

Griffins, the seat of the meteorological myth of the Hyperboreans,\* which has wandered with Hercules far to the West.

We may conjecture that the portion of Northern Asia above alluded to, which has again, in our days, become celebrated by the Siberian gold washings, as well as the large quantity of gold accumulated, in the time of Herodotus, by the Gothic tribe of the Massagetæ, must have become an important source of wealth and luxury to the Greeks, by means of the intercourse opened with the Euxine. I place the locality of this source of wealth between the 53d and 55th degrees of latitude. The region of the gold-sand, of which the travelers were informed by the Daradas (Darder or Derder), mentioned in the Mahabharata, and in the fragments collected by Megasthenes, and which, owing to the accidental double meaning of the names of some animals,† has been associated with the often-

Northwestern Asia in the time of Herodotus, see my *Asie Centrale*, t. i., p. 389-407.

\* "The story of the Hyperboreans is a meteorological myth. The wind of the mountains (B'Oreas) is believed to issue from the Rhipæan Mountains, while beyond these mountains there prevail a calm air and a genial climate, as on the Alpine summits, beyond the region of clouds. In this we trace the dawn of a physical science, which explains the distribution of heat and the difference of climates by local causes, by the direction of predominating winds, the vicinity of the sun, and the action of a saline or humid principle. The consequence of these systematic ideas was the assumption of a certain independence supposed to exist between the climate and the latitude of the place; thus the myth of the Hyperboreans, connected by its origin with the Dorian worship of Apollo, which was primitively Boreal, may have proceeded from the north toward the west, thus following Hercules in his progress toward the sources of the Ister, to the island of Erythia, and to the gardens of the Hesperides. The Rhipes, or Rhipæan Mountains, have also a meteorological meaning, as the word indicates. They are the mountains of impulsion, or of the glacial souffle (*ῥιπή*), the place from which the Boreal tempests are unloosened."—*Asie Centrale*, t. i., p. 392, 403.

† In Hindostanee there are two words which might easily be confounded, as Wilford has already remarked, one of which is *tschiúntá*, a kind of large black ant (whence the diminutive *tschiúnti*, *tschintí*, the small common ant); the other *tschitá*, a spotted panther, the little hunting leopard (the *Felis jubata*, Schreb.). This word (*tschitá*) is the Sanscrit *tschitra*, variegated or spotted, as is shown by the Bengalee name for the animal (*tschitábâgh* and *tschitibâgh*, from *bâgh*, Sanscrit *vyaghra*, tiger).—(Buschmann.) In the *Mahabharata* (ii., 1860) there is a passage recently discovered, in which the ant-gold is mentioned. "Wilso invenit (*Journ. of the Asiat. Soc.*, vii., 1843, p. 143), mentionem fieri etiam in Indicis litteris bestiarum aurum effodientium, quas, quum terram effodiant, eodem nomine (pipilica) atque formicas Indi nuncupant." Compare Schwanbeck, in *Megasth. Indicis*, 1846, p. 73. It struck me to see that, in the basaltic districts of the Mexican high-