

A N  
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT  
O F  
A T H E N S, &c.

A T H E N S, the chief City of that Province of *Greece*, formerly called *Attica*; which, though at present reduced so low, yet stands so high in Fame, as to dispute Precedence with every other City in the World. If you consider her Antiquity, the Valour, Power, Learning, &c. of her Inhabitants, or any other Quality which makes a Place illustrious and renowned, she still sits triumphant. Neither hath any City more experienced the Effects of good and bad Fortune. In the Time of her Splendor, the *Athenians* boasted their Origin from the Lands they inhabited; their Name from the Goddess *Minerva*, she being known by that of *Aθῆνα*, and would scarce allow the Sun to have shone before them: They planted many Colonies, to whom they gave Names and Laws; of which *Meursius* reckons Forty.

But on leaving the credulous, and consulting the more judicious Historians, we find that *Cecrops* was the first that reduced the Inhabitants of *Attica*, the Offspring of the *Carians* and *Aonians*, under a political Government, and by that Means advanced himself to be their King; his Dominions contained all within the Mountains *Gerania*, *Oenoa*, *Parnes*, and *Lycabettus*; that is, from the *Isthmus*, to *Oropus*, near the Mouth of the River *Asopus*, as the most advantageous; he made choice of this Rock, being situated in a large Plain, (the Plan of which may be seen in *Plate I.*) near the Middle of the Country, thereon to build the Metropolis of his Kingdom, calling it, and the whole Territory by his Name *Cecropia*; though before it had been called *Attica* and *Ionia*, from *Ion*, the Son of *Xuthus*.

This as related, came to pass, not long after *Deucalion's* Flood, eight Hundred and thirty Years before the Building of *Rome*, and about a Thousand five Hundred and eighty Years before the Incarnation of our Saviour; to which adding, a Thousand seven Hundred and fifty-nine Years, it will be three Thousand, three Hundred, and thirty-nine Years ago, that *Athens* was built. Yet this Account cannot be absolutely justified, the Chronologers themselves differing in their Accounts some Years. The *Marmorica Oxoniensia* compute, three Thousand three Hundred and thirty-seven Years, And *Helvicus*, three Thousand three Hundred and twenty-three.

B

*Cecrops*