

ing whose precise period no certain tidings have come down to us, did not probably give rise to this myth of the "Islands of the Blessed," the application to which was made subsequently. Geographical discovery has merely embodied a phantom of the imagination, to which it served as a substratum.

Later writers (as an unknown compiler of the *Collection of Wonderful Relations* ascribed to Aristotle, who made use of Timæus, and more especially of Diodorus Siculus) have spoken of "Pleasant Islands," which must be supposed to be the Canaries, and of the great storms to which their accidental discovery is due. It is said that "Phœnician and Carthaginian vessels, which were sailing toward the settlements already then founded on the coast of Libya, were driven out to sea." This event is supposed to have occurred in the early period of the Tyrrhenian navigation, and in that of the contest between the Tyrrhenian Pelasgians and Phœnicians. Statius Sebosus and the Numidian king Juba first gave names to the separate islands, but, unfortunately, not Punic names, although undoubtedly in accordance with notices taken from Punic works. As Plutarch says that Sertorius, when driven away from Spain, wished to save himself and his attendants, after the loss of his fleet, on a group of two Atlantic islands, ten thousand stadia to the west of the mouth of the Bætis, it has been supposed that he meant to designate the two islands of Porto Santo and Madeira,* which were clearly indicated by Pliny as the Pur-

* I have treated in detail this often-contested subject, as well as the passages of Diodorus (v. 19 and 20), and of the Pseudo-Aristot. (*Mirab. Auscult.*, cap. 85, p. 172, Bekk.), in another work (*Examen Crit.*, t. i., p. 130-139; t. ii., p. 158 and 169; t. iii., p. 137-140). The compilation of the *Mirab. Auscult.* appears to have been of a date prior to the end of the first Punic war, since, in cap. 105, p. 211, it describes Sardinia as under the dominion of the Carthaginians. It is also worthy of notice that the wood-clad island, which is mentioned in this work, is described as uninhabited (therefore not peopled by Guanches). The whole group of the Canary Islands was inhabited by Guanches, but not the island of Madeira, in which no inhabitants were found either by John Gonzalves and Tristan Vaz in 1519, or, still earlier, by Robert Masham and Anna Dorset (supposing their Crusoe-like narrative to possess a character of veracity). Heeren applies the description of Diodorus to Madeira alone; yet he thinks that in the account of Festus Avienus (v. 164), who is so conversant with Punic writings, he can recognize the frequent volcanic earthquakes of the Peak of Teneriffe. (See *Ideen über Politik und Handel*, th. ii., abth. i., 1826, s. 106.) To judge from the geographical connection, the description of Avienus would appear to indicate a more northern locality, perhaps even the Kronik Sea. (*Examen Crit.*, t. iii., p. 138.) Ammianus Marcellinus (xxii., 15) also notices the Punic sources of which Juba availed himself. Respecting the probability of the Semitic origin of the appellation of the Canary Islands (the dog