

route—that is, along the coast of Africa—they planted enterprising maritime colonies. Of these the most brilliant in its prosperity, and the most tragic in its fall, was Carthage. The immense commerce of the Carthaginians, their extended relations, their frequent intercourse with Phœnicia, brought the East into close contact with the West, and powerfully contributed to dissipate the obscurity which brooded over the existence or extent of countries lying far from Greece and Italy. Nevertheless, other nations were slow to participate in the geographical researches of the Phœnicians, who sedulously preserved the secret of their discoveries, clearly perceiving that they were the key to their wealth and the secret of their cosmopolitan

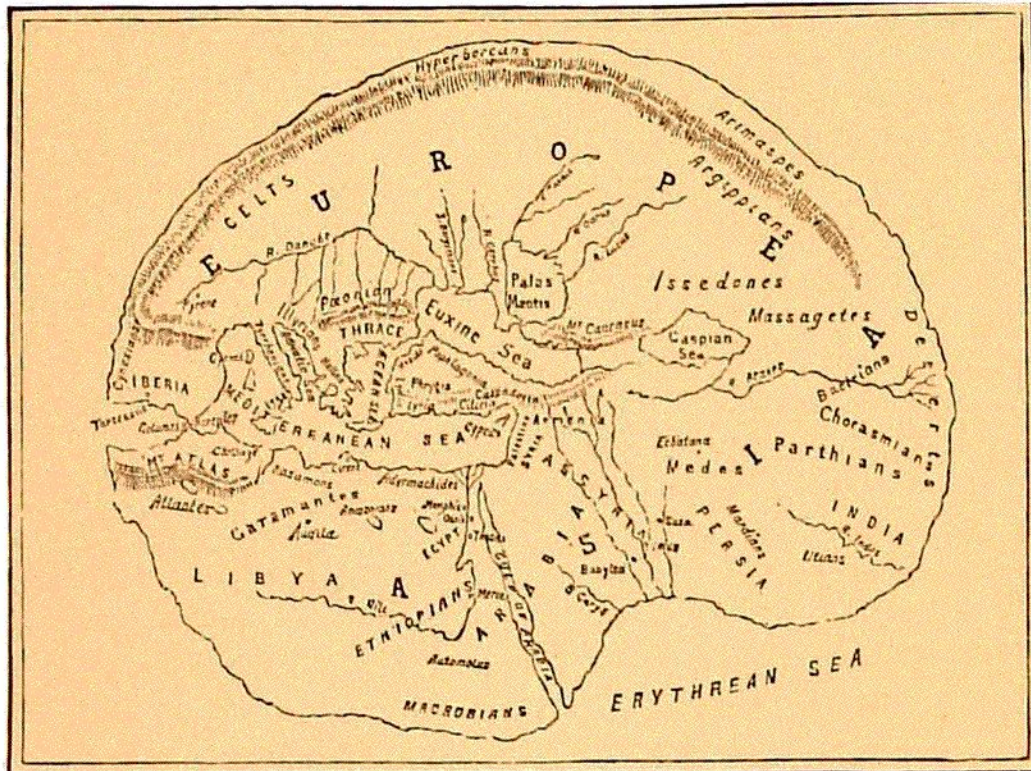


FIG. 4.—THE EARTH ACCORDING TO HERODOTUS.

commerce. HERODOTUS himself,\* when he undertook those protracted voyages [about B.C. 450-430] which enabled him in his writings to speak with so much authority of strange countries, could obtain, on his visit to Phœnicia, but few particulars relative to the inhabitants of Tyre.

From the facts which he had accumulated, Herodotus was able to show the exact condition of geographical science in his own times. We set it before the reader in the accompanying map (Figure 4.) The world is divided into two parts: Europe and Asia. The positions of the "midland ocean" and the Euxine are indicated with tolerable accuracy; but we find the Red Sea extended far beyond its natural boundaries, and the north of Europe is a dream and a chimera.

Gradually, however, the information gathered by the Phœnicians ceased to be their peculiar property: the Greeks, their neighbours, became their rivals in the

\* [Herodotus (*Ἡρόδοτος*), the father of history, was a native of the Doric colony of Halicarnassus, and born B.C. 484. He wrote his great work at Thurii, in the last years of his life, being prevented from completing it by his death in B.C. 408.]