

could have been brought from Troy as were so reputed.¹ He states that while at the Memnonium at daybreak, he certainly heard a noise, but whether it came from the statue or was made by some of the company, he could not tell, though he was disposed to believe anything rather than that stones themselves emit sound.² He even carries this critical spirit into his account of alleged historical events, as where, in ridiculing the statement that the Cimbri were driven out of their territory by an extraordinarily high tide, he appeals to the known regularity and periodicity of the tides, as a natural, harmless and universal phenomenon, which disproves such tales.³

In considering the opinions of the Greeks and Romans relative to the origin of the various features of the external world, it is well to note that the nations gathered together in the vast basin that drains into the Mediterranean Sea were placed in an exceptionally favourable position for having their attention drawn to some of these features. In particular, this region displays with remarkable fullness the operation of various natural agencies whereby the surface of the earth is altered. It reveals also in a striking manner to the observant eye proofs that these agencies have been at work from a remote antiquity, and have in the course of ages profoundly modified the distribution of sea and land. Thus the countries situated within its borders have been and still are subject to continual shocks of earthquake. For many thousands of years probably not a month has passed without a concussion in some part of the region, usually slight enough to

¹ VI. i. 14.² XVII. i. 46.³ VII. ii. 1.