

the gods. But most splendid of all are one hundred columns; walls and colonnades alike are made of Phrygian marble.<sup>1</sup> From the inscription on the Gymnasium of Smyrna we learn that besides the large numbers of other precious marbles, Hadrian gave eight hundred and two columns of Symmadian.<sup>2</sup>

It was evidently a favourite marble of this Emperor's, who also employed it in the ornamentation of his own mausoleum. Blocks bearing the dates A.D. 150 and 161 have been found, and the quarries remained open for a long period following this time. Under Constantine this, with other marbles, abandoned the road to Rome for that of Constantinople and was employed to decorate the new seat of the Empire.

Silentiarius, in describing the marbles of Saint Sophia, says: 'But what man is there filled with the ringing poetry of Homer to celebrate fitly the fields of marble collected around the huge walls of the lofty Temple and the broad pavement? Where the steel of the lapidary's graver has carved the green surfaces of Carystian and has incised the blue of the Phrygian variegated marble . . . the latter glows softly with a lustre at once pure purple and silvery.'<sup>3</sup>

Hamilton, who visited the quarries in 1835, describes them as follows: 'The Symmadian quarries are near Eski-Kara-Hissar. Before reaching them their existence was pointed out by a hundred little mounds or monticules of chippings from the extracted blocks, as well as surrounding the entrance to the principal open quarry. This has been worked horizontally into the hill, the sides of which are cut away perpendicularly to a very great height, for those splendid columns which were to gratify the

<sup>1</sup> Pausanias, *op. cit.*, *Attica*, Book 1.    <sup>2</sup> Bruzza, *op. cit.*

<sup>3</sup> P. Silentiarius, *op. cit.*