

geographical information of Ptolemy; but his work surpasses all other geographical labors of antiquity by the diversity of the subjects and the grandeur of the composition. Strabo, as he takes pleasure in informing us, had seen with his own eyes a considerable portion of the Roman empire, "from Armenia to the Tyrrhenian coasts, and from the Euxine to the borders of Ethiopia." After he had completed the historical work of Polybius by the addition of forty-three books, he had the courage, in his eighty-third year,* to begin his work on geography. He remarks, "that in his time the empire of the Romans and Parthians had extended the sphere of the known world more even than Alexander's campaigns, from which Eratosthenes derived so much aid." The Indian trade was no longer in the hands of the Arabs alone; and Strabo, when in Egypt, remarked with astonishment the increased number of vessels passing directly from Myos Hormos to India.† In imagination he penetrated beyond India as far as the eastern shores of Asia. At this point, in the parallel of the Pillars of Hercules and the island of Rhodes, where, according to his idea, a connected mountain chain, a prolongation of the Taurus, traversed the Old Continent in its greatest width, he conjectured the existence of *another continent* between the west of Europe and Asia. "It is very possible," he writes,‡ "that

* On the reasons on which we base our assertion of the exceedingly late commencement of Strabo's work, see Groskurd's German translation, th. i., 1831, s. xvii.

† Strabo, lib. i., p. 14; lib. ii., p. 118; lib. xvi., p. 781; lib. xvii., p. 789 and 815.

‡ Compare the two passages of Strabo, lib. i., p. 65, and lib. ii., p. 118 (Humboldt, *Examen Critique de l'Hist. de la Géographie*, t. i., p. 152-154). In the important new edition of Strabo, published by Gustav Kramer, 1844, th. i., p. 100, "the parallel of Athens is read for the parallel of Thinae, as if Thinae had first been named in the Pseudo-Arrian, in the *Periplus Maris Rubri*." Dodwell places the *Periplus* under Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus, while, according to Letronne, it was written under Septimius Severus and Caracalla. Although five passages in Strabo, according to all our manuscripts, have *Thinae*, yet lib. ii., p. 79, 86, 87, and, above all, 82, in which Eratosthenes himself is named, prove decidedly that the reading should be the "parallel of Athens and Rhodes." These two places were confounded, as old geographers made the peninsula of Attica extend too far toward the south. It would also appear surprising, supposing the usual reading *Θινῶν κύκλος* to be the more correct, that a particular parallel, the Diaphragm of Dicæarchus, should be called after a place so little known as that of the Sines (Tsin). However, Cosmas Indicopleustes also connects his Tzinitza (*Thinae*) with the chain of mountains which divides Persia and the Romanic districts no less than the whole habitable world into two parts, subjoining the remarkable observation that this division is accord-