more to the rebuilding old *Rome*, than the natural Situation of the Place itself, as having no Convenience for Ships and Harbours. I pass by in Silence *Athens* and *Lacedæmon*, which were more remarkable for the Learning and resolute Bravery of their People, than the Situation of their City. I omit the two Eyes of the Sea Coast, *Corinth* and *Carthage*, both which falling into Ruins at the same Time, were first repaired by *Julius Cæsar*; afterwards, when they fell entirely to decay, nobody rebuilt them: And though *Carthage* is seated in a *Peninsula* with several Havens about it, yet in no part of it are there two Seas which fall into each other: For though *Corinth* may be said to lie between two Seas, and is call'd the Fort of *Peloponnesus*, the Key and Door of *Greece*; yet is it so far from uniting in one Chanel two Seas, or two Bays adjoining to the *Peninsula*, that she was never able to make Head against the *Macedonians* or *Romans*, as *Cyzico* and *Negropont* did; the one by its well built Forts and other War-like Means, and the other by the Strength of its natural Situation. But *Constantinople* is the Key both of the *Mediterranean* and *Black Sea*, which alone, by the best Skill in Navigation, nay though you were to make a Voyage round the World, you will find to meet only in one Point, and that is, the Mouth of the Port. I shall say nothing of *Venice*, which does not so much enclose the Sea for proper Harbours, as 'tis enclosed by it, and labours under greater Difficulties to keep off the Swellings and Inundations of the Seas, than unite them together. I pass by the Situations of the whole Universe, wherever there are, have, or shall be Cities; in none of them shall you find a Port abounding with so many and so great Conveniencies, both for the Maintenance of its Dominion over the Seas, and the Support of Life, as in this City. It is furnish'd with Plenty of all manner of Provisions, being supply'd with Corn by a very large Field of *Thrace*, extending itself, in some Parts of it, a Length of seven Days, and in others, of a more than twenty Days Journey. I shall say nothing of *Asia* adjoining to it, abounding with the greatest Fruitfulness both of Corn and Pasture, and the best Conveniencies for their Importation from both Seas. And as to the immense Quantity of its Wines, besides what is the Product of its own Soil, it is furnish'd with that Commodity from all the Coasts of the *Bosporus*, the *Propontis*, and the *Hellespont*, which are all well stock'd with Vineyards;

and without the Danger of a long Voyage, *Constantinople* can, at her Pleasure, import the choicest Wines of all Kinds, and whatever else may contribute to her own Gratification and Delight. 'Tis for this Reason that *Theopompus* gives her this Character, That ever since she became a Mart-Town, her People were wholly taken up, either in the Market, in the Port, or at Taverns, giving themselves up entirely to Wine. *Menander*, in his Comedy *Auletris*, tells us, that *Constantinople* makes all her Merchants Sots. *I bouze it*, says one of his Actors, *all Night; and upon my waking after the Dose, I fancy I have no less than four Heads upon my Shoulders*. The Comedians play handsomely upon them, in giving us an Account, that when their City was besieged, their General had no other Way to keep his Soldiers from deferring, but by building Taverns within the Walls; which, tho' a Fault proceeding from their popular Form of Government, yet at the same time denotes to us the great Fruitfulness of their Soil, and the great Plenty they have of Wine. They who have been Eye-witnesses can best attest, how well they are provided with Flesh, with Venison and Fowls, which they might share more abundantly, but that they are but indifferent Sportsmen. Their Markets are always stored with the richest Fruits of all Kinds. If any Objection be made to this, I would have it consider'd, what Quantities the *Turks* use, after hard Drinking, to allay their Thirst. And as to Timber, *Constantinople* is so plentifully supply'd with that, both from *Europe* and *Asia*, and will in all probability continue to be so, that she can be under no Apprehensions of a Scarcity that way, as long as she continues a City. Woods of an unmeasurable Length, extending themselves from the *Propontis* beyond *Colchis*, a more than forty Days Journey, contribute to her Stores so that she does not only supply the neighbouring Parts with Timber for building Ships and Houses, but even *Ægypt*, *Arabia* and *Africa*, partake in the inexhaustible Abundance; while she, of all the Cities in the World, cannot lie under the want of Wood of any Kind, under which, even in our Time, we have observed the most flourishing Cities, both of *Europe* and *Asia*, sometimes to have fallen. *Marseilles*, *Venice*, *Taranto*, are all famous for Fish; yet *Constantinople* exceeds them all in its Abundance of this Kind. The Port is supply'd with vast Quantities from both Seas; nor do they swim only in thick Shoals through the *Bosporus*, but also from *Chalcedon* to this Port. Insomuch that twenty Fish-Boats have been laden with one Net; and indeed they are so numberless, that oftentimes from the Continent you may take them out of the Sea with your Hands. Nay, when in the Spring, they swim up into the *Black Sea*, you may kill them with Stones. The Women, with Osier Baskets ty'd to a Rope, angle for them out of the Windows, and the Fishermen with bare Hooks take a sort of Fish of the *Tunny* Kind, in such Quantities, as are a competent Supply to all *Greece*, and a great part of *Asia* and *Europe*. But not to recount the different Kinds of Fish they are stock'd with, they catch such Multitudes of Oysters, and other Shell Fish, that you may see in the Fish Market every Day, so many Boats full of them, as are a Sufficiency to the *Grecians*, all their Fast-Days, when they abstain from all sorts of Fish which have Blood in them. If there was not so considerable a Plenty of Flesh at *Constantinople*, if the People took any Pleasure in eating Fish, and their Fishermen were as industrious as those of *Venice* and *Marseilles*, and were also allow'd a Freedom in their Fishery, they would have it in their Power, not only to pay as a Tribute a third part of their Fish at least to the Grand *Seignor*, but also to supply all the lesser Towns in her Neighbourhood. If we consider the Temperature of the Climate of New *Rome*, it must be allow'd by proper Judges, that it far excels that of *Pontus*. For my own part, I have often experienced it to be a more healthy Air than that of Old *Rome*; and for many Years past, I have scarce observed above a Winter or two to have been very cold, and that the Summer Heats have been allay'd by the northern Breezes, which generally clear the Air for the whole Season. In the Winter, 'tis a little warm'd by the southern Winds, which have the same Effect. When the Wind is at North, they have generally Rain, though 'tis quite otherwise in *Italy* and *France*. As to the Plague, 'tis less raging, less mortal, and no more rife among them, than it is, commonly speaking, in great Cities; and which indeed would be less rife, were it not for the Multitudes of the common People, and the foul Way of Feeding among their Slaves. But that I may not seem to flourish too largely in the Praise of this City, never to be defamed by the most sour *Cynick*, I must confess that there is one great Inconvenience it labours

under, which is, that 'tis more frequently inhabited by a savage, than a genteel and civiliz'd People; not but that she is capable of refining the Manners of the most rude and unpolish'd; but because her Inhabitants, by their luxurious way of living, emasculate themselves, and for that Reason are wholly incapable of making any Resistance against those barbarous People, by whom, to a vast Distance, they are encompass'd on all Sides. From hence it is, that although *Constantinople* seems as it were by Nature form'd for Government, yet her People are neither under the Decencies of Education, nor any Strictness of Discipline. Their Affluence makes them slothful, and their Pride renders them averse to an open Familiarity, and a generous Conversation; so that they avoid all Opportunities of being thrust out of Company for their Insolence, or falling into Dissensions amongst themselves, by which means the Christian Inhabitants of the Place, formerly lost both their City and Government. But let their Quarrels and Divisions run never so high, and throw the whole City into a Flame, as they have many times done, nay tho' they should rase her even with the Ground, yet she would soon rise again out of her own Ruins, by reason of the Pleasantness of her Situation, without which the *Black Sea* could not so properly be called the *Euxine*, as the *Axine* Sea, (the Inhabitants of whose Coast used to kill all Strangers that fell into their Hands) by reason of the great Numbers of barbarous People who dwell round the *Black Sea*. It would be dangerous venturing on the Coasts of the *Black Sea*, either by Land or Water, which are full of Pyrates and Robbers, unless they were kept in a tolerable Order by the Government of the Port. There would be no passing the Straits of the *Bosporus* which is inhabited on both Shores by a barbarous People, but for the same Reason. And though a Man was never so secure of a safe Passage, yet he might mistake his Road at the Mouth of the *Bosporus*, being misguided by the false Lights, which the *Thracians*, who inhabit the Coasts of the *Black Sea*, formerly used to hang out, instead of a *Pharos*. 'Tis therefore not only in the Power of *Constantinople*, to prevent any Foreigners sailing the *Black Sea*; but in reality no Powers can sail it, without some Assistance from her. Since therefore *Constantinople* is the Fortress of all *Europe*, both against the Pyrates of *Pontus*, and the Savages of *Asia*, was the never so effectually demolish'd, as to all Appearance, yet would she rise again out of her Ruins to her former Grandeur and Magnificence. With what Fury did *Severus* pursue this City, even to an entire Subversion? And yet when he cool'd in his Resentments against these People, he recollected with himself, that he had destroy'd a City which had been the common Benefactress of the Universe, and the grand Bulwark of the Eastern Empire. In a little time after he began to rebuild her, and order'd her, in Honour of his Son, to be call'd *Antonina*. I shall end with this Reflection; That though all other Cities have their Periods of Government, and are subject to the Decays of Time, *Constantinople* alone seems to claim to herself a kind of Immortality, and will continue a City, as long as the Race of Mankind shall live either to inhabit or rebuild her.

## BOOK I

### Chap. I.

#### *Of the Founders of Byzantium, and the different Successes and Revolutions of that City*

It is recorded by *Stephanus* and *Pausanias*, that *Byzantium*, now call'd *Constantinople*, was first founded by *Byzas* the Son of *Neptune* and *Ceroessa*, or by a Person named *Byzes*, Admiral of the Fleet of the *Megarians*, who transplanted a Colony thither. I am of Opinion, that this was the same Person with *Byzas*. For had it taken its Name from *Byzes*, this City had more properly been call'd *Byzeum* than *Byzantium*. *Philostratus*, in the Life of *Marcus* a Sophist of *Byzantium*, calls the Admiral of that Fleet by the Name of *Byzas*, when he informs us, that *Marcus* (whom he would have descended from the ancient Family of *Byzas*) made a Voyage to *Megara*, and was exceedingly in Favour with the People there, who had formerly sent over a Colony to *Byzantium*. This People, when they had consulted *Apollo* where they should found a City, received in Answer from the Oracle, *That they should seek out a Situation opposite to the Land of the Blind*. The People of *Chalcedon* were given to understand by this mystical Answer, that tho' they had made a Landing there before, and had an Opportunity of viewing the commodious Situation of that and other Places adjacent, yet at last had pitch'd upon the most improper Place of all. As to what is mention'd by *Justin*, that *Byzantium* was first founded by *Pausanias* a *Spartan*, I take it to import no more than this; that they who affirm that *Syca*, at present call'd *Galata*, was first founded by the *Genoese*, as was *Constantinople* by *Constantine*, their Meaning was, that they either rebuilt or enlarged those Places, and not that they were the first Founders of them. For when I find it in *Herodotus*, that upon the Invasion of *Thrace* by *Darius*, the People of *Byzantium* and *Chalcedon* were not in the least Expectation of the Arrival of the *Phœnician* Fleet, that having quitted their Cities, they retired into the Inland Shores of the *Black Sea*, and there founded *Mesembria*, and that the *Phœnicians* burnt *Byzantium*, and *Chalcedon*; I am of Opinion, that the *Lacedæmonians*, under the Command of *Pausanias*, sent a Colony thither, and rebuilt *Byzantium*, which was before either a Colony of the *Megarians*, or the Seat of the Subjects of *Byzas* the Son of *Neptune*, its first Founder. *Eustathius* assures us, that it was anciently called *Antonina* from *Antoninus Bassianus*, the Son of *Severus Cæsar*, but that it passed under that Name no longer than his Father liv'd, and that many Years after it was call'd *New Rome*, and *Constantinople*, and *Anthusa*, or *Florentia*, by *Constantine the Great*; upon which Account it is call'd by *Priscian* *New Constantinopolitan Rome*. It was foretold by the Oracle, that its Inhabitants should be a successful and flourishing People, but a constant Course of Prosperity did not always attend them. 'Twas with great Difficulty that this City first began to make a Figure in the World, in the Struggles it underwent with the *Thracians*, *Bithynians*, and *Gallo Grecians*, and in paying a yearly Tribute of eighty Talents to the *Gauls* who govern'd *Asia*. 'Twas with greater Contests that it rose to higher Degrees of Eminency, being frequently harass'd, not only with foreign, but domestick Enemies. Mighty Changes it underwent, being sometimes under the popular, sometimes under the aristocratical Form of Government, widely extending its Conquests in *Europe* and *Asia*, but especially in *Bithynia*. For *Philarcus* observes in the sixth Book of his *History*, that the *Byzantians* had the same Power over the *Bithynians*, as the *Lacedæmonians* had over their *Helotæ*. This Commonwealth had so great a Veneration for the *Ptolemæi* Kings of *Ægypt*, that to one of them nam'd *Philadelphus*, they pay'd divine Honours, and erected a Temple to him, in the Sight of their City; and so great a Regard had they for the *Roman* Name, that they assisted them against the King of *Macedon*, to whom, as degenerating from his Predecessors, they gave the nickname of *Pseudo-Philippus*. I need not mention the powerful Succours they sent against *Antiochus*, *Perseus*,

*Aristonicus*, and the Assistance they gave *Antonius*, when engaged in a War against the Pyrates. This City alone stood the Brunt of *Mithridates's* whole Army landed in their Territories, and at last, though with great Difficulty, bravely repell'd the Invader. It assisted at once *Sylla*, *Lucullus* and *Pompey*, when they lay'd Siege to any Town or Fortification, which might be a Security to their auxiliary Forces in their Passage, either by Sea or Land, or might prove a convenient Port, either for Exportation or Importation of Provision. Joining its Forces at last with *Niger* against *Severus*, it became subject to the *Perinthians*, and was despoil'd of all the Honours of its Government. All its stately Bagnio's and Theatres, its strong and lofty Walls, (built of square Stone, much of the same Hardness with that of a Grindstone, not brought from *Miletus*, as *Politianus* fancies) with which it was fortify'd, were entirely ruin'd. I say, that this Stone was cut out of no Quarry, either of ancient *Miletus*, or *Miletopolis*; because *Miletus* lies at too great a Distance from it, and *Miletopolis*, which is seated near the River *Rhyndacus*, is no ways famous for Quarries. I saw, by the By, this last City, adjoining to the Lake of *Apolloniatus*, entirely demolish'd, retaining at present its Name only. The Walls of *Byzantium*, as *Herodian* relates, were cemented with so thin a Mortar, that you would by no means think them a conjoined Building, but one entire Stone. They who saw them in Ruins in *Herodian's* Time, were equally surpriz'd at those who built, and those who defaced them. *Dion*, whom *Zonaras* quotes, reports, that the Walls of *Byzantium* were exceeding strong, the Copings of which were built with Stones three Foot thick, cramp'd together with Links of Brass; and that it was so firmly compacted inwardly, that the whole Building seem'd to be one solid Wall. It is adorn'd with numerous and large Towers, having Gates in them placed one above another. The Walls on the side of the Continent are very lofty; towards the Sea, not quite so high. It had two Ports within the Walls, secured with Booms, as was their Entrance by two high Forts. I had then no Opportunity of consulting *Xenophon* in the Original; however I was of Opinion from the *Latin* Translation, that a Passage in that Author, which is as follows, has a Relation to one of those Ports: *When the Soldiers*, says he, *had passed over from Chrysopolis to Byzantium, and were deny'd Entrance into the City, they threaten'd to force the Gates, unless the Inhabitants open'd them of their own Accord; and immediately hastening to the Sea, they scaled the Walls, and leap'd into the Town, hard by the Sides of the Port, which the Greeks call χηλαί, that is by the Piles; because they jet out into the Sea, winding into the Figure of a Crab's Claw. But afterwards meeting with that Author in Greek, I found no Mention there of the Port, but only τὴν χηλὴν τοῦ τείχους, that is, near the Copings of the Wall, or rather the Buttresses that support it. Had it been in the Original χηλὴ τοῦ λιμένος, it ought rather to have been translated the Leg, or the Arm. Dionysius a Byzantian mentions, that the first Winding of the Bosporus contains three Ports. The Byzantians in their time had five hundred Ships, some of which were two-oar'd Galleys; some had Rudders both at Stem and Stern, and had also their Pilates at each, and two Sets of Hands aboard, so that either in an Engagement, or upon a Retreat, there was no Necessity for them to tack about. The Byzantians, both in the Life-time and after the Death of *Niger*, when besieged for the Space of three Years, acted Wonders; for they not only took the Enemies Ships as they sail'd by them, but dragg'd their three-oar'd Galleys from their Moorings; for diving under Water they cut their Anchors, and by fastening small Ropes from the Stern round their Ancles, they hall'd off their Ships, which seem'd to swim merely by the natural Tyde of the Sea. Nor were the Byzantians the first who practis'd this Stratagem, but the Tyrians frequently, under a Pretence of gathering Shell-Fish, would play the same Trick; which *Alexander* had no sooner discover'd, than he gave Orders that the Anchors of his whole Fleet, instead of Cables, should be fasten'd to Iron Chains. In this Siege the Byzantians being reduced to great Straits, still refused to surrender, making the best Defence they could with Timber taken from their Houses. They also breded Cables for their Ships out of their Womens Hair; nay sometimes they threw down Statues and Horses upon the Heads of their Enemies. At last their Provision being entirely spent, they took up with Hydes soften'd in Water; and these being gone, they were brought to the extreme Necessity of eating one another: At last, being wholly reduced by Famine, they were forced to a Surrender. The Romans gave no Quarter to the Soldiers, nor the principal Men of the City.*

The whole Town, with all its stately Walls in which it glory'd, was levelled with the Ground; and all its *Theatres* and *Bagnio's* were demolish'd even to the small Compass of a single Street. *Severus* was highly pleased with so noble a Conquest. He took away the Freedom of the City, and having deprived it of the Dignity of a Commonwealth, he confiscated the Goods of the Inhabitants; and afterwards making it tributary, he gave it, with all the neighbouring Countrey, into the Hands of the *Perinthians*. Entering the City afterwards, and seeing the Inhabitants coming to meet him, with Olive-branches in their Hands begging Quarter, and excusing themselves for making so long a Defence, he forbore the Slaughter; yet left the *Perinthians* in the Possession of the Town, allowing them nevertheless a Theatre, gave Orders for building them a *Portico* for Hunting, and a *Hippodrom*, to which he adjoin'd some *Bagnio's*, which he built near the Temple of *Jupiter*, who was called *Zeuxippus*. He also rebuilt the *Strategium*; and all the Works that were begun by *Severus* in his Life-time, were finish'd by his Son *Antoninus*.

## Chap. II. *Of the Extent of Old Byzantium*

THE present Inhabitants of *Constantinople* tell you, that Old *Byzantium* stood within the Compass of the first Hill in the Imperial Precinct, where the *Grand Signor's Seraglio* now stands: but I am of Opinion, from what follows it will appear, that it was of a larger Extent. Our modern Writers describe its Situation thus; that it began at the Wall of the Citadel, stretched itself to the Tower of *Eugenius*, and that it rose gradually up to the *Strategium*, the *Bagnio* of *Achilles*, and the *Urbicion*. From thence it pass'd on to the *Chalcopratia*, and the *Miliarium Aureum*, where there was another *Urbicion* of the *Byzantians*: Thence it lengthen'd to the Pillars of *Zonarius*, from whence, after a gentle Descent, it winded round by the *Manganæ* and the *Bagnio's* of *Arcadius*, up to the *Acropolis*. I am inclinable to credit all these Writers, excepting only *Eustathius*, who tells us, that the *Athenians* made use of *Byzantium*, a small City, to keep their Treasure in. But *Zosimus*, a more ancient Historian, describes *Byzantium* after this Manner: *It was seated, says he, on a Hill, which took up part of the Isthmus, and was bounded by a Bay called Cheras, and the Propontis. At the End of the Portico's built by Severus the Emperor, it had a Gate set up, upon his Reconciliation with the Inhabitants, for giving Protection to Niger his Enemy. The Wall of Byzantium extended itself from the Eastern Part of the City to the Temple of Venus, and the Sea over-against Chrysopolis: from the North it descended to the Dock, and so onward to the Sea, which faces the Black Sea, and through which you sail into it.* This, says he, was the ancient Extent of the City; but *Dionysius*, a more ancient Writer than *Zosimus*, as appears by his Account, which was written before its Destruction by *Severus*, tells us, that *Byzantium* contain'd in Compass at least forty Furlongs, which is a much greater Extent than the preceding Writers reported it. *Herodian* informs us, that *Byzantium*, in the Time of *Severus*, was the greatest City in all *Thrace*.

### Chap. III.

## *Of the Rebuilding of Byzantium by Constantine the Great, and the Largeness of it in his Time*

IT is recorded by *Zonaras*, that *Constantine* being inclinable to build a City, and to give it his own Name, at first pitch'd upon *Sardicus* a Field of *Asia*; afterwards, upon the Promontory *Sigeum*, and last of all upon *Chalcedon* and *Byzantium*, for that Purpose. *Georgius Cedrinus* is of Opinion, that he first pitch'd upon *Thessalonica*, and after he had lived there two Years, being wonderfully taken with the Delightfulness of the Place, he built the most magnificent Temples, *Bagnio's* and *Aqueducts*; but being interrupted in his great Designs by the Plague which raged there, he was obliged to leave it, and passing away for *Chalcedon*, (formerly overthrown by the *Persians*, but then upon rebuilding) he was directed by the Eagles frequently carrying the small Stones of the Workmen from thence to *Byzantium*, where *Constantinople* ought to be built. *Zonaras* is of the same Opinion; and only differs as to the Story of the Stones, and says, that they were small Ropes which they used in Building. But this seems to be a Fable taken out of *Dionysius* a *Byzantian* Writer, who tells us, that *Byzas* had been the Founder of *Byzantium*, in a Place call'd *Semystra*, seated at the Mouth of the Rivers *Cydarus* and *Barbysa*, had not a Crow, by snatching a Piece of the Sacrifice out of the Flames, and carrying it to a Promontory of the *Bosporus*, directed *Byzas* to found *Byzantium* in that Place. But *Constantine* does not seem to me to have been so oversighted as were the ancient *Chalcedonians*, for which they stand recorded in the Histories of all Ages. Nay, 'tis distinguishable by any Man of a tolerable Judgment, that *Byzantium* was a much more commodious Situation for the *Roman* Empire than that of *Chalcedon*. The far more ancient Historians, among whom are *Sozomen* of *Salamis* and *Zosimus*, who wrote in the Reign of *Theodosius the Less*, judged more rationally on this Occasion. They tell us, without taking any Notice of *Sardica*, *Thessalonica* or *Chalcedon*, that *Constantine* debating with himself, where he might build a City, and call it by his own Name, equal in Glory and Magnificence to that of *Rome*, had found out a convenient Situation for that Purpose, between old *Troy* and the *Hellespont*; that he had lay'd the Foundations, and raised part of the Wall to a considerable Height, which is to be seen at this Day on the Promontory *Sigeum*, which *Pliny* calls *Ajantium*; because the Sepulchre of *Ajax*, which was in that Place, hung over the Chops of the *Hellespont*: They tell you farther, that anciently some Ships were station'd there, and that the *Grecians*, when at War with the *Trojans*, pitch'd their Tents in that Place: That *Constantine* afterwards came into an Opinion, that *Byzantium* was a properer Situation; that three hundred and sixty two Years after the Reign of *Augustus*, he rebuilt, enlarged and fortified it with great and strong Walls, and by an Edict engraven on a Stone Pillar, and publickly fix'd up in the *Strategium*, near his own *Equestrian* Statue, order'd it to be called *Nova Roma Constantinopolitana*. Upon a Computation made, that the Natives were not a sufficient Number to people the City, he built several fine Houses in and about the *Forums*, of which he made a Present to the Senators and other Men of Quality, which he brought with him from *Rome* and other Nations. He built also several *Forums*, some as an Ornament, others for the Service of the City. The *Hippodrom* he beautify'd with Temples, Fountains, *Portico's*, and a Senate-House, and allow'd its Members equal Honours and Privileges with those of *Rome*. He also built himself a Palace, little inferior to the Royal one at *Rome*. In short, he was so ambitious to make it rival *Rome* itself in all its Grandeur and Magnificence, that at length, as *Sozomen* assures us, it far surpassed it, both in the Number of its Inhabitants, and its Affluence of all Kinds. *Eunapius* a *Sardian*, no mean Writer, nay though an Enemy to *Constantine*, describes the vast Extent of *Constantinople*, in these Words: *Constantinople*, says he, *formerly called Byzantium*, allow'd the ancient Athenians a Liberty of importing Corn in great Quantities; but at present not all the Ships of Burthen from *Ægypt*, *Asia*, *Syria*, *Phœnicia*, and many other Nations, can import a Quantity sufficient for the Support of those People, whom *Constantine*, by unpeopling other Cities,

*has transported thither. Zosimus* also, though otherwise no very good Friend to *Constantine* on the score of his Religion, yet frankly owns, that he wonderfully enlarged it; and that the *Isthmus* was enclosed by a Wall from Sea to Sea, to the Distance of fifteen Furlongs beyond the Walls of old *Byzantium*. But to what Extent soever *Constantine* might enlarge its Bounds, yet the Emperors who succeeded him have extended them farther, and have enclosed the City with much wider Walls than those built by *Constantine*, and permitted them to build so closely one House to another, and that even in their Market Places, that they could not walk the Streets without Danger, they were so crowded with Men and Cattle. Upon this Account it was, that a great part of the Sea which runs round the City was in some Places dry'd up, where by fixing Posts in a circular Manner, and building Houses upon them, they made their City large enough for the Reception of an infinite Multitude of People. Thus does *Zosimus* express himself as to the vast Extent of this City, as it stood in the Time either of *Arcadius* or *Theodosius*. *Agathius* says, that in the Time of *Justinian* the Buildings were so close and crowded together, that it was very difficult to see the Sky by looking through the Tops of them. The large Compass of this City before *Justinian's* Time, we may in some measure collect from an *ancient Description of the City*, by an unknown but seemingly a very faithful Writer. He assures us, that the Length of the City from the *Porta Aurea* to the Sea Shore in a direct Line, was fourteen thousand and seventy five Feet, and that it was six thousand one hundred and fifty Feet in Breadth. And yet we cannot collect plainly from *Procopius*, that in the Reign of *Justinian* the *Blachernæ* were enclosed within the Walls, although before his Time the City was enlarged by *Theodosius the Less*, who as *Zonaras* and others write, gave Orders to *Cyrus* the Governour of the City for that Purpose. This Man, with great Diligence and wonderful Dispatch, built a Wall over the Continent from Sea to Sea, in sixty Days. The Inhabitants astonish'd that so immense a Work should be finish'd in so small a Time, cry'd out in a publick manner in the Theatre, in the Presence of *Theodosius* the Emperor, *Constantine built this City, but Cyrus rebuilt it*. This drew on him the Envy of his Prince, and render'd him suspected; so that being shaved by the Command of *Theodosius*, against his Inclinations, he was constituted Bishop of *Smyrna*. The following Inscriptions made to *Constantinus*, and carv'd over the Gate of *Xylocerum* and *Rhegium*, take Notice of him in these Verses.

Over the Gate of *Xylocerum* (*Xylocercum* or *Xylocricum*) in *Byzantium*, thus:

*These Walls by Theodosius' Royal Will,  
And Constantinus Prefect of the East,  
In sixty Days, surprizing Speed! were built.*

Over the Gate of *Rhegium* is this Inscription:

*Great Constantinus, Prefect of the East,  
In sixty Days this stately Building finish'd.*

The Reason why *Constantine* order'd *Byzantium* to be call'd *New Rome*, or *Queen of the Roman Empire*, is mention'd by *Sozomen* and others; namely, that God appear'd by Night to *Constantine*, and advised him to build a City at *Byzantium* worthy his own Name. Some say, that as *Julius Caesar*, upon a Plot form'd against him, judg'd it necessary to remove to *Alexandria* or *Troy*, stripping *Italy* at the same time of every thing that was valuable, and carrying off all the Riches of the *Roman Empire*, leaving the Administration in the Hands of his Friends; so it is said of *Constantine*, that perceiving himself to be obnoxious to the People of *Rome*, having drain'd the City of all its Wealth, went over at first to *Troy*, and afterwards to *Byzantium*. *Zosimus*, an implacable Enemy to the Christian Name, alledges an execrable Piece of Villany, as the Cause of his Removal. *Constantine*, says he, *when he had murder'd Crispus, and had been guilty of other flagrant Crimes, desiring of the Priests an Expiation for them, their Answer was, That his Offences were so many and enormous, that they knew not which way to atone for them; telling him at the same time, that there was a certain Ægyptian who came from Spain to Rome; who, if he had an Opportunity of speaking to him, could procure him an Expiation, if he would establish in his Dominions this Belief of the Christians, namely, That Men of*

*the most profligate Lives, immediately upon their Repentance, obtain'd Remission of Sins. Constantine readily closed with this Offer, and his Sins were pardon'd. At the Approach of the Festival, on which it was usual with him and his Army to go up to the Capitol, to perform the customary Rites of their Religion; Constantine fearful to be present at that Solemnity, as being warn'd to the contrary by a Dream, which was sent him from the Ægyptian, and not attending the holy Sacrifice, highly disgusted the Senate, and the whole Body of the People of Rome. But unable to bear the Curses and Scandal they threw upon him on that Account, he went in Search of some Place or other equally famous with Rome, where he might build him a Palace, and which he might make the Seat of the Roman Empire, and that at last he had discovered a Place between Troas and Old Ilium, fit for that Purpose; and that there he built him a Palace, laid the Foundations of a City, and raised part of a Wall for its Defence: But that afterwards disapproving the Situation, he left his Works unfinish'd, and settled at Byzantium; and being wonderfully taken with the Agreeableness of the Place, he judged it in all respects to be very commodious for an Imperial Seat. Thus far Zosimus, a great Favourite of Julian the Apostate, and an inveterate Enemy to Constantine on the account of his Religion; to whose Sentiments I have so perfect an Aversion, that I cannot give the least Credit to those Enormities he charges him with, and of which he had the greatest Abhorrence, as being a Prince of remarkable Clemency and Goodness, which I am capable of proving abundantly, but that it would prove too great a Digression in the present History. The Truth of it is, that Sozomen and Evagrius both have sufficiently refuted these malicious Reflections. In these Calumnies, I say, I entirely differ from Zosimus, yet in his Description of the Extent, and Compass of the City, I am wholly in his Opinion; who, though an Enemy to Constantine, yet is forced to acknowledge him to have built so large, so noble, so magnificent a City. I am the more induced to give Credit to his History in this Respect, because he lived many Ages nearer to the Time of Constantine than our modern Monks, who, in the Books they have written of Constantinople, give the following Account of it; namely, that Constantine built a Wall from the Tower of Eugenius (which was the Boundary of old Byzantium) to St. Anthony's Church, and the Church of the Blessed Virgin, call'd Rabdon, quite up to the Exacionion; and that at a Mile's Distance, it passed on to the old Gates of the Church of St. John the Baptist, stretching itself farther to the Cistern of Bonus, from whence it extended itself to the Armation, and so winded round to St. Anthony's Church again. I should give my self the Trouble to examine this Account, but that I know the Authors are so fabulous, that they are no ways to be depended upon. But this I look upon to be an intolerable Blunder, that they place the Church of St. John Baptist within the Walls built by Constantine, whereas for many Years after his Death it continued without the City: Of which, and many other Errors, I shall take Notice in the following History.*

## Chap. IV. *Of the present Figure, Compass, Length and Breadth of Constantinople*

THE Figure of *Constantinople* is triangular, the Base of which is that Part of it which lies Westward: The top Angle points to the East, where the *Peninsula* begins. But both the Sides of this Triangle are not equal; for that Side which lies westward winds round the Angle of the Bay in the Figure of a Half-Moon. At a great Distance from thence, it winds about again from North to South. But the South Side of this Triangle veers about to such a Breadth, that if you should draw a strait Line from one Angle of it to the other, it would cut off a Creek, which, in the Middle of it, is at least a quarter of a Mile over. But that Side which faces the North, and is call'd *Ceras*, the Bay or Horn, should you draw a strait Line over it from one Angle to another, it would cut off not only the whole Bay, but also a part of *Galata*. For this Side inflects inwards in such a manner, that from each Point it circulates in the Form of a Bow, having two smaller Windings of the same Figure in the Middle of it, but lies inwardly into the Continent so far, that the two Horns or Ends of the Bow, which includes them, no ways intercept the Prospect of the Angles of the larger Arch. 'Tis upon this Account that *Constantinople* may rather seem to be of a triarcular, than a triangular Figure. For right Angles never project beyond their Sides, nor do they inflect inwards. But all semicircular Figures are in a manner both convex and concave also. So that if these three Angles, so far as they project beyond the main Body of the City, were divided from it, *Constantinople* would form a square oblong Figure, little more than a Mile broad, and almost three times as long. But be that as it will, all are of Opinion, that this City ought to be look'd upon to be of a triangular Figure, because it has three Sides; one of which that faces the *Propontis*, and the other on the side of the *Thracian* Continent, are of an equal Length; the third, adjoining to the Bay, is about a Mile shorter than the other two. This City is computed to be near thirteen Miles in Compass, although *Laonicus Chalcondylus*, in his History of the *Ottomans*, assures us, that *Constantinople* contain'd in Compass an hundred and eleven Furlongs; the Length of it, extending itself over the Promontory with six Hills, is no more than thirty Furlongs; but if the Figure of it was an equilateral Triangle, it would not be much above nine Miles in Circumference; and could we suppose its hilly Situation to be widen'd into one large Plain, yet then it would not be so large in Compass as the Inhabitants generally reckon it, *viz.* eighteen Miles. It is observable, that *Constantinople* does not contain more Bays of Building, as it is situate upon Hills, than it would if it were built upon a Plain; because you cannot so conveniently build upon a Declivity, as you can upon a Level. Nor does the Reason equally hold good, as to the Number of its Houses, and the Number of its Inhabitants. For *Constantinople* can contain more Men as it is seated upon Hills, than it could if it were seated on a Plain. The Breadth of this City varies in several Places. From the East to the Middle of it, 'tis at least a Mile in Breadth, but in no Place broader than a Mile and a half. It divides itself afterwards into two Branches, where 'tis almost as broad as 'tis long. I can compare it, as to its Figure, to nothing more properly than to an Eagle stretching out his Wings, and looking obliquely to the left, upon whose Beak stands the first Hill, where is the *Grand Seignor's* Palace. In his Eye stands the Church of St. *Sophia*; on the lower part of the Head is the *Hippodrom*; upon his Neck are the second and third Hills, and the remaining part of the City fill up his Wings, and his whole Body.

## Chap. V.

### *A general Description of Constantinople*

Constantinople takes up in Compass the whole *Peninsula*, which contains seven Hills, of which the eastern Angle of the City includes one, having its Rise at the Promontory, which *Pliny* calls *Chrysoceras*, and *Dionysius* a *Byzantian*, *Bosporium*. The first Hill is divided from the second by a broad Valley; the Promontory of *Bosporium* contains the other six, extending itself from the Entrance of the *Peninsula* on the East, full West with a continued Ridge, but somewhat convex'd, and hangs over the Bay. Six Hills and five Valleys shoot from the right Side of it, and 'tis divided only by the third and fifth Valleys on the left Side of it, which is all upon the Descent, and has only some small Hills and Vales, which are more steep than the Hills themselves. It has also two Windings which take their Rise from the Top of the first Hill, from whence it ascends by Degrees almost to another Winding, which begins from the Top of the third Hill, where sinking into a gentle Descent, it admits the Valley, which lies between the third and the fourth Hill. From thence it rises again with a moderate Ascent, and continues upon a Level westward almost to the *Urbicion*, where it rises again. The Plains adjoining to the Promontory differ as to their Level. Those that divide the Promontory at the Top, and those at the Foot of it, are very uneven in many Places. The Plain at the Top of the first Hill is seven hundred Paces in Length, and two hundred in Breadth. Shooting hence, it rises almost insensibly to the Top of the second Hill, where 'tis five hundred Paces in Breadth, and is all upon the Descent to the Top of that Hill, where the second Valley, which is also shelving and very narrow, takes its Rise. On the third Hill the Plain is above six hundred Paces in Breadth, but somewhat more upon the Level at the Entrance of the third Valley, which is six hundred Paces broad. From hence you rise by a gentle Ascent to the Plain on the Top of the fourth Hill, which is not above two hundred Paces wide. On the fifth Hill it dilates itself to the Breadth of seven hundred Paces. On the Hill, from whence the fifth Valley takes its Rise, 'tis more narrow; and on the sixth Hill 'tis a little upon the Ascent again. As to the Plain, which extends itself between the Sea and the Bottom of the *Promontory*, that also is not so even in some Places as it is in others; for it is narrower under the Hills, in the Vales 'tis half as wide again. For winding itself from the *Promontory*, where it begins, over three Valleys, it is widen'd at that Distance into the Breadth of a thousand Paces, though at the Foot of the Hills it is not above an Acre, or a hundred and twenty Foot in Breadth, except at the Bottom of the third and fifth Hills, where 'tis very narrow, but extends itself over the fourth Valley both in Length and Breadth to a great Degree. At the Foot of the sixth Hill it contracts itself again, except at the Foot of two lesser Hills, situated behind the first and second Hills; one of which projects almost to the Sea, the other is at no great Distance from it. But to describe *Constantinople* in a more easy and comprehensive Manner, I will give the Reader a particular Account of all its Hills and Vales, which indeed make a very lovely and agreeable Prospect. For the six Hills which shoot from the *Promontory*, (and which for their Likeness you might call Brothers) stand in so regular an Order, that neither of them intercepts the Prospect of the other; so that as you sail up the Bay, you see them all hanging over it in such a manner, that quite round the City you see before you both Sides of every one of them. The first of these Hills jets out to the East, and bounds the Bay; the second and third lie more inward to the South; the others lie more open to the North, so that at one View you have a full Prospect of them. The first lies lower than the second; the second than the third; the fourth, fifth and sixth are in some Places higher, in others somewhat lower than the third, which you may discover by the Level of the Aqueduct. That the first Hill is lower than the third and fourth, may be discover'd by the Tower which supports the Aqueduct, by which the Water is raised into the Air above fifty Foot high. To make this more intelligible, I will divide the City, as to the Length of it, from the Land's Point on the Shore of the *Bosporus*, to the Walls on the Neck of the *Isthmus*, and consider the Breadth of it, as it widens from the *Propontis* to the Bay called *Ceras*. The Reason why I divide the City, as to its Breadth, into

six Parts, is the natural Situation of the *Promontory*, which itself is divided into six Hills, with Valleys running between them. It was no great Difficulty to distinguish the *Roman Hills*, because they were entirely disjoin'd by Valleys; but 'tis not so easy to distinguish those of *Constantinople*, because they are conjoin'd at Top; and besides, the Backs of them do not project in so mountainous a manner as they do in the Front; so that I cannot better describe them, than by calling them a continued Ridge of Hills, divided each of them with Valleys. And therefore to proceed regularly, I shall first give the Reader a Description of the right Side of the *Promontory*, with its Hills and Vales, and then take Notice of the left Side of it, which stands behind them.

## **Chap. VI.**

### ***Of the Situation of all the Parts of the City describ'd***

THE first Part of the Breadth of the *Promontory* is the Front of it, which opening to the Distance of a thousand Paces Eastwards adjoins to the Chaps of the *Bosporus*. For this Sea winds round the Back of the *Promontory* in such a Manner, that from the Point where the *Bosporus* is divided, to the Bay called *Ceras*, and the Land's Point of that Sea, it extends itself from North to South to the Distance of fourteen Furlongs; and from thence to a farther Distance of four Furlongs, it winds round from the South-east to the South-South-west, even to the Mouth of the *Propontis*, which joining with the *Bosporus*, winds round the City to South-west, to the Distance of two Miles more. This Side of the Hill is bounded at the Bottom of it with a Plain of the same Breadth with itself, which is two hundred Paces. There rise upon the Plain some lesser Hills, which are not above four hundred Paces in Height. On the Top of the left Side of these Hills stands the *Hippodrom*; on the right Side, which faces the South-west, is the Palace of the *Grand Seigneur*. I might not improperly call it the Front of the *Promontory*, as being almost of an equal Ascent in all its Parts, having a Plain running along it, of an equal Length with itself; besides, it adjoins to the first Hill: I say, for these Reasons I might call it a part of the first Hill; but to understand it more distinctly, I shall treat of it by itself.

## Chap. VII.

### *Of the first Hill, of the Palace of the Grand Seignor, of the Church of St. Sophia, and the Hippodrom*

THE first Hill, extending itself from the South-east to the South-west, opens at the Entrance of it to the Breadth of thirty Paces; from thence it widens gradually, and so on, till at last 'tis almost as broad as 'tis long. It rises at the Nook of the *Isthmus*, which joins the *Peninsula* to the Continent. It projects itself in the Form of a Cymetar, or a Hawk's Beak, and almost divides the Straits of the *Bosporus*, and the Bay called *Ceras*. The whole Hill projects beyond the others almost to the Mouth of the Bay. 'Tis all upon a Descent, except the Top of it, where there's a Plain which joins to the Plain of the *Promontory*. The lesser Eminences which stand upon it, and which face the East and the North, have a moderate Descent, others of them are more steep, so that in some Places you are obliged to climb them by Steps, but the tallest of them is not above four hundred Paces high. The Plain, at the Foot of this Hill, is very different. The Eastern Part of it is much widen'd by the Sea Shore, which jets out in a semicircular Manner. The Breadth of the South-east and northern Part of it is increased by the Valley, which divides the first from the second Hill. The Plain on the Top of the Hill is about seven hundred Paces in Length. This Hill is not only fortified by Nature, as being encompassed on the East by the *Bosporus*, on the North by the Bay of *Ceras*, and on the West by a cool Valley; but 'tis also inclosed within the Walls of the *Seraglio*, which are guarded with numberless Ramparts and Towers, which are equal in Strength to the Walls of the City. Towards the Foot of the Hill, and the Plain near the Sea, lie the Gardens of the *Grand Seignor*. The Imperial Palace, which is partly situate on the Top of the Hill, and partly on the Eminences below it, affords almost an unmeasurable Prospect, both by Sea and Land. In this Plain there are two Imperial *Areas* or Courts; the first of these Courts is seven hundred Paces long, and two hundred broad. You pass through this into another inner Court, which is a Quadrangle two hundred Paces long, and has round it a magnificent *Portico*, supported with a Multitude of fine Marble Pillars curiously variegated. In the Middle of the Court there's a fine shady Walk of *Plane* and *Cypress-Trees* for the Lawyers, and in the North Angle of the City is the *Forum Judiciale*, which the *Ottomans* call their *Divan*. On the South-east Side of a large Court stands the magnificent and stately Palace of the *Grand Seignor*, on the North Side of which are built many Imperial *Bagnio's*, and Kitchens with eight arch'd Roofs, rising like a *Cupola*, in an hemispherical Manner; each of these *Cupola's* representing the Figure of a little House, is nothing else but a Chimney with Windows, light at Top, made in the Likeness of a Lantern. There is a two-leav'd Iron Gate which lets you into the first Court, the Leaves of it, when opened, stand at twenty Paces Distance. The Porters or *Capoochees* stand always upon Duty at these Gates. Just above them the Hill rises up to a smooth Level with the Ridge of the *Promontory*. The Porch or Gate-house is lined on each Side with glittering Armour, and shines, as do also the Jambs of the Gate with rich Marble. Over the Porch there rises a square Building cover'd with Lead, as are all the other Edifices of the Palace. There's a Passage out of the first Court through another two-leav'd Gate into the second inner Court. This is the Station of the *Drudging Porters*. The Gate-house here also blazes with refulgent Arms. This Gate, without side of it, has nothing like a Porch, though within side it has. 'Tis supported with ten Pillars of different Kinds of Marble; the Roof of it proudly glitters with Gold, and is beautify'd with the most rich and lively Colours of *Persian Work*. At the third Gate, where the Entrance opens into the *Seraglio*, there are other Porters or *Capoochees* attending. These are under the Command of the *Capoochee-Basha*, or Captain of the Porters, who is also Chamberlain to the *Grand Seignor*. No body is suffer'd to enter the Palace without his Permission, but the Servants and Officers of the Houshold, unless it be his Noblemen, who while he is sitting near the Door of the *Seraglio*, may freely enter to pay their Homage to him. All Ambassadors, when introduced into his Presence, are

allow'd to kiss his Hand, who receives them sitting upon a low Couch, but curiously embroider'd, in a little Apartment built with Marble, adorn'd with Gold and Silver, and sparkling with Diamonds and precious Stones. This Room of State is incircled with a *Portico*, which is supported with Pillars of the finest Marble, the Capitals and Pedestals of which are all gilded. Besides these I have mention'd, there are many other Gates round the *Seraglio*, through which none are admitted, but such as are in the highest Favour with the Emperour. If I mistake not, I counted twelve, which were all Iron-work; seven of them were near the City; two of them, through which they carried their Hay to the *Seraglio*, were near the Sea; on the Sea Side there were five more: The first of these stands to the North of the *Seraglio*, towards the Bay; the second stands upon the Ridge of a Hill: 'Tis very large, has a Porch with an arch'd Roof before it, is gilded, and adorn'd in a surprizing manner with *Persian* Paintings, supported with Pillars of *Ophitick* Marble, and looks into the *Bosporus*. At some Distance Eastward there is another Gate facing *Chalcedon*. Just before it the Vessels are moor'd, in which the *Grand Seignor* sails to some distant Shore, when he goes a hunting, or is inclined to divert himself in his Gardens. The fourth Gate stands South-east near the Ruins of a *Christian* Church, some Tokens of which are still remaining in a Wall, to which the *Greeks* to this Day, by their frequent Visits, continue to pay a kind of devotional Reverence. Beyond this there is a fifth Port or Gate, where is built a Room, though it is only rafter'd, whence you may have the Diversion of seeing the Fish catch'd; as it is also a kind of Repository, where the *Grand Seignor's* Fishermen lay up their Tackle. I would observe by the By, that though all the Hills of *Constantinople* afford a very pleasing Prospect, yet there is none which entertains you with such peculiar Delectation as the first Hill, where the *Sultan* lives in a licentious and luxurious manner. He has before him, whether he is walking in his Gardens, or in his Chambers of the *Seraglio*, a full View of the *Bosporus* and both its Shores, which are green, and flourishing with Woods belonging to the neighbouring Farms. On the right Hand he beholds a spacious Field of *Chalcedon*, cover'd with his own Gardens; he sees the *Propontis*, Islands without Number, and the woody Mountains of *Asia*. If he looks at an immense Distance, behind him he beholds the *Olympus* always cloath'd in Snow. If he takes a shorter Prospect, he views before him the Wonders of his own City, the Church of St. *Sophia* and the *Hippodrom*. If he casts his Eyes to the left Hand, he beholds the seven Hills on which the City is seated, and more remotely, he looks round the unmeasurable spacious Fields of *Thracia*. If he extends his Prospect over the Seas, he views a moving Scene of Ships passing and repassing before him; some sailing from the *Hellespont*, or the *Black Sea*, others again coming into his Port from all the Coasts of the *Propontis*, while other Vessels at the same time are sailing up and down the Bay of *Ceras*, where there are also abundance of Wherries and small Boats always oaring from Side to Side. And if he looks below him, he has the agreeable Pleasure of beholding the three Sides of the first Hill, dressed with Trees, Flowers and Plants of all Kinds. But he has not only a fine Prospect from the Palace, but is entertain'd with several delightful *Visto's* from the Top of the Gardens rising on the Hills. If he has an Inclination to take a View of his *Seraglio*, from that Point of Land which projects so far into the Sea, and which, as I observ'd, divided the *Bosporus*; here he beholds it in all its Glory, strengthen'd with large Pillars of Marble, and fann'd with gentle refreshing Breezes, where he often sits with small Osier Lattices before him; so that, like another *Gyges*, he discerns all that sail near him, though he himself is visible to none: And if at any time he is weary of the Company of his Domesticks, he can divert himself with the ridiculous Drollery of the Watermen, when fixing their Oars and Boat-poles to the Shore, they tug against the violent Stream of the *Bosporus*, which is much more rapid than the *Rhone*. Without the *Seraglio* stands the Church of St. *Sophia*, which is about seventy Paces distant from the Gate of the first Court. 'Tis situate on the Brow of the first Hill, upon an Eminence that hangs over the Garden of the first Valley: From thence you ascend by Stone Steps to the Gate of the *Seraglio*, and the Church of St. *Sophia*, which from the South-east falls with so easy a Descent, that it almost imperceptibly terminates on a Plain both above and below it. In short, all the Descents from the Imperial Palace to the *Hippodrom*, are moderate and gentle. South-west of the Church of St. *Sophia*, a Plain extends itself to the End of the *Hippodrom*,

which is above seven hundred Paces long. The *Hippodrom* is more than two Furlongs in Length, and one Furlong in Breadth. It stands upon a perfect Level; but this is more to be ascribed to Industry, than its natural Situation. The Middle Part of it, stretching as far as the *Propontis*, on three Sides of it, is a shelving Ground. On the East it falls with a small Declivity, on the West 'tis more upon the Descent, on the Side of the *Propontis* 'tis directly perpendicular to the Depth, more or less, of fifty Foot. The whole Front of the *Hippodrom* is built upon Arches, (which makes it stand upon a Level) and entertains the Spectator with a very delectable Prospect of the *Propontis*, so that you may not only see Men sailing to and fro before you, but may also see the Dolphins frequently tumbling about the Waters. The Steps on the North Side of the *Hippodrom*, which remained there but a few Years since, were demolished by *Abraham* the *Bassa*, and were used in building his own House. Between the *Hippodrom* and the *Propontis* there stretches a Plain, which widens to the Breadth of four hundred Paces, where the Churches of *Bacchus* and *Sergius* anciently stood; of both which I shall take Notice in the following History. Below the *Hippodrom*, to the South, is the Gate call'd *Porta Leonis*, which is situate without the City, upon the Ruins of the Palace of *Leo Macellus*; the Windows of which, of antique Workmanship, are still remaining in the Walls. The Palace was built upon a Hill adjoining to the Sea, which was about a hundred Paces high.

## **Chap. VIII.** *Of the first Valley*

FROM the uppermost Plain of the *Promontory*, on which, as I observed, stood the Church of St. *Sophia* and the *Hippodrom*, by an easy Ascent of a thousand Paces, you climb the Ridge of the second Hill up to the *Porphyry* Pillar, erected on the Top of the second Hill, which is bounded on the East by the first Valley, which divides the first from the second Hill. It rises at the Plain of St. *Sophia*, and extends itself from South to North. This Valley represents exactly the Figure of the Letter V; one of whose Sides extends itself full East, the other North. Thro' the Middle of it runs the Wall, which divides the *Grand Seigneur's* Palace from the rest of the City. The lowermost Plain of the *Promontory* extends itself in Length and Breadth so far into this Valley, that from the Bay to the Church of St. *Sophia*, you may walk a thousand Paces almost upon the Level. From the Entrance of it on the Sea Side, 'tis all a plain Ground to the Length of five hundred Paces; afterwards winding itself into this Vale, it rises with a small Ascent, which is more easily perceivable by a gentle Fall of the Water, than by the Eye or Foot. At the Beginning of it 'tis somewhat wide, afterwards 'tis narrower, and at the End of it 'tis straighten'd into two lesser Valleys; one of which, near to the Church of St. *Sophia*, is four hundred Paces long. It rises gradually, and is so very narrow, that the publick Way takes up the whole Breadth of it.

## Chap. IX. *Of the second Hill*

THE Ridge of the *Promontory* rising a little higher, and the two Valleys adjoining to it, make the second Hill. The first Valley divides, at East, the first from the second Hill; the other Valley, Westward, divides the second from the third. On the North 'tis bounded by a Plain on the Sea Shore. The Ridge of the *Promontory* extends from South to North to the Distance of one thousand Paces in Length, and four hundred in Breadth. The different Breadth of the Vales varies the Breadth of the whole Hill. For where the Valleys which bound the Sides of it at the Top are more contracted, the Hill widens, and at the Foot of the Hill, where they are much wider, the Hill is less. The lesser Hills which stand upon it, extend its Length, two of which hang over the Bay. Its Height varies according to the different Height of the three Clifts, or small Hills which rise upon it. For the Clift lying to the South-east, rises moderately, from the lowest part of the Valley to the Top of the Hill, to the Height of about a thousand Paces; afterwards, as the Valley widens, it grows less, and is rendered more steep by two small Valleys (branching out of the great Valley) which indeed are somewhat upon the Descent, but not above a hundred Paces high. The different Heights of the Clifts which hang over the Bay, may be best discover'd by considering the different Heights of the five *publick Ways*, which reach from the Ridge to the Foot of the Hill. The first of these Ways rises to the Height of five hundred Paces, two hundred of which from the Foot of the Hill are very easy of Ascent, the other three hundred are very steep. The second *Road* is six hundred Paces high, a hundred of which rise through the lowest of the small Valleys by a gentle Ascent, the next hundred are almost perpendicular, so that you must climb them by Steps; the other four hundred rise gradually to the Top of the Hill, which is sixty Paces in Breadth. This Hill, on the Ridge of it, shoots Southward to the Distance of a hundred and fifty Paces, quite from the Church of St. *Sophia* to the *Porphyry Pillar*. The other three *publick Ways*, from the Bottom of the Hill, are for the first hundred Paces upon a gentle Rise, the next two hundred are a mighty Declivity, so that you are obliged to ascend them by Windings and Turnings; the remaining five hundred, up to the Plain upon the Hill, rise moderately. I would observe farther, that on the Side of the Clifts which project over the Bay, two small Hills jetted out, one to the North, and the other to the East; both which uniting form a little Valley, which is bounded on the East by a Hill which rises eighty Paces in Height, and has in some Places very agreeable Descents. This is the Reason that most part of the lesser Clifts, which bear upon this Hill, stand to the East, and that the Side of the Hill which looks Westward, is in some Parts of it more shelving than in other: For its Eminencies falling into the lowest Plain in the Valley, to the Length of three hundred Paces, from the Foot of the Hill up to the Middle of it, are almost perpendicular, and from the Middle to the Top they slope but little. As for those Hills which project over the Head of the Valley, they are not above two hundred Paces high, often of a different Ascent: For as the Valley rises, the Clifts seem lower. Indeed all the lesser Clifts of this Hill have a double Descent; one length-ways, and the other broad-ways: For those of them which stand East and West are seated in such a manner, that they also lye to the North. In short, all the Sides of this Hill, in the most steep Ascents of them, are not above a Furlong in Height; in other Places they fall into a moderate Declivity, and at the Bottom of them they gradually enlarge themselves into a Plain. The upper Clifts at the Top of them are half shelving, and half upon the Plain. The Plain adjoining to the Sea, and dividing the Hill from the Bay, spreads itself into a Latitude of three hundred Paces, but immediately widens again into a Breadth of five hundred Paces, and so visibly enlarges itself, the farther it extends itself into the Valleys.

And thus having given the Reader some Account of the Front or fore-part of the *Promontory*, I shall now give him a short Description of the back-side of it, which faces the Sea. Behind the second and third Hills there are two lesser Hills, which hang over the *Propontis*. Between these Hills descends a hollow Valley. These Hills stand in the Middle of the Valley. That which lies Eastward, as well as

that which lies to the West, exalts itself to the Height of more than two hundred Paces. At the End of the Valley, between these Hills, is a well built Harbour enclosed with a Wall. 'Tis seated upon the Plain on the Shore, near that part of the Sea which runs up to the Front of the *Hippodrom*. The Mouth of this Harbour is three hundred Paces in Breadth. From the Bay call'd *Cornu*, the Breadth crossing the Hill to the *Propontis*, widens to the Distance of two Miles.

## Chap. X.

### *Of the second Valley, which divides the second from the third Hill*

THAT Valley which divides the second from the third Hill, begins at the *Promontory*, and ends in the Plain adjoining to the Sea. It contains in it the Fish-Market and the Ferry, whence you cross the Water to *Syca*. From hence to the Entrance of the Valley, a Plain expands itself to the Breadth of four hundred Paces so much upon the Level, that the Water falls from thence into the Bay with almost an imperceptible Descent. When it has contracted itself into the narrow Compass of two hundred Paces in Breadth, it gradually straightens itself into a less, even to the Middle of the Valley, where 'tis but fifty Paces in Breadth, and afterwards is no broader than the *common Way*. 'Tis above six hundred Paces in Length, three hundred of which are almost upon a Level, the other three hundred upon the Descent. It rises easily to that part of the *Promontory*, where the second and third Hills join. In the lowermost part of the Valley runs the *broad Way* that faces *Galata*. This Way, on both Sides of it, is full of Merchants Houses, cover'd with a kind of transparent Slat, which have here and there a small Casement. The Merchants of *Galata* frequent the grand *Bezestan*, or Place of *Exchange*. 'Tis situate partly on the Head of the Valley, and partly on an Eminence of the third Hill. In the Year of our Lord 1546 it was wholly burnt to the Ground, except two *Basilica*'s roof'd with Brick-work, which were lock'd up every Night, and their Windows secured by Iron Bars, when the Fire was over. I was allowed after the Fire to view their grand *Forum*. I found it lie so much upon the Level, that it had but a small Ascent either from the West to the East, or from the South to the North. I observed that it stood upon more than five Furlongs of Ground; on the highest part of it, which lies to the East, I was permitted to see a *Nymphæum*, adorn'd with five and forty Marble Pillars, which supported a Brick Roof. The old *Basilica*, of which I could have no Prospect before, by reason of the Shops and publick Houses, the Fire had lain open to my View. I observed farther, that it had two additional Buildings like Wings, joining to the main Building, each of which was divided into sixty Apartments, which were all arched, and over the Roof cover'd with Lead, as their Shops and Places of publick Entertainment are. The inward Chambers of these Apartments, for Privacy, are always lock'd, and are secured by an Iron Door. The *Basilica* itself consists of fifteen large Apartments, in the Figure of a *Dome*, has four Doors, and is supported by eight Pillars; the Roof is Brick-work, and leaded at Top. The new *Basilica* is supported with twelve Pillars built of a square Stone; four Arches bear upon these Pillars, which support twenty small Roofs, built in the Form of a *Dome*. There stand round about sixty Merchants Warehouses, or Shops with arch'd Roofs. Within the *Basilica* there are two hundred and twenty more of these Warehouses, which are made after the following Manner. Round the Walls of the *Basilica* are built abundance of very broad Pews, where the Merchants expose their Goods to Sale, which they take out of Presses, (when they would shew them to their Chapmen) which have Boxes of Drawers in them, the Masters always sitting before them. These Presses are fasten'd to the Wall, have two Folding Doors, and are removable at Pleasure.

## Chap. XI. *Of the third Hill*

THE third Hill is bounded on each Side by two Valleys: That which lies to the East, divides it from the second Hill, the Western Valley divides it from the fourth. The Ridge of this Hill is above a thousand Paces in Length. It shoots from the Top of the *Promontory* Southward, Northward to the Bay of *Ceras*, almost in an equal Height. The second Hill on the contrary falls with a surprizing Descent, from the utmost Height of the *Promontory*, to the lowest Plain on the Bay Shore. The third Hill, at the Top of it is a Level of a great Length. It extends itself at the Foot of it, more by three hundred Paces to the North, than the Foot of the second Hill. It is not in all Places of an equal Breadth; at the Top of the *Promontory* itself 'tis every way about eight hundred Paces. Here 'tis that the *Seraglio* stands. On that part of the Plain which lies to the East, stands the Merchants *Forum*, a *Caravansera*, and the Sepulchre of *Bajazet* the Emperor. On the South Side of it is an open *Area*, round which stand the Booksellers Shops. On that part of it which lies Northward, stand the Works which the Emperour *Solyman* is now building, namely his Tomb, a *Caravansera*, and a magnificent and expensive Mosque. They are built not only upon the natural Situation of the Ground there, but also upon artificial Foundations. This Hill, on three Sides of it, descends upon three lesser Hills. For on that Side of it which lies Eastward, where stands the Tower of *Hirena*, a small Hill jets out into the second Valley. The long Projecture of this Hill, on the Ridge of it towards the Bay, makes another small Hill which lies Northward, and from that Side of it which points Westward, where stands the Church of St. *Theodore*, there shoots another little Hill out of the Middle of it, to the Plain which lies on the Sea Shore. Two Sides of this Hill descend in a double Declivity, one in a strait, and the other in an oblique Line. The Eastern Side of the third Hill, after it has extended itself to thirteen hundred Paces Distance, abates somewhat of its winding Descent, but the nearer you descend to the Plain, it falls with a more direct and confined Declivity. The Descents falling from the Ridge of the Hill to the Valley differ very much, the uppermost of them hanging over a very deep Valley, rise to the Height of five hundred Paces, the lowest three hundred of which are very steep, the three hundred Paces above them are scarce half of that Steepness. The other Descents of this Hill are not so shelving, where the Valley rises higher. The Western Side of the Hill, as to its Declivities, is like the Eastern. The Northern Side of it has several Descents: For a lesser Hill, shooting from the Ridge of this Hill, is five hundred Paces high, the lower most three hundred of which fall so precipitately, that the Buildings which stand upon them, are all under-propp'd, the two hundred Paces above them fall with an easy Descent. The Descents on this Side of the Hill, the farther they lie from the Plain on the Sea Shore, the more are they lengthen'd by a sideling Fall, which rises on the Eastern Side of the Hill. The Plain on the Shore, as discontinued by the Inlet of the Bay, is not above two hundred Paces in Breadth, but at the Foot of the Hill, in other Parts of it, it sensibly widens up to the Entrance of the Valleys. The *Grand Seraglio*, seated on the Side of this Hill, when I first arrived at *Constantinople*, was little less than six thousand Paces in Compass, but is at present more closely straiten'd, since the *Caravansera's* have been built there by the Sultan *Solyman*, and the burying Place for the Women (which is at least half the Ground) has been taken out of it and enclosed. The left Side of the *Promontory*, which lies behind the third Hill to the South, jets out with two lesser Hills; from one of which that shoots Eastward, the Side of the *Promontory* which winds round Westward to the other Hill, which is seated a little above the Foot of the *Promontory*; and at the Bottom of this Hill, the *Promontory* admits the third Valley, which lies behind it, and from thence stretches full North. The left Side therefore of the third Hill hath a double Descent; the one towards the South, which is six hundred Paces high, another extending itself South South-west, seven hundred Paces high; but at full West it falls very short of that Height. The Plain that lies between the back Southern Parts of the third Hill, and the Shore of the *Propontis*, is in no part of it less than three hundred Paces broad, nor above seven hundred Paces long. The Plain of the

Valley which encloses the Foot of the Hill Westward, and which divides the seventh Hill from the *Promontory*, reaching from the Shore of the *Propontis*, where the Walls are not encompassed by the Sea, is almost upon a Level, and is in every part of it five hundred Paces in Breadth. The three Hills I have mention'd, may very properly be called the *Promontory* of the *Bosporus*; for they hang over the Sea in such a manner, that whether you sail to *Constantinople* out of the *Black Sea*, or the *Propontis*, you may see them at a great Distance, prominent over the Chaps of the *Bosporus*. The third Valley seems to separate the other three Hills, which lie farther into the Continent from these. The Reason why I place six Hills in the *Promontory* of the *Bosporus* is, because these latter Hills all stand in a Row near the Bay, and are join'd together both at the Top and the Sides of them. The Plain which unfolds itself on the Ridge of the third Hill, descends gently into a Plain which hangs over the third Valley, and is six hundred and twenty Paces in Length, and as many in Breadth.

## **Chap. XII.** *Of the third Valley*

THE third Valley, which lies between the third and the fourth Hill, seems to be a double Valley; for in the Middle of it, it rises high, which makes it doubtful whether it be a part of the Valley, or the *Promontory*. That the Height of it is a part of the Valley, seems plain from the Height of the Arches, which reach from one Side of the Valley to the other; and it may be look'd upon to be the Ridge of the *Promontory*, from the Descent of the extreme Parts of it falling to the right and left, on each Side of the *Promontory*. On the right Side of which, it descends into a very low Plain, which, at its first Entrance, is three hundred Paces broad, and continues on upon a Level to the Length of five hundred Paces more; and though it sinks at Bottom into an equal Depth, yet the Pitches or Sides of it, in some Places, are higher than in others. For where the Plain is most hollow, there one of the Sides of it is three times higher than the other. From this Plain you ascend by easy Steps to the Top of the Middle of the Valley, which is six hundred Paces wide, except that small part of it in the Middle, where it is not above four hundred Paces in Breadth. Through the Top of this Valley, or *Promontory*, run the Arches of an *Aqueduct* from the fourth to the third Hill, of the same Height, at the Top of them, with the Hills themselves. The Altitude of these Arches discovers how great the Descent is from them. For though they are alike equal in Height at the Top of them, yet this Height is very different, according to the Difference of their Situations. For they are very high at the Top of the Valley, which is a plain level Ground, but upon the Descent of the Hills not near so high, and continue to the Length of eight hundred Paces in the same Height, though the higher they stand upon these Hills, they are less tall. The Top of this Valley or *Promontory*, descends with a gentle Fall of seven hundred Paces into a Plain, which divides the *Promontory* from the seventh Hill, and from thence extends itself to the *Propontis*. The City from the Bay to the *Propontis*, passing thro' the third Valley, is more than ten Furlongs in Breadth.

### Chap. XIII. *Of the fourth Hill*

THE fourth Hill is enclosed with two Valleys, the Ridge of the *Promontory*, and the Shore of the Bay. Upon the Side of it stands the Tomb of *Mahomet*, (who took *Constantinople*) several *Caravansera's* and *Bagnio's*. It is above three thousand six hundred Paces in Compass. The Length, from the Ridge of it to the Bay, is a thousand Paces; the Breadth of it, from East to West, is at least eight hundred. As you take a View of it from the Top, stretching in a Square towards the Bay, you perceive it to end in two Windings, though very different from each other. For that which points Northward stretches on in a continued Ridge, and has its Descents on both Sides, whereas that which shoots Eastward lies so low, that it seems to be only an Ascent to the other. At the End of it it winds Westward, where it forms a little Valley. This Hill Eastward is bounded by a Valley, and is parted from the third Hill; on the North by the Plain on the Shore, on the East partly by a Valley, which divides it from the fifth Hill, and partly by the winding of the *Promontory*, which rises in so gradual and delectable a manner, from the Top of the fourth to the Top of the fifth Hill, that you discover the Ridge of it to be uneven, more by a nice Discernment of the Eye, than by any Difficulty in walking it. For these Hills are join'd together in such a manner, that they seem to lie upon a Level. They are both of them one Plain, which, covering the Top of the fourth Hill, is not above four hundred Paces in Length, nor more than two hundred in Breadth, tho' afterwards, when continu'd to the fifth Hill, it widens into the Breadth of five hundred Paces. The fourth Hill, tho' it is equal in Height to any of the other six, yet its Ascents, whether they lie in a strait Line, or more obliquely, are more moderate, by reason it is a long Tract of Ground with three Declivities. The first of which, thro' the Length of the whole, descends from the Southwest full North more than a thousand Paces; two hundred of which rising from the Sea Shore are a more easy Ascent, the rest rise so very gently that you can scarce perceive them, although the uppermost hundred of them, which reach to the Top of the Hill, are very steep. The cross Descent which runs athwart the Breadth of the Hill is double, one of which falls Westward; the other, which shelves Eastward, rises from the Valley, which divides the third and fourth Hill. From the highest part of this Valley you climb an Ascent two hundred Paces in Height. Below the Top of it is another Ascent, which is five hundred Paces high, one hundred of which rising from the Bottom are very steep. The Height of the rest, which are an easy Ascent, you discover by the Level of the *Aqueduct*. From the Bottom of the Valley you ascend four hundred Paces, the first hundred and eighty of which are very steep, after which you may walk two hundred more almost upon a Level. From hence you rise to the Middle of it, which is higher, and is a hundred Paces in Breadth. It is also elevated eight hundred Paces in Length, from the Top of it to the Bottom. From hence you descend two hundred Paces Westward to the lowest Part of the Valley, which divides the fourth and the fifth Hill, which is all a narrow Piece of Ground, and about four hundred Paces in Length. The first two hundred Paces upon the Shore of the Bay are all upon a Level; but it is an Uncertainty whether they are a part of the Valley, or the Sea Shore. For this Valley is enclosed in such a manner by these two Hills, as the fourth is bounded by the Plain upon the Shore, which is two hundred Paces broad, whereas the fifth does scarce descend so far. The following eight hundred Paces are much upon the same Level, the last four hundred of which, stretching to the Top of the *Promontory*, are very steep. The Plain upon the Shore, passing between the Bay and the fourth Hill, is of a different Breadth. For that part of it which extends itself to the South-western Point of the Hill, is four hundred Paces broad, whereas that part of it which extends itself to the Northern Point, is no more in Breadth than two hundred Paces. In short, such is the Situation of the fourth Hill, that when you sail along the Bay, you would take it to be an advanced part of the third Valley. For the Top of this Hill runs so far Southward, that its Descents, shelving very moderately, seem almost upon a Level; whereas the Top of the fifth Hill, which is of the same Height, projects beyond the fourth

directly Northward. The Descents on the Back of the third Hill, which lie Southward, are very easy and agreeable, till you come to the Plain of the Vale, which divides the *Promontory* from the seventh Hill; so that the back part of this Hill shoots Southward, and is not bounded on either Side of it by the third Valley. This Southern Part of it is somewhat narrow, just beyond a little Hill of the third Valley, near a *Caravansera*, built by the *Sultan Mahomet*; but behind the fifth Hill, below the *Columna Virginea*, 'tis straitned much more.

## Chap. XIV. *Of the Fifth Hill*

THE Bottom of the fifth Hill, on the Top of which stands the Tomb of *Selymus* the Emperor, as bounded partly by the Bay, and partly by an Eastern and Western Valley, is four thousand Paces in Compass. The Pitch of this Hill hangs so far over the Bay Northward, and the Pitch of the fourth Hill lies so low towards the same Point, that the fourth Hill seems to be a kind of Valley, situate between the third, and the fifth Hill. For the fifth Hill does not join at Top, and continue the Ridge of the *Promontory* as other Hills do, but being of an equal Heighth with it, shoots to a great Distance beyond it running as far Northward, as does the Foot of the fourth Hill. It has a Descent on three Sides of it; one to the North, the Steepness of which the Reader may learn from hence, that altho' it is very near the Heighth of the fourth Hill, which is above a thousand Paces high, yet the highest Ascent of this Hill comes nearer upon the Line, than that of any other Hill, to the lowest Ascent from the Bottom; for you ascend thro' a little Valley, no more than three hundred Paces high to the Top of it. This Valley is form'd by two small Hills adjoining to the Shore of the Bay, upon which, at about four hundred Paces distance, you discover some Stone Steps, belonging to a Foundation of a *Caravansera*, built by the Emperor *Selymus*. This Northern Side of the Hill has four small Hills jetting out of it, three small Valleys running between them, which rise from the Top of the Hill, and are situate at such a Distance from the Plain upon the Shore, that two of them touch the Wall which stands upon it; the other two are a hundred Paces from it. The Plain upon the Shore is in no Part of it narrower than it is at the Foot of this Hill; for to the Distance of a thousand Paces, it does not exceed a hundred Paces in Breadth, and in some Places not fifty. Two of these Hills are very steep, so that the Buildings you see upon them, as tho' they were in danger of falling, are all underpropp'd, and the Inhabitants have been oblig'd to cut Windings in the Rocks to moderate the Descent. The other two are less Precipitate, the Valleys which enclose them not lying so deep. The Side of the Hill which shoots Eastward is one thousand four hundred Paces in Length, and two hundred in Breadth, and its Altitude two hundred Paces upon the Perpendicular. The Height of the Side of it, which falls Westward, shelves into a different Depth, according as the Valley sinks. Where it descends into a Level Plain, it advances its Top to the Height of five hundred Paces. In other Places it rises no higher than three hundred, with a very moderate Ascent. The Side of the *Promontory* which points Southward, situate behind the fifth Hill, ends in the Plain of the Valley, which divides the *Promontory* from the seventh Hill. In other Places it falls with a more confined, and sometimes with a more expanded Descent, upon a small thick Hill, which hangs over the fifth Valley; as also over that Valley which parts the *Promontory* from the seventh Hill. The back Part of the fifth Hill does also wind it self into a small Valley, which rises at the Brow of the *Promontory*, where not long since was remaining the *Columna Virginea*. From hence the Ridge of the *Promontory* somewhat bends over the Top of the Plain of the fifth Hill, which in some Places is six hundred, and in others seven hundred Paces broad. But beyond the Ridge of this Hill it widens to a great Distance, as far as the Plain of the fourth Hill, and shoots on with the Plain of the *Promontory*, and falls down to the Neck of the *Isthmus*, and so extending it self still on, is at least two thousand Paces in Length.

## **Chap. XV.** *Of the Fifth Valley*

THE fifth Valley, which divides the fifth from the sixth Hill, winding from North to South, is as long as the *Promontory* is broad; that is, about twelve hundred Paces; the first eight hundred of which have no Ascent. The Valley, at the first Entrance into it, is at least four hundred Paces broad, but is afterwards straitned into half that Breadth; and yet to the Length of six hundred Paces, 'tis in no Place less than two hundred Paces broad. Farther, 'tis at least five hundred Paces wide. Above this, is the Top of the Valley, or the Ridge of the *Promontory*, opening upon a Level Breadth of two hundred Paces. From the Top of this *Promontory*, to the left Side of it, there falls a Valley with a gentle Descent, to the Distance of five hundred Paces, where it descends into another Valley, which divides the *Promontory* from the seventh Hill. The fifth Valley seems to cut through the Ridge of the *Promontory*. This may easily be discerned by the right and left Descent of the two Hills which lie nearest to it; for there is a very easy Ascent from the Height of this Valley, to the Top of either Hill.

## Chap. XVI

THE sixth Hill is just as long as the *Promontory* is broad, which is widen'd upon this Hill to the Breadth of two thousand four hundred Paces. The City Walls shoot over the Ridge, and the North Side of it down to the Sea Shore. You descend gradually from the Top of it within the Walls; without the Walls it lies upon a Level, and is join'd to the Continent by a Field in the Suburbs. The broadest part of it is not above eight hundred Paces, the narrowest but four hundred. It descends with a treble Declivity; one on the left Hand of the *Promontory*, with an easy Descent at South-east; another on the right falling to the Bay Northward, which extends itself to the Distance of fifteen hundred Paces. There are two lesser Hills, separated by a small Valley, which run between them. At the Foot of that lesser Hill which stands nearest to the City Wall, there is an *Aqueduct*. Between this Hill and the Bay, there formerly stood the Church of the *Blachernæ*, which has been recorded in the Writings of many Historians. The Foundation of this Church was remaining, when I first arrived at *Constantinople*. From the Foot of this Hill, which stands above the Church I have mention'd, there rises a Spring, whose Waters are convey'd thro' arch'd subterraneous Passages into the City, where, appearing above Ground, they flow constantly into a Marble Cistern. That Side of the sixth Hill which lies Eastward, is as long as the Hill itself; but does not, in all parts of it, fall with the same Descent. For the Descent varies, according as the Valley adjoining lies higher or lower. Where the Valley lies upon the Level, the Pitch of the Hill rises to the Height of six hundred Paces; where it does not lie so low, 'tis not above five hundred Paces high; where it rises higher, not above four hundred. Nor does this Side of the Hill shoot only Eastward, but does also, on the right Side of it, project Northward, and on the left Side of it extend itself full South-west. The Plain on the Shore, which lies between the Foot of the Hill and the Bay, in the narrow part of it, is not above eight hundred Paces broad, I mean in that Place where the Church of the *Blachernæ* stood formerly, as did also a *Triclinium*; but farther on it winds round into the third Valley, and widens much more.

## **Chap. XVII.**

### ***Of the Valley which divides the Promontory from the seventh Hill***

THE Valley which divides the seventh from the six Hills of the *Promontory*, is an easy Descent. It extends itself in Length to the Distance of four thousand Paces, if you take in the Plain on the Sea Shore. If you exclude that, and take your Dimensions from the winding of the seventh Hill, 'tis not above three thousand three hundred Paces long. It lies so much upon a Level, that you cannot perceive by walking it, that it has the least Ascent; yet you may discover by the Discernment of the Eye that it sensibly lengthens and widens itself into a greater Breadth. It bounds the Sides of the third and the fifth Valley, and the lowest Eminences of the fifth and sixth Hills. It is full of Gardens and pleasant Meadows. Here the Soldiers sometimes act their Mock-Fights. There's a Rivulet which runs through the Middle of it, which is often dry in Summer Time.

## Chap. XVIII. *Of the seventh Hill*

THE seventh Hill is called the *Xerolophos*, on which stands the Pillar of *Arcadius*. This Hill is little less than twelve thousand Paces in Circumference, and contains more than a third Part of the City. The other two Parts are comprehended in the Compass of the *Promontory*, which is above twenty thousand Paces in Circumference. By *Paces*, I would here be thought to mean the ordinary Steps we take in Walking, which I cannot exactly reduce to a just Mensuration with the *Roman Pace*, by reason of the Turnings and Windings of the Ways, and the Differences of Paces, which are longer or shorter, according to the different Ascents and Descents of the Ground we walk. This Hill makes the third Angle of the City, from whence *Constantinople* is look'd upon to be of a triangular Figure. It lies shelving with a very moderate Descent, and has a double Declivity; one of which falls gently into the Valley, which divides the seventh Hill from the *Promontory*, and is of an equal Length with the Valley itself. The other Descent, which partly lies to the South-east, and partly to the South, falls into the *Propontis*, and is in some Places five hundred Paces steep, in others four hundred, three hundred, a hundred, nay even fifty, till it comes to the Point of the third Angle of the City, whence a large Plain shoots out towards the Sea, which, in different Places, is of a different Breadth. The Entrance of this Plain, at the Angle of the City just mention'd, is very narrow; it afterwards widens, which is occasioned by the Winding of one of its Sides, from whence it gently rises to the Foot of a small Hill, where 'tis four hundred Paces broad; onwards it is straiten'd into fifty, and afterwards is widen'd into a Breadth of a hundred Paces only. The End of this Plain, to the Distance of a thousand Paces, is more than four hundred Paces broad. On the Ridge of this Hill, there is a Plain of some Length and Breadth; the Hill itself is bounded by the Land Wall, and on the Top of it is a Cistern which is call'd *Mocisia*, which is wholly unroof'd, and stripp'd of its Pillars. This Cistern is nine hundred and seventy Paces in Circumference. The Walls of it, which are made of squared Free-stone, are still remaining; and the Ground where it stands, is now turn'd into a Garden.

Thus is it that I have laid before the Reader a *Plan* or *Description* of the Situation of the City of *Constantinople*, by which means the Situation of the *Wards* of that City will be more easily discovered. I hope I shall not be thought to have dwelt too long on this Subject, since a verbal Delineation of it is the most concise way of coming to the Knowledge of it. For although *Constantinople*, by reason of the Eminency of its Situation, affords a most agreeable Prospect at the remotest Distance, yet thus to particularize the several Parts of the City, leads the Reader into a more exact and more expeditious Insight into it, than any other Method of Information whatsoever.

## Chap. XIX. *Of the Walls of the City*

THE Walls of *Constantinople*, in some Places, are built with squared Free-stone, in others with rough Stone, and in many Places with an Intermixture of Brick and Stone together. The Walls on the Land Side are double, secured with a large Ditch five and twenty Paces broad. One of the Walls is carry'd somewhat farther than the Length of the Ditch, and is very strongly fortified. These Walls stand at eighteen Foot Distance from each other. The inward Wall is very lofty, and more than twenty Foot in Thickness, upon which are built two hundred and fifty Towers with Steps, facing the Continent. The outward Wall is not above half as big, but has the same Number of Towers. As to the Nature of its Fortification, the Ground that takes up the Distance between the Ditch and the outward Wall, is higher than the adjoining Side of the Ditch, and the Ground between the two Walls is higher than that. The Countrey opening without the Walls is not incumber'd with Buildings, and is partly hilly, and partly upon the Level, but chiefly upon the latter, so that you have a delightful Prospect over the Fields before you, and a very extensive View all about you: And there is no Doubt to be made, but that *Constantinople* might be made a terrible strong Place. The Walls which run round the Sea, are not so high as the Land Walls; they are a plain Building, but very thick, and well guarded with Towers. On the Side of the Bay *Ceras*, they are about fifty Paces distant from the Shore. On the Side of the *Bosporus* and the *Propontis*, they are built upon the Shore, except where they are discontinu'd by some Port or Landing-place. *Zonaras* relates, that *Theophilus* the Emperor not only repaired, but raised these Walls higher, after they had been much impair'd by Time, and the Dashings of the Sea. This is also confirm'd to us down even to the present Age; for in many Places of them, I observ'd the Name of *Theophilus* the Emperor was cut in very large Characters. The Emperor *Nicephorus* was hated by his People for levying a Tax upon them, which was call'd *Diceraton*, for repairing these Walls. I learn from the *Constitutions* of *Justinian*, that in his Time the Walls were commonly call'd the *old* and the *new* Walls, where he decrees, *That a larger Fee shall be paid the Bearers, and those who attend a Corpse beyond the new Walls of the City*. What I would observe from hence is, that the old Walls which were built by *Constantine*, and that the new Walls which were built by *Theodosius the Less*, were both standing in the Reign of *Justinian*. The Walls of old *Byzantium* I have described in the Beginning of this Book; and as to the Condition they were in formerly, we may learn more fully from *Herodian*, who writes, that *Byzantium* was inclosed with a very large and a very strong Wall, made of square Stones of a great Size, so artfully cemented, that it was look'd upon as one compacted Piece of Work. This is also confirm'd by the Authority of *Pausanias*, who tells us, *That he never saw the Walls of Babylon, or of Memnon, nor ever heard of any Person who had seen them: But the Walls of Byzantium and Rhodes, says he, are accounted exceeding strong; and yet the Walls which inclose Messene are stronger than these.* 'Tis recorded by some Historians, that the *Athenians* kept their Treasury at *Byzantium*, because it was a well fortify'd Place. Whether those Walls which the Author of the *Ancient Description of the Wards* calls the double Walls are the same which we see at *Constantinople* at present, or whether they were built by *Theodosius*, I leave it to the Judgment of the Reader. Thus far I shall give my Opinion, *viz.* That they do not seem to me to be entirely the same Walls which that Author describes. For he places the Church of the *Apostles* in a *Ward* which is near to the Walls of the City, and places the fourteenth *Ward* without the Walls of the City, which at present, if not all of it, at least the best part of it, is within the Walls. I would add, that *Theodosius the Less*, who reign'd before *Justinian*, does not place the *Blachernæ* within the Walls of the City, and yet I have the Authority of *Procopius*, that these were apart of the Suburbs in the Time of *Justinian*, tho' at present they are enclosed within the Walls, as were also the seven Towers, and the Church which was built by *Stadius*, (or rather *Studius*) who was afterwards *Consul*.

## **Chap. XX.**

### ***Of the Gates of Constantinople, and the seven Towers of Old Byzantium***

THE Walls on the Side of the Continent have six Gates; one within the Palace of *Constantine*, another, which is call'd the *Adrianopolitan Gate*, and a third on the Brow of the seventh Hill. Besides these, there is the *Porta Aurea* or *Gilded Gate*, the Gate of *Selymbria* or *Rhegium*, and the Gate of the seven Towers. On the Side of the Bay *Ceras* is the Gate of the *Blachernæ*, at present call'd *Xyloporta*, seated near the third Angle of the City. There are also the Gates call'd *Cynigos*, or *Porta Palatina*, *Phanaria*, *Agia*, *Porta Jubalica*, *Farinaria*, *Lignaria*, *Seminaria*, *Piscaria*, the Gate of the *Neorium*, and the Gate of *Demetrius*, which stands on the Ridge of the first Hill. On the Side of the *Propontis* there are about five; every one of which has *Stairs*, or a *Landing-place*, and a Haven for Ships, besides the Gates of the Imperial Palace. There is also the *Porta Stercoraria*, *Leonina*, *Condescala*, two of which stand at the Foot of the seventh Hill. Those which have been principally taken Notice of by Historians, are the Gates of *Cynigos*, *Rhegium* and *Xylocerum*, also the Gate of *Eugenius*, the *Porta Aurea*, that call'd *Myriandros*, the *Porta Condescala*, and *Porta Carsiana*. In old *Byzantium* there was the *Thracian Gate*. For we are told by *Dion*, that the seven Towers reach'd from the *Thracian Gate* to the Sea, which *Cedrinus* tells us was the Bay *Ceras*. If any one spoke any thing in the first of these Towers, it immediately flew to the second, and so through all the rest, so that you might hear the Voice distinctly repeated in every one of them. *Pliny* tells the very same Story of *Cyzicus*. In that City, says he, near the *Thracian Gate* there are seven Towers, which multiply the Voice by Repetition, or Reiteration, more than seven times. This, he adds, was look'd upon by the *Grecians* as somewhat miraculous, and was call'd the *Echo*. I never found any Mention made of the *Thracian Gates* in any Historian but in *Pliny*, though it is not altogether improbable, that there were such Gates there; for *Apollonius*, in the *first Book* of his *Argonauticks*, mentions the *Thracian Haven* in *Cyzicus*; and *Plutarch* is very express, that near this City there was a Street call'd the *Thracian Street*. This is also attested not only by some more modern Writers of *Constantinople*, but also by *Dion* and *Xenophon*; the latter of whom writes, That when *Alcibiades* appear'd before the Town, the *Byzantians* open'd the *Thracian Gates* to him of their own Accord.

## **Chap. XXI.** ***Of the long Walls***

THE Suburbs and Fields adjoining were inclosed with Walls of such an immoderate Length, that they extended themselves from the City to the Distance of a two Days Journey. They were built by *Anastasius* the Emperour to prevent the Incursions of the *Scythians* and *Bulgarians*, reach'd from the *Black Sea* to the *Propontis*, were forty thousand Paces remote from the City, and twenty *Roman* Foot in Breadth. These Walls were often taken and batter'd by the barbarous Nations, but repair'd by *Justinian*; and that the Soldiers garrisoned there might defend them to the best Advantage, he order'd the Passages of one Tower to another to be stopp'd up, no Entrance being allow'd, but the Door at the Bottom of the Steps, by which it was ascended; so that by this means it was sufficiently guarded, though the Enemies Forces were in the Heart of the City. *Evagrius* the sacred Historian tells us, that *Anastasius* built the long Wall, which was two hundred and eighty Furlongs distant from the City, that it reach'd from Sea to Sea, was four hundred Furlongs in Length, that it was a good Security to those who sail'd out of the *Black Sea* to the *Propontis*, and that it put a Stop to the Excursions of the barbarous Nations.

### **The End of the First Book**

## BOOK II

### Chap. I.

### *Of the Buildings and Monuments of Old Byzantium and Constantinople, called New Rome*

Having describ'd the Figure and Extent of the City, and having particularized the Situation of the *seven Hills*, I shall proceed to consider what Buildings and Monuments *Constantinople* anciently had, or now has, and into how many *Wards* it was divided. For when I accidentally fell upon this Division of the City into *Wards*, in an ancient *Manuscript* written above one thousand Years ago, by a Gentleman more noble by his Birth than his Writings, I was in hopes, with some Ease, to have traced out the ancient City; but the barbarous *Mahometans* have either so demolish'd those venerable and truly heroick Ornaments which distinguish'd it, to adorn their own poultry Houses, or entirely buried them in their own Ruins, that in very few Places you shall see any Remains of an old Foundation. I omit to mention the Fires and other Devastations, committed not only by the Savages of other Countries, but the great Havock lately made by the *Turks* themselves, who for the last hundred Years have incessantly endeavour'd entirely to deface and destroy it, by building upon it in so different a Manner, that those who have formerly seen some parts of it, scarce know its ancient Situation. Consider farther the profound Ignorance of the *Greeks* at present. There is scarce a Man of them who either knows, or has so much as an Inclination to know, where their *Antiquities* are. Nay, their Priests are so heedless and negligent in this Respect, that they will not make the least Enquiry themselves about those Places, where but a few Years since very magnificent Temples were standing, and so very censorious are they, as to condemn those that do. However, that I might not pass away my Time uselessly, while I was in Expectation of Remittances from my Royal Master, for purchasing all the ancient *Manuscripts* I could meet with, I made it my Business, by all the Marks of Antiquity I was capable of observing, to make what Discoveries I could. In my Description of the ancient Monuments, I shall observe the same Method I did in the Description of the Hills. I shall consider them in the Order the Hills stand, or as I find them in the different *Wards* of the City; which, like *Old Rome*, was divided into fourteen *Wards*.

## Chap. II.

### *Of the Ancient Monuments of the first Hill, and of the first Ward of the City*

THE first Hill, which *Pliny* sometimes calls *Chrysoceras*, and sometimes *Auri Cornu*, (though this was a Mistake, as appears from what I have wrote concerning the *Thracian Bosphorus*) *Dionysius* a *Byzantian* calls the *Promontory* of the *Bosphorus*. There are two Reasons assigned, says he, why 'tis call'd the *Promontory* of the *Bosphorus*; the one is, as some say, because a Cow stung with a Gad-Bee forded over it. Others more fabulously report, that *Io*, the Daughter of *Inachus*, being changed into a Cow, swam across it, when she went into *Asia*. The same Author, speaking of a Place call'd *Semystra*, tells us, that *Byzantium* had been founded there, had not a Raven snatched a Part of the Sacrifice, they offer'd upon their landing, out of the Fire, and carry'd it to the *Promontory* of the *Bosphorus*. This they look'd upon as a Token from the Gods, that they should found their City there. The same Writer, speaking in another Place of a *Promontory* call'd *Metopum*, opposite to the first Hill of *Constantinople*, this *Promontory*, he adds, faces the City, and lies directly against the *Promontory* of the *Bosphorus*; and the same Author informs us, that a little above the *Promontory* of the *Bosphorus*, there was an Altar erected to *Minerva*, who was call'd *Ecbasia*, or *Egressoria*, because those who transplanted the Colony hither, sally'd out from thence, with a Bravery equal to those, who fight for their Country. We might also call her *Ecbateria*, under which Name, as *Hesychius* reports, *Diana* was worshipped in *Siphnus*. He adds farther, that upon the same *Promontory* stood the old Temple of *Neptune*, and below it, upon the Plain, that the *Byzantian* Youth exercised themselves in Horse-racing, driving the Chariot, Wrestling, and other Martial Sports; and lastly, that at the Foot of the *Promontory* stood a Bay call'd *Ceras*, which had three Havens, fortify'd with three Cittadels, and high Sand-banks, upon it stood the Castle of *Byzantium*, of which *Xenophon* takes Notice, when he tells us, that the Men under his Command, having forc'd their Way into the Town, the Inhabitants fearing they should be put to the Sword if their City was taken, some fled to the adjoining *Promontory*, others to the Sea, and that some of them steering about a long time in a Fisher-boat, made at last a landing, got into a Tower, from thence made Signals of Distress, and were assisted at last by the People of *Chalcedon*. And not only the Castle of old *Byzantium* was built upon the first Hill, but Historians assure us, that the Emperours of *Constantinople* likewise continu'd a Fortress there, when they tell us, that to keep off the Enemy from entring the Port, they laid a Boom across the River, from the Cittadel to the Castle of *Galata*: Nay, even at this Day, the *Grand Seigneur* has a Cittadel there, fortify'd with thick Walls, which enclose his spacious Gardens on all sides. In old *Byzantium* there was a Place call'd the *Thracian Field*, lying upon a Level, and not incumber'd with Houses. It was upon this Plain that *Xenophon* drew up in Military Order the *Grecian Army*. He informs us, in his Book of his *Hellenici*, that this Field was near the *Thracian Gate*; they open'd, says he, the Gates adjoining the *Thracian Field*: And in the 7<sup>th</sup> Book of the *Expedition of Cyrus*, speaking of a Place, seated near the Walls of *Byzantium*, where he ranged his Army in order of Battle, he tells us, that the most convenient Place to draw up, or muster an Army is, the *Thracian Field*; because, as he goes on, 'tis free of Houses, and upon a Plain. I observ'd before, that the seven Towers of *Byzantium* reach'd from the *Thracian Gate* to the Sea; *Georgius Cedrinus* asserts, that they reach'd to the Northern-Sea, that is, to the Bay call'd *Ceras*. *Herodotus* attests, that in old *Byzantium* stood an Altar erected to *Diana Orthosia*, and a Temple dedicated to *Bacchus*. *Darius*, says he, upon viewing the *Black Sea*, came back to the Bridge, and erected upon the *Bosphorus* two Stone Columns, on which he order'd to be engraven the *Assyrian* and *Greek Alphabets*. The *Byzantians* afterwards removed them into the City, near to the Altar of *Diana Orthosia*. The *Greek Alphabet* was what they retain'd, and made use of. The Column with the *Assyrian Characters* they left remaining near the Temple of *Bacchus*,

where they had fix'd it. *Laurentius* translates the Greek Word *Orthosia, Erecta*, but he had translated it more properly, had he call'd her *Erectoria*, or *Erectrix*, because as being the Goddess of Child-birth she *raises up*, or *recovers* Women in Labour. This I collect to be the true Sense of the Word, not only from several Authors, but from *Plutarch*, who in his Book of *Rivers*, has this Story: *Proud Teuthras, King of Mysia*, says he, *with his Retinue of Spearmen chas'd a Boar, which fled into the Temple of Diana Orthosia to implore her Assistance. As they were all driving furiously into the Temple, the Boar cry'd out with an audible human Voice, Let your Compassion, Royal Sir, be shewn to one whom Diana brought into the World. Teuthras enraged at this, slew the Creature. Diana resenting the Affront, threw the King into a Phrenzy, and punished him with ulcerous Sores. He could not bear the Indignity of his Punishment, and so retired to the Mountains. His Mother Lysippa, immediately, with the Prophet Polyidius, who inform'd her of the Occasion of her Son's Sufferings, hastens in Search of him, and by sacrificing to Diana some Oxen, reconciles her to him. When she perceiv'd her Son return'd to his Senses, she erected an Altar to Diana Orthosia, and near it placed a Golden Boar, with a Man's Head upon his Shoulders. Before the Destruction of Byzantium by Severus, both the Altar and the Boar were standing, in the first Valley of the first Hill. Since Constantine rebuilt the City, the first Hill included in it the first Ward, which contain'd the House of Placidia Augusta, that also of the most noble Marina, and the Baths of Arcadius. I learn this from the ancient Division of the City into Wards, though I must confess myself at a Loss, to know in what Part of the City the first Ward began, nor can I make any such Discovery from the Remains of any ancient Buildings, which are now entirely destroy'd. However, thus much may be inferr'd from Procopius, who has it upon Record, that when you sail from the Propontis to the Eastern Part of the City, there stand the publick Baths, built by Arcadius. In this Place, says he, Justinian built a Court, which was encompassed with so calm a Sea, that when you walk'd in the Galleries, you might discourse audibly with the Sailors. It made a very beautiful, a very delightful, and most magnificent Prospect: It was fann'd with gentle Breezes, supported with lofty Columns, and laid with the most curious Marble, which like the Sun, reflected a most amazing Lustre: It was also adorn'd with abundance of Marble and brazen Statues, finish'd to the nicest Perfection; a lovely Scene to the Spectators! The Reader, had he seen it, would have taken it to have been the Work of Phidias, Lysippus, or Praxiteles. Upon a high Pillar of Porphyry Marble, in the same Place, stood the Statue of the Empress Theodora, addressing herself, as it were, to him for building so noble a Structure. The Beauty of the Column is exceedingly surprising, yet does it by no means come up to that inconceivable inexpressible Gracefulness and Dignity you see in the Statue. From these Words of Procopius, as I would observe by the By, that that Pillar now landing upon a Descent, lying Eastward of the Grand Seignor's Palace, is not the same with that upon which Theodora was erected, as some are of Opinion it is; because it is neither of a Porphyry Colour, and is at too remote a Distance form the Court; so would I have the Reader understand, that the first Ward contain'd in it the Length of the first Hill, which is bounded on three Sides by the Sea. I find not only in many Historians, but also in Suidas the Grammarian, that the Statue of Arcadia, the second Wife of Zeno, stood in the Arcadian Baths, near the Places call'd the Bathra, from the Stairs by which you ascend them. I find also in that Place two Statues of Verina, the Wife of Leo Magnus, one in the Northern Part of the City, near the Church of St. Agathonicus beyond the Bathra, the other on that Side of the City where stands the Church of St. Barbara: The first was erected by Leo in his Lifetime, the second since his Death; when upon the Flight of Zeno, his Son in Law, his Brother Basiliscus was crown'd Emperor in his stead. I have reason to believe, when I consider the natural Situation and Order in which the Wards stand, that Part of the second Ward was inclos'd in the Palace: For this Ward, according to the ancient Description of it, at its first Entrance stood upon a Level; at some Distance it rose by a gentle Ascent, and at last, with very deep Precipices, fell into the Sea. I am of Opinion, that these Precipices descended on that Spot of Ground where the Kitchens, and Bagnio's of the Grand Seignor stand at present. But where-ever they might stand in ancient Times, all the steep Places that were formerly enclosed within the Palace are now levell'd, where now there stands an old*

Church commonly call'd *Sophia the Less*. Some of the most ancient Inhabitants affirm it to be the Church of St. *Irene*, which *Socrates* tells us was built by *Constantine the Great*. I take it to be the same Church which the People of the second *Ward* call the *Old Church*. I have Reason also to believe, that the other Part of the second *Ward* stood without the *Palace*, from the Situation of the *Churches* and *Bagnio's*, which the second *Ward* encloses. For *Zonaras* and other Historians assert, that the Church, which formerly went by the Name of the *Great Church*

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