

practice and spoils of navigation. Commerce and colonies were no longer the exclusive appanage of the Phœnicians : Greece claimed her share. The brilliant campaigns of Alexander threw an unexpected light on the interior and east of Asia. Commerce linked together the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans. In the martial footsteps of the warrior followed the scarce less adventurous merchant, and in the track of the merchant trod the ardent disciple of science. Thanks to the labours of Eratosthenes, Strabo, Polybius, and Ptolemæus, who traversed every known land collecting the precious grains of knowledge, Geography began to assume the character of a positive science.

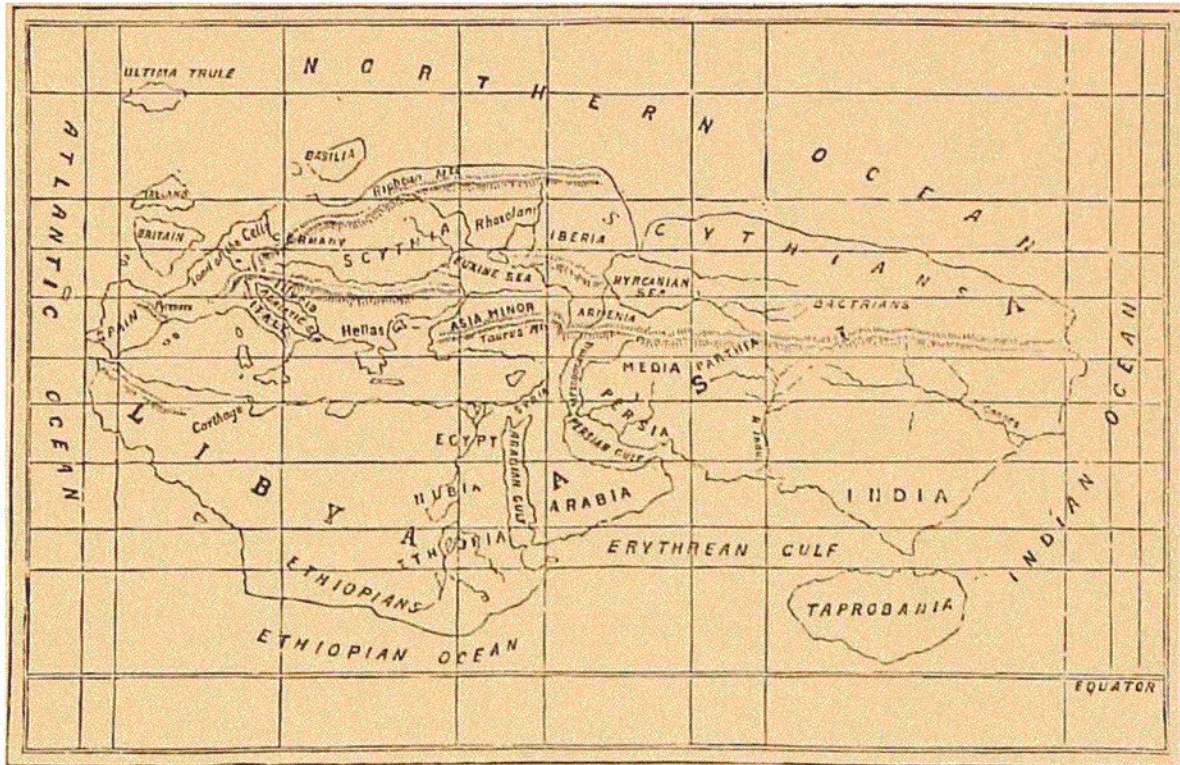


FIG. 5.—THE EARTH IN THE TIME OF ERATOSTHENES.

In the three maps here presented to the reader, we figure the state of geographical information in the days of ERATOSTHENES [B.C. 274-194], PTOLÉMÆUS [died about A.D. 161], and STRABO [died about A.D. 21], respectively. ERATOSTHENES extended the boundaries of Libya, and defined a third quarter of the world, which, at a later period, received the name of Africa. STRABO and PTOLÉMÆUS also divided the world into three parts: Europe, Asia, and Africa, forming a single continent.

A careful examination of these maps will render any elaborate description unnecessary, for they show in the clearest possible manner how much of the world was known at each successive epoch.

The geographical map in Strabo's time, a *resumé* (so to speak) of the geographical acquisitions of the Romans, indicates that for *them* the Earth terminated eastward with the frontier-lands of Asia. That torrent of Northern barbarism which submerged the civilization of the West and swept away the landmarks of their mighty