

been turned on them; they were adorned on the outside with Corinthian pilasters, the capitals of which were very well executed; it seems to have been a portico to some very grand building. The front is to the north, and on every pier within there is a nich about eight feet high and four feet broad; these niches doubtless were designed for statues: probably this was the temple of Venus and Isis that was in the city, which had its name from that wise lawgiver Solon: the place is now called *Aligora*, that is, the sea mart. There is a river falls into the sea at this place, and as the channel of it is not kept open, it makes a morass. This doubtless is the river mentioned by the antients at this place. Some modern writers have placed *Soli* at *Lefca*, a village about a league north of this place. The antient cape *Calinusa* seems to be that point which is to the west of this bay.

Returning southwards to the road, we pursued our journey to the west, and in about an hour and a half came to *Lefca*; it is a long village built up the side of those hills, which we crossed into the delightful country of *Solea*, which is a vale about a mile wide, and winds between the hills for seven or eight miles: it is much improved with gardens and buildings, and is very well watered with springs and rivulets. We went to a convent where the bishop of *Gerines* commonly resides; it is situated on the side of the hills, where there are very rich iron mines which are not now worked.

On the twenty seventh we went along the vale, and crossing the hills came to the small convent of St Nicholas situated between the hills, where there is such an agreeable variety of fields, wood, water and cascades, that it is one of the most delightful solitudes I ever saw; two streams come rushing down the hills, and are carried all through the country of *Solea* in many rivulets. The asbestos of Cyprus is found in the hills about two leagues to the south east of that place.

We travelled in a very difficult road along the sides of the hills to the convent of St John. I observed a great number of pine trees, which they destroy by cutting them at the bottom, in order to extract tar. On the twenty eighth we travelled over several hills, and ascended the highest of them, where it is very cold, to the convent called *Panaia Cheque*, or the *Madonna of Cheque*, where they have a miraculous picture of the blessed Virgin and our Saviour, painted as they say, by St Luke, and brought from Constantinople by a king of Cyprus, whom they call *Isnge*. This place is as much resorted to by the Greeks, as *Loretto* is by the Latins, and they come to it even from Muscovy. The convent belongs to the Archbishop of Nicosin, and has about seventy monks in it. I was received here with great civility by the superior, who met me without the gate, conducted me to the church, and then to their apartments, where I was served with marmalade, a dram, and coffee, and about an hour after with a light collation, and in the evening with a grand entertainment at supper.

Chap. V.

OF ARSINOE, PAPHOS, AND CURIUM.

On the twenty ninth we travelled over the mountains, and passed by some old ironworks; they showed us a village called *Sarama* to the east, where they said a part of the mountain had been thrown by an earthquake. We arrived the same evening at the convent of *Aiamone*. I had a view of the bay of *St Nicholas* to the north west, in which *Arsinoe* seems to have been situated, where there was a grove sacred to Jupiter. They talk much of the fountain of lovers, but they informed me that there are no ruins about it. They mention also the port of *Agoma* in this part, and some ruins near it, which probably are the remains