

seas yet more remote, so did the Phœnicians of Carthage make exploring cruises on their own account. The record of Hanno's voyage down the west coast of Africa, as far perhaps as Sierra Leone, is one of the most interesting fragments of ancient history. The shipmen seem to have been much alarmed at certain sights along the coast. The warlike natives frightened them with their huge bonfires and the din of their drums and tom-toms. Plenty of crocodiles were seen, and hippopotami wallowing in the river-reeds; and an entertaining account is given of the attempted capture of gorillas, and of how the fierce, hairy brutes fled to the steep rocks and hurled down stones at their pursuers. The expedition took place about the year 520 B.C.

Just two centuries later, we find a Phokæan navigator sailing out through the Straits of Gibraltar and making his way to our own obscure island, which he not only rounded in safety, but held on his course till new shores were sighted. Probably these were the Shetlands, but very vague ideas prevailed about the new "island," which was eventually called *Ultima Thule*, and became a proverbial phrase for something very far north, something very far away "at the edge of the world."

Had Alexander of Macedon lived longer, we should most likely have had some big exploring trips to