

II.—TYRE : A LESSON IN PROPHECY.

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"Nec Edificaberis Ultra."

"What phantom is this that appears
 Through the purple mist of the years,
 Itself but a mist like these ?
 A woman of cloud and of fire ;
 It is she, it is Helen of Tyre,
 The tower in the midst of the seas
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"Oh town in the midst of the seas,
 With thy rafts of cedar trees,
 Thy merchandise and thy ships ;
 Thou, too, art become as naught,
 A phantom, a shadow, a thought,
 A name upon men's lips !"

—"*Helen of Tyre*," Longfellow.

IN reading the scant records of the most ancient civilizations, the eye naturally lingers on the interesting page which tells the story of Phœnicia. That story carries us back, not merely to the time when Joshua led the conquering hosts of Israel into the Promised Land, but even to the remoter age, when Abraham came from Haran to plant the seeds of a new nationality in Canaan. Tradition, indeed, leads us backward nearly to the Flood, affirming that Sidon, the primitive capital of Phœnicia, was built by the son of Canaan, who was the grandson of Noah, the second father of mankind. However this may be, we have historic warrant for believing that at the time when Abraham migrated into Palestine, that little strip of territory lying to the north, between the ranges of Lebanon and the Mediterranean, was the home and seat of a vigorous and powerful nation ; and that at the date of the invasion of Joshua the city of Tyre, sometimes called the daughter or successor of Sidon, was the centre of an active and fruitful civilization nowhere surpassed among men. From that early era onward to the age of Solomon, the Phœnician empire thus centred is known to have increased steadily in almost every element of greatness and influence. Its geographic position of necessity made it the chief point of connection, commercially and otherwise, between the Eastern and the Western world. That position also constrained it to become a manufacturing and maritime rather than an agricultural State. Under such conditions it rose from century to century to a higher point of culture, wealth, and influence than it was possible for either the nomadic peoples of Central Asia or the secluded States of Southern Europe to attain. Its commerce far surpassed that of any contemporaneous power, extending to India on the east, and to Spain, and possibly Gaul and Britain, on the west. Its manufactures of glass, of purple cloths, and other articles both