

the first colony migrated from the northeastern declivity of the Kuen-lun into the lower river valley of the Hoang-ho.

at least, and probably still more, must be conjectured for the gradual growth of a civilization which had been completed, and had in part begun to degenerate, at least 3430 years B.C." (Lepsius, in several letters to myself, dated March, 1846, and therefore after his return from his memorable expedition.) Compare, also, Bunsen's *Considerations on the Commencement of Universal History*, which, strictly defined, is only a history of recent times, in his ingenious and learned work, *Ägyptens Stelle in der Weltgeschichte*, 1845, erstes Buch, s. 11-13. The historical existence and regular chronology of the Chinese go back to 2400, and even to 2700 before our era, far beyond Ju to Hoang-ty. Many literary monuments of the thirteenth century B.C. are extant, and in the twelfth century B.C. Thscheu-li records the measurement of the length of the solstitial shadow taken with such exactness by Tscheu-kung, in the town of Lo-yang, south of the Yellow River, that Laplace found that it accorded perfectly with the theory of the alteration of the obliquity of the ecliptic, which was only established at the close of the last century. All suspicion of a measurement of the Earth's direction derived by calculating back, falls therefore to the ground of itself. See Edouard Biot, *Sur la Constitution Politique de la Chine au 12ème Siècle avant notre ère* (1845), p. 3 and 9. The building of Tyre and of the original temple of Melkarth (the Tyrian Hercules) would, according to the account which Herodotus received from the priests (II., 44), reach back 2760 years before our era. Compare, also, Heeren, *Ideen über Politik und Verkehr der Völker*, th. i., 2, 1824, s. 12. Simplicius calculates, from a notice transmitted by Porphyry, that the date of the earliest Babylonian astronomical observations which were known to Aristotle was 1903 years before Alexander the Great; and Ideler, who is so profound and cautious as a chronologist, considers this estimate in no way improbable. See his *Handbuch der Chronologie*, bd. i., s. 207; the *Abhandlungen der Berliner Akad. auf das Jahr 1814*, s. 217; and Böckh, *Metrol. Untersuchungen über die Masse des Alterthums*, 1838, s. 36. Whether safe historic ground is to be found in India earlier than 1200 B.C., according to the chronicles of Kashmeer (*Radjatarangini*, trad. par Troyer), is a question still involved in obscurity; while Megasthenes (*Indica*, ed. Schwanbeck, 1846, p. 50) reckons for 153 kings of the dynasty of Magadha, from Manu to Kandragupta, from sixty to sixty-four centuries, and the astronomer Aryabhatta places the beginning of his chronology 3102 B.C. (Lassen, *Ind. Alterthumsk.*, bd. i., s. 473-505, 507, und 510). In order to give the numbers contained in this note a higher significance in respect to the history of human civilization, it will not be superfluous to recall the fact that the destruction of Troy is placed by the Greeks 1184, by Homer 1000 or 950, and by Cadmus the Milesian, the first historical writer among the Greeks, 524 years before our era. This comparison of epochs proves at what different periods the desire for an exact record of events and enterprises was awakened among the nations most highly susceptible of culture and we are involuntarily reminded of the exclamation which Plato, in the *Timæus*, puts in the mouth of the priests of Sais: "O Solon, O Solon! ye Greeks still remain ever children; nowhere in Hellas is there an aged man. Your souls are ever youthful; ye have in them no knowledge of antiquity, no ancient belief, no wisdom grown venerable by age."