

Uralian Mountains, Europe and Asia are, as it were, fused together by flat steppes. Herodotus, in the same manner as Pherecydes of Syros had previously done, regarded the whole of northern Scythian Asia (Siberia) as belonging to Sarmatian Europe, and even as forming a portion of Europe itself.\* Toward the south, our quarter of the globe is sharply separated from Asia, but the far-projecting peninsula of Asia Minor and the richly-varied Ægean Archipelago (serving as a bridge between the two separate continents) have afforded an easy passage for different races, languages, customs, and manners. Western Asia has, from the earliest ages, been the great thoroughfare for races migrating from the east, as was the north-west of Greece for the Illyric races. The Ægean Archipelago, which was in turn subject to Phœnician, Persian, and Greek dominion, was the intermediate link between Greece and the far East.

When Phrygia was incorporated with Lydia, and both merged into the Persian empire, the contact led to the general extension of the sphere of ideas among Asiatic and European Greeks. The Persian rule was extended by the warlike expeditions of Cambyses and Darius Hystaspes from Cyrene and the Nile to the fruitful lands of the Euphrates and the Indus. A Greek, Scylax of Caryanda, was employed to explore the course of the Indus, from the then-existing territory of Caschmeer (Kaspapyrus)† to its mouth. An active intercourse was carried on between Greece and Egypt (with Naucratis and the Pelusian arm of the Nile) before the Persian conquest, and even under Psammitichus and Amasis.‡ These extensive relations of intercourse with other nations drew many Greeks from their native land, not only for the purpose of establishing those distant colonies which we shall consider in a subsequent part of the present work, but also as hired soldiers, who formed the nucleus of foreign armies in Carthage,§ Egypt, Babylon, Persia, and in the Bactrian district of the Oxus.

A deeper insight into the individuality and national character of the different Greek races has shown that, if a grave

\* Herod., iv., 42 (Schweighäuser ad Herod., t. v., p. 204). Compare Humboldt, *Asie Centrale*, t. i., p. 54 and 577.

† Regarding the most probable etymology of *Kaspapyrus* of Hecætæus (*Fragm.*, ed. Klausen, No. 179, v. 94), and the *Kaspapyrus* of Herodotus (iii., 102, and iv., 44), see my *Asie Centrale*, t. i., p. 101-104.

‡ Regarding Psammitichus and Aahmes, see *ante*, p. 127.

§ Droysen, *Geschichte der Bildung des Hellenistischen Staatensystems* 1843, s. 23