

POTTERY FROM MACEDONIAN MOUNDS.

(PLATE VI.)

I.—IN WEST CHALCIDICE ¹ (Pl. VI, 1.)

THE pottery described below was picked up by Mr. Cuttle and myself on mounds, many of which have been noted by Wace or Rey (*loc. cit.*). We have retained their numbering, so as to avoid confusion. Of the mounds mentioned by Rey, we visited his 2, 3, 4, 5, but not 1, 6, 7, 8. Of those noted and visited by Wace we re-examined A 3, B 8, B 9 and C 9. Of those noted but not visited by him, we visited B 12, B 13, B 15. We could not identify his B 14. On B 13 we found no sherds at all, and it may be a burial tumulus, like A 3. We also collected sherds from a site (not a mound) in the hills one hour north-east of Gerakiní, shewn us by Mr. Bliss of the Anglo-Hellenic Magnesite Company at Gerakiní, and from three mounds in the Ormylia valley, marked Ormylia 1,² 2, 3 on the map (Pl. VI, 1).

In the light of Thessalian finds and of recent excavations made in Macedonia, viz. at Várdino and Vardaróftsi by the British School, and by Casson at Kilindir, most of the pottery found can be classified as follows :—

(1) *Pre-Mycenaean*.³—(a) Black or brown on red, or white on red (Fig. 1) = Wace's 2 (c) (*loc. cit.*). Hand-made brick-red ware with a polished surface, decorated with simple patterns of curved lines in black paint which often has a purplish tinge. On account of the comparative thinness of its fabric and the simplicity of its patterns, it resembles Thessalian B 3 δ⁴ rather than the second category of B 3 a. One of the specimens, however, has the small vertically-pierced lug at the rim so characteristic of Dhimini bowls (Wace and Thompson, *Prehistoric*

¹ References : Wace, *B.S.A.* xx. pp. 123–32; Rey, *B.C.H.* Vol. xli–xliii. pp. 161–8.

² The site of Sermyle.

³ Mycenaean here = Late Helladic III.

⁴ Fig. 1, 7 is part of a 'tumbler,' resembling *Preh. Thess.*, Fig. 54 b, the fabric of which (B 3 ε) is closely akin to B 3 δ.

Thessaly, p. 76, Fig. 36), and, being of thicker fabric, should be classed as B 3 a (2). The two specimens of white on red (Nos. 4, 14) are akin to B 3 a (1). Found at 4, B 9, B 12, B 15, C 9, and Ormylia 2.

(b) Black polished ware: only two fragments = Wace's 2 (f). These closely resemble the black ware, sometimes plain but usually with white painted decoration, so common in the pre-Mycenaean stratum at Várdino (*Liverpool Annals*, Vol. xii. Nos. 1 and 2, pp. 19, 20; and Pls. VIII. and IX.). Whether our specimens are parts of painted vases

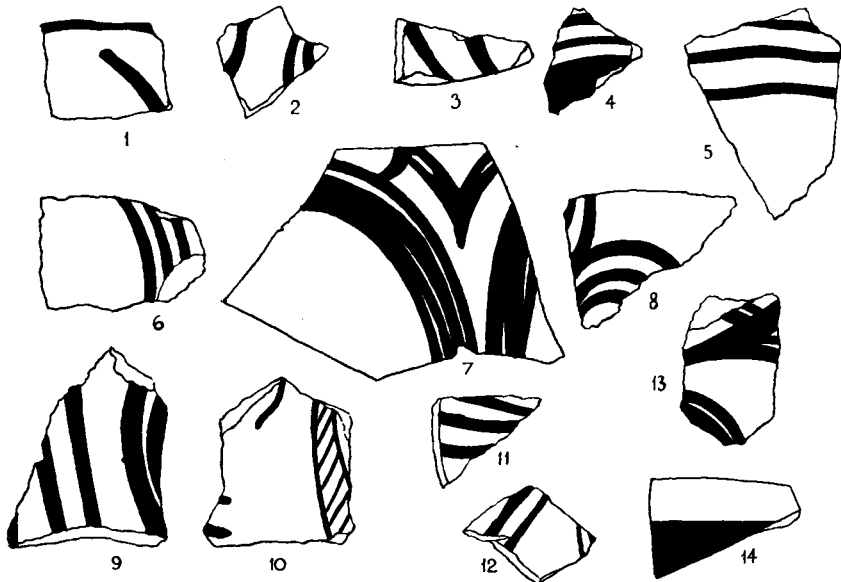


FIG. 1.—BLACK ON RED WARE FROM CHALCIDICE. 4, 14, WHITE ON RED. (Scale 1 : 2.)

or not, it is impossible to say. The fabric resembles Thessalian Γ 1 a (1). Found at B 9 and B 15.

(c) Grey Minyan. Seven fragments, of which two are wheel-made. This is true Minyan, though perhaps made in Macedonia, and easily distinguishable from the local grey polished ware described below 2 (a). As the *floruit* of Grey Minyan lies between Middle Helladic I. and Late Helladic II. (end), it is classified here as pre-Mycenaean, though there is reason to suppose that in some places it survived well into Late Helladic III. Found at B 8,¹ B 9, B 12, and Ormylia 3.

¹ On the small mound that lies just south-east of the large mound at Mekyberna (B 8). One fragment is part of the ringed stem of a large goblet.

(d) Ware resembling Thessalian Γ 3 β or Δ 1 γ . For the description of these wares see *Preh. Thess.* pp. 19 and 21. We found four specimens of the wish-bone handle in this ware, two exactly corresponding to types illustrated in *Preh. Thess.*, p. 186, Fig. 134 *a, c*, from Lianokladhi. Found at B 9, and B 12.

(e) Incised, hand-made. Only two fragments. One is chalk-filled. It may be of pre-Mycenaean or Mycenaean date (*Liverpool Annals, loc. cit.*,¹ pp. 25, 26; Pl. XIV.). Found at B 9 and B 12.

(2) *Mycenaean and contemporary*.—(a) Plain ware, hand-made = Wace's 1 *b*. This ware is described by Wace as follows: 'Fairly well-made ware, varying in colour from yellow-brown to dark brown and reddish.' It includes several large wish-bone handles, which differ in size and shape from those associated with Γ 3 β or Δ 1 γ ware (= 1 (d) above). The *floruit* of this type of handle has been shewn from the excavation at Várdino to be in the Mycenaean age, although it is found earlier, in small quantities. It continued in a changed form and less highly polished far into the post-Mycenaean period, associated with small bowls. Found at 2, 4, B 9, B 12, B 15, C 9, and Ormylia 3.

(b) *Mycenaean*. It is not always easy to distinguish, especially in small fragments, Mycenaean, sub-Mycenaean and their derivatives, which, as the upper strata at Vardavóftsi have shewn, continue unchanged to the fourth century in Macedonia. We have therefore classified here only those which appear to be in form and fabric genuine L.H. III. These include part of a kylix stem, of a bowl with pinched-out handles (cf. Blegen, *Korakou*, p. 63, Fig. 88), and of four bowls of ordinary L.H. III. type. The decoration consists mostly of horizontal bands. Found at 2, B 9, B 12, C 9.

(c) Hand-made painted pottery with brown-violet or brown matt-paint decoration on a buff ground = Wace's 2 (b) (*loc. cit.*, p. 130). This is Rey's 'brun violacé sur fond clair' (*loc. cit.*, pp. 228–33). It varies much in quality and the better specimens resemble Δ 1 γ . Its *floruit* is the Mycenaean age, but it occurs earlier.² Found at 4, B 2, B 15.

(3) *Post-Mycenaean*.—(a) Mycenaean derivative ware resembling Thessalian Δ 1 *a*. Wheel-made ware, usually of thin fabric, but hard and brittle, with glaze-paint decoration, often thinly and carelessly

¹ Cited henceforward as 'Várdino.'

² Cf. Rey, *loc. cit.*, p. 229.

applied. Sometimes the whole vase is covered, but more often the decoration consists of horizontal bands. Recent excavation at Vardaróftsi has shewn that this ware continues practically unchanged from the close of the Mycenaean age (whenever that occurred in Macedonia) to the fourth century and later. Far the most common shape is a bowl with horizontal loop handles, and a flat or slightly raised base; it is clearly derived from a L.H. III. type. Found at 2, B 8, B 9, B 12, Gerakiní and Ormylia 1.

(b) Local Geometric = Wace's 2 (e) (*loc. cit.*). This is a wheel-made ware with geometric decoration, often concentric circles, in purple paint: it is perhaps a survival of 2 (c) above, and Rey treats them together. It is sometimes considered to be a local variant of true Geometric, but, to judge from the stratification at Vardaróftsi, it continues to the end of the fifth century, and is most common in the sixth and seventh. Found at 2, B 12, B 8, and Ormylia 1.

(c) Plain ware with impressed decoration. Two sherds from B 12.

(d) Plain ware, sometimes wheel-made, grey, red and reddish-brown, unpolished. It is the common Early Iron Age ware of the Vardar region, and the most common shape is a jug with cut-away neck. Of these we found fragments at B 8, Ormylia 1 and Gerakiní.

(4) *Hellenic and Hellenistic.*—(a) Black glazed ware. Found at 2, 3, 5, B 8, C 9, Gerakiní and Ormylia 1, 2 and 3.

(b) Plain wheel-made ware. Most of the pottery from Ormylia 1 belongs to this category.

In addition to the pottery, a bored celt was found. Ormylia 3.

It will be seen that most of the pottery agrees closely with that described by Wace, and the inference is that the coast settlements shared the same culture as the interior. Three general observations may be made :—

(1) The frequency of the black on red is noteworthy, and together with the Γ 3 β sherds confirms the suggested relationship with Thessaly.

(2) Remarkable too is the almost entire absence on all the sites of certain Iron Age types which characterise the Vardar valley, *e.g.*, the grey wheel-made cups, and bowls with horizontal triangular handles.¹

(3) The early incised styles are not represented in the finds, the later incised by only one example.

¹ Of the latter one specimen was found at Ormylia 1.

(4) The finding of Early Iron Age types on the flat-topped mounds shews that these sites were occupied before the period of Greek colonisation, as was also the case at Vardaróftsi. (Table.)

II.—IN WESTERN MACEDONIA.

(A) *The Haliakmon Valley.*

On a mound at Buboshte, on the west bank of the Haliakmon, five kilometres north-west of Lapsista, M. Pelekides, Ephor of Antiquities for Macedonia, has recently collected pottery which he has kindly allowed me to see and include here. Apart from sherds of the fourth and third centuries B.C., almost all the pottery seems to be pre-Iron Age, and most belongs to the category 2 (c) described above (p. 32). As it is nearly all of the coarse variety, it perhaps belongs to the pre-Mycenaean rather than to the Mycenaean stage of this ware. All these sherds have the purplish matt paint characteristic of Macedonia. One sherd is especially interesting. The outside is decorated with purple-brown paint on a polished red ground (category 1 (a)), the inside with purple paint on a buff ground (category 2 (c)), an indication that the two styles overlap. One other sherd should also be classed as 1 (a), and one has bright red paint instead of purple. There is one sherd with white paint on a brown slip. The fragment of a jug (2 (c) but of finer fabric than the rest) is exactly parallel to an almost complete jug recently found by Casson in a Mycenaean context at Kilindir. The patterns on all this ware are simple geometric and curvilinear. In view of its position near the Thessalian border, the excavation of this mound should yield valuable results.

(B) *In the Plain of Monastir*¹ (Pl. VI., 2).

In September, 1925, I visited five of the seven *toumbas* in the plain of Monastir, mentioned by Rey, and collected sherds from each.

As stated by Rey, the mounds are low, compared with the majority of Macedonian mounds, and the deposit of which they are composed cannot anywhere be more than seven metres high, and in most cases a good deal less. The *toumba* at Optičar (3)² is so low and flat that it

¹ Reference: Rey, *B.C.H.* xli-xliii. pp. 171-5, with map and three illustrations. This map is here reproduced by the courtesy of M. Rey.

² Rey's numbering is retained.

can only with difficulty be distinguished. It is the only one of the *toumbas* visited which has not been disturbed : the *toumbas* of Karaman

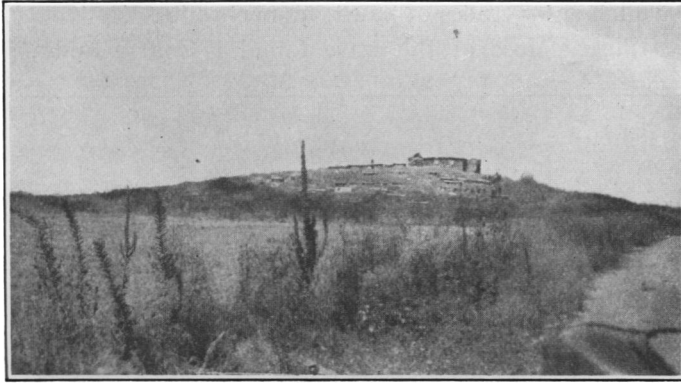


FIG. 2.—MOUND OF NOVAK.

(1) and Novak (6) (Fig. 2) had been tunnelled through during the War ; those of Novak, Ribarci (7) and Kravari (4) (Fig. 3) all have churches and

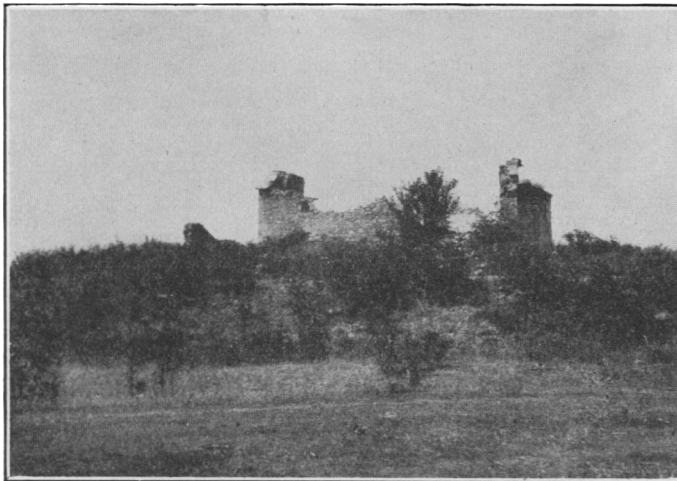


FIG. 3.—MOUND OF KRAVARI.

cemeteries on them. The tunnelling at Novak had exposed at the lowest level what looked like a layer of large stones, on which, perhaps, the first settlement was raised.

The pottery to be found on these mounds is not abundant either on the surface or where cuttings have exposed the interior. It is all hand-made, of local greyish clay, full of particles of mica, and with three exceptions which shew traces of paint, monochrome.

Coarse Ware. Most of the ware found is coarse and unpolished.

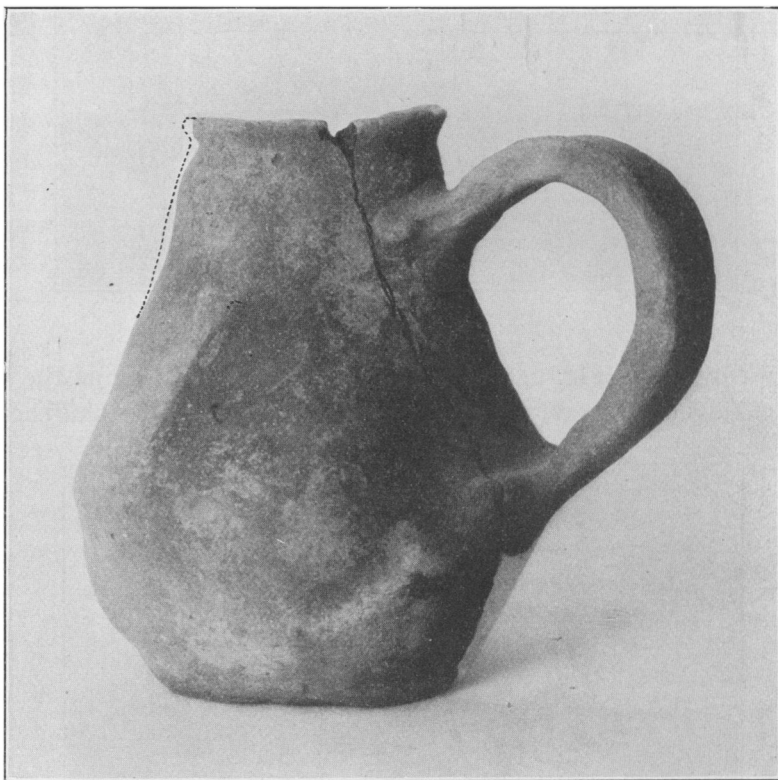


FIG. 4.—JUG FROM MOUND OF KARAMAN. (Scale 1 : 2.)

and of no special significance. Lying in the tunnel at Karaman, however, was an almost complete jug which has, as far as I know, no close parallel either in Macedonia or Thessaly (Fig. 4). In shape it resembles an Early Helladic tankard, but with one large handle, flattened at the sides.¹ At the points of attachment to the body, the extremities of the handle are pressed out to form two horizontal ridges which project on

¹ For a similar handle cf. Rey, *op. cit.*, Pl. IV. 3.

either side. The biscuit is ashy grey, but the surface brown, except where defective firing has left a black patch.

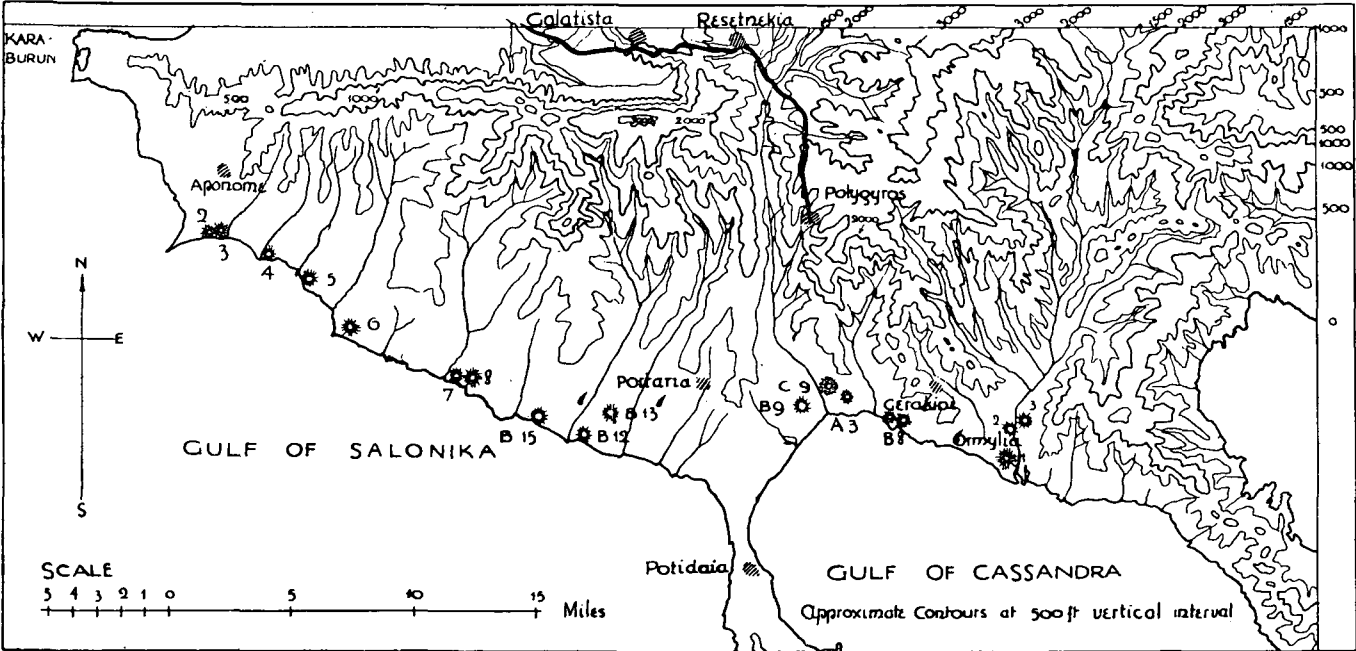
Among other specimens of coarse ware may be noted, a fragment of a high jug of the same shape as that from Rakhmani II. (*Preh. Thess.*, Pl. I.) and from Várdino I. (*op. cit.*, Pl. XVII. 34); part of the rim of a wide bowl with red surface and horizontal sides (cf. *Várdino*, Fig. 4, 21, and Pl. XI. 4); a black polished horizontally-pierced lug (cf. *Várdino*, Pl. XV. 23, 24); a broad tubular handle from some large jar (cf. Rey, *op. cit.*, Pl. III. 5 and VI. 3); a large rectangular lug (cf. *Preh. Thess.*, Fig. 101 *h*, from Zerelia); a piece of grey polished ware identical with that from stratum I. at Várdino (cf. *Várdino*, Pl. XI. 7-12); and part of the rim of a beaked jug.

Fine Ware. Of the finer wares, there are five sherds of good fabric, with a red slip and polished: one is part of a ribbon handle (cf. *Preh. Thess.*, Fig. 40 *c*), one part of a vase with a flat base. The fragments are very small, and resemble the A 1 ware of Thessaly. There is one piece of very thin highly-polished black ware, of the same fabric as the Γ 1 *a* 1 ware of Thessaly (*Preh. Thess.*, Fig. 55 *a-l*), but it has an incised instead of a painted line. It also closely resembles the typical ware of Várdino I. (cf. *Várdino*, Pl. IX.). It may be compared also with Rey's incised style No. 1 (cf. Rey, *op. cit.*, Fig. 29, and Pl. XIII. 2, 3, 5, 7, 9). The fragment comes from a bowl, and the incised line marks the division between neck and shoulder. There are three small fragments of painted ware; one, part of the handle of a buff-coloured vase, with an isolated wavy line in brown paint in the middle, very like that illustrated in *Preh. Thessaly*, Fig. 54 *b*, which it closely resembles in fabric (B 3 *e*); another piece of similar ware with a curved line; and a piece of dull white polished ware on which a drop of red paint has fallen.

Part of a large stone axe, unpolished, with rounded butt, was also found. The type could not be determined.

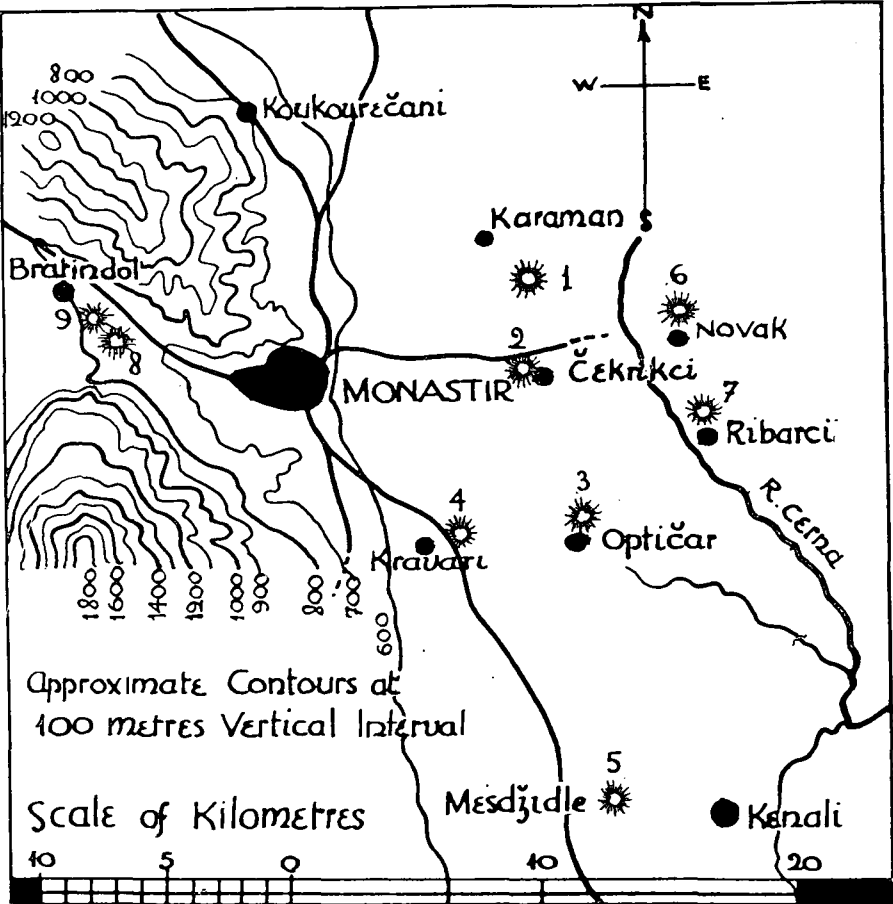
The scantiness of the finds clearly does not permit any exact conclusions to be drawn as to the period during which these mounds were occupied. The most that can be affirmed is that the pottery exhibits close affinities with both that of Thessaly and Macedonia in their pre-Mycenaean stages.

W. A. HEURTLEY



I.—MOUNDS IN WEST CHALCIDICE.

MACEDONIA: SKETCH-MAPS SHEWING POSITION OF MOUNDS.



2.—MOUNDS IN THE PLAIN OF MONASTIR.