

glass-wares, tissues, and purple dyes, necessarily led to advancement in mathematical and chemical knowledge, and more particularly in the technical arts. "The Sidonians," writes Strabo, "are described as industrious inquirers in astronomy, as well as in the science of numbers, to which they have been led by their skill in arithmetical calculation, and in navigating their vessels by night, both of which are indispensable to commerce and maritime intercourse."\* In order to give some idea of the extent of the globe opened by the navigation and caravan trade of the Phœnicians, we will mention the colonies in the Euxine, on the Bithynian shore (Pronectus and Bithynium), which were probably settled at a very early age; the Cyclades, and several islands of the Ægean Sea, first known at the time of the Homeric bard; the south of Spain, rich in silver (Tartessus and Gades); the north of Africa, west of the Lesser Syrtis (Utica, Hadrumetum, and Carthage); the tin and amber lands of the north of Europe; †

\* Strabo, lib. xvi., p. 757.

† The locality of the "land of tin" (Britain and the Scilly Islands) is more easily determined than that of the "amber coast;" for it appears very improbable that the old Greek denomination *κασσιτερος*, which was already in use in the Homeric times, is to be derived from a mountain in the southwest of Spain, called Mount Cassius, celebrated for its tin ore, and which Avienus, who was well acquainted with the country, placed between Gaddir and the mouth of a small southern Iberus (Ukert, *Geogr. der Griechen und Römer*, theil ii., abth. i., s. 479). *Kassiteros* is the ancient Indian Sanscrit word *kastîra*. *Dän* in Icelandic; *zinn* in German; *tin* in English and Danish; and *tenn* in Swedish, are rendered, in the Malay and Javanese language, by *timah*; a similarity of sound which calls to mind that of the old German word *glesum* (the name applied to transparent amber), with the modern German *glas*, glass. The names of wares and articles of commerce pass from one nation to another, and into the most different families of languages. Through the intercourse which the Phœnicians maintained with the eastern coast of India, by means of their factories in the Persian Gulf, the Sanscrit word *kastîra*, which expressed so useful a product of Further India, and still exists among the old Aramæic idioms in the Arabian word *kasdir*, may have become known to the Greeks even before Albion and the British Cassiterides had been visited (Aug. Willh. v. Schlegel, in the *Indische Bibliothek*, bd. ii., s. 393; Benfey, *Indien*, s. 307; Pott, *Etymol. Forschungen*, th. ii., s. 414; Lassen, *Indische Alterthumskunde*, bd. i., s. 239). A name often becomes a historical monument, and the etymological analysis of languages, however it may be derided, is attended by valuable results. The ancients were also acquainted with the existence of tin—one of the rarest metals—in the country of the Artabri and the Callaici, in the northwest part of the Iberian continent (Strabo, lib. iii., p. 147; Plin., xxxiv., c. 16), which was nearer of access than the Cassiterides (Æstrymnides of Avienus), from the Mediterranean. When, before embarking for the Canaries, I was in Galicia in 1799, mining operations, although of very inferior