

noblest type, in the efforts made by Alexander in his campaign to fuse together the eastern and western worlds. Its extension under the Lagides characterizes the epoch which I would here portray, and must be regarded as an important advance toward the attainment of a knowledge of the universe in its character of unity.

As far as abundance and variety in the objects presented to the contemplation are conducive to an increased amount of knowledge, we might certainly regard the intercourse existing between Egypt and distant countries; the scientific exploring expeditions into Ethiopia at the expense of the government;* distant ostrich† and elephant hunts; and the establishment of menageries of wild and rare animals in the "king's houses of Bruchium" as means of incitement toward the study of natural history,‡ and as amply sufficient to furnish empirical science with the materials requisite for its further development; but the peculiar character of the Ptolemaic period, as well as of the whole Alexandrian school, which retained the same individuality of type until the third and fourth centuries, manifested itself in a different direction, inclining less to an immediate observation of particulars than to a laborious accumulation of the results of that which had already been noted by others, and to a careful classification, comparison, and men-

* Meteorological speculations on the remote causes of the swelling of the Nile gave occasion to some of these journeys, since, as Strabo expresses it (lib. xvii., p. 789 and 790), "Philadelphus was constantly seeking new diversions and new objects of interest from a desire for knowledge and from bodily weakness."

† Two hunting inscriptions, "one of which principally records the elephant hunts of Ptolemy Philadelphus," were discovered and copied from the colossi of Abusimbel (Ibsambul) by Lepsius during his Egyptian journey (compare, on this subject, Strabo, lib. xvi., p. 769 and 770; Ælian, *De Nat. Anim.*, iii., 34, and xvii., 3; Athenæus, v., p. 196). Although Indian ivory was an article of export from Barygaza, according to the *Periplus Maris Erythræi*, yet, from the statement of Cosmas, ivory would also appear to have been exported from Ethiopia to the western peninsula of India. Elephants have withdrawn more to the south in Eastern Africa, also, since ancient times. According to the testimony of Polybius (v., 84), when African and Indian elephants were opposed to each other on fields of battle, the sight, smell, and cries of the larger and stronger Indian elephants drove the African ones to flight. The latter were probably never employed as war elephants in such large numbers as in Asiatic expeditions, where Kandragupta had assembled 9000, the powerful King of the Prasii 6000, and Akbar an equally large number. (Lassen, *Ind. Alterthumskunde*, bd i., s. 305-307.)

‡ Athen., xiv., p. 654. Compare Parthey, *Das Alexandrinische Museum*, eine Preisschrift, s. 55 und 171.