

discovered by the Carthaginians), and the Orkneys, Färoë Islands, and Iceland, became the respective western and northern intermediate stations for passing to the New Continent. They indicate the two directions by which the European portion of the human race first became acquainted with the natives of North and Central America. This consideration gives a great, and, I might almost say, a cosmical importance to the question whether and how early the Phœnicians of the mother country, or those of the Iberian and African settlements (Gadeira, Carthage, and Cerne), were acquainted with Porto Santo, Madeira, and the Canary Islands. In a long series of events, we willingly seek to trace the first and guiding link of the chain. It is probable that fully 2000 years elapsed from the foundation of Tartessus and Utica by Phœnicians, to the discovery of America by the northern course, that is to say, to Eric Randau's voyage to Greenland, which was followed by voyages to North Carolina; and that 2500 years intervened before Christopher Columbus, starting from the old Phœnician settlement of Gadeira, made the passage by the southwest route.*

In accordance with the requirements for the generalization of ideas demanded by the present work, I have considered the discovery of a group of islands lying only 168 miles from the African shore as the first member of a long series of similarly-directed efforts, but I have made no allusion to the *Elysium*, the *Islands of the Blessed*, fabled by the poetic visions of fancy, as situated on the confines of the earth, in an ocean warmed by the rays of the near setting sun. All the enjoyments of life and the choicest products of nature were supposed to be placed at the remotest distance of the terrestrial globe.† The ideal land—the geographical myth of the Elysion—was removed further to the west, even beyond the Pillars of Hercules, as the knowledge of the Mediterranean was extended among the Hellenic races. True cosmical knowledge, and the earliest discoveries of the Phœnicians, regard-

* Strabo, lib. xvii., p. 826. The destruction of Phœnician colonies by Nigritians (lib. ii., p. 131) appears to indicate a very southern locality; more so, perhaps, than the crocodiles and elephants mentioned by Hanno, since both these were certainly, at one period, found north of the desert of Sahara, in Maurusia, and in the whole western Atlas country, as is proved from Strabo, lib. xvii., p. 827; Ælian., *De Nat. Anim.*, vii., 2; Plin., v., 1, and from many occurrences in the wars between Rome and Carthage. See, on this important subject, referring to the geography of animals, Cuvier, *Ossemens Fossiles*, 2 éd., t. i., p. 74, and Quatremère, *op. cit.*, p. 391-394.

† Herod., iii., 106.