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Abbreviations.

R. = room; B. = breakfast; déj. = déjeuner à la fourchette; D. = dinner; S. = supper; L. = light; A. = attendance. — N. = north, northern, etc.; S. = south, southern, etc.; E. = east, etc.; W. = west, etc. — r. = right; l. = left; min. = minute; hr. = hour. — M. = English mile; ft. = Engl. foot; fr. = franc, c. = centime.

The letter *d* with a date, after the name of a person, indicates the year of his death. The number of feet given after the name of a place shows its height above the sea-level. The number of miles placed before the principal places on railway-routes and high-roads indicates their distance from the starting-point of the route.

Asterisks are used as marks of commendation.

Neapolitan school, to which he owes his vigorous colouring and his strongly individualised heads. Besides his works at Palermo, there is an interesting work by this master in the staircase at Monreale (St. Benedict and his successors). Several of his monkish figures are among the finest works produced by the Italian naturalists. Palermo followed the degraded styles of the 18th cent., the proofs of which are too numerous to require enumeration.

23. Palermo.

Arrival. BY SEA. Travellers are conveyed to the Dogana (Pl. H, 7; 1 fr. for each pers. with luggage, 60 c. without), where luggage is slightly examined. Thence to the town about 1 M.; cab with luggage 1½ fr., including a gratuity. Omnibuses from several of the hotels await the arrival of the steamboats. — The main RAILWAY STATION is in the Via Lincoln, outside the Porta S. Antonino (Pl. A, B, 4); that of the W. Railway (R. 25) in the Via Lolli (Pl. G, 1); and that of the local railway to Corleone (p. 289) in S. Erasmo, at the S.E. end of the Marina (Pl. A, 5, 6). Cabs, see p. 247.

Hotels. (If a stay of any length is made, charges had better be asked beforehand.) *HÔTEL DES PALMES (Pl. b; F, 4), in the Via Stabile, with beautiful garden, R. 3-7, L. 1, A. 1, B. 1½, déj. 3½, D. 5, pens. 10-15, omn. 1½ fr.; *TRINACRIA (Pl. a; C, 6), with a fine view of the Marina, entered from the Via Butera, R. from 3, L. ¾, A. ¾, B. 1½, déj. 3-3½, D. 5, incl. wine 6, pens. 10-15, omn. 1½ fr.; *GRAND HÔTEL DE LA PAIX, Via della Libertà, opposite the Giardino Inglese (p. 260), opened in 1891, well fitted up, pens. from 10 fr.; *HÔTEL DE FRANCE (Pl. c; C, 5), in a healthy situation, frequented by natives and foreigners, R. 3-5, L. ¾, A. ¾, B. 1½, déj. 3, D. 4, pens. 10-13, omn. 1½ fr. — Second-class: ALBERGO CENTRALE (Pl. e; D, 3), with trattoria, Corso Vitt. Emanuele 355, in the centre of the town, close to the Quattro Canti, R. from 2½, déj. 1½-2, D. 3½-4, pension incl. wine 10 fr., well spoken of; HOTEL OLIVA (Pl. f; F, 3), Piazza Oliva 22, R. 2, L. ½, A. ½, B. 1, déj. 2½, D. 3½ (both incl. wine), pens. (L. extra) 8 fr.; ITALIA (Pl. d; C, 5), Piazza Marina 60, near the Giardino Garibaldi, R. 2-2½, pens. 6-7 fr., cuisine mediocre; REBECCHINO (Pl. h; C, 2), Via Vitt. Emanuele, opposite the cathedral, R., L., & A. 2½-5, pens. from 6, omn. 1 fr.; ALBERGO AL PIZZUTO (Pl. g; D, 4), Via Bandiera 30, near the Piazza S. Domenico; ALBERGO ARAGONA, Via Alloro 90; etc.

Pensions (all well spoken of). *Pens. Anglaise* (Mrs. Artand), Via Principe Scordia (Pl. E, F, G, 4), Casa Piazza, 3rd floor, pens. from 7 fr.; *Pens. Jenischek*, Via Bandiera 69, R., L., & A. 2-3, B. ½, déj. 1½, D. 2½ (both incl. wine), pens. 6-7, without déj. 5-6 fr.; *Pens. Suisse*, Via Vitt. Emanuele 187, R., L., & A. 2½, B. ¾, déj. 1 fr. 90 c., D. 3 (both incl. wine), pens. 6, for a long stay, 5 fr.; *Pens. Tersenghi*, Via Lincoln 55, R. 1-2, pens. 5 fr.

Furnished Apartments, generally indicated by placards, are now easily obtained in Palermo, but are usually somewhat deficient in the comforts desirable for a winter residence and not all at suited for solitary invalids. There is a scarcity of single rooms to let. In the town the Piazza Marina (Pl. C, 5), the Piazza Bologni (Pl. C, 3), and the Piazza Vittorio (Pl. C, 2) may be recommended, the houses outside the town less so. Invalids should avoid rooms in the vicinity of the Cala. The price of a furnished room in the town is 30-70 fr., that of a small furnished étage outside the town about 100 fr. a month. Some of the private villas in the Olivuzza (Pl. F, G, 1) and the Giardino Inglese (Pl. H, I, 4) are also let in whole or in part, but in general at high rents and not to pulmonary patients. The smallest details should be inserted in the contract, and the apartments should be carefully inspected before taking posses-

ments of the *Temple of Jupiter Polieus* or of *Athene*. It was a peripteros-hexastylos, but its dimensions are unknown. Its remains are the most ancient in Girgenti. The wall of a low passage beside the church has six column-bases built into it.

The *Museum*, under the supervision of Sig. Celi, contains an archaic marble statue of *Apollo, a sarcophagus with triglyph-reliefs (found near the sea in 1886), vases, coins, and fragments of marbles. — The *Biblioteca Lucchiesiana*, near the cathedral and in the same street, was founded in the 18th cent. by Bishop Lucchesi, afterwards Archbishop of Palermo, and is now the property of the town.

The most interesting mediæval structure is the portal of *San Giorgio*. — Near the *Church del Purgatorio* is the entrance to the old 'Catacombs', or subterranean quarries below the present town.

The *Passeggiata*, below the *Rupe Atenea*, where a band plays three times a week, in the evening in summer, and from 12 to 1 in winter, commands a charming view. In clear weather the island of Pantelleria is visible shortly before sunset.

From the terrace outside the E. town-gate we ascend past the suppressed Capuchin monastery of *S. Vito* (at the cross-road to the right) to the ***Rock of Athene** (1150 ft.), or *Rupe Atenea*. It has been supposed that a temple of Athene once stood at the top, which has evidently been levelled by human agency, but the most recent investigations show this to be very doubtful. According to a local tradition, the depression between the town and the rock, was artificially formed by Empedocles to admit of the passage of the N. wind (the 'Tramontana') and thus dispel the malaria. The view in every direction is magnificent, particularly by evening-light. The ancient town-wall crossed the Rock of Athene, but no traces of this part of it are preserved.

A visit to the *Sulphur Mines* near Girgenti is also interesting. Visitors with letters of introduction are received with great civility.

29. From Palermo and Girgenti to Catania.

FROM PALERMO TO CATANIA, 151 M., railway in 7-10½ hrs. (fares 27 fr. 50, 19 fr. 25, 12 fr. 40 c.; express, 30 fr. 25, 21 fr. 15 c.). — FROM GIRGENTI TO CATANIA, 114 M., railway in 8-9 hrs. (fares 21 fr. 60, 15 fr. 15, 9 fr. 85 c.; express, beyond S. Caterina-Xirbi, 22 fr. 95, 16 fr.). — These two lines unite at S. Caterina-Xirbi. — A supply of refreshments should be taken, as railway-restaurants are few and far between on this line.

FROM PALERMO TO S. CATERINA-XIRBI. — To *Roccapalumba*, 43½ M., see pp. 290-291. The country is bleak and deserted. 54 M. *Valledolmo*; 59½ M. *Vallelunga*. On the right rises the *Monte Campanaro*. 62½ M. *Villalba*. The railway here reaches the valley of the *Bilice*, which flows to the S., soon, however, leaving it by a tunnel nearly 4 M. long, through the mountain-range in front. — 66½ M. *Marianopoli*; the village lies on the hill some distance off. — 73 M. *Mimiani-S. Cataldo*. S. Cataldo is a considerable distance from the railway, to the S. — 79 M. *S. Caterina Xirbi*, see p. 299.

FROM GIRGENTI TO S. CATERINA-XIRBI. — To *Aragona-Caldare*, $6\frac{1}{4}$ M., see p. 292. The train passes through several tunnels and traverses a district full of sulphur-mines ('zolfare'). To the right frequent views of the sea and Girgenti are obtained. 9 M. *Comitini-Zolfare*; 13 M. *Grotte*, perhaps the ancient *Erbessus*, whence the Romans derived their supplies of provisions while besieging Agrigentum in 262. — $14\frac{1}{2}$ M. *Racalmuto*, a beautifully situated town with 12,000 inhabitants. — $19\frac{1}{2}$ M. *Castrofilippo*.

$23\frac{1}{3}$ M. **Canicatti**. The town, with 22,000 inhab., is situated on a slight eminence to the W. of the station.

FROM CANICATTI TO LICATA. $28\frac{1}{2}$ M., railway in 2- $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. (5 fr. 20, 3 fr. 65, 2 fr. 35 c.). — 6 M. *Delia*; $10\frac{1}{2}$ *Campobello*, a town with 7000 inhab., situated on a hill in a fertile and well-watered district. There are several large sulphur-mines in the vicinity. $17\frac{1}{2}$ M. *Favarotta*. — $28\frac{1}{2}$ M. *Licata*, see p. 303.

$27\frac{1}{2}$ M. *Serradifalco*, a small town from which Domenico lo Faso Pietrasanta, Duca di Serradifalco (d. 1863), the editor of the 'Antichità della Sicilia', derived his title. — 35 M. *S. Cataldo*; the village, named after St. Cataldus of Tarentum, with 14,000 inhabitants, is 2 M. to the N. of the station. — Several tunnels.

$62\frac{1}{2}$ M. **Caltanissetta** (*Albergo della Ferrovia*, at the station, R. $1\frac{1}{2}$ fr., well spoken of; *Concordia, Italia*, both tolerable, with trattorie; **Café* near the cathedral), a provincial capital with 30,000 inhabitants, situated on a hill. A band plays in the evening in the piazza in front of the *Cathedral* (S. Michele), [which contains a few paintings of the later Sicilian school. At the S. end of the town is the *Giardino Pubblico*, which commands a striking view of the surrounding mountains and valleys, especially towards the E.

About 2 M. to the E. of Caltanissetta lies the monastery of *Badia di S. Spirito*, a fine example of the Norman style, erected by Roger I. About 2 M. farther is a mud-volcano, resembling the Maccalubi (p. 292).

At **S. Caterina** (*Loc. Clementi*, R. 4 fr.), 79 M. from Palermo and $43\frac{1}{2}$ M. from Girgenti, the two lines unite. The station is at *Xirbi*, 3 M. from the miserable little town of S. Caterina. Coming from Girgenti we catch our first glimpse of Mount *Ætna* just before reaching this station. The following distances are reckoned from Palermo.

83 M. *Imera*, beyond which the line crosses the *Fiume Salso* (*Himera Meridionalis*). 89 M. *Villarosa*, a pleasant-looking town, with valuable sulphur-mines in the vicinity. The train now enters a mountainous region, and ascends in windings, across viaducts, and through tunnels. It then threads the tortuous ravine between *Calascibetta* (p. 300) and *Castrogiovanni*, affording glimpses of these places high overhead. Parts of the line traverse very unstable ground, and the cuttings are provided with strong vaulted roofs.

$95\frac{1}{2}$ M. **Castrogiovanni** (*Rail. Restaurant*). An omnibus (six times daily; fare $1\frac{1}{2}$ fr.) ascends in about 1 hr. from the station to the town. On the rocks to the left of the entrance stands a Roman altar. *Castrogiovanni* (*Alb. Centrale, Via Roma*, tolerable), the Arabic

Kasr-Yanni, a corruption of *Enna*, was termed 'inexpugnabilis' by Livy, and has recently been very strongly fortified. It is charmingly situated on the level summit of a hill (2605 ft.), in the form of a horseshoe, and open towards the E. Pop. 16,000.

With this mountain the myths of the most ancient inhabitants were intimately connected, and this was the principal scene of the worship of the Demeter-Cora of the aborigines. The fertility of the soil is inferior to what it was in ancient times, when dense forests, brooks, and lakes converted this district into a luxuriant garden, where the hounds, it is said, lost the scent of their game amid the fragrance of the flowers, and the fields yielded a hundred-fold.

Enna or Henna is said to have been founded by Syracuse in B.C. 664, and shared the fortunes of its mother-city. In 402 it fell by treachery into the hands of Dionysius I.; Agathocles also possessed himself of the town; in the First Punic War it was captured by the Carthaginians, and finally was betrayed to the Romans. When the slaves under Eunus had thrown themselves into Enna the Romans only regained possession of the place after a fierce struggle. The siege lasted for two years (133-132), and to this day Roman missiles are found at the approach to Castrogiovanni where the ascent is most gradual. The besieged were reduced by famine rather than by force of arms. In 837 the Saracens in vain endeavoured to storm the town, to which the inhabitants of the whole surrounding district had fled for refuge. In 859 Abbas-ibn-Fahd gained possession of the fortress through treachery, a prisoner having introduced the Arabs into the town by means of a tunnel on the N. side. The booty was enormous. Some of the women were sent as slaves as far as Bagdad. In 1087 the Normans took the town. In the middle ages it was again partly fortified.

The main street ascends through the town to the old citadel, known as *La Rocca*, a very ancient structure, repaired by King Manfred, with numerous towers. The *VIEW from the platform of the highest tower is one of the finest in Sicily, as we stand at the central point of the island (Enna, the 'umbilicus' of Sicily). Towards the E. towers the pyramid of *Ætna*; to the N. run two mountain-chains, ramifications of the *Nebrobian Mts.*; towards the N.N.E. rises *Monte Artesino* (3915 ft.), beyond the hill on which *Calascibetta* lies (2880 ft.). On the E. prolongation of the latter lie *Leonforte* and *Agira*; between the two, more in the background, *Troina* (see p. 301). Farther to the E. is *Centuripe*. To the N.N.W., on a precipitous ridge between *Monte Artesino* and the *Madonian Mts.*, are *Petralia Soprana* and *Gangi*. To the N.W. S. *Calogero*, near *Termini*, is visible; to the W. the *Pizzo di Cammarata*; and to the S. the *Heræan Mts.*, *Licata*, and the sea. — A walk round the citadel affords a series of beautiful views. — Not a vestige is left of the famous temples of *Demeter (Ceres)* and *Proserpine*. The former is supposed to have stood where *La Rocca* is situated, and the latter on the *Monte Salvo*, near the convent of the *Padri Riformati*.

At the other end of the town is a *Castle*, built by *Frederick II.* of *Aragon*.

The *CATHEDRAL* was founded in 1307; but the octagonal choir is now the only relic of the original building. In the interior, to the left, is a censer on an antique stand. The alabaster bases of the columns, the pulpit, the choir-stalls, and an ancient silver-gilt

tabernacle are also noteworthy, and the treasury contains many valuable objects. — The *Biblioteca Comunale* (librarian, Avvocato Paolo Vetri) contains some good incunabula. — Another fine view is enjoyed from a terrace adjoining the *Convento S. Francesco* in the market-place.

As we continue our journey by railway, we enjoy a beautiful retrospect of the two rocky nests of Calascibetta and Castrogiovanni. — 102½ M. *Leonforte*, prettily situated on a hill to the left. (Route from Leonforte to Termini, see p. 291.) The train now enters the valley of the *Dittaino (Chrysas)*. — 108 M. *Assaro-Valguarnera*, the ancient *Assorus*, a Sikelian town. To the left we obtain a fine view of Mount *Ætna*, which henceforth remains in sight. 110½ M. *Raddusa*.

116 M. *Agira*, formerly *S. Filippo d'Argirò*. The town lies on a hill (2130 ft.), about 4½ M. to the N. of the station. It is one of the most ancient of the Sikelian cities (*Agyrium*). The historian Diodorus gives an account of this his native town, and relates how Hercules visited it during his wanderings with Iolaus and was worshipped here. It has thus been suggested by Movers that a Phœnician colony existed here at a remote period. Timoleon colonised the town in 339 and built an agora, temple, and handsome theatre, of which no traces remain. St. Philip, whose festival is on 1st May, has superseded Hercules as the tutelary genius of the place. Fine marble is found in the vicinity.

About 4 M. to the N. of Agira, in the valley of the brook of the same name, lies *Gagliano*, the commandant of which, Montaner di Sosa, in 1300, lured the French under the Count of Brienne into an ambushade, so that 300 French knights were captured or slain. High above Gagliano lies *Troina* (3650 ft.), the loftiest of the larger towns of Sicily (11,000 inhab.). This was one of the first towns of which the Normans gained possession in 1062. Here in 1063, Roger de Hauteville, with his heroic wife Giuditta (Judith of Evroult) and 300 warriors, defeated the rebellious inhabitants and 5000 Saracens. The bishopric founded here was transferred to Messina in 1087. In the *Matrice S. Maria* traces of the ancient Norman structure are distinguishable.

123 M. *Catenanuova-Centuripe*. On the hill to the left, 5 M. from the station, and rising abruptly above the valley of the *Simeto*, is situated **Centuripe**, or, as it was called until recently, *Centorbi (Albergo della Pace*, in the piazza, very poor), with 9000 inhabitants. Magnificent view of *Ætna*. In ancient times the situation of *Centuripae* was compared with that of Eryx. During the Roman period this was an important place. In 1233 it was destroyed by Frederick II. on account of its disaffection, and the population removed to Augusta (p. 350). Remains of a few Roman buildings are preserved. Numerous vases, terracottas, coins, and cut stones have been found in the neighbourhood. Antonio Camerano possesses a collection of gems and terracottas. Between the town and station are some sulphur-mines. An introduction to the *Sindaco* is desirable.

The train still traverses the valley of the *Dittaino* for a short

time. A picturesque view is obtained of Centuripe on the hill to the left, and of *Ætna* farther on. 125½ M. *Muglia*; 130 M. *Sferro*. A view is now obtained, to the right, of the exuberantly fertile Piano di Catania, which begins here. 133½ M. *Gerbini*. Beyond (137 M.) *Portiere Stella* the train crosses the *Simeto*, which receives the *Dittaino* a little to the S. — 138 M. *Simeto*; 139½ M. *Motta S. Anastasia*; the town, with a castle on a precipitous basaltic cone, is 1½ M. to the N. 146 M. *Bicocca* (no restaurant), where the line unites with that from Syracuse to Catania (R. 38). Before Catania is reached, the sea is again visible; the line passes through an old stream of lava by means of a tunnel.

151 M. **Catania**, see p. 336.

FROM CASTROGIOVANNI TO CATANIA VIÀ CALTAGIRONE.

From Castrogiovanni to Caltagirone, 30 M. The bridle-path, passing numerous grottoes and caverns, descends to the S. In 2 hrs. the *Lago Pergusa* is reached, the fabled locality whence Pluto carried off Proserpine. Of the shady and lofty trees, the fragrant flowers on the banks of the lake covered with swans, and the 'perpetuum ver' of Ovid not a trace remains. The lake, with its clear, dark blue water, presents a pleasant appearance in spring only. At other times, like the neighbouring *Stagnicello*, it is a dirty pond, used by the inhabitants for steeping their flax.

From the lake to Piazza a ride of 13 M. Before reaching Piazza we join the carriage-road which leads from *Caltanissetta* (p. 299) viâ *Pietrapaperza* (1460 ft.) and *Barrafranca* to (39 M.) Piazza.

Piazza Armerina (*Albergo del Sole*), Sicil. *Chiazza*, is a town with 20,000 inhabitants. We follow the Terranova road towards the S. to *S. Cono*, where the road to Caltagirone diverges to the left.

Caltagirone (**Albergo Centrale*), regarded as the most civilised provincial town in Sicily (32,400 inhab.). Although 2170 ft. above the sea-level, it is well-built and possesses a fine promenade and market-place, whence a lofty flight of steps ascends to the old castle. The aristocracy of the place is zealous in promoting public education. Pottery is the staple commodity, and the traveller may purchase very characteristic, well-executed figures of Sicilians and Calabrians, in their national costumes. The town commands a magnificent view in every direction.

From Caltagirone diligence to Leone in 7 hrs. (25 M.; see p. 349). On the mountain-range to the right lie the towns of *Grammichele*, *Mineo* (the ancient *Menae*, founded by Ducetius, and taken by the Saracens in 840), and *Militello*. Near *Favarotta* the road passes the famous *Lacus Palicorum* (*Lago de' Palici*), which is generally 490 ft. in circumference and 13 ft. deep in the middle. In dry seasons it sometimes disappears entirely. Two apertures (*fratres Palici*) in the centre emit carbonic acid gas with such force that the water is forced upwards to a height of 2 ft., and the whole surface is agitated as if boiling. Birds are suffocated in attempting to fly across the lake, and horses and oxen experience difficulty in breathing as soon as they enter the water. The ancients regarded the spot as sacred and the peculiar resort of the gods. The *Dii Palici* were believed to be sons of Zeus and the nymph Thalia. A sumptuous temple was accordingly erected here, to which the pious flocked from all quarters, but every vestige of it has now disappeared. Fugitive slaves found an asylum in this temple. An oath sworn by the *Dii Palici* was deemed peculiarly solemn. At no great distance from this spot Ducetius founded the town of *Palica*, which has also left no trace of its existence. The name, however, may still be recognised in *Palagonia*, a small mediæval town, once the property of the naval hero Roger Loria. Below Palagonia the road ascends to the *Fondaco Tre Fontane*; to the right lies *Scordia* (p. 349), terminus of the branch railway from *Valsovoia*, on which *Leone* is a station.