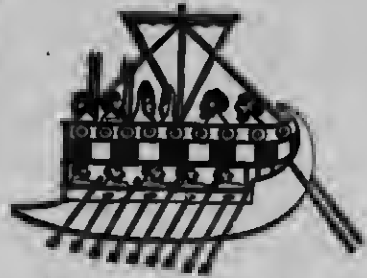


the Phœnicians established trading posts, or colonies, in all the countries visited by their ships and merchants. Not only were these established in the civilized countries of the East for the purchase and exchange of wares; they were also established among the uncivilized peoples of the West for the development of the resources of new lands. The coasts of the Mediterranean be-



A PHœNICIAN BIREME

Phœnician.	Old Greek.	Old Roman.	Modern Roman, English, etc.
Α	A	A	A
Β	B	B	B
Γ	C	Κ	C
Δ	Δ	D	D
Ε	E	E	E
Υ	Ζ	F	F
		C	G
Η	Η	Η	H
Θ	Ι	Ι	I
			J
Κ	K	K	K
Λ	Λ	Λ	L
Μ	M	M	M
Ν	N	N	N
Ο	Ο	Ο	O
Π	Π	Π	P
Φ	Φ	Φ	Q
Ρ	Ρ	R	R
Σ	Σ	Σ	S
Τ	T	T	T

GROWTH OF THE ALPHABET

came dotted with Phœnician colonies. The most famous of these colonies was Carthage (founded about 850 B.C.), which itself established a commercial empire on the northern coast of Africa, and which in later times came into a bitter conflict with Rome. The colonies on the Mediterranean were largely mining stations, where the metals were extracted from the earth for the use of eastern factories. By thus coming into contact with the barbarous people on the European coasts, the Phœnicians diffused among them a taste for the arts of civilized life. They carried not only commodities but culture. They have on this account been called the first "missionaries of civilization."

The Phœnician Alphabet. — Perhaps the greatest gift of the Phœnicians to the world was a true phonetic alphabet. It is said that the Phœnicians invented their alphabetical writing as a common language of commerce. Wherever they sailed and carried their cargoes, they also carried their alphabet, which Renan aptly calls one of their "exports." The alphabet was, however, the result of a