

purariæ. The strong oceanic current, which is directed beyond the Pillars of Hercules from northwest to southeast, might long have prevented the coast navigators from discovering the islands most remote from the continent, and of which only the smaller, Porto Santo, was found to be inhabited in the fifteenth century; and, owing to the curvature of the Earth, the summit of the great volcano of Teneriffè could not be seen, even with a strong refraction, by Phœnician mariners sailing along the coast, although I found, from my own observations, that it was discernible from the slight elevations that surround Cape Bojador,* especially in cases of eruption, and by the reflection of a high cloud resting over the volcano. It is even asserted that eruptions of Mount Ætna have been seen, in recent times, from Mount Taygetos in Greece.†

island of Pliny's Latin etymology!), see Credner's *Biblische Vorstellung vom Paradiese*, in Illgen's *Zeitschr. für die Historische Theologie*, bd. vi., 1836, s. 166-186. Joaquim Jose da Costa de Macedo, in a work entitled *Memoria em que se pretende provar que os Arabes nao conhecerão as Canarias antes dos Portuguezes*, 1844, has recently collected all that has been written from the most ancient times to the Middle Ages respecting the Canary Islands. Where history, so far as it is founded on certain and distinctly-expressed evidence, is silent, there remain only different degrees of probability; but an absolute denial of all facts in the world's history, of which the evidence is not distinct, appears to me no happy application of philological and historical criticism. The many indications which have come down to us from antiquity, and a careful consideration of the relations of geographical proximity to ancient undoubted settlements on the African shore, lead me to believe that the Canary Islands were known to the Phœnicians, Carthaginians, Greeks, and Romans, perhaps even to the Etruscans.

* Compare the calculations in my *Rel. Hist.*, t. i., p. 140 and 287. The Peak of Teneriffè is distant $2^{\circ} 49'$ of an arc from the nearest point of the African coast. In assuming a mean refraction of 0.08, the summit of the Peak may be seen from a height of 1291 feet, and, therefore, from the Montañas Negras, not far from Cape Bojador. In this calculation, the elevation of the Peak above the level of the sea has been taken at 12,175 feet; Captain Vidal has recently determined it trigonometrically at 12,405, and Messrs. Coupvent and Dumoulin, barometrically, at 12,150. (D'Urville, *Voyage au Pole Sud, Hist.*, t. i., 1842, p. 31, 32.) But Lancerote, with a volcano, la Corona, 1918 feet in height (Leop. v. Buch, *Canarische Inseln*, s. 104), and Fortaventura, lie much nearer to the main land than Teneriffè; the distance of the first-named island being $1^{\circ} 15'$, and that of the second $1^{\circ} 2'$.

† Ross has only mentioned this assertion as a report (*Hellenika*, bd. i., s. xi.). May the observation not have rested on a mere deception? If we take the elevation of Ætna above the sea at 10,874 feet (lat. $37^{\circ} 45'$, long. from Paris $12^{\circ} 41'$), and that of the place of observation, on the Taygetos (Mount Elias), at 7904 feet (lat. $36^{\circ} 57'$, long. from Paris $20^{\circ} 1'$), and the distance between the two at 352 geographical miles, we have for the point from which light was emitted above Ætna, and was visible on Taygetos, fully 48,675 feet, which is four and a half