

ethereal hues at sunset. Presently we enter the canal of Meleda, with the island of that name to the right. At its north-western point is Porto Palazzo, where I once landed from a yacht; otherwise it is not easy to visit the island except by boat especially hired at Ragusa. Porto Palazzo is absolutely desolate now, with the gaunt ruins of a palace which gives it its name, and is said to have been built by the Cilician king, Agesilaus Anazarbaüs, whom Septimius Severus banished to Meleda for *lèse majesté*, on his return from his Parthian victories. Whether Meleda be the Pauline Meleda or not will probably always remain a subject of dispute; for Constantine Porphyrogenetos there is no doubt. "Another large island called Meleta", he says, "is mentioned by St. Luke in the Acts of the Apostles. Here a snake fastened on the finger of Saint Paul and Saint Paul shook it off into the fire." Only the obstinate, however, will still persist in the identification; though doubtless Meleda has two points of correspondence with St. Paul's island—it abounds in snakes and the people are kind to strangers. We landed at desolate Porto Palazzo and set out to cross the narrow neck separating us from the land-locked bay or loch, on an island in which