

## LITHGOW.

William Lithgow (1582—1645. See *Diet. of Nat. Biography*, xxxiii. 359) published in crown 4to. London, 1832. *The total Discourse of the Rare adventures, and painefull Peregrinations of long nineteen yeares Travailles etc.* His visit to Cyprus fell between 1609 and 1621. He reckons his "goings, traversings and returnings" at thirty-six thousand and odd miles.

I transcribe from pp. 182—189 of the edition of 1640. A twelfth issue appeared at Leith, 1814.

Twelve days I was between Rhodes and Limisso in Cyprus, where arrived I received more gracious demonstrations from the Islanders, than I could hope for, or wish, being far beyond my merit or expectation; onely contenting my curiosity with a quick minde, I redounded thanks for my imbraced courtesies.

The people are generally strong and nimble, of great civility, hospitality to their neighbours, and exceedingly affectionated to strangers. The second day after my arrivall, I took with me an Interpreter, and went to see Nicosia, which is placed in the midst of the kingdom. But in my journey thither extream was the heat and thirst I endured; both in respect of the season, and also want of water: and although I had with me sufficiencie of wine, yet durst I drink none thereof, being so strong, and withall had a taste of pitch; and that is because they have no barrels, but great jars made of earth, wherein their wine is put. And these jars are all inclosed within the ground save onely their mouthes, which stand always open like to a source or cistern, whose insides are all interlarded with pitch to preserve the earthen vessels unbroke asunder, in regard of the forcible wine; yet making the taste thereof unpleasant to liquorons lips; and turneth the wine, too heauly for the brain in digestion, which for health groweth difficult for strangers, and to themselves a swallowing up of diseases.

To cherish life and blood, the health of man,  
Give me a Toast, plung'd in a double kan.  
And spic'd with ginger: for the wrestling grape,  
Makos man become from man a sottish ape.

Nicosia is the principal city of Cyprus, and is environed with mountains, like unto Florence in Ættruria; wherein the Beglerbeg remaineth; the second is Famagusta, the chief strength and sea-port in it: Selina, Lemisso, Paphos, and Fontana Morosa, are the other four special towns in the Island.

This isle of Cyprus was of old called Ahametide, Amatusa, and by some Marchara, that is happy. It is of length extending from East to West, 210, large 60, and of cireint 600 miles. It yieldeth infinite canes of Sugar, Cotton-wool, Oile, Honey, Cornes, Turpentine, Allom, Verdegreece, Grograms, store of Metals and Salt; besides all other sorts of fruit and commodities in abundance. It was also called Cerastis, because it butted towards the East with one horn, and lastly Cyprus, from the abundance of Cypressse trees there growing. This island was consecrated to Venns, where in Paphos she was greatly honoured, termed hence, Dea Cypri.

Festa dies Veneris tota celeberrima Cypro  
Venerat, ipsa suis aderat Venns aurea festis.  
Venus feast day through Cyprus hallowed came,  
Whose feasts her presence dignified the same.