

biography of this prince entirely different from that of Herodotus.

Ctesias, nearly contemporary with Xenophon, pretends to have drawn from the archives of the Medes, a chronology which renders the origin of the Assyrian monarchy more remote by eight hundred years, placing at the head of its kings the same Ninus, the son of Belus, whom Herodotus had made one of the Heraclidæ; and at the same time he attributes to Ninus and Semiramis, conquests towards the west, of an extent absolutely incompatible with the Jewish and Egyptian history of this period.(1)

According to Megasthenes, it was Nebuchadnezzar who made these incredible conquests. He carried them through Libya to Spain.(2) We see that, from the time of Alexander, Nebuchadnezzar had entirely usurped the reputation which Semiramis had had from the time of Artaxerxes. But, we must certainly suppose, that Semiramis and Nebuchadnezzar had conquered Ethiopia and Libya, nearly in the same manner as the Egyptians attributed the conquests of India and Bactria to Sesostris or Osymandias.

It would avail us nothing, if we now entered into an examination of the different traditions of Sardanapalus, in which a celebrated learned man has imagined that he has discerned proof of the existence of three princes of that name, all victims of similar misfortunes:(3) and in the same way, another learned man finds in the Indies, at least three

(1) Diod. Sicul. lib. 2.

(2) Josephus, (contra App.) lib. i. ch. vi., and Strabo, lib. xv. p. 687.

(3) See the Memoir of Freret, on the History of the Assyrians, in the Memoirs of the Academy of Belles Lettres, vol. v.