

makes it 400 years before his own times, *i.e.*, about 880 B.C. while Thucydides reckons it long after the Trojan war. No less than nineteen cities have been mentioned in ancient writers as his birth-place. The greater amount of evidence is in favour of Smyrna and Chios. Aristotle takes the lead of those who advocate the claims of Smyrna. Thucydides however, with many others, assigns this high honour to Chios. Smyrna was first founded by Ionians from Ephesus, who were driven out by Æolians from Cyme. The expelled Ionians took refuge in Colophon for a time, but subsequently recaptured Smyrna. This account assists us materially in explaining the extensive mixture of Ionic and Æolic elements everywhere visible in the Homeric language, if we follow the authority of those who regard Homer as a native of Smyrna. Apparently there is much in the works of the poet to militate against the concurrent testimony of antiquity to his being an Ionian Asiatic. His poems celebrate the triumphs of European princes over Asiatics; they recognise the Thessalian Olympus, and not a mountain in Asia Minor, as the mountain-home of the Gods and the Muses. Such comparisons as that of Nausicaa to Artemis (*Odyssey*, vi. 102), walking on Taygetus or Erymanthus, and his frequent topographical descriptions and local epithets (so applicable in many cases even to the present day), indicate not only a more intimate acquaintance with Europe than with Asia, but a more affectionate regard for the former than for the latter continent. Such internal indications cannot be allowed to stand against the overwhelming external evidence to the Asiatic birth of Homer; and especially when we find an easy solution of the difficulty, in regarding such as the strongest possible attestation to the minute truthfulness with which the Ionian bard recorded the