

palace of old Paphos, of Yeroschipos and Couclia: then the Venus of Idalium and Cythera, mistress of the Palace of the Queen on the summit of the mountain of S. John Chrysostom or Buffavento, who flourished in a much later age. The poets who were contemporary with the second Venus, to flatter her vanity, made no difference between the two, and later writers, misled by their works, ended by confounding the copy with the original type: careless of the anachronism they gave to the same Venus the attributes of her of Paphos, and her of Idalium and Cythera. The superstition, license, interest of Cypriots consecrated temples and celebrated the apotheosis of this woman in the spots where tradition or the poets, the only historians of their day, had fixed the abode of the goddess. The port of Paphos or Baffa, on the west of the island, facing Greece and the Archipelago, and exactly between old Paphos and Yeroschipos, seems to have been the landing place of the Greek pilgrims. The offerings devoted to the construction of the magnificent temple whose fine columns still are seen in pieces on the little hill of new Paphos or Baffa, opposite the port, would have helped to make this city a centre of wealth and luxury, as is proved by the huge masses of ruins.

I do not remember ever having read a description of Cyprus. I do not know even what other travellers have thought about it. But whatever may be their opinion, mine is that the Venus of Paphos is not the same as the Venus of Cythera and Idalium.

If the island were under a government which encouraged and befriended the arts, it is probable that well directed excavations would bring to light objects as interesting as those discovered at Herculaneum and Pompeii.

Cyprus generally lacks water: the mountains near Paphos and Episcopi supply it abundantly, but in the rest of the island there are only a few streams and torrents which have little or no water in summer. With a little effort I think that enough water for the needs of the island might be drawn from among the mountains of Paphos: and judging by the remains of aqueducts which are found everywhere, even in the driest parts, I suspect that in ancient times there existed a general system of irrigation. One can see too that there must have been good roads and paths. But few traces of such remain, and the present roads are in the worst possible condition.

The island is the prey of two terrible scourges. One is the multitude of vipers, or serpents about two or three feet long, whose bite is said to be mortal. What proves that it is not always so is the boast of certain quacks that they can cure it with prayers, amulets and superstitious rites, to which a few successes give some measure of credit. The number of these reptiles obliges the natives of all ages and classes, even the poorest, to wear boots always. I saw several of these snakes, they move very slowly.

Another plague is the locusts, which increase year by year in a fearful manner, yet no one makes the slightest effort to destroy them—an extremely easy matter. I sent a memorandum on this subject to the Archbishop of Cyprus, which he acknowledged in a most flattering letter.

Were the population to increase to that degree which I think the island could bear: if a liberal constitution were to assure liberty and private property, and effaced as far as possible the rivalry of creeds, the island might become one of the most fortunate spots of the earth. Its temperate climate, its excellent water, whose volume might be easily increased by a few works, and by planting trees to attract rain: the fertility of most of the soil, the returns of cotton, wine and grain, which would increase with the population, the liberty and security of the inhabitants: the manufactories of sugar and tobacco, which might be re-established: the wood of forest trees, which could easily be increased on the higher hills: the working of the many mines of copper, and perhaps of metals richer still, which exist in the island: the