

AN EXPLANATION

OF THE

SEVERAL ORNAMENTAL PLATES.

MOST of these explanations are trite, and commonly known, yet as they cannot be said to be misplaced, we have ventured to give them.

Amphion buildeth the walls and towers of Thebes, by the sound of his lyre, accompanied with his voice.

*Diæus & Amphion Thebææ conditor arcis
Saxa movere, sono Testudinis & præcè blandâ
Ducere quo vellet.*

HOR. ARS. POET.

It is feigned that Amphion being the first who raised an altar to Mercury, the god as a reward for his zeal, made him a present of a lyre, and taught him that wonderful manner of playing and fingering, which produced such enchanting effects. Mercury having found the shell of a tortoise, and fitting strings to it, is called the parent of the lyre.

Curvæque lyræ parentem.

And from the circumstance just related, *Testudo* signified a lyre.

But divesting this story of its poetical fiction, we are given to understand, that Amphion was a prince, who by his soothing persuasions, induced a barbarous and unpolished people, to build themselves a city, and surround it with walls, to receive and obey laws. According to Pausanias, Amphion and Zethus, having conquered Lycus, whom they killed, and taken possession of his kingdom, they joined the lower town with the Cadmea, and called the whole Thebes. Amphion acquired the reputation of a great musician, for having learned the Lydian measure; he was the first that brought it into Greece, and likewise added three more strings to the lyre, which till then had but four.

Other traditions make Amphion and Orpheus Egyptians, (tho' the latter is called a Thracian) and that both excelled in magic, the one having the power of moving the stones from the very rocks, and the other that of enticing the most fierce and savage animals.

II. *At the head of the Preface.*

A view of Athens, from a sketch taken on the road in going from that city to the Piræus, at present called *Porto Leone*; this port is about six miles from Athens. The ancient ports of Munychia, and of Phalarus, (at present out of use) are upon the same shore, in bays very near each other, and to the Piræus.

This view offers a prospect of one side of the city, with the Acropolis, or citadel, wherein is the Temple of Minerva Parthenion; the Temple of Theseus is upon the lower ground, close by the road which the two horsemen are supposed to have passed; from amidst the houses are several minarets or Turkish steeples. On the other side of the city, the pointed rocky-hill, is mount Anchesmus, now called from a little chapel at the top, (*Tou Hagiou Giorgio Vouni*) St. George's mountain; where probably in times past was the statue of Jupiter Anchesmus. The distant mountain to the left, is Pentelicus, noted for its quarries of marble: the continued mountain that rises upon the right hand, is part of Hymettus, famous even at this day for its honey.

III. *The Table of Contents.*

The promontory of Sunium; eleven leagues from the Piræus: this view was taken at sea, in sailing out of the Saronic Gulph, now called *Golfo di Egina*, and the promontory, *Capo Colonne*, on account of the seventeen columns of white marble upon its summit, which is seen afar off at sea; they are the remains of a Doric temple dedicated to Minerva.

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