

around, and besieged it ; and lying round it by day and by night, took the city, and slew every male in it, and burnt it down, and so obtained a way through it. And the multitude of those that were slain was so great, that they went over the dead bodies. So they came over Jordan, and arrived at the great plain, over against which is situate the city Bethshan, which is called by the Greeks Scythopolis.\* And departing hastily from thence, they came into Judea, singing psalms and hymns as they went, and indulging such tokens of mirth as are usual in triumphs upon victory. They also offered thank-offerings, both for their good success, and for the preservation of their army ; for not one of the Jews were slain in these battles.” †

The country of the Nabatheans was in Arabia Petrea, to the southward of the Lake Asphaltitis, and the name of Nabatheans was given generally to all the Arabs living between the heads of the Arabian and the Persian Gulf. But it is here said, that after they had gone three days' journey on the other side of Jordan, they met the Nabatheans, who came to meet them peaceably, and told them how the affairs of the land of Gilead stood, in which land, therefore, they probably were. Yet, from this distance of three days, where he met these Nabatheans, Judas is said to have *returned* into the wilderness. ‡ The writer of the Book of Maccabees says, Judas Maccabeus also, and his brother Jonathan, went over Jordan, and travelled three days. They then turned suddenly by the way of the wilderness unto Bosor, which they took and burnt. It was after this that Bosor was taken, and this is expressly said to have been one of the cities of the land of Gilead. § What Josephus calls the *garrison*, in which the Jews were shut up, the

\* “ The reason why Bethshan was called Scythopolis, is well known from Herodotus, b. i. p. 105. and Syncellus, p. 214. That the Scythians, when they over-ran Asia in the days of Josiah, seized on this city, and kept it as long as they continued in Asia, from which time it retained the name of Scythopolis, or the city of the Scythians.” — Note on Josephus.

† Joseph. Ant. Jud. l. xii. c. 8. s. 3. 4. 5.

‡ Ibid.

§ 1 Macc. iv. 24. 28. and 30.

writer of the Apocrypha calls the *fortress*, evidently of the town itself, and most probably this identical ruined citadel now seen here on the adjoining hill, and still retaining so appropriate a name. \* I can find no very determinate position assigned by the ancient geographers, either to Raphon or to Ephron. † If these were clearly ascertained, it might be more satisfactorily decided, whether the brook spoken of be the Jabbok or not. But the circumstance of this army of Judas Maccabeus arriving at the great plain, over against which is situate the city Bethshan, which is called by the Greeks Scythopolis, when they came over Jordan in their way to Mount Sion at Jerusalem, is unequivocal, and places it beyond doubt, that the place here spoken of is neither the Bezer on the border of Arabia, nor the Bozra of the Hauran, with which that has been sometimes confounded, but a Bosor here in Gilead, and, probably, on the spot where the present Boorza stands.

As we pursued our way from this village towards the north-east, going first up a gentle ascent beyond the town, and then descending toward a second valley, we overtook a small party of Bedouin Arabs, on foot. They were themselves returning to their en-

\* The name is evidently a corruption of the original Hebrew one, Bosor, בִּצְרֹר munitio, vel vendemia, sive ablatio prohibitio: aut in angustia, vel tribulatione. Filius Suphæ filii Heleni, 1 Par. vii. 28. Nomen item civitatis Moabitarum trans Jordanem orientem versus, ad solitudinem non nihil versantis. 1 Mac. v. 26.; Deut. iv. 43.; Jos. xx. 8. 1 Par. vi. 78. de tribu Ruben Levitis data. — Onomasticum Sacrum, p. 74.

רָצוֹר the present pronunciation of its name, signifies, in Arabic, a "wide open plain without trees;" and this is a feature so perfectly at variance with that of the country in which this town and castle of Boorza is seated, as to prove that the name is not of Arabic origin, but a corruption of the Hebrew Bosor.

† Παφών. Nomen loci non longa à Carnaim, ad torrentem. — Παφα, Josepho, urbs trans Jordanem sita. Reland. l. iii. p. 968. — עֶפְרוֹן Urbs in Benjamin, 2 Chron. xiii. 9. erat in regione trans Jordanica e regione Scythopolis, 1 Mac. v. 46. 52. — Reland. l. iii. p. 765.

Raphon, ραφών, medicina vel relaxatio aut gigas. D. civitas 1 Mac. v. 37. — Onomast. p. 260.

Ephron, עֶפְרוֹן ἑφρων, pulvis, sive hinnulus, aut plumbeus. Filius Seor. Gen. xxiii. 8. à quo civitas in tribu Juda, 2 Par. xiii. 19.; 1 Mac. v. 6. — Onomasticum Sacrum, p. 118.

campment ; and as their tents were near, they invited us to follow them, and partake of their hospitality for the night, to which we readily assented.

We had not yet been an hour from Boorza, before we passed a large ruined building, called Deer el Ramjah, or the Convent of Ramza, but whether it has been a Christian establishment, a castle, caravansera, or some portion of a deserted settlement, we could not learn. Near it stood a stately and wide-spreading oak, which, like the rest of the oaks we had seen, was not an evergreen one, but had its leaves withered, and its boughs almost bare, while the greater portion of the other trees found here, were fresh in verdure. On the left of our road were said to be other ruins, on a hill there, called Jehaz, or Jejaz ; but, strong as our desire was to visit these, it was thought to be risking too much to do so, and we were obliged to content ourselves with obtaining information of the existence only of such places as we could not ourselves examine, and of taking a hasty glance at those which lay immediately in our path.

From the want of an actual survey of the local features of the two places, which could not be obtained at the distance at which we passed them, no details can be offered regarding them, except that the appearance of Ramza\* was that of a large castellated enclosure built of stone, and standing on the side of a hill ; and Jehaz was described to us as standing on somewhat higher ground, and being more like the ruins of a town than of a single building. These were, respectively, about a mile and a half on each side of us, as we passed ; Ramza on the east, and Jejaz on the west, and the distance between them was, therefore, about three miles, being separated from each other by a sloping valley.

The place of Ramoth in Gilead is to be sought for here ; and such details as we have regarding its position and local features, added to the resemblance of the name, afford great reason to

\* Pronounced indifferently رَمْزَا Ramza, and رَمْضَرَا Ramtha

believe, that the ruins at Ramza may be a portion of those belonging to that city, or, at least, mark the site on which it stood. This city was one of the chief in Gilead, and is called Ramoth Gilead, to distinguish it from other towns of the same name. It is first mentioned as one of the cities of refuge set apart by Moses on the east of the Jordan, "unto which the slayer might flee who should kill his neighbour unawares, and hated him not in times past; and that, fleeing unto one of these cities, he might live." \* It is there called Ramoth, in Gilead, of the Gadites, and this distinction is repeated in another place. It is again mentioned in the history of the early wars, when it was the scene of a battle between the kings of Judah and Israel on the one side, and the king of Syria on the other, for the recovery of Ramoth Gilead, where Ahab the ruler of Israel was slain. † Josephus details the story of this battle more at large, but nothing can be collected from him regarding the actual site or relative position of this place, with regard to other known places, in bearing or distance. ‡

These deficiencies are supplied, but I know not on what authority, by St. Jerome, who fixes it at fifteen miles *west* of Philadelphia, or Ammon, and near to the Jabbok, in both of which particulars this place of Ramza agrees. § From its being placed in the tribe of Gad, D'Anville has given it a position more to the southward, though within about the distance specified from Ammon; but Cellarius, in whose map the course of the Jabbok is much more accurately delineated, has placed it in Gilead, just to the *north* of this stream, about the distance assigned to it from Ammon, and just in the spot on which the present Ramza stands. Whether the epithet of

\* Deut. iv. 42.

† 1 Kings, xxxii. throughout.

‡ Joseph. Ant. Jud. l. viii. c. 15. s. 5, 6.

§ רַמְתֹּחַ In Gilead, quæ etiam Ramoth, ἀπλωζ. Urbs tribus Gad, Deut. iv. 43. Jos. xx. 8. Vicus fuit 15 miliaribus à Philadelphia, versus occidentem. Euseb. in Onom. Apud Hieronymum male legitur orientem. Fuisset enim extra fines terræ Israeliticæ, quæ ultra Philadelphiam orientem versus non protenditur. Idem mox scribit Ramoth Gileaditidis esse in Peræa juxta flumen Jaboc.—Reland, Palæstina Illustrata, l. iii. p. 966.

Deer, which means any large house, as well as a convent, was given to the large castellated ruin here, as a modern affix to it, or not, we could not learn; neither could we decide whether this large fortress-like edifice was itself a vestige of the old city of refuge, within the enclosure of which the man-slayer was safe from the vengeance of his pursuers, or the remains of any more modern building.\*

What ancient city the ruins of Jejaz may mark, is not so easily determined. There was a Jahaz, at which the children of Israel fought against Sihon, king of the Amorites, because he would not let them pass through his border; but this was in the wilderness, or on the borders of the Arabian Desert, to the southward of the Dead Sea, and in the land of Moab; for it was not until Israel had smote him, Sihon, king of the Amorites, with the edge of the sword, that he possessed his land from Arnon unto Jabbok, and dwelt in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon, and in all the villages thereof.

There was, however, a Jabesh, which could not have been far from this spot, and, like Ramoth, was characterised by the addition of Gilead, as a distinctive appellation. This place is first mentioned in the story of the Lamentations that were made for the destruction of the tribe of Benjamin, and the difficulties that arose regarding marriages since they were cut off from among them. When the Israelites came to bewail this desolation of Benjamin in Mizpeh, they had made an oath that whoever came not up to the mourning should be put to death. On the numbering of the people, it was found that none of the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead were there, and, accordingly, twelve thousand of the valiantest of the assembly were ordered by the congregation to go and smite the inhabitants of this place with the edge of the sword, and to

\* Ramoth, רָאֲמוֹת, Deut. iv. 43. Jos. xx. 8. 1 Reg. 22. 3. 1 Par. vi. 73., videas montem, vel intuitis montis, vel *altitudines*. Eadem civitas quæ et Ramoth prior.—Onomasticum Sacrum, p. 259.

spare neither men, women, nor children. \* The occasion of their meeting, was to mourn the loss of a tribe whom they had themselves cut off from among them, by the slaughter of twenty-five thousand men, who drew the sword, and were all men of valour, leaving only a remnant of six hundred of the whole of the sons of Benjamin, who fled into the desert, and abode in the rock of Rimmon for four months. †

This Jabesh Gilead was afterwards the scene of a battle between Saul and the Ammonites, in which the latter were discomfited. Nahash, the leader of the Ammonites, had come up to encamp against this place, and on being asked to make a covenant, urged the strange condition of his being allowed to thrust out all the people's right eyes, which the men of Jabesh requested seven days' respite to consider of, during which time Saul came to their aid, and repelled their enemies.

At a future period, these men of Jabesh, whom he had delivered, had an opportunity to testify their gratitude. When the Philistine followed hard upon Saul, and the battle went sore against him in Mount Gilboa, Saul, and his armour-bearer, and his three sons, fell upon their swords, to avoid the disgrace of being slain by uncircumcised hands. The Philistines, when they came on the morrow to strip the slain, found them, and cut off the head of Saul, and stripped off his armour, and sent it into the land of the Philistines round about, to publish it in the houses of their idols, and among the people. And they put his armour in the house of Ashtaroth. And they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan. "And when the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead heard of that which the Philistines had done to Saul, all the valiant men arose, and went all night, and took the body of Saul, and the bodies of his sons, from the wall of Beth-shan, and came to Jabesh, and burnt them there. And they

Judges, xxi. throughout.

† Ibid, xx. 47.

took their bones and buried them under a tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days." \*

We learn from this, that Beth-shan, or Scythopolis, was within a night's march from Jabesh, which fixes its position, within limits of tolerable accuracy on the *west*. Its distance, of six miles from Pella, towards Gerasa, will equally fix its limits on the *east*, as Pella is placed by all the authorities on the river Jabbok †, though it is much farther to the eastward in the map of Cellarius, than in that of D'Anville. In both of these, the distance of Pella from Gerasa corresponds pretty accurately with the thirty-five Roman miles assigned to it; but, in Cellarius, the places are nearly *east* and *west* of each other, and in D'Anville nearly *north* and *south*, though the same authorities for their respective positions were open to both. If to this agreement in point of relative distances, be added the resemblance of local feature in the present ruins of Jejaz, being seated on a hill or mountain, like that of the ancient Jabesh ‡, it will not be a forced presumption to consider it as at least probable that the ruins here may be those of the ancient town, and the present name only a corruption of the original one. §

The early writers, being rather historians than geographers, afford, in some instances, such scanty materials for fixing the

\* 1 Samuel, xxxi. throughout.

יְבֶשׁ Urbs Gileaditis, unde sæpe יְבֶשׁ גִּלְעָד dicitur Jud. xxi. 9. Jabeschitæ per totam noctem facto itinere cadavera Saulis et filiorum ejus e mœnibus urbis Bethsan abstulerunt et redierunt, 1 Sam. xxxi. 11. hinc judica de distantia harum urbium. Eusebius ad vocem Ἀρισῶθ et Ἰζῆις testatur suo tempore fuisse vicum prægrandem hoc nomine trans Jordanem, 6 miliar. distantem Pella versus Gerasam.—Reland, lib. iii. p. 822.

† Près du Jabok étoit une ville de considération, sous le nom de Pella, que les Grecs de Syrie qui l'habitoient, lui avoit donné, à cause de sa situation environnée d'eaux, comme la ville Macedonienne de ce nom.—D'Anville, Geog. An. Peræa et Arabia.

‡ Jabis Galaad . . . . Nunc est vicus trrns Jordanem in sexto miliario civitatis Pellæ, *super montem* euntibus Gerasa. Hieron.—Reland, l. ii. p. 493.

§ Jabis Galaad יְבֶשׁ-גִּלְעָד siccitas, vel confusio acervi testimonii. Nomen civitatis. Judic. xxi. 8. 1 Sam. xi. 1.—Onomasticum Sacrum, p. 159.

position of places spoken of by them, that great accuracy cannot be expected to be attained at this period. The resemblance of names, the correspondence of local features, and the existence of ruins on any particular spot, may be therefore considered as of as much weight in determining questions of this nature, as the estimate of distances, which, from being given in figures, are always liable to corruption. But when all these circumstances nearly agree, the evidence may be received as the most conclusive now within our reach.

We continued our way from between the ruins of Deer-el Ranza and Jejaz, still towards the north-east, admiring, as before, the beauty of the country on all sides. The prospects around us made us credit all that has been said of the ancient populousness of this district; and while we felt the difficulty, in many instances, of identifying ancient positions with the perfect correspondence of all the requisite data, we conceived it highly probable that one place might be sometimes taken for another, in a kingdom of so confined an extent, yet so thickly spread over with populous towns and villages, and in which are said to have existed threescore cities.\*

At sunset we reached the camp of the Bedouins, whom we had joined on our way, and were received there with their accustomed hospitality. It was carried so far in the present instance, as even to occasion a contention among the Arabs themselves, as to which of them should furnish the necessary corn for our horses. A lamb was killed for us, and all the members of the camp assembled around our evening party in the Sheikh's tent, to entertain us, and to assure us of our welcome among them. Our conversation was sufficiently varied; but though our destination for Damascus was spoken of, our intention to halt at Jerash was studiously concealed, and at midnight we lay down to sleep.

\* "The son of Geber, in Ramoth Gilead: to him pertained the towns of Jair, the son of Manasseh, which are in Gilead, to him also pertained the region of Argob, which is in Bashan, threescore great cities, with walls and brazen bars." 1 Kings, iv. 13.



## CHAPTER XX.

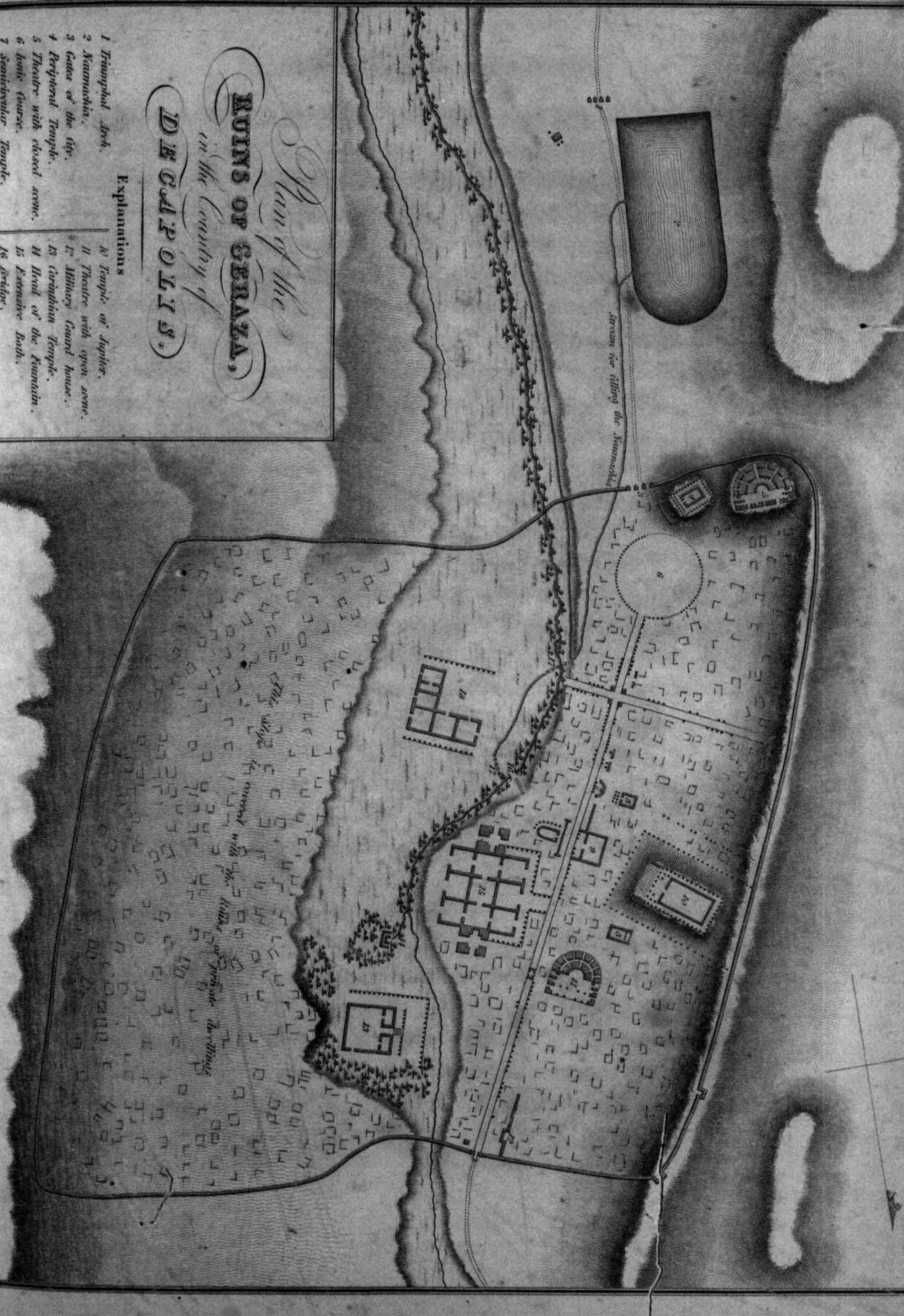
FROM THE ARAB CAMP TO JERASH.

*JANUARY* 31st. We quitted our station at an early hour, and, after leaving the camp, passed again through a rich and beautiful country. It was about an hour after our first setting out that we came to another torrent, in a deep ravine, the stream of which was called Nahr-el-Zebeen. The ford at which we crossed it was scarcely more than ten yards wide, and here the banks were covered with rushes, planes, and oleanders. It appeared to us to be only a more northern portion of Zerkah or the Jabbok, which we had already

*Plan of the*  
**RUINS OF CERAZA,**  
*in the Country of*  
**DECAPOLIS.**

**Explanations**

- 1 Triumphal Arch.
- 2 Mausoleum.
- 3 Gates of the city.
- 4 Perpendicular Temple.
- 5 Theatre with elevated scene.
- 6 Ionic Colonnade.
- 7 Semicircular Temple.
- 8 Temple of Jupiter.
- 9 Theatre with open scene.
- 10 Military Guard house.
- 11 Circular Temple.
- 12 Head of the Fountain.
- 13 Exedrae Bath.
- 14 Pavilion.



passed over once ; but this the Arabs contradicted, though they said that, like Zerkah, it mingled its waters with those of the Jordan, and ran together with them into the Dead Sea.

In ascending from the valley of this stream, and going up its steep northern bank, we were shown what appeared to us to be a tower, with a wall and portions of ruined edifices near. This place was called Zebeen, and gave its name to the torrent below. It was said to have been an old Christian settlement ; but, as we were not permitted to turn aside to see it, we could not determine with accuracy either its age or character.

We were here interrupted and thrown into a momentary alarm, by the pursuit of two horsemen, who came galloping over the brow of the hill behind us, commanding us with a loud voice, and in an authoritative tone, to halt and give an account of ourselves. Though we considered ourselves to be in a strange and almost an enemy's country, we were not, however, in a condition to yield to the menaces of so small a force. We therefore replied to their challenge in a tone equally haughty with their own, and refused to satisfy them either from whence we had come or whither we were going ; so that they soon desisted from their pursuit and left us.

In continuing our way to the north-east, we still went through a beautifully fertile country ; and, after passing three or four ruined buildings of considerable size on the road, we came about ten o'clock into a charming valley, from whence we obtained the first sight of the ruins of Jerash.

We approached the remains of this city on the southern side, and saw, at first, a triumphal gateway, nearly entire. The architecture of this was not of the most chaste kind, though the masonry was good. It bore a striking resemblance to the work seen in the ruined city of Antinoë, in Upper Egypt, on the eastern bank of the Nile. On each side of the large central arch of this

gateway, which was wide enough for chariots, there was a smaller one for foot-passengers, and over each of these was an open square window. The front of the whole bore four columns, which were placed one on each side of the smaller arched passages, and one in each of the intervals between these and the large central one. These columns were of a small diameter, and constructed of many separate pieces of stone; their pedestals were of a square form, but tall and slender; on each of these was placed a design of leaves, resembling very nearly a Corinthian capital without the volutes; on this again arose the shaft, which was plain, and composed of many small pieces, but as all the columns were broken near their tops, the crowning capitals were not seen. The pediment and frieze were also destroyed, but enough of the whole remained to give an accurate idea of the original design, and to prove that the order of the architecture was Corinthian.\*

After passing through this first gateway, we came upon the fragments of its own ruins within; but seeing no vestiges of walls connected with the gate itself on either side, we concluded that this was an isolated triumphal arch, placed here for the passage of some hero, on his way to the entrance of the city.

Just within this gateway, on the left, we next observed a fine naumachia, for the exhibition of sea-fights.† This was of an oblong shape, with its southern end straight, and its northern end of a semicircular form. It was constructed of fine masonry, smooth within, but having the rustic projections without, and being finished on the top with a large moulding, wrought in the stone. The channels for filling this naumachia with water were still visible, and the walls within were from six to eight feet deep, though level with the soil without; but as this space was now used as a field on which corn was actually growing, it is probable that the soil had accumulated progressively there, and that the original depth was much greater.

\* See the <sup>1</sup>Wignette at the head of this chapter.

† No. 2. in the General Plan.

Passing onward amid heaps of ruined fragments, we came next to a second gateway, exactly similar in design to the triumphal one without, but connected here on both sides with the wall of the city, to which it formed the entrance.

Leaving the triumphal arch and naumachia, we entered into the city through this its southern gate; and, on turning to the left, and passing by a raised platform of masonry, which supported the front of a peripteral temple †, we came into a large and beautiful circular colonnade, of the Ionic order, surmounted by an architrave. ‡ Above the temple, on our left, was an open theatre, facing to the north §; but of this, as well as of the temple itself, we could catch but a momentary glance before we were obliged to return to the straight path.

We could now perceive a long avenue of columns, leading in a straight line for a considerable distance beyond the circular colonnade, and appearing to mark the direction of some principal street that led through the whole length of the city. On entering this street, we perceived that the columns were all of the Corinthian order, the range on each side of the street being ascended to by a flight of steps. The proportions of the pillars seemed chaste; they were without pedestals, and their plain shafts swelled in diameter from the base towards the centre, and then tapered away towards the capital.

Passing onward through this street, and climbing over huge masses of fallen columns and masonry, we noticed four columns on each side of the way, of much greater height and larger diameter than the rest, but, like all the others, supporting only an entablature, and probably standing before the front of some principal edifice now destroyed.

Beyond this we came to a square, formed by the first intersection of this principal street by one crossing it at right angles, and like

\* No. 3. in the General Plan.

† No. 5. in ditto.

‡ No. 4. in ditto.

§ No. 6. in ditto.

it too apparently once lined on both sides by an avenue of columns. At this point of intersection were four square masses of smooth masonry, in the nature of very large pedestals. These had in each of their fronts a niche for a statue, which was concave at the back, arched at the top, and crowned there by a beautiful fan or shell neatly sculptured. On the top of these large square pedestals, appeared to have once stood small Corinthian columns, the shafts and capitals of which now lay scattered below, so that they might have been bases of peristyles.

Continuing still onward, and passing the fragment of a solid wall on our left, which had formed part of the front of some large edifice, we came to a portion of a temple of a semicircular form, with four columns in front, facing the principal street, and falling in a line with it. The spring of its half-dome was still remaining, as well as several yellow marble columns, and a fragment of a column of red granite. The whole seemed to have been executed with peculiar care, and we thought the sculpture of its friezes, cornices, pediments, capitals, &c., which were all of the Corinthian order, as rich and chaste as the works of the first ages. Around the frieze of the interior was an inscription, of which we could not be allowed time to take an accurate copy.

On a broken altar, near to the ruin, we observed another inscription, which we were not suffered to examine minutely, although we could make out the name of Marcus Aurelius very distinctly at the beginning of it. Beyond this again, we had temples, colonnades, theatres, arched buildings with domes, detached groups of Ionic and Corinthian columns, bridges, aqueducts, and portions of large buildings scattered here and there in our way\*, none of which we could examine with any degree of attention, from the restraint under which our guides had placed us.

After passing in this hurried way, through the greater part of the town, and arriving nearly at the further extreme from that at

\* Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 18. of the General Plan.

which we had entered it, we turned down to water our horses at a stream in the valley \* ; and assembled our party, so as to preserve the appearance of really being passengers merely halting by the way, on our road to Damascus.

While the guides and our servants were taking some refreshment, Mr. Banks and I ascended to a convenient spot where we could both conceal ourselves from the sight of passengers below ; and while Mr. Banks was employed in taking a hasty sketch of the whole view as it appeared from hence, I caught the opportunity of throwing together the recollections of our route from Jerusalem thus far, as not a moment had yet offered itself from the time of our leaving that city, in which it would have been safe to have written, or to have excited curiosity by the appearance of such unusual things as pen and paper.

Having done this, Mr. Banks made a second excursion with the guides, and I remained to keep the impatience of the rest in play, to answer questions from passengers, and to prolong our stay to the last possible moment.

After this momentary glance over these interesting and magnificent ruins, we were obliged to hurry off in a state of mind not easily described ; delighted and surprised by what we had come so dangerous a journey to behold, and tormented by regret at the necessity of catching a mere sight of them, and of quitting the spot, as we then thought, most probably for ever.

Having passed the northern wall of the city, which appeared to us to be at least a mile apart from its southern gate of entrance †, the whole space between being covered with the ruins of splendid buildings, we ascended a steep hill, and, in about a quarter of an hour, came to the Necropolis. We saw here some few grottoes only, but in the course of our way, we remarked nearly a hundred sarcophagi of stone, all of them now above ground. Most of these

No. 14. of the General Plan.

Both marked No. 3. in the General Plan.

were ornamented on the sides with sculptured shields; they were of oblong forms, straight at the sides and ends, made of a grey limestone, and about the size of the human form in the hollow space, and from two to three inches in thickness. We saw only one cover perfect, which was pent-roofed, and had the section of a globe at each corner in the Roman style. Many of these sarcophagi were broken, and some reversed; but all appeared to have been dragged up from the earth by force, as they lay in heaps sometimes one on another. They were probably thought to contain hidden treasures, and were thus ransacked by the Saracens.

In our way up this steep hill, we found near the Necropolis, the remains of a small temple with columns, which we could not turn out of our road to examine; and still further on, we noticed the walls and dwellings of a village which were well-built, and apparently the works of a distant age.

We turned round here to enjoy a last look on the splendid ruins we had left so abruptly, and so unwillingly too, and were charmed beyond description with the magnificent scene which it presented. The city standing itself on a rising ground, seemed from this point of view to be seated in the hollow of a grand and deep valley, encircled on all sides by lofty mountains now covered with verdure, and having part of its own plain below in actual cultivation. Near to where we stood was the ruined village already spoken of, and on the summit of the southern hill which bounded the view in that quarter, stood the modern village of Aiode, having a central tower and walls, and forming the retreat of the husbandmen who till the grounds in the valley beneath. The circular colonnade, the avenues of Corinthian pillars forming the grand street, the southern gate of entrance, the naumachia, and the triumphal arch beyond it, the theatres, the temples, the aqueducts, the baths, and all the assemblage of noble buildings which presented their vestiges to the view from hence, seemed to indicate a city built only for luxury, for splendour, and for pleasure; although it was a mere colonial town in a foreign province, distant from the capital of the

great empire to which it belonged, and scarcely known either in sacred or profane history.

It would be in vain to attempt a picture of the impressions which followed such a sight. We were considered by our guides to be in danger, and self-preservation pushed us on, while the change of scenery and the occupation of the mind on the necessary cares of the way, served to bring it back to its original state of calm.

We continued, from the summit of this northern mountain, to descend gradually and passed again through an interesting and well-wooded country, arriving in about an hour and a half at the village of Soof, where our halt was fixed for the night.

We were received here in a sort of public room by the sheikh of the village, but instantly perceived the marked difference between the hospitality of the Bedouins and the cultivators; for here not a stick of firewood was to be had without payment for it beforehand.

As the sun was not yet set, we left our guides to manage with the villagers for our supplies, and walked out for half an hour, though obliged to do even this with extreme caution, as all eyes were upon us.

The village of Soof stands on the brow of a steep hill, on the S.W. of a deep ravine. It possesses several marks of having been the site of some more ancient and considerable town, having large blocks of stone, with mouldings, sculpture, &c. worked into the modern buildings; and on the opposite hill, on the other side of the ravine, are seen the walls of an edifice apparently of the Roman age. There are also remains of two small square towers, apparently of Saracenic work, the masonry being good, and there being loop-holes for arrows in the walls.

The town of Soof contains from forty to fifty dwellings, and nearly five hundred inhabitants, including those of all ages and both sexes. The Sheikh of it is responsible to the Pasha of Damascus, and pays him tribute. The men are not only rigid but

bigoted Mohammedans, and of a surly and forbidding temper, as far as we had yet seen of them. Their grounds around are cultivated with corn, and both the olive and the vine flourish in abundance, furnishing them with oil from the former, and grapes and dried raisins from the latter, wine being unknown among them.

Some women having noticed our writing, during the secrecy of our walk, circulated a report of the fact, and insisted on knowing what we were about. We were fortunate in being able to persuade them that we were Turks, and repeating the formula, "B'ism illah, er Rahman er Rahheem," assured them that we were merely employed in writing a prayer on the appearance of the new moon, after the manner of the faithful.

When we returned from our ramble, we found a large party assembled in the public room, and we exchanged with them the salute of Islam. We were not long seated, before close enquiries began to be pressed upon us, and we felt every hour more uneasy at their tendency. We sought our safety, however, in reserve; and as the party was numerous, we contrived, amidst the mixture of prayers, and wrangling, and dispute, and imprecation, to keep ourselves undiscovered.

*February 1st.* The day broke in heavy rains, and our Bedouin guides refused to proceed, as the horses were already wearied, and shelter could not always be commanded on the road. The desire of Mr. Banks and myself to revisit the ruins of Jerash was equally strong; and since all our endeavours were not sufficient to prevail on our guides to brave the weather, we determined on stealing to the ruins in the interval, at all risks which it might involve.

As it was impossible, however, to absent ourselves from so enquiring a company without being noticed, some motive was necessary to be assigned, and it luckily happened that one really presented itself of sufficient force to be admitted. On the preceding day, while writing the notes of our route from Jerusalem to Jerash, beneath a rock, I had left a knife behind me, and it was professedly under the hope of finding this that we set out on foot

to go a journey of two full hours over a steep and rugged road, and amid a heavy rain, which threatened long continuance.

We were accompanied by one of our guides only, to whom a pair of boots was promised for his pains, and by a man of the village with his musket, to whom half a dollar was to be given at his return. We were wet through, as might have been expected, long before we reached the spot; but the grand view of Geraza, from the northern heights which overlooked its splendid ruins, was even in the mist that half obscured them, sufficient of itself to repay our toils.

We descended now by another road, to avoid passing immediately through the site of the city, keeping on its western edge, and passed there an extension of the Necropolis, through which we had gone on the preceding day; the form, the size, and the sculptured ornaments of the sarcophagi, were still the same, and there were certainly more than fifty of them now above the ground. They lay together in heaps, and seemed, like the rest, to have been dragged up from the earth with violence, as many of them were broken, and others reversed.

Notwithstanding the violence of the rains, which had reduced the parched earth to a state of mud, and rendered the ploughed lands almost impassable, the peasantry were all out, either at the plough or scattering seed, the labour of husbandry being already too much retarded by the late long drought to admit of an hour being lost. This was most unfortunate for us, as we necessarily passed several of them, and attracted the more notice from being on foot in such unseasonable weather.

At length we reached the back of the southern theatre, and descending into it by one of the regular doors, sought a moment's shelter and repose in the covered passage which led to the seats. Even here, we were visited by one of the old peasants from the fields, who insisted that we were come to take away the hidden treasures of the genii who had built these palaces and castles. We replied, that, being on our way from Egypt to Constantinople, we

were desirous of carrying to the Sultan, (whom all the faithful revered as the head of Islam,) some account of so wonderful a place as Jerash, of which he had never yet heard ; and we begged that he, as a true Mohammedan, would implore the blessing of God upon our labours. The man was rather confounded than satisfied, and soon began to grow impatient ; but we contrived to bribe him to stay, fearing that, by leaving us, he might communicate our being here to his fellows, and occasion our further interruption.

Mr. Banks now prepared to draw from hence a view of the interior of the theatre, including chiefly its front and scene, being completely sheltered from the rain, as well as from sight, by the arched covering of the passage under which he stood ; and in the meantime I employed myself in measuring the principal features of this building, in laying down, by compass, from an overlooking eminence, the relative positions of the principal edifices, and in forming as accurate a ground-plan of the whole as the unfavourable circumstances of the moment would admit.

When Mr. Banks had finished his drawing, the two Arabs became impatient to return to Soof, and the third to see the treasure opened. The rain still continued with increasing violence, and nothing could be set on paper without being under the shelter of some portion of building, as even our inner clothes were as wet as our outer ones, and nothing could be done under them.

We set out together, however, from the theatre to the southern gate of entrance, and paced the whole of the way from thence to the northern gate and wall, examining, cursorily, all the buildings in the way, and forming from it the ground-plan on a separate sheet, as well as collecting the following observations of a general nature on the city itself.



## CHAPTER XXI.

### RUINS OF THE ANCIENT GERAZA.

THE geographical position and relative bearing and distance of this place, from other established and well-known points, will be best seen from the map of our route, which has been constructed with great care, and that portion of it, which includes the country east of the Jordan, laid down entirely from our own journey through it.

The city occupied nearly a square of somewhat less than two English miles in circumference; and the greatest length, from the

ruined arched building on the south of the first entrance, to the small temple on the north of the opposite one, is about five thousand feet, as measured by paces, or nearly an English mile. The general direction of this square is, with its sides, nearly towards the four cardinal points; but none of these sides are perfectly straight, probably from the inequality of the ground along which they run.

The city stood on the facing slopes of two opposite hills, with a narrow but not a deep valley between them, through which ran a clear stream of water springing from fountains near the centre of the town, and bending its way thence to the southward.

The eastern hill, though rather more extensive in its surface than the western one, rises with a steeper slope, and is consequently not so well fitted for building on. We found it covered with shapeless heaps of rubbish, evidently the wreck of houses, as the walls of some of them were still visible; but as neither columns nor other vestiges of ornamental building were to be seen among these, we concluded that this portion of the city was chiefly inhabited by the lower orders of the people.

The whole surface of the western hill is covered with temples, theatres, colonnades, and ornamental architecture, and was no doubt occupied by the more dignified and noble of the citizens. The general plan of the whole was evidently the work of one founder, and must have been sketched out before the Roman city, as we now see it in its ruins, began to be built. The walls of the city were as nearly equal in length, and faced as nearly to the four cardinal points as the nature of the ground would admit.

The eastern portion was chosen for the residence of the great mass of the people; first, from its being of more extensive surface; and next, from its being less adapted to the erection of fine buildings, or the production of architectural effect. The western portion was devoted purely to the grandeur of display and decoration, and the regularity of its arrangement is no less striking than the number of splendid edifices crowded together in so small a space.

One straight and spacious street extends through the whole length of the city, from north to south, ending at the gates of these respective quarters, there being only these two now remaining ; nor are there, indeed, any conclusive appearances of there ever having been any other than these two entrances into the city.

This main street is intersected, at nearly equal distances of one fourth of its length from each gate, by two other streets, which cross it at right angles, and extend through the whole breadth of this western portion of the city, the point of intersection in each being ornamented with a public square.

From each of these intersections to their respectively nearest gate, the order of architecture that prevailed was Ionic ; but in the central space, between these intersections, and including a length equal to half that of the whole city, the predominant order was Corinthian.

In the centre, or nearly so, of this central space was an noble palace, probably the residence of the Governor, with a beautiful Corinthian temple in front, and another more ruined one behind, in right lines with it ; and the semicircular recess of a still more highly-finished temple beside it. In a line with these edifices, and on the east of them, was a bridge crossing the small stream in the valley. In a line with the first or southern street of intersection was another bridge, and nearly in a line with the northern street, and also on the east of it, was a very extensive bath.

Just within the southern gate of entrance, was a peripteral temple, a circular colonnade, and a theatre ; and just within the northern gate of entrance was also a theatre, a temple, and a military guard-house. Both the principal street extending the whole length of the city, and those which crossed it and ran through its breadth, were lined by avenues of columns extending in one unbroken range on each side, and ascended to by steps.

There were also other edifices scattered in different parts of the city, which will be seen in examining the plan ; but the whole

was remarkable for the regularity and taste of its design, no less than for its able and perfect execution.

Between those two hills on which the whole city thus stood, was the narrow valley before mentioned. At its upper or northern end it became so confined as to constitute a difficult pass; and it was near to this part that the military guard-house stood to command it. Below this, to the southward, was a large Corinthian temple on the plain; still farther down in this valley, or near the centre of its whole enclosed length, was the source of a beautifully clear spring, around which had been erected fountains and other appropriate works. Still to the south of this, was another large bath, consisting of many apartments, and having many fallen columns near it; and almost opposite to this were the bridge before spoken of, and an aqueduct which crossed the stream on arches. The stream then pursued its course to the southward, until it passed beneath the city walls there, and followed afterwards the general direction of the valley.

Such were the outline features of this interesting city; but it will be perhaps worth a more minute description. This can be best made by following up the order in which the edifices presented themselves to us on our first visit; and this, too, will furnish just occasion to preserve the first impressions which the sight of these edifices respectively made, corrected, when necessary, by those of our subsequent examination.

The outer or southernmost building was unquestionably a triumphal arch\*, and, as such, stood quite unconnected with any wall, and lay in the direct line to the city-gate, for the passage of processions through it on approaching the city from the southward. The style of its architecture has been already particularly detailed; the whole length of its front is forty paces, or about eighty feet. †

\* No. 1. of the General Plan.

† The measurements were all made by short paces, and these were found, on taking an average of one hundred of them, to be about two English feet each.

It consists of three arched passages, the central one of which is about thirty feet in height within, and twenty feet broad; and the two side ones about twenty feet in height, and ten feet broad; the length of all the passages being the same, and measuring about twenty feet, so that the central one is a square below, and the side ones of an oblong form.

In a direction of S. by W. from this triumphal arch, and at the distance of about three hundred yards, are the remains of a ruined building, of which nothing is now seen but some portions of excellent masonry, and arches of the Roman form. Sufficient of the edifice does not remain, however, to decide on its nature or its original use.

To the S. S. E., at about one hundred and fifty yards' distance from the triumphal arch, and beyond the limits of the plan, are about twenty sepulchral caves hewn down in the rock. They are now open and destitute of sarcophagi within, though some of these are found on the outside, dragged from their original silence, and violated, broken, and destroyed. These sepulchral caves are seen on the brows of both the hills here, with the stream of water and the valley between them, and facing respectively to the eastward and to the westward. Those which are on the eastern hill are near the very edge of the low cliff there, and face toward the west; but these are mostly broken and injured by their exposed situation.

Those on the western hill are more perfect, the passage into them being cut obliquely down through the earth on a gentler slope. Some of these caverns are large within, but all are of rude workmanship; several of them have been recently used for dwellings, or places of temporary shelter, as small fences and marks of fire-places remain to be seen.

The small ruined building which is within the triumphal arch on the E. N. E., is of a square form, and has some few shafts of columns near it, both erect and fallen; but it presents nothing remarkable in its construction, nor is its original use easily conjectured.

The naumachia is about seven hundred feet in length, and three hundred in breadth, preserving nearly an oblong form.\* At the southern or lower end the wall is straight, and at right angles with the sides ; but at the northern, or upper end. the form is semi-circular. The depth now visible below the upper edge of the masonry, which is itself level with the soil without and around it, is about eight feet ; but as there has been, for many ages, an accumulation of soil, by the yearly deposit of water and decay of vegetable matter in this reservoir, there is now a cultivated piece of ground within it. The masonry of the sides of this naumachia is of the most uniform and excellent kind ; the inner face is smooth, and the outer, or that presented to the soil behind it, preserves the projections of the rustic manner. The upper edge is neatly finished with a moulding, but there are no appearances of seats or benches for the spectators, who must therefore have witnessed the exhibition from one common level above.

The two channels for filling it with water are still perfect, and led into it from about equal distances on the eastern side, as marked in the plan. Above that part of the city wall under which the stream runs, and where the wall makes an elbow to fall into a line with the city-gate, one branch of the stream is carried over the brow of the western hill, to conduct a portion of the waters to the channels for filling the naumachia ; and another continues along the side of the same western hill, going to the southward for some purpose that we did not trace ; while the main body of the stream runs in the valley below, descending progressively to a deeper bed. But these two channels, which here lead to separate destinations, unite only from the arched aqueduct, a little southward of the bridge, running from thence along the side of the western hill, and preserving its original level ; while the bed of the valley gradually slopes downward to the south. On the brow of the opposite or eastern hill, still without the walls of the town,

\* No. 2. of the General Plan.

is seen also a channel which conveys water, even at the present time, to some part more southerly, which we did not however trace to its end.

The intention of placing this naumachia immediately within the triumphal arch, and exactly in the line of march from thence to the principal entrance of the city, was perhaps for the exhibition of some naval shows, illustrative of the exploits of the person honoured with the triumph, and for whom both the arch and the naumachia were probably expressly constructed. It is easy to suppose that it might have been a triumph given to some hero who had distinguished himself in a battle on the sea of Galilee or the lake of Tiberias, since there were many sea-fights there between the Jews and the Romans; but the details of the history of this city are so scanty, that no particular instance of such triumph is known to me as being on record.

It may be observed, that the building here assumed to be a naumachia could not have been a circus, or a hippodromus: first, because it is evidently too much sunk beyond the common level for such a place; next, because water could not have been necessary to be supplied to it in streams by aqueducts, if this were the purpose to which it was applied; and, lastly, because there is no visible appearance in any part of it, though its wall is still perfect all around, of any place of descent for either horses or chariots, or even of steps for the descent of footmen.

To the north-west of the naumachia, on a higher part of the hill, distant from two to three hundred yards, and beyond the limits of the plan, are a great number of sarcophagi, reversed, broken, and scattered about, but evidently not far from their original place, so that one of the portions of the necropolis of this city must have been here. These sarcophagi are all of the black basaltic stone, and mostly sculptured with Roman devices; but among them there are none remarkable for superior elegance in their execution.

In a direction of N. N. W. from the *naumachia*, also on the hill, and still without the city-walls, are the remains of a Corinthian work, which offered nothing remarkable in its construction ; and this completed all that fell within our notice on the outside of the city to the south of it.

On entering the city itself, by its southern gate, the passage is difficult, from the gateway being buried in its own ruins. Enough of it remains, however, to show the general design of three arched passages, as in the triumphal arch without ; and the order of architecture in both is the same. The walls of the city are here plainly to be traced, connected with the gate on both sides, going from it upward on the west over the rising ground, and descending from it on the east to go down over the brow of the hill, and lastly ascending from thence over the steep slope of the opposite or eastern hill.

On passing within this gate, the attention is suddenly arrested by the beautiful group of buildings which appear on the left, consisting of a peripteral temple, a theatre, and a circular colonnade. From the suddenness of the charm which this produces on the beholder, the actual deviation from a right line is not at all perceived, nor were we even aware of such an irregularity, until the relative positions and bearings of every object came to be set down on paper, in the delineation of the general plan. The spectator walks forward, unconscious of such a deviation ; and this illusion, which at first is principally caused by the splendour of the whole view, is considerably assisted by the front wall of the platform of masonry, built to support the foundations of the peripteral temple above it, and partly, perhaps, to aid the effect. As this wall is perfectly parallel with the direction of the line of movement in going toward the colonnade, and the view is directed to the centre of this great circle, the deception is completed on arriving there by a magnificent prospect of the principal street, which is lined by a continued avenue of columns, extending to the opposite gate of

the city on the north. Nothing could be more ingenious than this contrivance to hide an irregularity of plan. The nature of the ground seems not to have admitted the placing the gates of the city immediately opposite to each other, and having the street between them in a right line; but this defect is so happily veiled, that, I believe, many persons might enter it at one end, and quit it at the other, without at all perceiving it.

The peripteral temple, which is the first building on entering the city from the south, stands on very elevated ground, and seems almost to hang on the brow of the hill. To support its foundations, and to extend the level space in front of it, a long pier of masonry has been constructed, which forms a sort of platform before the edifice, and on this is seen a small square building, with fragments of arched-work near it, the use of which is not apparent. †

The form of this temple is an oblong square, the front of which faces exactly E. by N. by compass. At this front stood a noble portico, formed by a double row of eight columns. Around the rest of the edifice was a single row of similar columns, eleven in number, on each side. In each side-wall, about half way up its height, were nine niches, answering to the intervals formed by the intercolumniation of the surrounding colonnade; and seven of these nine were still perfect. Whether they were intended to ornament the wall, or to contain statues, did not appear; but they presented nothing remarkable in their design. The masonry was everywhere smooth, and the outer frieze and cornice of the building was quite plain.

A similarly ingenious arrangement, for concealing a deviation from a right line, is found in the beautiful temple of Philoë, at the Cataracts of the Nile, as is well delineated and illustrated by Denon, in his plans of the edifices on that island; and at Palmyra too, those accurate observers, Messrs. Wood and Dawkins, noticed a gate-way which was so contrived, as that the two fronts faced at right angles with the respective streets which led from them, though these streets were not in one right line, as may be seen in their superb drawings and plans of the ruins there.

† No. 4. of the General Plan.

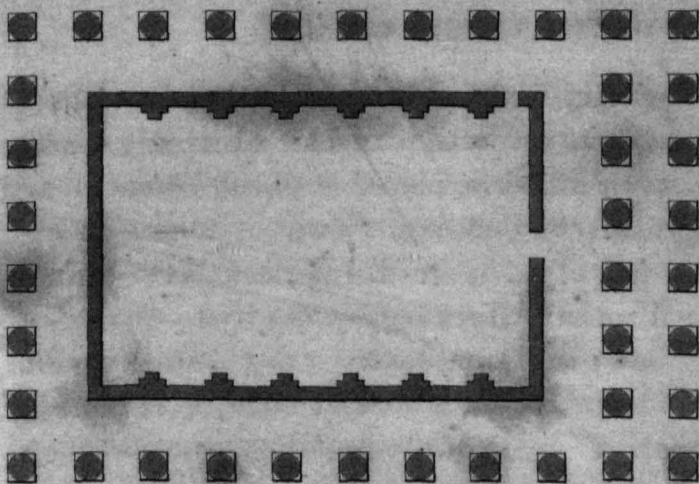
On entering this temple, nothing is seen but plain walls of smooth and good masonry, as on the outside, excepting that on each of the sides are seven pilasters, placed at equal distances, and reaching all the height of the building. Two of them, on each wall, are injured, and five of them are still perfect. The dimensions of the temple within are thirty paces long by twenty broad. The principal door of entrance is that through the portico opening to the E. by N.; but it had, besides, a smaller door of entrance in the side wall, near the N. E. angle of the building, and opening to the N. N. W.

On each side the great door-way of the eastern front, were two fan-topped concave niches, corresponding with those on the sides, and, like them, facing the interval between the inner row of the columns of the portico; but no mention is made in our notes on the spot of any such niches in the back or western wall. There are no remains of either pediment or roof, and there are, certainly, not sufficient fragments or rubbish within the temple to be considered as the wreck formed by its falling in. Whether it had originally been a covered or an open temple we could not, therefore, decide.

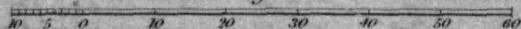
Just above this building, to the westward, and still on higher ground, is a beautiful theatre, pressing close against the city wall, and opening exactly towards the north. This edifice, as may be seen by the annexed plan of it, was of a semicircular form, the seats for the spectators being ranged around the interior of the circular part, the arena before them in the centre, and the stage beyond that in front, with a closed scene. \*

The front of this theatre, as measured by paces on the outer face of its scene, was about one hundred and twenty feet; and from the lowest seat of the semicircle, across the arena and stage, to the central door of the scene, just eighty feet. The seats are

\* No. 5. of the General Plan, shows the position of this theatre.



Scale of Feet.



page 362.

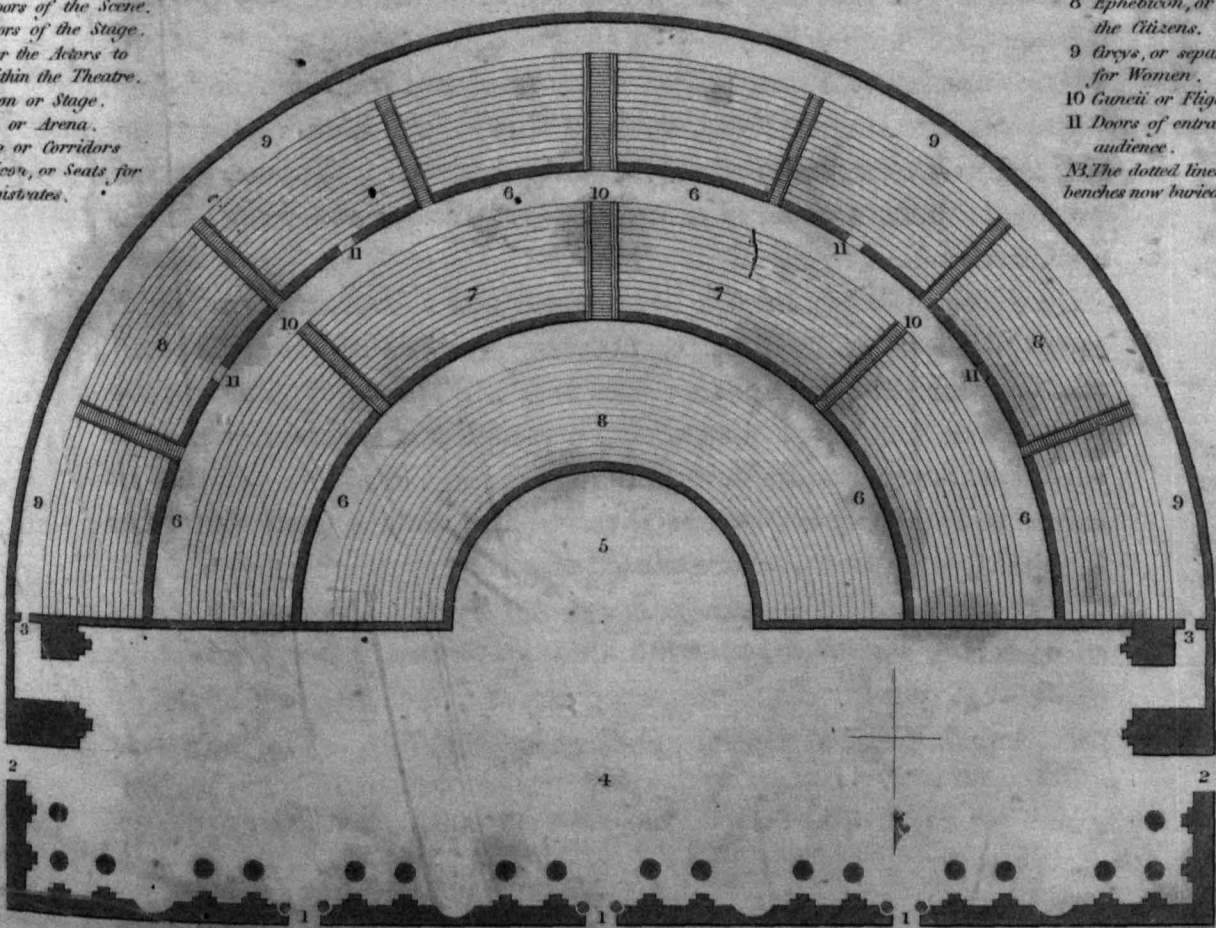
# REFERENCES

1. Doors of the Scene.  
2. Doors of the Stage.  
3. Doors for the Actors to  
enter within the Theatre.  
4. Seats on or Stage.  
5. Seats in the Arena.  
6. Seats in the Corridors  
7. Seats in the Caisse, or Seats for  
the Ministers.

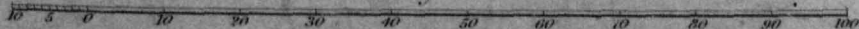
## THEATRE WITH CLOSED SCENE AT GERAZA.

# REFERENCE

8 Ephibicon, or Seats  
for the Citizens.  
9 Arcys, or separate  
seats for Women.  
10 Cunei or Flights  
11 Doors of entrance  
to the audience.  
12 The dotted lines  
represent benches now buried in  
the ground.



Scale of Feet.



arranged in two divisions, now visible above ground, and those contain each fifteen rows of benches ; but there is great reason to believe, from the accumulation of rubbish in the arena, that another similar division of seats is now hidden beneath it. These divisions were separated by a space for walking, formed by an interval equal to the breadth of two ranges of seats, and this space facilitated the passage of the spectators from one part of the theatre to the other. The lowermost of the two divisions now visible, was intersected by three flights of steps, in the form of rays, and placed at equal distances, the central one running up the whole height of both divisions, with a break at the passage between them ; and the two others ending at that passage, without being continued in the same line above it. The upper division had, however, seven such flights of *cunei*, as they were called ; the central one forming a continuation of that below, and being wider than the others, with a low balustrade on each side ; and the other flights similar to the two smaller ones in the lower division, and placed three on each side at equal intervals.

Entering upon this platform of separation between the two divisions of benches described, which platform is just four feet in breadth, there are four door-ways, about equidistant from the ends of the semicircle, from the central flight of steps, and from each other. These doors were the terminations of arched passages running through the theatre, and going beneath the upper seats, as they led inward from the outer part of the semicircular wall. It was by these passages that the audience entered from without ; and on coming upon this platform they could walk conveniently along it, until they were opposite to any particular part of the theatre desired, and either ascend to the higher or descend on the lower division of seats by the flights of steps already mentioned. For the ascent there were, as will be seen in the plan, seven distinct flights, while for the descent there were but three. The audience had, therefore, never occasion to pass through the arena,

or open central space below, nor in any way to approach near to the stage.

The interior of the closed front, or scene, presented a great richness of effect, from the lavish decoration and profusion of architectural ornament which was displayed there. The order observed throughout was Corinthian. The accumulation of rubbish, added to the fallen fragments of its own ruins, has occasioned the pavement of the stage to be entirely covered; and even the door-ways are some of them buried nearly up to their architraves. But still enough is seen to trace the design of the whole.

In this scene there are three doors, placed at about equal distances from each other, and from the angles of the building in front. The central door is square at the head, and is the largest of the three; the two others, one on each side of it, are arched. There are four niches placed, one between and one on the sides of each of the three doors. The two nearest the angles of the building have triangular pediments, and are highly ornamented.

A range of columns extends along the interior of the front, or facing toward the audience; and, with reference to them, behind the stage, or between the stage and the scene. The intercolumniation of these is irregular, from their being made to leave the interval, opposite the front doors, clear. They are, therefore, disposed in four divisions, of four pillars each. These cover the space of wall in which the niches are; the niches being seen through the intercolumniation of the two central pillars of each. Behind each of these rows of four pillars, are four pilasters, corresponding in order, size, and position, and placed, like the columns, two beside each niche. In addition to this, there is, on both sides of each of the three front doors, a smaller Corinthian column, standing in a sort of recess. Some of these columns do not want much of their full proportion of height, as measured by their diameters; though the doors beside which they stand are, as was before said, buried nearly up to their architraves. These, at first sight, produced the impression that the architect had observed, in

this scene; what is called order upon order, or the erection of a story of one order of architecture over another of a different one. There were no other appearances that corroborated or confirmed this suspicion, however, so that the pedestals on which these columns stood must either have been unusually high, or they rose from a surbasement, or something similar, beneath. It would have been an interesting task, had we possessed the means and time to effect it, to have cleared away the whole of the rubbish down to the very pavement of the stage. It occurred to Mr. Bankes, that, notwithstanding the ruin of some parts of this edifice, it was, perhaps, on the whole, the most perfect Roman theatre now remaining in the world. He had himself seen all those of Italy; and in Greece we know how much they are destroyed; and he remembered none so perfect as this, more particularly as to these most interesting parts, its stage and scene. The complete examination of this would, therefore, have thrown much light on the nature of such structures among the Romans, and would have helped us to understand more, perhaps, of their stage management, of scenery, entrance, exit, &c. than we now know. We even thought it probable, that some of the statues which once filled the niches above, might be found in a tolerably perfect state on clearing away this rubbish; as if we sought out causes to encrease our regret, at not being able to put our desires into execution. We drew back often to look upon the whole, admiring the rich decorations of the Corinthian order, displayed in all its pomp on this small, but highly finished work.

Besides the doors of the front, there were also two larger side-doors, that led directly upon the stage from without; used, probably, for the entrance and exit of the actors, during the exhibition of the play. These doors were more spacious, and coarser in their construction, than the others, and the passages over them were arched. There were yet two other doors, which led from an arched passage that went round under the lower seats of the theatre, into the open central space, or arena; and we conceived

that it was here the actors themselves made their first entry, coming by this arched passage from some general room of preparation on each side, and passing immediately on the stage. The musicians, and others concerned in the shows, might, perhaps, have entered here: for it is observed of ancient theatres, that there were two kinds of doors; the one led to the open air, the other was for going into or coming out of the cloisters, that those within the theatres might not be thereby disturbed; but out of one gallery there went an inward passage, divided into partitions, also, which led into another gallery, to give room to the combatants and to the musicians to go out, as occasion required. \*

The theatre was entirely open above, nor were there any appearances of its ever having been roofed. It faced towards the north, probably that the audience might be thus shaded from a southern sun, and might receive the cool breezes which usually blow from that quarter; two luxuries worthy of being obtained by every possible means, in a climate so warm as this is during the greater part of the year.

So little appears to remain of any ancient descriptions of these edifices, that one may be forgiven for an attempt to supply that deficiency, by minute details of such features of them as we find in their ruins, and by a comparison of what we observed here, with the accounts given us of similar structures in other places. In this task it may be permitted to use the information contained in an obscure, but highly interesting, and, we may say, learned paper, inserted originally in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, but without a name. † This ingenious writer observes, that ancient authors have treated of the construction of theatres but obscurely and imperfectly. Vitruvius has given us no account, either of their dimen-

\* Josephus, in his account of the assassination of Caius, at a theatre in Rome, *Ant. Jud.* l. xix. c. 1. s. 13.

† See the selection of curious articles from this work, as recommended to the editor originally by the celebrated Gibbon, and since published in four volumes, octavo. vol. i. p. 201.

sions, or of the number of their principal and constituting parts, presuming, I suppose, that they had been well enough known, or could never have perished. Among the more modern writers, the learned Scaliger has omitted the most essential parts; and the citations of Bullingerus from Hesychius, Eustathius, Suidas, and others, throw but an imperfect light on the real construction of ancient theatres. In the description of the first Athenian theatre, dedicated to Bacchus, and built by the famous architect, Philos, in the time of Pericles, it is said that the diameter was just one hundred Athenian feet, and that from thence it derived its name of Hecatompodon.

We see, therefore, that this theatre of Geraza was of larger dimensions than that of Bacchus at Athens, notwithstanding that this last, the ruins of which, upwards of two centuries ago, were measured by Mons. de la Guiliatiere, was then considered to be a monument of ancient magnificence worthy of being preserved. In the theatre at Athens, there was a part of the area, which comprehended fourteen feet of the diameter, that did not belong precisely to the theatre, being behind the scene; whereas, in this at Geraza, the breadth of the scene itself is a hundred and twenty feet from east to west, without any deduction; and the distance between the lowest range of seats, now above the rubbish, and the central door of that scene, is eighty feet; the remaining part of the seats, in thickness, making more than the remaining twenty feet; so that there is, therefore, one hundred feet full and complete within the scene, whichever way its diameter be taken.

Of the Athenian edifice it is said, the theatre itself was separated into two principal divisions, one for the spectators, and the other for the representations. The parts designed for the spectators were the *conistra*, which the Romans called *arena*; the rows or benches, the little stairs, and the gallery, called *circys*. The parts appropriated to the actors, were, the *orchestra*, the *logeon*, or *thymele*, the *proscenion*, and the *scene*. In that part of the edifice allotted to the spectators, were twenty-four rows of seats, or

benches, ascending gradually one above the other, and proceeding round the *conistra*, or *arena*, in an arch of a circle to the stage, which the Greeks called *proscenion*. These benches were distinguished, eight and eight, by three corridors, or passages, which were called *diazoma*. They were of the same figure with the rows of seats, and were contrived for the passage of the spectators from one story to another, without incommoding those who were already placed. For the same convenience, there were stairs that passed from one corridor to another, across the several rows; and near those stairs there were doors, by which the people entered from the galleries on the outside, and took their places according to their rank and distinction. The best places were in the middle division, containing eight rows of seats, between the eighth and seventeenth; this division was called *boulcuticon*, and designed for the magistrates; the other rows were called *ephebicon*, and were for the citizens after they were eighteen years of age.\*

This description would have answered, with scarcely any variation, for the theatre at Geraza, as well as for that of Bacchus at Athens; and this being the first that was erected in that cradle of fine architecture, it will follow that the Romans, whose country of the Decapolis was a colony of their empire, had as yet made no deviation from the pure taste and chaste proportion of their primitive Greek models, in the construction of their theatres at least.

The *conistra*, or *arena*, the benches, the stairs, and the gallery, called the *circys*, which was the upper range of all, still remained perfect here; but the *orchestra*, the *logeon*, or *thymele*, and the *proscenion*, or *stage*, were hidden beneath the fallen fragments of the upper part of the scene, in which, as before described,\* even its own doors were nearly buried. We see here, however, that as there were appearances of a third division of benches being also buried beneath these fallen fragments, the number of these divisions would then be three, as in the theatre of Bacchus; and as the doors from without all led into the corridor, or *diazoma*, just

above the central division, it was equally probable that this division formed the *bouleuticon* for the people of rank and distinction; and that the upper and lower divisions, which were not so easy of access, were the *ephebicon* for the citizens generally.

In the theatre of Bacchus, the whole number of the benches contained only twenty-four rows, in three divisions of eight each. At Geraza there were thirty rows, in two of fifteen each, now visible above the rubbish, which, as it covered the arena and the doors of the scene nearly up to their architraves, no doubt hid beneath it another division of probably several ranges of seats, so that the number of such ranges was greater considerably than in that at Athens.

The height of those rows of benches in the theatre of Bacchus is said to have been thirteen inches; and their breadth about twenty-two inches; the lowest bench was near four feet high from the level of the floor; the height and breadth of the corridors and passages was double the height and breadth of the benches. The sides of the stairs, passing from the body of the edifice towards the stage, were not parallel, for the space betwixt them grew sharper as they came near the *conistra* or arena, and ended in the figure of a wedge, whence the Romans called them *cunei*. To prevent the falling down of the rain upon those steps, there were penthouses set up to carry off the water.

The height of each of the rows of benches in the theatre here, was just three spans, or about two feet, nearly double the height of those in the theatre of Bacchus. As we sat on them ourselves for trial, we found this, however, a very convenient height, particularly as the back was not supported. Our feet had just sufficient repose to keep the body at ease, when in an erect posture, without lounging. The height of thirteen inches, if that was the standard used by Philo, seems too low, as this of twenty-four may be thought perhaps too high, for comfort. Those of the great Roman Amphitheatre at Nismes, constructed in the age of Antoninus Pius, and capable of holding twenty thousand spectators, are said to have

been from eighteen to twenty-two inches high, which is a medium between those of Athens and of Geraza, and the lowest of those numbers is about the standard at present given to our chairs and domestic seats; though I think the seats of our theatres are nearer the Athenian measure, but even these are still above it. The breadth of the seats at Geraza was exactly the same as their height, or three spans; and each row was neatly finished in front by a rounded moulding, cut out of the same stone as formed the benches, and adding both to the beauty of the edifice and to the comfort of the audience in sitting. The ranges of seats continued all around the semicircle, without being interrupted by any species of division throughout their whole length, gave a simple grandeur to the effect produced by these unbroken sweeps of the circle, rising in continued succession one above another. The blocks of the benches were much longer than the breadth necessary for one person, so that the space for one individual seat was in no way defined. Mr. Bankes thought that he had seen Greek letters engraved on them, and conjectured that they might have served as numbers; but after a very careful examination this did not appear to me to be the case, and it is most probable that they might have been some of the arbitrary signs of the workmen for their guidance in the succession of the blocks, as such signs are very commonly seen in ancient Roman masonry.

The height and breadth of the *corridors* or *diazoma* were greater also at Geraza than at Athens, as those were exactly double the height and breadth of the benches; but these were four paces, or about eight feet broad, and of a sufficient height to admit of the doors of entrance being at least six feet high, which ought to have been the case too at Athens, one would think, as these doors occupied exactly the same place there. The flights of stairs descended here from the body of the theatre towards the stage in exactly the same way as in the theatre of Bacchus, the space between them growing narrower as they approached the *conistra* or

*arena*, and ending in the figure of a wedge, which gave to them their Roman name of *cunei*. But there were no appearances of there ever having been a penthouse over these to carry off the rain, though this is nearly as wet a climate as that of Greece, in its seasons of the early and the latter rains. The only thing we remarked in these was, that the central flight was broader than the others, and went in a strait line from the bottom of the benches to the top; and that the others were all very narrow, but easy of ascent, the height of each step seeming to be not above a span or eight inches.

Above the upper *corridor*, in the theatre of Bacchus, there was a gallery, called *circys*, for the women, where those who were infamous or irregular in their lives were not permitted to enter. At the very top of the theatre here, or above the uppermost row of benches, was a broad walk, which might rather be called the upper corridor itself than a gallery above it; so that it was not quite evident that there was a *circys* here for the exclusive accommodation of women, under the salutary regulations mentioned.

The Athenian theatre, it is said, was not so capacious as that which was built in Rome by Marcus Scaurus, the *Ædile*; for, in that, there was room for seventy-nine thousand persons; in this, there was room for six thousand only.

It is observed, that it could not contain less; for the suffrages of the people were taken in it, and by the Athenian laws six thousand suffrages were requisite to make a decree of the people authentic. As the dimensions of the theatre of Geraza, as well as the number of its rows of seats, is greater than that of Bacchus, it follows that it would accommodate a greater number of spectators.

An author of character, who wrote a book descriptive of the remains of ancient art at Nismes, in calculating the number of possible spectators that the amphitheatre of Antoninus Pius, at that place, was capable of holding, allowed a space of twenty inches to each person. Seventeen, however, were thought sufficient by

the gentleman who furnishes this information \*; and he suggests, I think with great plausibility, that in crowded assemblies fourteen inches is as much space as each person, on an average, separately occupies. Those who are curious in such matters, might easily make the calculation to a nicety, having the dimensions of the building and the space for an individual already given. From a rough estimate of my own, the two divisions, or thirty rows of seats now above the rubbish, would hold six thousand seven hundred and fifty; so that, on the whole, eight thousand might be within the number it would contain when perfect. Even this is, I believe, a much greater number than the largest theatre now existing would hold; as it was said, when this account of the amphitheatre at Nismes was written, that the largest theatre in Europe, which was then the Opera House at Paris, did not contain even three thousand.

Of all that part of the theatre which belonged to the actors, and its arrangement into the orchestra, the *logeon* or *thymele*, and the *proscenion* or *stage*, we could observe nothing here to assist a comparison, as all this part which occupied the arena was now covered with ruins. The scene, however, which is defined to be "the columns and ornaments in architecture, raised from the foundation and upon the sides of the proscenion for its beauty and decoration," was here very lavishly ornamented with all the richness of the Corinthian order. Agatarchus, it is said, was the first architect who found out the way of adorning scenes by the rules of perspective, and Æschylus assisted him; but we observed nothing of such a use of artificial perspective here.

The theatre of Regilla, not far from the temple of Theseus at Athens, was covered by a magnificent roof of cedar. The Odeon, or theatre for music, was covered likewise; but no part of the theatre of Bacchus was covered, except the proscenion or stage for

\* Anonymous. — In a letter descriptive of the amphitheatre at Nismes, following the description of the first Athenian theatre, in the selections from the Gentleman's Magazine.

the security of the actors, and the circys for the shelter of the females, to whom this place was peculiarly assigned. From the appearance of the upper part of the scene here, compared with the fallen fragments and large blocks of stone which filled the arena, it did not appear that sufficient of the scene could have been destroyed to furnish so great a quantity of fragments. It is therefore probable, that the proscenion might have been roofed, and that the masses now lying on the ground might be portions of its fallen masonry ; but with regard to the circys, as before remarked, it was not certain that any such division of the theatre existed.

The Athenians, in visiting their theatres, which were mostly exposed to the air, came usually, it is said, with great cloaks to secure them from the rain or the cold; and for defence against the sun they had the *sciadion*, a kind of parasol, which the Romans used also in their theatres by the name of *umbrellæ*, but when a sudden storm arose, the play was interrupted, and the spectators dispersed. This must have been the case here also, unless temporary awnings or tent-roofs were used, which is perhaps the more probable, from the very obvious advantage and convenience of such a shelter, without its being made permanent enough to intrude upon the harmony, the beauty, or the simple grandeur of the edifice, as a piece of noble architecture.

In Athens, the scene of the temple of Bacchus looked toward the Acropolis ; the Cynosages, a suburb of Athens, was behind it ; the Musæon, a hill so called from the poet Musæus, was on the right hand ; and the public road, leading to the Piræum, or the harbour of Athens, was on the other side.

The choice of a commanding eminence and an extensive and beautiful prospect had been judiciously made for the site of this theatre of Geraza. Also to the spectators, as they faced its stage and scene, the whole range of their public buildings was open, and their temples, palaces, squares, and baths, might all be proudly enumerated as they sat. On their right, was the magnificent circus, formed by the Ionic colonnade, with the peripteral temple

near it, and the city-gate close by. Behind them, the naumachia and the triumphal arch would still proclaim the splendour of their favoured abode; while the general landscape of mountain, slope, and valley, presented on all sides a picture of the grand and the sublime in its outline forms, and of the rich and beautiful in the varied shades of its fertile clothing.

The circular colonnade, the diameter of which is one hundred and twenty paces, or about two hundred and forty feet, appears to have marked the boundaries of an hippodromus, or of a chariot-course. A circumference of less than eight hundred feet would scarcely be considered sufficient for such a place, but the hippodromus at Alexandria, which I have seen, is scarcely larger; though that city, in the time of its glory, was inferior only to Rome itself in magnificence. The opinion that this was a course, was suggested by the sight of the lower part of the shaft of a pillar, still erect, occupying its original place, exactly facing the line of the great street, and standing at ten paces, or twenty feet within the general line of the circle towards the centre, allowing, therefore, that breadth for the passage of the chariots. There are vestiges of a former pavement near this post, which is also correspondent with that at Alexandria, where the granite column, supposed to mark the goal, is seated on a rock that has been levelled away like a pavement, in which the ruts of the chariot-wheels are still discernible. There are now remaining erect fifty-six columns of this circle; the others have fallen, and lie at intervals as marked in the plan. \*

The order of the architecture is Ionic, but resembling more the Attic than the Asiatic Ionian in its details, though less beautiful and less chaste than either. The columns are without pedestals, and their shafts, which are about two feet in diameter, are not fluted. They are not of one block, but composed in general of three or four pieces; and from the surfaces of each of these pieces project,

at stated intervals, but not in perpendicular lines, little knobs left in the stone, as if to support the ropes of a scaffolding, or of awnings or curtains between the pillars. These projections are visible only from a very short distance, so that they do not at all intrude upon the general effect of the architecture. The volutes of the capitals are gracefully turned; and the cymatium, which is thought to have been intended to represent the front locks of women pending on the forehead, as the volutes were the side curls of the Ephesian ladies, is also well executed. The echinus or egg-like band, the astragal or beaded one, and the fillet, which were all common to both Roman and Grecian Ionic capitals, possessed nothing peculiar here.

The colonnade supported only an entablature, which we had no opportunity of measuring, but it appeared to us to be deficient in the depth requisite for grandeur of appearance; for, notwithstanding the elegance of the Ionic order, it partakes, on the whole, more of the majestic gravity of the Doric, than of the rich exuberance of the Corinthian. The columns appeared to be nearer the standard of eight diameters, than the modern one of nine. The height of the capital was rather above than below the ancient measure of two-thirds of the diameter. But the entablature, which it is thought should be equal to one-fourth of the whole height, where grandeur as well as elegance is required, was certainly less than that proportion. In the entablatures of Asiatic Ionics, it is said, that denticulated cornices were always used, the dentil being supposed to represent a beautiful row of teeth. This, from its never being omitted, was considered as much a part of the Ionic order, as the metopes and triglyphs of the frieze were a part of the Doric; and both of them were held to be as characteristic of their respective orders as the capitals themselves. But in most of the remains of Ionic buildings at Athens, these dentils are omitted; and this appeared to us to have been the case also in the Ionic buildings at Geraza.

The intercolumniation was *aræostyle*: the intervals between each

pillar being fully equal to four diameters throughout. The only breaks in the circle, where the entablature was discontinued, were at the space opening to the great street on the north, and at a similar space fronting the façade of the peripteral temple and the city-gate on the south. The whole wore a light and elegant appearance, yet, from its size and form, produced at the same time a very grand and noble effect. As it was the first object that arrested the attention on entering the city, so was it conspicuously seen from almost every part of it; besides which, it was the prominent object that presented itself to the spectator when viewing these ruins from afar, in every direction of approach to them.

The street leading from the northern end of this circular hippodromus through the whole length of the town, is lined on each side with a colonnade of the Corinthian order, supporting also an entablature. The pillars rested on the edge of a raised causeway, which was ascended to on each side by steps, whether two or three in number we could not easily determine; and the width of the street measured about thirty feet, as well as it could be paced over the masses of fallen ruins which blocked up every part of the way. The columns stand on pedestals, the square part of the base being not more than one-fourth of a diameter in height; and above the torus are two cylindric convex mouldings, with a concave one between them, but without astragals. This is known to have been the pedestal most frequently used by the Romans in the Corinthian buildings; though it is thought, by those most conversant in the history of architecture, that the chastest and purest specimens of all the orders are without pedestals.

The shafts of all these pillars were plain, and they were mostly composed of three or four pieces. We remarked in them this peculiarity, which was visible also in the shafts of the Ionic columns at the hippodromus, that they began to swell in diameter at about one-third of their height upward from the base, and continued to increase that diameter sensibly to the eye until near their centre, when they diminished in a somewhat greater pro-

portion from thence to the setting on of the capital. The sculpture of the foliage on these capitals appeared to us to be good, though the material of which all the edifices here are constructed being a firm yellow sand-stone, is not so favourable for the work of the chisel as marble would have been, nor does it seemingly admit of any polish. The entablature supported by this colonnade is that which is common to the order, being formed, as is thought, from the mixture of the Doric and Ionic, of which the dentil, echinus, and astragal of the last, are the most prominent features of the cornice; though in the time of Vitruvius it is certain that there was no entablature strictly proper to the order, for he says that both Doric and Ionic entablatures were supported by Corinthian columns, and that it was the columns alone, without reference to their entablatures, which constituted this order.\* The diameter of the shafts of these pillars is not more than three feet in the largest part, and the highest appears to the eye to be in a just proportion to this.

Following this principal street towards the north, the columns on the right are found to be mostly fallen; but there are fewer of those on the left that are displaced. After passing the first thirteen still erect, with the intervals marked on the plan, there are seen on each side four large columns of nearly double the diameter of the others. These did not belong to the front of any particular building, as far as we could trace; but, like the smaller ones, support only their entablatures, and thus form two tetrastyles in the midst of the general line of the respective avenues, and exactly facing each other. As these columns, from their greater diameter, were necessarily higher in the same proportion than the others, there was an interruption of the line of the smaller entablature, the end of which now abutted against the shaft of the larger pillar. For the support of this, there was a bracket left to project from that shaft, cut out of the same block of stone. in

the way that the brackets for statues are seen to project from the columns at Palmyra, and on this the termination of the smaller entablature rested. The tetrastyle was then crowned with its own entablature, differing in nothing but its size from the smaller one; and the last column of it having, like the first, a bracket projecting from its shaft. The entablature of the smaller pillars rested on this, and the colonnade then proceeded onward of its former size. The whole had a great resemblance to some of the Palmyrene edifices, where the introduction of larger columns in different numbers, from tetrastyle to decastyle, is frequently seen in the same line with a colonnade of smaller ones.

Beyond these, to the north, and on the eastern side of the street, are the remains of some large building, which possessed an extensive façade towards the avenue; but as the only remains of this edifice now to be seen are broken columns and demolished walls, it was not easy for us to pronounce on the peculiar use to which it had been appropriated.

Immediately at the termination of the wall of this building, is a small square, formed by the intersection of the principal street, by another crossing it at right angles, from east to west. It was just before reaching this, or between it and the large pillars just described, and consequently opposite to the front of the dilapidated building, that a broken column was found lying on the ground, with the fragment of a Greek inscription on the shaft. The characters were almost obliterated; but, after considerable labour, and many doubts as to the form of particular letters in the course of it, I was enabled to make a copy of as much of it as could be traced. No one line, I conceive, was made out perfectly: though I believe that there were not originally any greater number of lines in the whole than those transcribed.

The square spoken of as being just beyond where this intersection was met with, and formed by the intersection of the principal street, had four large pedestals, disposed at each of the angles of it,

and their fronts placed in right lines with the fronts of the colonnades leading along the street itself. In each face of these pedestals were small, concave, and fan-topped niches, probably for statues, as the ancients are known to have appropriated such niches to their reception. There were fragments of small Corinthian shafts and capitals near them, lying on the ground, so that there might have been also larger statues on the pedestals themselves, inclosed perhaps within peristyles, as is sometimes seen in the statues of rural gods in modern pleasure-grounds, and as was occasionally used by the ancients in their gardens.

The cross-street, running here from east to west, led up from the brow of the eastern hill, overlooking the valley below, and was continued from thence to the city-wall, in the opposite direction. It crossed the principal street exactly at right angles, was of the same general character and dimensions, and was lined also with a Corinthian colonnade, supporting an entablature on each side. There were, upon the whole, about thirty of the columns still erect, but the places of all those that had fallen could be easily traced; and indeed most of their pedestals occupied their original positions. There did not appear to us to be any edifices worthy of remark in this street, so that we did not follow it through all its parts, but were content to catch its general features, as given in the plan.

Pursuing the direction of the principal street to the northward, the next edifice met with, beyond the square of intersection, is a large Corinthian one on the left, receding several paces backward from the line of the street itself, and having a noble portico, of which three columns are still standing in front. From the remains of this edifice, it appears rather to have been a palace, or a public building of a civil nature, than a temple; which may be said also of the one before mentioned, on the other side of the square. Opposite to this palace, we observed a range of octagonal pedestals, of great height and diameter, which were not designed, as far

as we could judge, for the support of pillars, but must either have borne statues on them in front of this building, or have answered some other purpose of ornament or utility which we could not devise.

Next in order beyond this, going still to the north, is a small semicircular portion of what we now perceived to be a very spacious building, extending both to the north and to the south of this as a centre, and having, opposite to it, on the western side of the street, another very large building in a ruined condition. The portico which stood in front of this semicircle, which must have been always open to the great street, was formed of four noble Corinthian columns, of six spans, or four feet, in diameter; three of them being still erect, and the fourth fallen. The ornaments of the order, in the frieze, cornice, pediments, &c. of this little sanctuary, were lavished here in all the exuberance of decoration. From some fragments of Egyptian rose-granite, and a pretty large piece of a shaft of that costly material, found among the rubbish, it was evident that pillars of it had been used here. There were still standing some small columns, of about eighteen inches in diameter, of a fine yellow marble, which retained its polish, and other pillars of this stone had fallen.

From the frieze of this semicircular sanctuary, we copied a short and imperfect inscription; and we observed that the niches above this, which were crowned with rich pediments and probably designed for statues, were stuccoed on the inside, and painted with successive lines of small pyramidal figures, in green and yellow, both of which colours were still remarkably fresh. \*

It was just in front of this semicircular sanctuary, (for the superior richness of its ornament, and the costliness of the materials used in its decoration naturally induced us to call it so,) that the inscribed altar lay broken and reversed as we had at first seen it, but

\* See the position of this building, in No. 7. of the General Plan.

from, which a copy was afterwards with some difficulty obtained.

The letters on this altar were better shaped, and more distinctly engraved, than those which were seen on the inscribed pillar; but in both of them the characters might be said to have been badly executed, and without regard to uniformity of size or shape, as may be seen in the copies of them in which these particulars are as accurately preserved as circumstances would admit of at the time of their being transcribed.

There are appearances of one continued line of building from the semicircular sanctuary to the palace, which is near the centre of the city, or at least of the western portion of it. The front of this is still entire, and leaves no doubt that the edifice was a place of residence, and not a temple. A small and exceedingly narrow staircase, in which even two children could not pass each other, leads from one side of the front entrance below, to one of the windows above, and seems to have been contrived for some secret purpose, as it is impossible that frequent or public use could have been made of it. Though the front is nearly perfect, the whole of the interior of this building is rased to the ground. \*

Behind this, to the westward, on more elevated ground, is a large ruined building, which we did not minutely examine, but just remarked its position and its size, which are noted in the Plan. \*

Opposite to this palace, immediately in front of it, on the eastern side of the street, is the long-extended façade of a Corinthian temple, with a semi-circular termination to the eastward. The façade is that of a spacious and grand edifice, and the workmanship, seen in the interior range of columns still erect, proves also that the execution of the details was equal to the design of the whole.

The most imposing edifice among all these ruins, both for size,

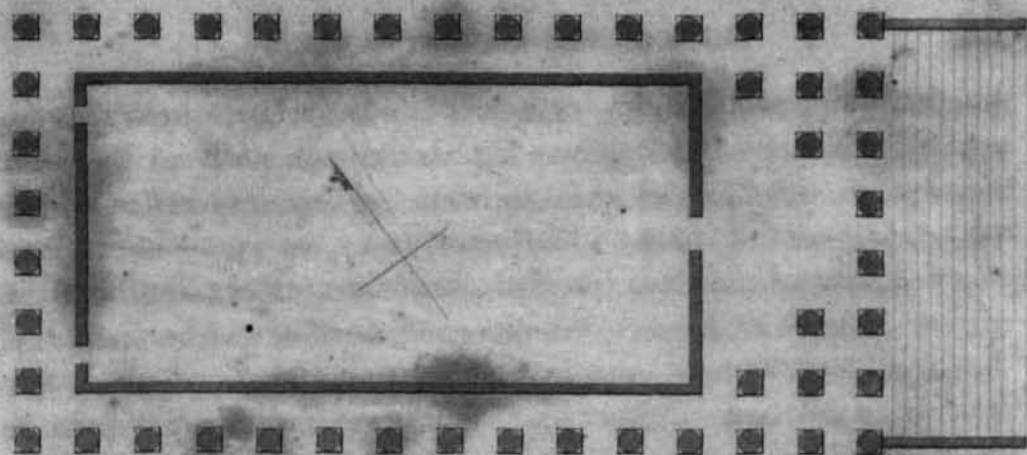
\* No. 9. in the General Plan.

grandeur, and commanding situation, is a large Corinthian temple, to the W. N. W. of the palace last described; and not far from the western boundary of the city wall.\* The impression which the noble aspect of this building made on us, as we beheld it from every quarter of the city, was such, that we both constantly called it the "Temple of Jupiter," in our conversation, and in our notes. This was done without our ever suggesting the propriety of the title to each other, without our having sought for any reason to justify its adoption, or at all arguing the claim in our minds; but as if the proud pre-eminence which it seemed to possess over all the other buildings, could not be otherwise expressed than by its dedication to the greatest of all the gods; and since this high title was thus so unconsciously, and simultaneously given to it by us both, we suffered it to remain unaltered, as at least an appropriate one to distinguish it from the rest.

This edifice is built in the form of an oblong square, and is seventy paces, or about one hundred and forty feet, in extreme length; and thirty-five paces, or seventy feet, in extreme breadth. Its front is opent to the S. E. by E. and there is here a noble portico of twelve columns, disposed in three rows, six in the front row, four in the central one, and two only in the inner one; the intervals being left on the centre on each side of the door of entrance, and the end or side columns being thus in a line with each other. There was a low wall carried out on each side of this portico, to the distance of thirty feet in front, and as the pillars stand on an elevated platform, it is probable that the interval here was occupied by a flight of steps leading up to the temple, but of these there are now no remains. This edifice appears also to have been a peripteral one, or to have been surrounded by a colonnade on all sides, including the portico in front. The bases of the pillars are still seen in their places, and shafts and capitals lie scattered all around. These are all of the same size and order as

\* No. 10. of the General Plan.

# TEMPLE OF JUPITER AT GERAZA.



Scale of Feet.

10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

## REFERENCES

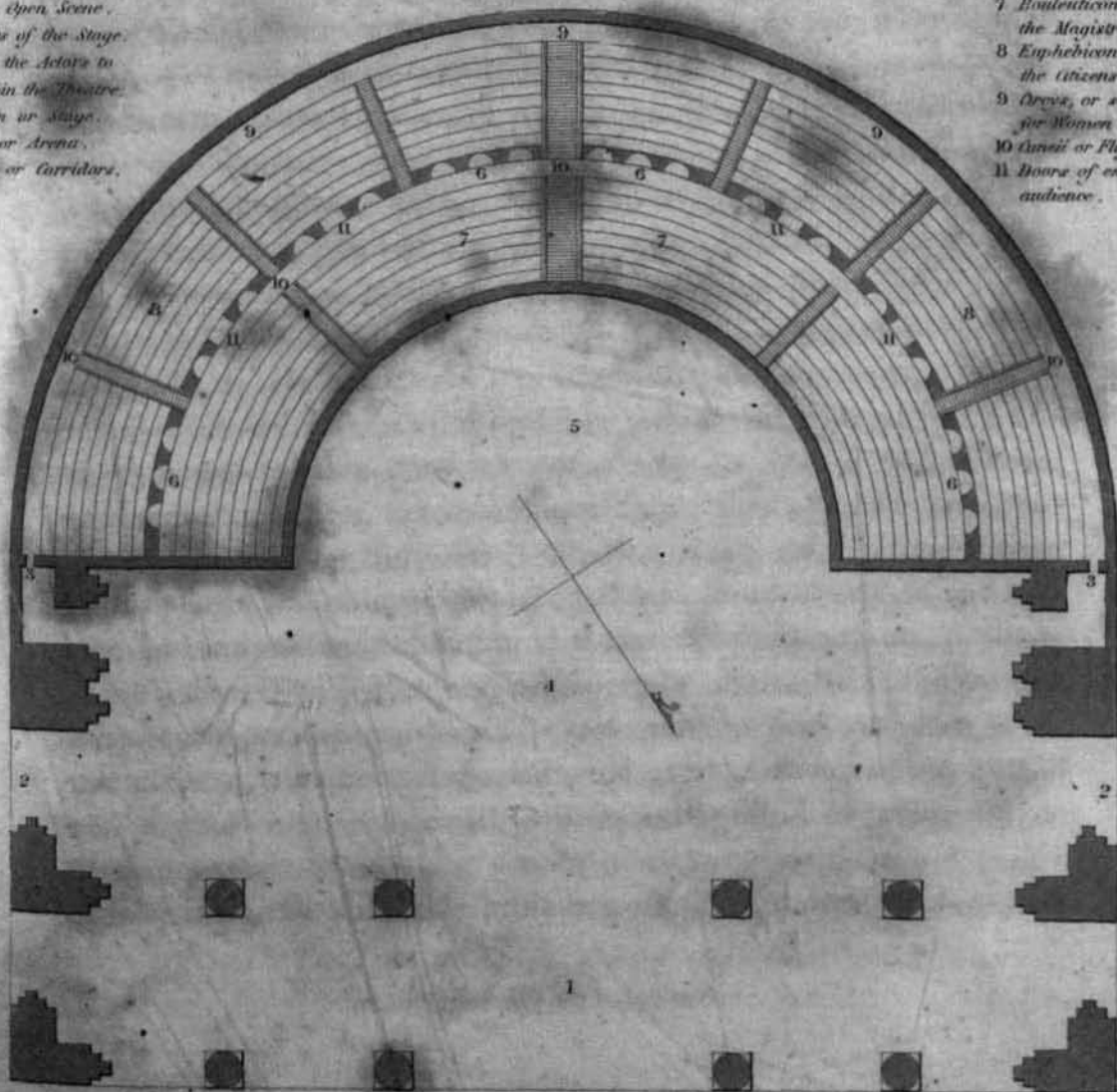
- 1 Portico or Open Scene.
- 2 Side Doors of the Stage.
- 3 Doors for the Actors to retire within the Theatre.
- 4 Proscenion or Stage.
- 5 Coantra or Arena.
- 6 Diazoma or Corridors.

## THEATRE WITH OPEN SCENE AT GERAZA.

page 386.

## REFERENCES

- 7 Bouleuticon, or Seats for the Magistrates.
- 8 Ephebeicon, or Seats for the Citizens.
- 9 Ocrea, or separate Gallery for Women.
- 10 Cunei or Flights of Steps.
- 11 Doors of entrance for the audience.



Scale of Feet.

10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

those of the portico, and leave but little doubt of their belonging originally to the exterior colonnade of this building. The whole number of the columns of the portico are still standing, and these being eight spans, or nearly six feet in diameter, and about fifty feet in height, have an air of great grandeur and majesty, and present the most happy combination of strength and beauty. The pedestals of the columns are the same as those described in the avenue of the principal street below. The shafts are plain, and swell slightly towards their centres. The capitals are well executed, and the union of the separate parts of which the shafts are composed, presents the most admirable specimen of ancient masonry ; for even at this late period, the lines of their union are often difficult to be traced. These pieces were united by a large square bar of metal, going down their centre, and forming a sort of common axis to them all. The separate blocks were marked with Greek letters on the inside, near these square holes for the reception of the metal bar, as I myself observed on the blocks of a fallen shaft near the north-east angle of the building, and these marks were, no doubt, for the guidance of the workmen, in fitting every piece into its proper place. Whether, therefore, regarding the strength of those noble columns, the chaste beauty of their proportions in the details of all their parts, the admirable execution of the masonry and the sculpture, or the majestic and imposing aspect of the whole, we could not but admire the taste and skill of the ancients in this sublime art of architecture.

It must not be concealed, however, that on entering the building, a feeling of disappointment was experienced at finding it so little correspondent with the magnificence of all that is seen from without. An observation of a writer, who treats of the temples of the ancients, occurred to me very forcibly here, though, when I first met with this remark it did not appear to me quite correct, from its inapplicability to the temples of the Egyptians, which were then the only ones that I had seen. This writer says, " I am sufficiently apprised of what strikes the imagination, and raises

it to such romantic heights whilst we attend to the descriptions of ancient temples ; it was the prodigious number of columns they were enriched with, that enchants us. How can we avoid believing an edifice to be extremely vast, that is supported by a hundred, or a hundred and fifty pillars. We have seen Gothic churches, with not above forty or fifty, wide enough to lose ourselves in. How vast then, we say, must the temples have been which had twice or thrice that number ? The mistake of the fancy arises from this,—that it places within the body of the temple, or in the cella, that which really stood without it. It should be noted, in general, that this cella was the least object of the old architects' care ; they never began to think about it before they had distributed and adorned the exterior, because that was to be the proof of genius, taste, and magnificence. The grand was not then estimated by the number of square feet contained in the area which the wall enclosed, but from their outworks of an hundred and twenty columns, as those of Hadrian's Pantheon ; or of thirty-six only, as those of the temple of Theseus. From the ruins of Athens, it even appears that the richness and extent of the outworks were sometimes the very cause of contracting the cella within a narrower space than might have been otherwise allotted it."

The interior of this temple of Jupiter, at Geraza, which proudly promised so much from without, from its spacious atrium, its noble vestibulum, and its surrounding porticoes and colonnades, was found to consist simply of one square cella, without any of the subdivisions of basilica, adytum, penetrale, or sacriarium. Around the side-walls, and about half-way up their height, were six oblong recesses, without ornament. In the end-wall was a much larger one, arched at the top, which, rising from the level of the pavement, and occupying the centre of the end-wall, was, probably, the tribunal, or the place in which stood the statue of the deity to whom the temple was dedicated. On each side of this large recess, was a small arched door-way, and above these two small recesses, as in the side-walls ; while above the supposed tribunal,

was a shallow semi-circular recess, occupying the centre of the wall. There was no appearance of either a pediment or a roof to the building, nor were there sufficient fragments on the inside to induce us to suppose that it had fallen in. Whether, therefore, it was originally an hypæthrum, or an open temple, it was not easy to decide. It may be remarked, however, that the rough state of many parts of the interior seemed to indicate that the building had never been completely finished.

The exterior of the cella walls was of smooth and good masonry, and had neither niches nor pilasters throughout its height. In the front wall, however, on each side of the principal door of entrance, leading from the portico, were two recesses, like blank side-doors, crowned with Corinthian pediments. The ornament of the architrave, both in these, and in the principal door itself, was palm-leaves thickly over-lapping each other by successive layers in a horizontal direction, and advancing towards the centre, where their points met.

After the most diligent search, not the vestige of an inscription could be found here to assist our conjectures on the age of the building, the name of its founder, or the god to whose honour it had been reared.

Along the south-west side of this temple, and parallel with the direction of its side-wall, the remains of an extensive colonnade are seen, the line of which stands at about the distance of fifty yards from the body of the temple itself; and, probably, marked the enclosure of the atrium, or court, which, when perfect, must have added greatly to the magnificent aspect of the whole. This colonnade was also of the Corinthian order, and supported its own entablature, blocks of which, as well as capitals and shafts, are seen scattered near the line of its original direction. There are, also, appearances of a second or inner colonnade, of the same order, surrounding the temple at an intermediate distance, or about twenty-five yards from it. This might either have marked an

inner division of the atrium, or have been the original one; and the more distant colonnade, whose circuit around the temple is not so distinctly marked as this, might then have belonged to some other work adjoining it.

The next remarkable edifice beyond this, to the north-east, after passing some buildings in the way, which are too much in ruins to be worth a description, is a second theatre, somewhat smaller than the first, and differing from it also in some of its details. *This theatre falls nearly in a line with the second or northernmost street of intersection, and faces exactly to the N. E. by N. \**

It has two divisions of benches, the upper one containing nine rows, and the lower one seven, now distinct; with two others, probably, buried in the rubbish, which here also covers the arena. In the upper division, are seven flights of steps, or cunei, and in the lower one were, probably, three, as in the first theatre; but this division is here too much dilapidated to trace them accurately.

The corridor between these, or the diazoma, is here as much less than the proportion assigned to that of the Athenian theatre, as in the first theatre to the south it was greater than that standard. The diazoma of this northern one is scarcely wider than the seats themselves, but it is more richly ornamented. The doors leading into the body of the theatre from without, are the same in number and arrangement as those described before; but the space left by the intervals all around, is filled by a line of beautiful concave or hemispherical fan-topped niches, which produce the finest effect.

The scene of this theatre is entirely open, and the diameter of the whole arena, from the lowest range of seats now visible, to the proscenion, or stage, is greater than that of the southern theatre, though the upper range of benches here is not quite one hundred paces in circuit. It would, therefore, be more difficult to make the voice audible in this theatre, or, as the modern expres-

sion is, "to fill it," than at the southern one, where the closed scene would assist the reverberation of sound, and where this distance between the audience and the actors was really less. It occurred to me as highly probable, that these concave niches, thus ranged so closely along the corridor, were not intended merely for ornament, but were designed also to assist the reverberation of sound, which must have needed some aid.

In the theatre of Bacchus, at Athens, we are told that Philo not only displayed his taste in the just symmetry of the architecture, but that he showed equal judgment in assisting the communication of sounds. The voice, it is said, being extenuated in an open and spacious place, where the distant walls, though of marble, could give little or no repercussion to make it audible, he contrived cells in the thickness of the corridors, in which he placed brass vessels, supported by wedges of iron, that they might not touch the wall. The voice proceeding from the stage to the corridors, and striking upon the concavity of those vessels, was reverberated with more clearness and force: their number were in all twenty-eight, and they were called *èchea*, because they gave an echo to the sound. \*

Nothing could be more fitted for the reception of such *èchea* than these beautiful little niches, distributed at stated intervals, along the diazoma here; and their form, from being so highly ornamental, may be even considered as an improvement on the original cells of Philo. No marks of the fixture of such vessels as were used by that architect were to be seen here; but it is expressly said that those at Athens were supported by iron wedges, that they might not touch the wall, which might have been the case here also, so that no mark would be left by them; and as for the vessels themselves, as well as the wedges by which

they were supported, both brass and iron, of which they were formed, were metals of too much value to remain long in buildings abandoned to ruin.

The great characteristic difference between this theatre and the southern one is its open scene, which is formed by a portico or double range of Corinthian columns, each supporting their own entablature only. This open front has an air of greater grandeur than the closed one; though one would conceive that it was not so well fitted for the representation of plays, at least, in our manner of managing the changes of scenery. It might, on the other hand, be better adapted for the representation of particular pieces, such as those exhibiting pompous processions, triumphs, &c. to which it might have been more expressly devoted, as we have our opera-houses for music and spectacle, and our theatres for the drama.

It is said of the theatre of Bacchus, at Athens, that outwardly there was a *portico*, consisting of a double gallery, divided by rows of pillars, called the portico of Eumenicus. The floor of this portico was elevated some distance from the ground; so that from the street they ascended to it by steps. It was of an oblong square figure, embellished with green palisadoes, to please the eyes of those who walked in it. Here it was that their repetitions, or rehearsals, were made and proposed for the theatre, as the music and symphony was in the Odeon.\* This I understand to have been beyond the scene, though it is not clear, from the description of the theatre of Bacchus, whether this portico was not *all* that stood immediately in front of that particular edifice; for in speaking of the arrangement of its parts, it is said, the "scene, properly speaking, was the columns and ornaments in architecture, raised from the foundation, and upon the sides of the proscenion, for its beauty and decoration," without farther

\* Select. from Gent. Mag. vol. ii. p. 201.

describing of what particular kind this scene in the theatre of Athens was, whether open or closed. It is probable, therefore, that this double portico here answered the same purpose of a walk, or a place for the recitation of such pieces as were to be represented afterwards within, on the regular stage.

We thought, upon the whole, that the finish of the ornaments of this theatre were superior to those of the southern one, and that it was also in a better state of preservation. The arched side-doors, for the entrance of the actors and musicians, from the private apartments of the theatre, beneath the benches within, were the same here as in the southern one; but from the arena being covered with masses of fallen stone and grass turf grown around and upon them, we could learn nothing from it regarding the arrangement of the *orchestra*, the *logeon*, or *thymele*, called by the Romans *pulpitum*, or even of the *proscenion*, or stage, any more than we did from the other theatre; for in both of them these interesting divisions were buried under a mass of broken fragments and accumulated rubbish.

The northern theatre of Geraza falls nearly into the line of the second street of intersection, as has been already mentioned. This street, like the first, crossed the principal one at right angles, and was lined also, on each side, with a colonnade supporting an entablature. Here, however, the order is Ionic, though the size of the pillars and their intercolumniation is the same. There are few of these now standing, but the line of their direction can be distinctly traced on each side. The point of intersection here is marked, as the former one, by a sort of square; but the four pedestals being now raised to the height of walls, support a flattened dome of a circular form, and the inside of the building is made circular also, though the outside is square. A kind of open porch is thus formed, with a free passage on each of the four sides; and here, either in showery or in hot summer weather, the loungers and gossipers of the city might meet, and, sheltered equally from the rain and the sun, be as loquacious and communi-

cative as they pleased, without interrupting the public passage. It is well known how fond the Greeks were of these assemblies in porches; and the Romans, if they at all imitated these their distinguished models in this particular, in their own country of Italy, would find in Asia something, both in the climate and in the manners of the people, to encourage and familiarize them with such a practice.

To the south-east of this square of intersection is a very extensive building, to which it is difficult to give a name, though in the Plan it is called a bath, from its resembling such an establishment more than any other.\* The whole area which it occupies is upwards of four hundred paces in circumference. Its general form is that of a square, whose four sides face nearly in the direction of the city-walls, or towards the cardinal points of the heavens. Its eastern front, which stands on the brow of the western hill, and looks from thence down into the valley, is one hundred and twenty paces in length. It has three divisions, each of which are marked by a lofty and spacious arch of a vaulted roofed passage leading into it. Its eastern front is of the same dimensions with its western one, and looks towards the city. All along and before this are strewed innumerable fragments of fallen Corinthian columns, the remains of porticoes or colonnades that had once stood here. Of these, no more was now to be traced than one continued line of pedestals, near the front of the building, and a side-avenue, formed by two such lines leading down to the central arched entrance, this leading, like those towards the western, by a vaulted passage into the interior. The northern and southern front had each of them two smaller wings, of a square form, projecting from the general line, each about twenty paces in length and breadth. These were covered with flat-domed tops, of a circular form, exactly like the roof of the square of intersection at the second street already described; and these were also about

\* No. 15. of the General Plan.