

Crete, endeavors to show that the fundamental ideas of the Roman constitution, viz., a king, a senate, and an assembly which simply ratified or rejected the proposals submitted to it by the king or senate, were the common property of both peoples; and he lays stress on this fact, because, says he, they were not found among other Indo-Germanic stocks. But Aristotle, in the chapter following his description of the constitution of Crete, (*Politics, Book II.*), shows that these ideas were not only shared, but in many respects improved upon by the Carthaginians, who, being offshoots of the Phœnicians, belonged to the Semitic family. The following extract from Donaldson's *New Cratylus*, (par. 94) while it explains why these "fundamental ideas" were not found among other Indo-Germanic stocks, shows, perhaps, the common source from which both the Greek and Italian nations received them. "The inhabitants of Hellas owed their early civilization, and some very peculiar features of their literary culture to a source with which the Teutonic races had no connection except through a Greek medium. While the Indo-Germanic tribes were spreading to the Ganges on the one side, and to the Atlantic on the other, the Syro-Arabian or Semitic family was gradually diffusing the primitive civilization of our race from the river-lands of Mesopotamia and Egypt along the whole of the South coast of the Mediterranean. Under the name of Phœnicians, they were the earliest navigators and colonists of that inland sea. In some islands they constituted the largest part of the population. But everywhere they communicated the cognate arts of architecture and writing, and imparted not a few of the religious and philosophical dogmas which form the basis of European mythology. The influences of Phœnician culture must, however, be traced back to a time when the Thuringian Greeks had not begun to descend upon Thessaly and the rest of the peninsula. In fact, it was in the Islands of Crete, Rhodes and Cyprus, and on the West coast of Asia Minor, that the Phœnicians first taught the Thraco-Pelasgians (ancestors of Greeks and Italians) those arts which made the tower-builders of Argos and Italy look back to Lydia with mysterious reverence, or which the Greeks themselves subsequently derived from the Southern islands of their