

number of orange and lemon gardens. At the south end of *Colossæ* there is an ancient preceptory of the knights of St John of Jerusalem, which is now in ruins; there are likewise the remains of a very high aqueduct that conveyed water to it, and I saw an epitaph of one of the priors of this place, who died in one thousand four hundred and fifty three. It is the opinion of some that the ancient city of *Curium* was here, but I could not see the least signs of any ruins; but on the hill to the west I observed the foundations of a thick wall, which seemed to have encompassed some ancient town, which probably was the city of *Curium*: and it is not unlikely that the grove, sacred to Apollo near *Curium*, was where the village of *Episcopi* now stands, which is a place abounding in water. They think also that the low promontory called Cape *Gatto* was the promontory *Curias*, from which they threw anyone into the sea who presumed to touch the altar of Apollo; but as this is very low land, it is probable that it was from some point to the west of *Curium*, where there are very high cliffs, and might possibly be a part of what is now called Cape *Bianco*. To the east of *Episcopi* there is a small river, which I should have thought to have been the *Iycus* of the antients, if that river had not been mentioned as between the town and the promontory. Cape *Phurium* is mentioned near *Curium* which might be the south east part of this great head of land, as *Drepanum* was probably that to the north west. The head of land called Cape *Gatto* is to the south of *Episcopi*; it is a low land, the north and west part of it is a morass, and there is a large salt lake on each side, which is filled by the winter rains, and is almost dry in summer. The south part of this promontory is a barren rocky soil, and there is a ruinous uninhabited convent on it called *St Nicholas*. They have a ridiculous story that the monks of this convent kept cats in order to hunt and kill the serpents, of which there are great numbers here; this they say gave rise to the name of the cape; and they add withal, that on ringing a bell the cats used to leave off their diversion, and return home.

To the east of this cape there is a bay, and at the west corner of it *Limesol* is situated, where I first landed in the island. As I did not meet with any ship there bound to *Ægypt*, I returned to *Larnica*, where I found a French ship sailing for *Damiata*. We were obliged by contrary winds to put in at *Limesol*, where we were detained six days, and I landed a second time in *Ægypt* at *Damiata*, on the 25th of December, one thousand seven hundred and thirty eight.

Chap. XI.

OF THE NATURAL HISTORY, NATIVES, CUSTOM, TRADE, AND GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS.

The climate of Cyprus is not so temperate as that of many other parts in the same latitude; the winds, which blow from the high mountains of *Cilicia* in the winter, make the island very cold, especially the northern parts, and some of the high hills of the island being covered with snow all the winter, make fires very necessary during the cold season, though they are seldom used in any other parts of the Levant, the clouds also breaking on these hills often fall down in heavy rains for many days together, insomuch that I was informed it had sometimes rained there for forty days almost incessantly.

These mountains and the shallow soil, which is mostly on a white free stone, make it excessively hot in summer, and the island is very unhealthy, especially to strangers, who often get fevers here, which either carry them off, or at least continue for a considerable time, the disorder lurking in the blood, and occasioning frequent relapses.

The soil of Cyprus is for the most part rocky; there are in it many entire hills of talc or gypsee, some running in plates, and another sort in shoots, like crystal; the latter is used in many parts, especially at *Larnica* as stone for building. They have also in the mountains