

canal from Suez, probably for the purpose of facilitating intercourse with the land of the Arabian copper mines." More considerable maritime expeditions, as, for instance, the frequently contested, but not, I think, improbable* circumnavigation of Africa under Neku II. (611–595 B.C.), were confided to Phœnician vessels. About the same period or a little earlier, under Neku's father, Psammitich (Psemetek), and somewhat later, after the termination of the civil war under Amasis (Aahmes), Greek mercenaries, by their settlement at Naucratia, laid the foundation of a permanent foreign commerce, and by the admission of new elements, opened the way for the gradual penetration of Hellenism into Lower Egypt. Thus was introduced a germ of mental freedom and of greater independence of local influences—a germ which was rapidly

* To the important opinions of Benzell, Heeren, and Sprengel, who are inclined to believe in the reality of the circumnavigation of Libya, we must now add that of a most profound philologist, Etienne Quatremère (*Mémoires de l'Acad. des Inscriptions*, t. xv., Part ii., 1845, p. 380–388). The most convincing argument for the truth of the report of Herodotus (iv., 42) appears to me to be the observation which seems to him so incredible, viz., "that the mariners who sailed round Libya (from east to west) had the sun on their right hand." In the Mediterranean, in sailing from east to west, from Tyre to Gadeira, the sun at noon was seen to the left only. A knowledge of the possibility of such a navigation must have existed in Egypt previous to the time of Neku II. (Nechos), as Herodotus makes him distinctly command the Phœnicians "to return to Egypt through the passage of the Pillars of Hercules." It is singular that Strabo, who (lib. ii., p. 98) discusses at such length the attempted circumnavigation of Eudoxus of Cyzicus under Cleopatra, and mentions fragments of a ship from Gadeira which were found on the Ethiopian (eastern) shore, considers the accounts given of the circumnavigations actually accomplished as Bergaic fables (lib. ii., p. 100); but he does not deny the possibility of the circumnavigation itself (lib. i., p. 38), and declares that from the east to the west there is but little that remains to its completion (lib. i., p. 4). Strabo by no means agreed to the extraordinary isthmus hypothesis of Hipparchus and Marinus of Tyre, according to which Eastern Africa is joined to the southeast end of Asia, and the Indian Ocean converted into a *Mediterranean Sea*. (Humboldt, *Examen Crit. de l'Hist. de la Géographie*, t. i., p. 139–142, 145, 161, and 229; t. ii., p. 370–373). Strabo quotes Herodotus, but does not name Nechos, whose expedition he confounds with one sent by Darius round Southern Persia and Arabia (Herod., iv., 44). Gosselin even proposed, somewhat too boldly, to change the reading from Darius to Nechos. A counterpart for the horse's head of the ship of Gadeira, which Eudoxus is said to have exhibited in a market-place in Egypt, occurs in the remains of a ship of the Red Sea, which was brought to the coast of Crete by westerly currents, according to the account of a very trustworthy Arabian historian (Masudi, in the *Morudj-al-dzcheb*, Quatremère, p. 389, and Reinaud. *Relation des Voyages dans l'Inde*, 1845, t. i., p. xvi., and t. ii., p. 46).