

ilization is most deeply rooted, and from whom we have derived a considerable portion of our early knowledge of other nations, and of our views regarding the universe. We have considered the basin of the Mediterranean in its characteristic configuration and position, and the influence of these relations on the commercial intercourse established with the western coasts of Africa, the extreme north, and the Indo-Arabian Sea. No portion of the earth has been the theater of greater changes of power, or of greater or more animated activity under the influence of mental guidance. This movement was transmitted far and enduringly by the Greeks and Romans, especially after the latter had destroyed the Phœnicio-Carthaginian power. That which we term the beginning of history is, therefore, only the period when later generations awoke to self-consciousness. It is one of the advantages of the present age that, by the brilliant progress that has been made in general and comparative philology, by the careful investigation of monuments and their more certain interpretation, the views of the historical inquirer are daily enlarged, and the strata of remote antiquity gradually opened, as it were, before our eyes. Besides the civilized nations of the Mediterranean which we have just enumerated, there are many others who show traces of ancient cultivation; among these we may mention the Phrygians and Lycians in Western Asia, and the Turduli and Turdetani in the extreme West.* Of the latter, Strabo observes, "they are the most cultivated of all the Iberians; they employ the art of writing, and have written books containing memorials of ancient times, and also poems and laws set in verse, for which they claim an antiquity of six thousand years." I have dwelt on these separate examples in order to show how much of ancient cultivation, even among European nations, has been lost without our being able to discover any trace of its existence, and how the history of the earliest contemplation of the universe must continue to be limited to a very narrow compass.

Beyond the forty-eighth degree of latitude, north of the Sea of Azof and of the Caspian, between the Don, the Wolga, and the Jaik, where the latter flows from the southern auriferous

* Strabo, lib. iii., p. 139, Casaub. Compare Wilhelm von Humboldt, *Ueber die Urbewohner Hispaniens*, 1821, s. 123 und 131-136. The Iberian alphabet has been successfully investigated in our own times by M. de Saulcy; the Phrygian, by the ingenious discoverer of arrow-headed writing, Grotefend; and the Lycian, by Sir Charles Fellows. (Compare Ross, *Hellenika*, bd. i., s. xvi.)