

C H A P. III.

GRAN, ITS HOT SPRINGS, FROGS, EPSOM WATER—NATURE OF
THE ROCKS—VISSEGRADE—BOGDON—ST. ANDREE.

May 19. **T**O find an Englishman and the brother of an English Peer, married and settled at Gran, how I was surpris'd! Major Dormer brother of Lord Dormer I found here, and here apparently fixed for life. He received me in a very friendly manner, seem'd glad to see one of his countrymen, and was so obliging as to be my Ciceroni for Gran. The first thing I looked at was the old ruined fortrefs built on a compact stratified limestone rock, on the banks of the Danube. From hence there is a very extensive view, and in return it forms with the neighbouring hills a fine *point de vue*, as you come from Komorn. The town is favoured with a fine spring of tepid water, of more use, I believe, to the Frogs than to its other inhabitants. My Ciceroni assured me, that this animal is not torpid here during the winter, but is then seen in numbers in the pond in the town, which receives its water from this spring. Busbeck, who was here in 1554, observed the same thing; for he says, " Je sçavois déjà que ce défaut étoit

étoit commun à tous les Turcs: auffi en fui-je bien moins furpris que je ne l'avois été d'entendre croasser des grenouilles pendant toute la route de Commaronium à Grand, d'autant mieux que nous étions pour lors dans le mois de Décembre, & que le tems étant très froids, ceci me parût un phénomène. J'en demandais la cause à quelques gens du pays, qui me dirent que l'eau de ces marais malgré la rigueur de la saison étoit toujours tiède à cause de la quantité de fouphtre qui étoit dans le limon." This is uncommon, but not surprising. For these three years I have kept a favourite Tree-Frog, *Rana arborea*; but she is as gay in winter as in summer, provided she has warmth and enough to eat. The German stoves, which keep the rooms warm all night, have been very favourable to her. In this, hybernation differs from sleep, that whereas the latter admits of little variation, and can never be laid aside, or through art receive a substitute, the former greatly varies, and may be supplied by warmth and food. The Alpine Marmot in some high vallies in Savoy hybernates, I am told, eight or ten months in the year. In other parts of the Alps it does not hybernate half that time; and when kept warm, and well fed, its annual sleep entirely forefakes it, but not its diurnal. The same warmth that keeps alive the Frog, keeps alive the insects on which it feeds; which, in their turn, will find food from the vegetable world, the mediate or immediate support of every living being, kept in vegetation by the same cause.

Lately a spring of Epsom water has been discovered, and the proprietors

prietors have established a large manufactory of Magnesia, with not less than four or five boilers. It is in its infancy; but I do not doubt it would be a source of great wealth, were there as great a sale of it, as of sugar or salt: but this not being the case, I am much afraid the demand will not equal the quantity produced. The water exudes from a clayey soil. According to the analysis of Dr. Winterl, Professor of Chemistry at Pest, 100 English cubic inches of it contain

700 grains of vitriolated Magnesia,

24 grains of aërated Magnesia,

14 grains of muriated Magnesia.

From a paper in the eighth number of the *Merkur von Ungarn*, it appears that vitriolated Magnesia has likewise been found here, in a dry state, in great abundance, as some miners, employed by the Archbishop, were able in a short time to collect above twenty hundred weight of it.

In the buildings, and likewise in the streets, I noticed a kind of *Breccia* like a volcanic *Tufa*; and being informed that the quarry was not far off, I took a walk in the afternoon to see it, for geognostic signs often throw great light upon a dubious Fossil. By mistaking the road, I could not find the quarry; but I found the hills in which this quarry must be, composed of nothing but fragments of different kinds of Porphyry. Many of these fragments would weigh a ton; and here, where the *Breccia* is very coarse, nothing

thing like stratification can be seen : but in the same hill, the *Breccia* is often as fine as a Sand-stone ; and it is then more or less stratified. This is an observation I have often made, and even in our Island, and it is exemplified in the hills about Edinburgh. The same may be observed in Sand-stone strata, where, if it becomes very coarse, like Pudding-Stone, it ceases more or less to be stratified.

The next morning I examined the hills which lie on the other side of the Danube. I found them similar to those of yesterday, but with stronger marks of stratification, being finer grained : this stratification is often found in the middle of the hill, supported and covered by the coarse unstratified *Breccia* : this is a strong indication, I think, of a formation under water. These hills, if I had had time to examine them with a view to Botany and Entomology, would, I think, have afforded me many things new or rare. Here it was, I believe, where I saw the *Polygala major* growing in great abundance. The *Turdus saxatilis* ? I likewise found here, and at the foot of these hills the *Cittillus*, and abundance of both the varieties of the *Lamia Morio* crawling on the ground. This animal is a striking example of the constancy of some varieties, if these be varieties, and exclusive of their colours they are perfectly alike. For though they are described as sometimes having the *elytra*, the first joint of the *antennæ*, and the legs, sometimes black and sometimes brown ; yet this is not promiscuous ; but the black *elytra* are always accom-

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panied by black legs and *antennæ*, and the brown *elytra* by brown legs, with the first joint of the *antennæ* likewise brown.

The inn here is very good, but the hospitality of my countryman did not permit me to make much use of it; yet I had rather have been without the comfort of his hospitable table, than have found here an Englishman, and one of his rank, settled for life. The thought of never returning to one's native country is a melancholy one: "*Let me return and be buried with my fathers,*" is, I think, an instinctive wish, which towards the decline of life, in the moments of reflection, must often arise, if prejudices against our country do not prevail.

Excluded from serving his country in a military line, by its laws, on account of his religion; he entered early in life into the Imperial service, and fought against the Prussians in the last war between these two powers. He has now retired from service with the rank of Major, and has married an Hungarian lady, by whom he has one or two children. At Vienna I saw a great many Irish in the pay of the Emperor, being likewise excluded from the British service on account of their religion.

When the dogmas of religion were often a sufficient cause of nations rising in arms against one another, of internal tumults, and rebellion; it was requisite that governments should know on whom

they

they had to rely, and with justice could demand that the faith of those who offered themselves as their particular defenders should not make them their natural enemies. But a change for the better in the opinions of men, renders these laws now less necessary: and as nothing keeps alive resistance and dissatisfaction in the weaker party, so much as intolerance in the ruling; probably, if all distinctions of this nature were to cease, no inconvenience would arise, and greater unanimity might be expected as its natural consequence: but ruling principles of government are not to be hastily changed. The family of Dormer, as far as I recollect, has never interfered in the religious differences of their country. But in gratitude I ought not to speak against the test act; to it I am indebted for the roast beef and plum-pudding I eat at Gran: it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good.

Gran has between five and six thousand inhabitants. Its archbishop, as archbishop, is lord lieutenant of the county, primate and chancellor of Hungary, has a seat and vote in the royal council and septemviral court, and is legatus natus. He has the exclusive right of crowning the king, and can create nobility upon the archiepiscopal domains.

When the nobility are called to defend their country, he must bring a pair of colours into the field, and under each a thousand men. He is likewise prince of the German Empire. The archbi-

shop, filling such high offices, is obliged to reside at Bude, and the chapter is at Tyrnau.

Ever since leaving Oedinburgh I had travelled over a flat country, where I could not expect to meet with any thing interesting in mineralogy; I had therefore travelled in a chaise. But the country becoming here more hilly, it promised to offer me occasions of mineralogical observation: I therefore sent my portmanteau on to Offenby by a carrier, and, putting a change of linen in my servant's knapsack, I set off for Viffegrade on foot.

For the first four or five miles I walked at the foot of hills composed of the same kind of rock as those I have just described: and when on account of the road leaving the hills I could no longer examine them; from the loose fragments I found by the road-side, and from the rock, which now and then appeared above the soil, I had reason to believe they continued the same.

The presence of the moon, and the calmness and serenity of the air, made me almost regret that my evening's walk was not longer. About nine I reached Viffegrade. As this was no post, or much frequented, road, I had no right to expect a good inn, but I got a room to myself; a comfortable thing in a thronged hedge ale-house. It was one that served for brew-house, lumber-room, and pantry; but alas a pantry *degarnie*! But if I had no victuals, I had music; it was

Whitmonday,

Whitmonday, and a party of strolling ziguiner musicians had fixed their quarters here for the night. Their instrument is the fiddle. I knew I could sleep in spite of it, I set it at defiance, and threw myself upon my bed. I hardly was there, when lo! the bagpipe, the bagpipe itself, to my great surprise and vexation, began to make itself heard. Whether the divine musician who brought forth the thrilling sounds was descended from any of the noted highland pipers, I know not; this I know, that a more frightful noise I never heard. I thought I should have had the megrim, but its monotony in some degree mitigated its *antispasmodic* powers, and I slept; and in the morning, when I intended to have enquired of him of what *school* he was, I found he was off.

This frightful instrument is common in many parts of Europe. In Sicily, when the shepherds about Christmas leave their hills, and come into the great towns, they bring their bagpipes, and then no language can express the ungrateful noise they make. Woe to those who are subject to the head-ach! But *de gustibus non est disputandum*.

Fleas are as good as larum clocks; they awake us as soon as the wants of nature are supplied, and then make us quit the bed of indolence. Through their incessant admonitions I was up with the sun; and when I stepped out of my alehouse I was charmed with the beauty of the scenery which surrounded me. Before me flowed the rapid Danube, winding amongst hills covered with wood, variegated accord-

ing to their situation, with light and shade. By the side of this rapid river stands an old ruined tower, whose connected wall called my attention to the old castle, to which it is united, seated on the top of an immense perpendicular and craggy rock, which towards the bottom is covered with vineyards.

I was so pleased with this view, that after breakfasting, and not upon muffins and crumpits, I crossed the Danube, which is here very wide, to enjoy it to greater advantage from the opposite side, and from thence I sketched this drawing. Seen from hence, I hardly know a more beautiful landscape than what these ruins and rocks, with the addition of some hills covered with wood which now rise behind them, form.

I repassed the Danube, and by a road now unfrequented and blocked up with briers, but formerly often trod by royal feet, I ascended to the castle. Here I had a delightful view. I could see the Danube and its winding path amongst the hills to a great distance; and I could make this remark, that though this rock is likewise a Breccia, it has not been formed of the ruins of other hills more elevated, which having fallen down have given it existence; but it is of antient date.

I descended the side facing the river, but not without difficulty. It is evidently, though I think as high as Arthur's seat* at Edinburgh, entirely from top to bottom, composed of Breccia.

* About 800 feet from the king's park.



A View of the Ancient Castle of Visegrade.

London, Published by G. G. S. J. Robinson, Peter-Street, Rom. July 1st 1796.



This castle, now in ruins, was once the Windsor of several kings of Hungary, and, though in ruins, still shews that it once was a princely dwelling. It is said by some old authors to have been so elegantly fitted up, as hardly to have had its like in Europe. Here the sovereigns of Poland, Bohemia, Moravia, and Bosnia, came together in the beginning of the fourteenth century and formed a treaty with Charles I. who entertained them in the most sumptuous manner. Bonfinius describing it says, "Hi tanta rerum copia, & tantis apparatus tractati, ut nemo e Bohemis Polonisque fuerit, qui vini & obsoniorum omnium abundantiam satis admirari posset." And Thuroczius adds, "Omni enim die ad prandium regis Bohemorum ex magnificentia regis Hungariæ expendebantur duo mille & quingenti panes, & de cibis regalibus copiose; pabulum etiam equis per singulos dies viginti quinque garlettæ. Ad prandium vero regis Polonorum mille & quingenti panes, & de cibariis etiam abundanter. De vino autem expensæ sunt centum & octoginta tunellæ". Louis his successor likewise resided here: and here Charles II. died of the wounds he received by the hand of an assassin. Likewise as prisoners it has had sovereigns within its walls; and the crown of Hungary, not less esteemed by the Hungarians than the ark of the Lord was by the Jews, by an act of Ladislaus II. has been kept here. It has had the crescent planted upon its walls, and in short has had a vicissitude of fortune: but now it suffers, to great minds the worst of all, — neglect; and is, alas! become the dwelling of only owls and bats.

The village or town which lies at the bottom of the hill, is inhabited by Germans, and their houses are built as in Germany, and are accompanied by an orchard.

My servant here fell ill, and required rest; and as I was neither inclined to pass another night here, nor to lose my time, I left him to go down to Offen by the first barge; and I set off on foot, about one or two o'clock, for Bogdon, where I was informed I should find a tolerable inn. I soon came to a quarry of stone used for building; a kind of *Breccia*, of white fragments, very friable, but feeling harsh between the fingers; in which were a few spangles of black hexangular *mica*, mixed with a greenish grey-coloured clay*. From the harshness and the *mica*, I am led to think these white fragments to be something of the nature of *Pumex* partly decomposed. Likewise a kind of *Tufa*, a congeries of various coloured small fragments of a terrous nature, intimately united †. I followed the course of the river,

* *Breccia*.

Ex fragmentis minoribus albis asperis ungue rasilibus, interdum fere pulverulentis mica hexangulari nigra sparsis, fragmentis extraneis rarioribus Quartzi pinguis lactei, Marmoris vulgati et shifti? ope argillæ griseo-virescentis conglutinatis.

Tubo ferrumitorio argilla vitrum viride, & fragmenta alba vitrum albidum, sine intumescencia aut phosphorescentia præbent.

† *Breccia*.

Ex fragmentis parvis heterogeneis terreis ferrugineis rufis & lateritiis inter se intime coalitis, fragmentis Hornblendæ Basaltinæ & lamellis Micæ nigræ hexangularis inspersis.

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which

which still continued to run amongst pretty high hills. Those I could examine were like what I have already described, and all the way by the road side I saw fragments of the same. When arrived at my inn, I found nothing but coarse bread and very sour wine; and therefore I resolved, as it was not late, to try my fortune once more. But the Fates had decreed, and then all human efforts are fruitless—they had decreed that I should go without my supper! And so it happened: for in passing some vineyards I got out of the right road, amongst the hills, and thick woods, chiefly of Beech; and after losing a couple of hours, I was informed by a woodman I luckily met, that I must go back again, being quite out of my way. The hills I ascended were pretty high, and connected to those about Vissegrade, and composed of the *Saxum metalliferum*, or argillaceous Porphyry.

Being more hungry than tired, and seeing Watzen only two or three miles off, on the other side of the Danube, I set out again; and being told that a child might find the way, I took no guide. I soon lost my way again. I indeed reached the river, but could find no ferry boat; nor could I, with all my vociferous exertion, induce any one to come to my assistance. As it was growing dark apace, I made the best of my way back. Several birds of evil omen came hovering about me, particularly Owls and Goatsuckers; and on entering the village I was attacked by all the Dogs of the town, and obliged to draw my cutlafs in my defence. The foot passenger

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in the sheep-countries in Hungary runs considerable risk from the Sheep-dogs, which are very large and fierce. About ten I returned again to my four wine and bad bread.

In these series of misfortunes I consoled myself with having met with one piece of good luck. In a field, *haud procul a pago Bogdon in vino aquoso acido & pane sicca brunnea abundante*, I found, for the first, and only time in my life, and then in great abundance, the *Lethrus Cephalotes*. They make holes in the ground, like the *Scarabæus facer*, &c. Almost all I found had something green in their mouths: some had the *Alchemilla vulgaris*. On shewing them to a vine-dresser, he cursed them, and told me they did much mischief in the vineyards. Whether he took them for some more common *Scarabæus* I don't know; but at Vienna they are looked upon as a very rare insect, and as only found in the southernmost part of this kingdom. In Tombacher's catalogue they are valued at 40 creutzers, that is 16 or 17 pence.

My landlady took pity on my misfortunes, and, as she could give me nothing to eat, gave me a double portion—of feather-beds to cover myself with—It was a very warm night. It is a very great inconvenience in Hungary and Germany, that instead of sheets, blankets, and quilts, a light kind of feather-bed is used: this is always too short; and the same being used in summer as in winter, the traveller has no remedy, if he finds himself too hot, but to get on the outside of it, and so have no covering at all. It is likewise a
cause

cause of dirtiness, as the upper sheet is sown on to the under part of this feather-bed, or, what is more common, the feather-bed is put into a dark-coloured case, and then no upper sheet is used; but this contrivance saves the chambermaids a deal of trouble.

In the morning I set off with much eagerness for St. Andrée, where I had reason to expect, from its being a considerable town, to meet, not indeed with hot rolls or muffins, but with the common breakfast of this country, good coffee and white bread. But, alas! I found only a most miserable public house, which afforded nothing but small-beer, eggs, and bread: so, had I reached this much desired St. Andrée last night, I should not have fared better. So far as concerns inns, this part of Hungary is much in the state it was in more than two centuries ago, when Busbeck travelled through Hungary: at Gran he was advised to eat heartily, as he would not get any thing afterwards to eat till he reached Bude.—Where torrents had laid bare the rock, I found the usual *Breccia* *. The hills here
separate;

* It may interest some of my readers, as these *Breccia* rocks are of great extent, to have a more accurate and minute description of them. For their use I here subjoin an extract from my own Catalogue of Fossils.

No. 17. *Breccia*.

Fragmentum Porphyrii rufescentis crystallis Hornblendæ Basaltinæ & Feldspati cum lamellis micæ nigræ hexangularis, in lapillis Porphyrii? conglutinatum.

separate; those on the left of the Danube run towards the east, and those on the right keep more distant from this river. The sides of

16 *Breccia.*

Ex fragmentis majoribus albis terreis asperis textura ad lentem subfibrosa, crystallis Hornblendæ Feldspati & lamellis micæ nigre hexangularis, ope sabuli heterogenei terrei cinerii arcte conglomeratis.

Breccia.

Cineria tam simplex colore & consistentia ut pro Porphyrio fatiscente facile haberi possit, fragmentis Hornblendæ Basaltinæ inspersis.

Tubi ferrumitorii ope Scoriam heterogeneam albidam & nigram præbet.

In this *Breccia*, and constituting a part of it, are small and large fragments of the following stones:

No. 18 *Porphyrius.*

Ex Iaspide solida hepatica, particulis Feldspati albidi et lamellis micæ nigre hexangularis constans.

22 *Porphyrius.*

Ex Trapesio nigricante, particulis parvis Feldspati albi fatiscantis copiosissimis constans.

20 *Porphyrius.*

Ex Petrosilice nigricante, particulis parvis Feldspati albidi & crystallis parvis Hornblendæ Basaltinæ constans.

19 *Porphyrius.*

Ex argilla indurata (Germanorum) dilute lateritia crystallis parvis Hornblendæ Basaltinæ & Adulariæ compositus.

13 $\frac{1}{2}$ *Trapezius.*

Niger cultro rasilis rarius & subtilissime foraminosus, loculis materia terrea alba non effervescente forsan Argilla indutis.

Tubi ferrumitorii ope vitrum heterogeneum albidum & nigrum præbet.

2 *Trapezius.*

the hills were planted with vines, and the fields with Indian corn. At St. Andrée I took a chaise, and travelled on to Bude, where I arrived about two or three o'clock in the afternoon.

2 *Trapezus.*

Niger cultro rasilis foraminibus subtilissimis materia albo-cœrulefcenti indutis, particulis nonnullis Adulariæ, intuitu multum a precedente differt, indole perparum.

7 *Trapezus.*

Idem indole. Externa facie scoriam adhuc magis emulatur.