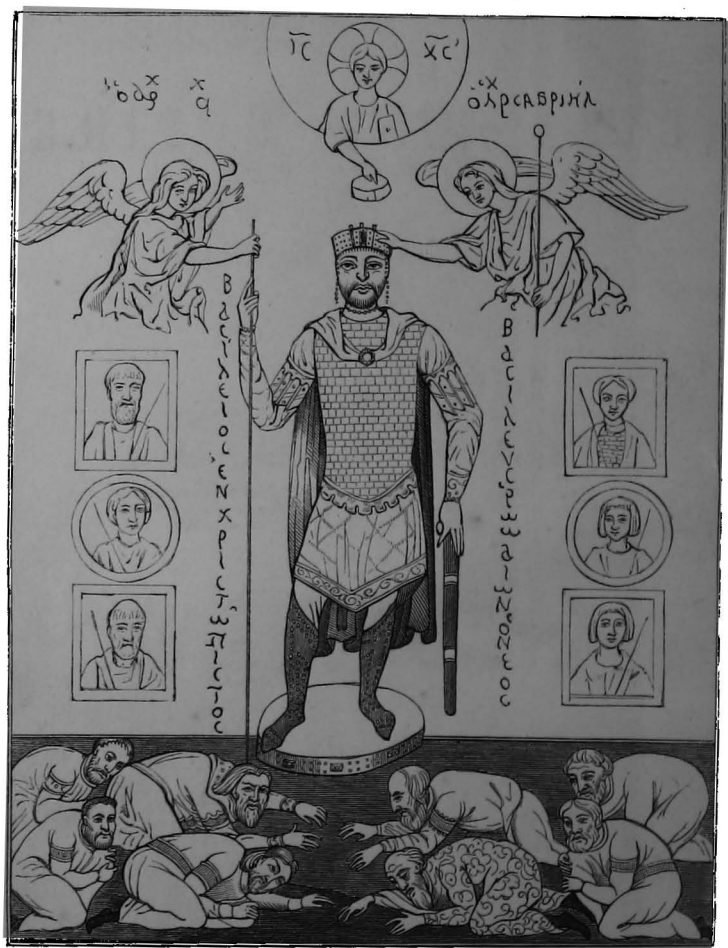


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**BASIL II. the slayer of the Bulgarians, receiving a blessing from Heaven
and homage from men.**

*From a Psalter of the 10th Century given in the Histoire de l'Art par Les Monumens,
par Seroux D'Agincourt. Tom. iii. pl. xlvii.*

HISTORY

OF THE

BYZANTINE EMPIRE

FROM DCCXVI TO MLVII

716 A.D. to 1057 A.D.

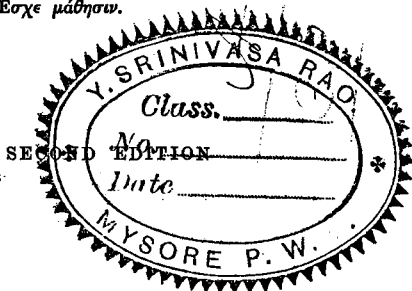
BY

GEORGE FINLAY, LL.D.

Hon. Member of the Royal Society of Literature, Member of the American Antiquarian Society, Corresponding Member of the Archaeological Institute at Rome, Knight Gold Cross of the Greek Order of the Redeemer.

**Ολβιος ὅστις τῆς ιστορίας*

**Ἐσχέ μάθησιν.*



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PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

IN the following pages, constant references to the original historians have been added, in order to make the work serve, not only as a popular history, but also as an index for scholars who may be more familiar with classic literature than with the Byzantine writers.

The Constantinopolitan era places the birth of Christ in the year 5509, and commences on the 1st September. Thus the 31st August, of the first year of the Christian era, is the last day of the year 5508 of the Constantinopolitan era.

The Byzantine historians also use the Indiction as the common method of recording the year. This mode of notation commences from the 1st of September, A.D. 312, but no indication is given to determine the particular time beyond the year of the indiction, counting from 1 to 15, and then recommencing, unless the year of the world or some other synchronism be added.

ATHENS, *1st September* 1852.

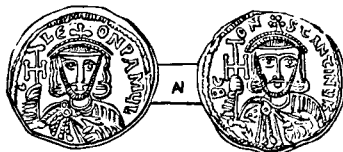
PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

THE following Illustrations have been added to this Edition, as tending to make the reader better acquainted with their subjects than verbal descriptions. Byzantine art has the same character as Byzantine history; and though its merits are not very great, they appear, nevertheless, to have been generally underrated :—

FRONTISPIECE.

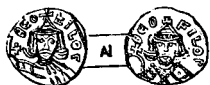
BASIL II., the slayer of the Bulgarians, receiving a blessing from Heaven and homage from men. From a Psalter of the tenth century, given in the *History of Art by its Monuments*, by Seroux d'Agincourt, vol. iii., plate xlvii., No. 4.

COINS.

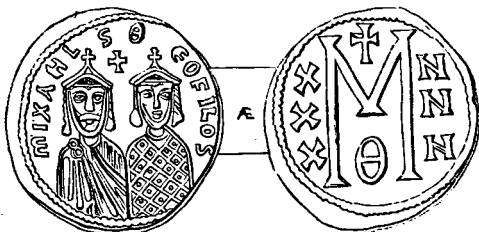


1. Gold byzant of Leo III. and his son Constantine V. (Copronymus). This is the nomisma. The semissis, or half nomisma—the trimissis, or one-third—and the tetarteron, or quarter—are all found in gold, but not of the same emperor. Their weights are on an average 68 grains, 34 grains, 22 grains, and 17 grains.

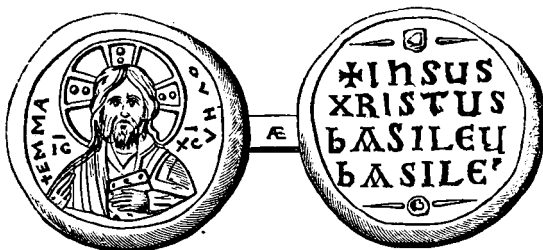
PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.



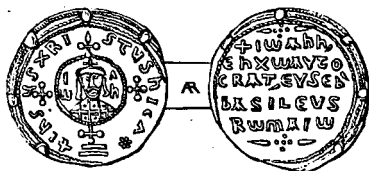
2. Gold tetarteron of Theophilus.



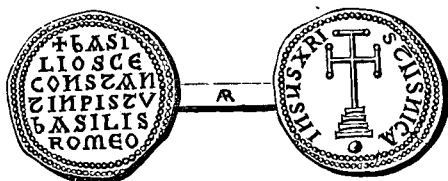
3. Copper coin of Michael II. and Theophilus.



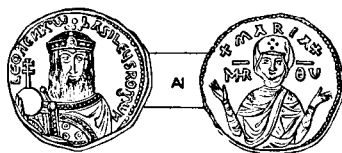
4. Commonest Byzantine copper coins, called of John I. (Zimiskes), but which appear to have been introduced by Basil I., the Macedonian, from impressions over the original type.



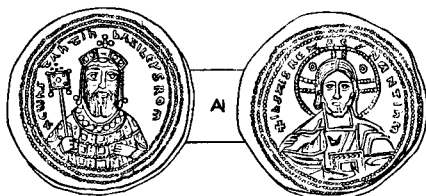
5. Silver coin of John I. (Zimiskes). This is the usual size of Byzantine silver coins during the Basilian dynasty. Weight 44 grains.



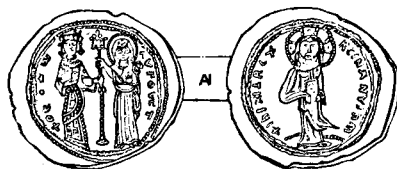
6. Silver coin of Basil II. and Constantine VIII.



7. Byzant of Leo VI. the Wise.



8. Byzant of Constantine VIII.



9. Byzant of Theodora.

The last three, though differing in size, are of the same weight.

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