

coasts, many straits and isthmuses. Such a configuration of continents and of islands that have been partly severed and partly upheaved by volcanic agency in rows or in far projecting fissures, early led to geognostic views regarding eruptions, terrestrial revolutions, and outpourings of the swollen higher seas into those below them. The Euxine, the Dardanelles, the Straits of Gades, and the Mediterranean, with its numerous islands, were well fitted to draw attention to such a system of sluices. The Orphic Argonaut, who probably lived in Christian times, has interwoven old mythical narrations in his composition. He sings of the division of the ancient Lyktonia into separate islands, "when the dark-haired Poseidon, in anger with Father Kronion, struck Lyktonia with the golden trident." Similar fancies, which may often certainly have sprung from an imperfect knowledge of geographical relations, were frequently elaborated in the erudite Alexandrian school, which was so partial to every thing connected with antiquity. Whether the myth of the breaking up of Atlantis be a vague and western reflection of that of Lyktonia, as I have elsewhere shown to be probable, or whether, according to Otfried Müller, "the destruction of Lyktonia (Leukonia) refers to the Samothracian legend of a great flood which changed the form of that district,"\* is a question that it is unnecessary here to decide.

\* Ukert, *Geogr. der Griechen und Römer*, th. i., abth. 2, s. 345-348, and th. ii., abth. 1, s. 194; Johannes v. Müller, *Werke*, bd. i., s. 38; Humboldt, *Examen Critique*, t. i., p. 112 and 171; Otfried Müller, *Minyer*, s. 64; and the latter, again, in a too favorable critique of my memoir on the *Mythische Geographie der Griechen* (*Gött. gelehrte Anzeigen*, 1838). I expressed myself as follows: "In raising questions which are of so great importance with respect to philological studies, I can not wholly pass over all mention of that which belongs less to the description of the actual world than to the cycle of mythical geography. It is the same with space as with time. History can not be treated from a philosophical point of view, if the heroic ages be wholly lost sight of. National myths, when blended with history and geography, can not be regarded as appertaining wholly to the domain of the ideal world. Although vagueness is one of its distinctive attributes, and symbols cover reality by a more or less thick veil, myths, when intimately connected together, nevertheless reveal the ancient source from which the earliest glimpses of cosmography and physical science have been derived. The facts recorded in primitive history and geography are not mere ingenious fables, but rather the reflection of the opinion generally admitted regarding the actual world." The great investigator of antiquity (whose opinion is so favorable to me, and whose early death in the land of Greece, on which he had bestowed such profound and varied research, has been universally lamented) considered, on the contrary, that "the chief part of the poetic idea of the earth, as it oc-