

ages, and even long after that period, the dependence of the temperature of the air on latitude was wholly unknown, and the relations of east and west then constituted the whole thermic meteorology of the Greeks. The countries lying to the east were regarded as near the sun—*sun lands*, and the inhabitants as “colored by the near sun-god in his course with a sooty luster,* and their hair dried and crisped with the heat of his rays.”

Alexander's campaigns first gave occasion to a comparison, on a grand scale, between the African races which predominated so much in Egypt with the Arian races beyond the Tigris and the ancient Indian Aborigines, who were very dark colored, but not woolly haired. The classification of mankind into varieties, and their distribution over the surface of the earth, which is to be regarded rather as a consequence of historical events than as the result of protracted climatic relations (when the types have been once firmly fixed), together with the apparent contradiction between color and places of abode, were subjects that could not fail to produce the most vivid impression on the mind of thoughtful observers. We still find, in the interior of the great Indian continent, an extensive territory, which is inhabited by a population of dark, almost black aborigines, totally different from the lighter-colored Arian races, who immigrated at a subsequent period. Among these we may reckon, as belonging to the Vindhya races, the Gonda, the Bhilla in the forest districts of Malava and Guzerat, and the Kola of Orissa. The acute observer Lassen regards it as probable that, at the time of Herodotus, the black Asiatic races, “the Ethiopians of the sun-rising,” which resembled the Libyans in the color of their skin, but not in the character of their hair, were diffused much further toward the northwest than at present.† In like manner, in the ancient Egyptian empire, the actual woolly-hair-

* Thus says Theodectes of Phaselis: see vol. i., p. 353. Northern tracts of land were considered to lie more toward the west, and southern countries to the east. Consult Völcker, *Ueber Homerische Geographie und Weltkunde*, s. 43 und 87. The indefinite meaning of the word Indies, even at that age, as connected with ideas of position, of the complexion of the inhabitants, and of precious products, contributed to the extension of these meteorological hypotheses; for Western Arabia, the countries between Ceylon and the mouth of the Indus, Troglodytic Ethiopia, and the African myrrh and cinnamon lands south of Cape Aroma, were all termed India. (Humboldt, *Examen Crit.*, t. ii., p. 35.)

† Lassen, *Ind. Alterthumskunde*, bd. i., s. 369, 372-375, 379, und 389; Ritter, *Asien*, bd. iv., 1, s. 446.