

hillocks and surrounded by high mountains; but the country is agreeable, and produces delicious wines and much grain. The village of Toplitza is not only pleasant and beautiful, but fertile and well provided with all the necessities of life. Here we begin to breathe again after the long travail and danger of the past journey."

February 23rd.—Buovaga reached after passing through Nissa (Niš), "which was once a city, but is now reduced to a fair-sized village in the Turkish style."

February 24th.—Clissariza, in Bulgaria, 28 miles, which is here separated from Servia by Mount Cunovizza.

February 25th.—Zaribrod, 28 miles (the present Servo-Bulgarian frontier), passing through Pirot, "formerly a walled castle built in the ancient style of very large blocks of stone."

February 26th.—Bellizza, 25 miles, in the fertile plain of Sofia.

February 27th.—Sofia,¹ 15 miles. Here there are many Ragusan merchants and Jews, but the inhabitants are mostly Turks.

March 1st, 1534.—Vacarevo, 28 miles, reached after riding all day across a treeless plain.

March 2nd.—Vieterno, 28 miles.

March 3rd.—Celopinci, 32 miles, after passing Bazarcich (Tatar Bazarjik).

March 4th.—Cognuzza, after passing Philippopolis. "We still see the remains of the walls, which are in part

¹ The present capital of Bulgaria.