

In the enumeration of the elements of an extended knowledge of the universe, which were early brought to the Greeks from other parts of the Mediterranean basin, we have hitherto followed the Phœnicians and Carthaginians in their intercourse with the northern tin and amber lands, as well as in their settlements near the tropics, on the west coast of Africa. It now, therefore, only remains for us to refer to a voyage of the Phœnicians to the south, when they proceeded 4000 geographical miles east of Cerne and Hanno's Western Horn, far within the tropics, to the Prasodic and Indian Seas. Whatever doubt may exist regarding the localization of the distant gold lands (Ophir and Supara), and whether these gold lands are the western coasts of the Indian Peninsula or the eastern shores of Africa, it is, at any rate, certain that this active, enterprising Semitic race, who so early employed alphabetical writing, had a direct acquaintance with the products of the most different climates, from the Cassiterides to the south of the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, far within the tropics. The Tyrian flag floated simultaneously in the British and Indian Seas. The Phœnicians had commercial settlements in the northern parts of the Arabian Gulf, in the ports of Elath and Ezion-Geber, as well as on the Persian Gulf at Aradus and Tylos, where, according to Strabo, temples had been erected, which, in their style of architecture, resembled those on the Mediterranean.* The caravan trade, which was carried on by the Phœnicians in seeking spices and incense, was directed to Arabia Felix, through Palmyra, and to the Chaldean or Nabathæic Gerrha, on the western or Arabian side of the Persian Gulf.

The expeditions sent by Hiram and Solomon, and which were undertaken conjointly by Tyrians and Israelites, sailed from Ezion-Geber through the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb to Ophir (Opheir, Sophir, Sophora, the Sanscrit Supara of Ptolemy).† Solomon, who loved pomp, caused a fleet to be con-

times greater than the elevation of Ætna. If, however, we might assume, as my friend Professor Encke has remarked, the reflecting surface to be 184 miles from Ætna and 168 miles from Taygetos, its height above the sea would only require to be 1829 feet.

* Strabo, lib. xvi., p. 767, Casaub. According to Polybius, it would seem that the Euxine and the Adriatic Sea were discernible from Mount Aimon—an assertion ridiculed by Strabo (lib. vii., p. 313). Compare Scymnus, p. 93.

† On the synonym of Ophir, see my *Examen Crit. de l'Hist. de la Géographie*, t. ii., p. 42. Ptolemy, in lib. vi., cap. 7, p. 156, speaks of a Sapphara, the metropolis of Arabia; and in lib. vii., cap. 1, p. 168, of