

A DICTIONARY
OF
GREEK AND ROMAN GEOGRAPHY.

BY VARIOUS WRITERS.

EDITED

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IN TWO VOLUMES—VOL. I.

ABACAENUM—HYTANIS.

ILLUSTRATED BY NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS ON WOOD.

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which branches off from the Via Clodia at Baecanas (*Baccano*) and leads through Nepe and Falerni to Ameria and thence to Tuder: this can be no other than the Via Amerina mentioned in an inscription of the time of Hadrian (Orell. 3306). The distances, as given in the Table, make Ameria distant 57 M. P. from Rome by this route, which agrees very closely with a casual statement of Cicero (*pro Sez. Rosc.* 7. § 18) that it was 56 miles from the one to the other. The Castellum Amerinum placed by the Table at 9 M. P. from Ameria on the road to Falerni is otherwise unknown. [E. H. B.]

AMER'OLA, a city of ancient Latium, mentioned by Livy among those reduced by force of arms by the elder Tarquin (i. 38). It is here enumerated among the "Prisci Latini," and doubtless at this period was one of the thirty cities of the league; but its name is not found in the later list given by Dionysius (v. 61), nor does it again occur in history; and it is only noticed by Pliny (iii. 5. s. 9) among the extinct cities of Latium. From the names with which it is associated in Livy we may probably infer that it was situated in the neighbourhood of the Corniculan Hills; and it has been conjectured by Gell and Nibby that some ruins still visible on the northernmost of the three hills, about a mile north of *Mte S. Angelo*, may be those of Ameriola. They consist of some remnants of walls, of irregular polygonal construction, running round a defensible eminence, and indicating the site of a small town. But the distance from *Mte S. Angelo* (on the summit of which there was certainly an ancient city, whether Corniculum or Medullia) is however so small as to render it improbable that another independent town should have existed so close to it. (Gell, *Top. of Rome*, p. 52; Nibby, *Dintorni di Roma*, vol. i. p. 138; Abeken, *Mittel-Italien*, p. 78.) [E. H. B.]

AME'SELUM (ἡ Ἀμῆσελων) a town of Sicily, mentioned only by Diodorus (xxii. Exc. Hoesch. p. 499), from whom we learn that it was situated between Centuripi and Agyrium, in a position of great natural strength. It was taken, in n. c. 269, by Hieron king of Syracuse, who destroyed the city and fortress, and divided its territory between its two neighbours the Centuripi and Agyriani. Its exact site is unknown. [E. H. B.]

AME'STRATUS (Ἀμῆστρατος, Steph. B.: Ἔθα. Amestratinus: *Mistretta*), a city of Sicily, noticed only by Cicero and Steph. B. From the circumstance mentioned by the former, that Verres compelled the inhabitants of Calacte to deliver their tithes of corn at Amestratus instead of at Calacte itself, it is clear that it was not very far from that city: and this fact, coupled with the resemblance of the name, enables us to fix its site at *Mistretta*, now a considerable town, situated on a hill about 5 miles from the N. coast of Sicily near *Sto. Stefano*, and 10 from *Caronia* (Calacte). According to Fazello, considerable remains of antiquity were still visible there in his time; but the place is not described by any recent traveller. We learn from Cicero that it was a small and poor town, though enjoying municipal privileges. (Cic. in *Verr.* iii. 39, 43, 74; Steph. B. s. v.; Fazell. in *Reb. Sicul.* x. p. 415; Cluver. *Sicul.* p. 383.)

It is probably the same place as the Amastra of Silius Italicus (xiv. 267), but there is no foundation for identifying it (as has been done by Cluverius and most subsequent geographers) with the Mystratus of Polybius and Plin.: both names being perfectly well authenticated. [MYSTRATUS.]

That of Amestratus, in addition to the testimony of Cicero and Stephanus, is fully supported by the evidence of its coins, which have the name at full, AMHSTPATINON. (Castell. *Sicul. Vet. Num.* pl. 15; Eckhel, vol. i. p. 197.) [E. H. B.]

A'MIDA (Ἀμίδα: Ἔθα. Ἀμίδων, Amidenis: *Diyar-Bekr*). The modern town is on the right bank of the Tigris. The walls are lofty and substantial, and constructed of the ruins of ancient edifices. As the place is well adapted for a commercial city, it is probable that Amida, which occupied the site of *Diyar-Bekr*, was a town of considerable antiquity. It was enlarged and strengthened by Constantius, in whose reign it was besieged and taken by the Persian king Sapor, A. D. 359. The historian Ammianus Marcellinus, who took part in the defence of the town, has given us a minute account of the siege. (Ann. Marc. xix. 1, seq.) It was taken by the Persian king Cabades in the reign of Anastasius, A. D. 502 (Procop. *B. Pers.* i. 7, seq.); but it soon passed again into the hands of the Romans, since we read that Justinian repaired its walls and fortifications. (Procop. *de Aedif.* iii. 1.) Ammianus and Procopius consider it a city of Mesopotamia, but it may be more properly viewed as belonging to Armenia Major. [G. L.]

AMILUS (Ἀμίλος: Ἔθα. Ἀμίλιος), a village of Arcadia in the territory of Orchomenus, and on the road from the latter to Stymphalus. (Paus. viii. 14. § 5; Steph. B. s. v.)

AMISIA, a place on the left bank of the river Amisia (*Emu*), in Germany. (Tacit. *Ann.* ii. 8.) This place, which is not mentioned by any other ancient author, is perhaps the same as the town of *Amisara* noticed by Ptolemy (ii. 11), and the *Amisara* mentioned by Stephanus Byzantinus as a town of Germany. (Comp. Ledebr, *Land u. Volk der Bructerer*, p. 180, foll.) [L. S.]

AMISIA or AMISIUS (Ἀμισίος or Ἀμισία, the *Emu*), a river in northern Germany, rising in the hills of the *Weser*, and emptying itself into the German Ocean near the town of *Emden*. The river was well known to, and navigated by the Romans. In n. c. 12, Drusus fought on it a naval battle against the Bructeri. (Mela, iii. 3; Plin. *H. N.* iv. 14, who calls the river *Amisius*; Tacit. *Ann.* i. 60, 63, 70, ii. 23, who calls it *Amisia*; Strab. p. 290; Ptolem. ii. 11; comp. Ledebr, *Land u. Volk der Bructerer*, p. 180.) [L. S.]

A'MISUS (Ἀμισός: Ἔθα. Ἀμισίων, Ἀμισίος, Amisenus: *Eski Samun*), a city of Pontus in Asia Minor, situated on the west side of the bay called Amisenus, about 900 stadia from Sinope according to Strabo (p. 547). The ruins of Amisus are on a promontory about a mile and a half NNW. of the modern town. On the east side of the promontory was the old port, part of which is now filled up. The pier which defended the ancient harbour may still be traced for about 300 yards, but it is chiefly under water: it consists of very large blocks of stone. On the summit of the hill where the acropolis stood there are many remains of walls of rubble and mortar, and the ground is strewn with fragments of Roman tiles and pottery. On the south end of the brow of the hill which overlooks the harbour there are traces of the real Hellenic walls. (Hamilton, *Researches in Asia Minor*, vol. i. p. 290.)

The origin of Amisus appears to be uncertain. Hecataeus (Strab. p. 553) supposed it to be the Enete of Homer (*Il.* ii. 852). Theopompus, quoted by Strabo, says that it was first founded by the