

between the north of Europe and Asia, and subsequently with the Oxus and Indus, so the Samians\* and Phocæans† were the first among the Greeks who endeavored to penetrate from the basin of the Mediterranean toward the west.

Colæus of Samos sailed for Egypt, where, at that time, an intercourse had begun, under Psammitichus, with the Greeks, which probably was only the renewal of a former connection. He was driven by easterly storms to the island of Plataea, and from thence Herodotus significantly adds, "not without divine direction," through the straits into the ocean. The accidental and unexpected commercial gain in Iberian Tartessus conduced less than the discovery of an entrance into an unknown world (whose existence was scarcely conjectured as a mythical creation of fancy) toward giving to this event importance and celebrity wherever the Greek language was understood on the shores of the Mediterranean. Beyond the Pillars of Hercules (earlier known as the Pillars of Briareus, of Ægæon, and of Cronos), at the western margin of the earth, on the road to Elysium and the Hesperides, the primeval waters of the circling Oceanus‡ were first seen, in which the source of all rivers was then sought.

At Phasis the navigators of the Euxine again found themselves on a coast beyond which a *Sun Lake* was supposed to be situated, and south of Gadeira and Tartessus their eyes for the first time ranged over a boundless waste of waters. It was this circumstance which, for fifteen hundred years, gave to the gate of the inner sea a peculiar character of importance. Ever striving to pass onward, Phœnicians, Greeks, Arabs, Catalans, Majorcans, Frenchmen from Dieppe and La Rochelle, Genoese, Venetians, Portuguese, and Spaniards in turn attempted to advance across the Atlantic Ocean, long held to be a miry, shallow, dark, and misty sea, *Mare tenebrosum*; until, proceeding from station to station, as it were, these southern nations, after gaining the Canaries and the

\* Herod., iv., 152.

† Herod., i., 163, where even the discovery of Tartessus is ascribed to the Phocæans; but the commercial enterprise of the Phocæans was seventy years after the time of Colæus of Samos, according to Ukert *Geogr. der Griechen und Römer*, th. 1, i., s. 40).

‡ According to a fragment of Phavorinus, ὠκεανός (and therefore ὠγήν also) are not Greek words, but merely borrowed from the barbarians (Spohn, *De Nicephor. Blemm. duobus Opusculis*, 1818, p. 23). My brother was of opinion that they were connected with the Sanscrit roots *ogha* and *ogh*. (See my *Examen Critique de l'Hist. de la Géogr.*, t. i., p. 33 and 182.)