

beneath the earth, the course of the eternal *'Ωκεανός*. There—that is to say, below the earth—spreads another vault, corresponding in its curvature to that of the sky: the vault of Tartarus—the tenebrous realm of the Titans, those rebel and vanquished angels of the Pagan mythology. Sombre and silent, Tartarus is shrouded in everlasting night.

Such is the first cosmographic system, so far as we know, imagined by man. To render it more intelligible to the reader, we subjoin a map of the world, drawn in accordance with it. He will see that the river *'Ωκεανός* on all sides encloses the continents. In the midst of the circle formed by the waters of this immense river,

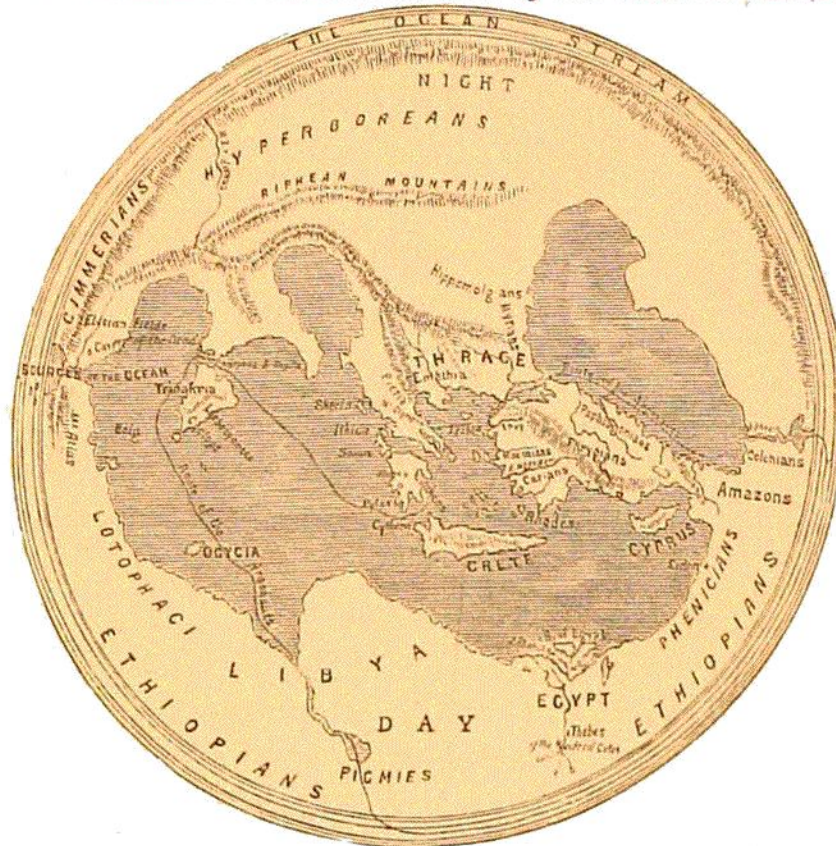


FIG. 3.—THE EARTH ACCORDING TO HOMER.

Homer naturally places Greece, with its archipelago of sunny islands, gilded by eternal summer, and for *their* centre stands Mount Olympus, the dwelling-place of the mythologic deities,—

“The twelve gods of Plato’s vision,
Crowned to starry wanderings.”

The Mediterranean Sea and the Euxine divide the earth into two unequal portions: one to the north, the other to the south. The strait, on whose either shore rise the Pillars of Hercules, connects these seas with the western ocean, and the river *Phasis* in Colchis forms the channel of communication on the east.

But that kind of cosmographical fancy which, in all antiquity, fixed the “Pillars of Hercules” as the barrier and westernmost extremity of the world, was doomed eventually to disappear, like the winter snows which in sequestered regions linger until the very advent of the spring. The adventurous mariners who sailed from the Phœnician harbours, clearing the strait of Hercules, saw before their astonished vision an apparently boundless ocean; and along the newly-discovered