

of the first settlements with any views of permanent rest. The point seems to be in dispute between Egypt and Phœnicia. But *our* business is not with the first flood of men, if we may so speak, that peopled the earth; but with those minor streams that were afterwards occasionally sent out from the parent fountain to fertilize and collect the produce of distant soils, and then return loaded with the fruits of their enterprize.

It is natural to suppose that the Phœnicians, from their proximity to the Mediterranean, were the first settlers of the neighbouring continents and islands; and it is pretty evident that, at a very early period, they established trading posts and manufacturing stations in the most eligible and secure situations around the coast. Though it is certain that these commercial stations were erected for the express purpose of aggrandizing the mother country, and not with the view of permanently colonizing the adjacent territories; yet it is equally true, that from this speculative spirit arose some of the most renowned colonies and states of antiquity. Hence, to a certainty, arose Carthage to contend, and with just hopes of success, the empire of the world with warlike Rome. The relation subsisting between Carthage and her parent country was singularly strict and intimate; even after she had established a constitution of her own, and had, in her turn sent out colonies to more distant countries. It can be no serious reflection upon the character or good faith of Carthage to state, that, on many occasions, she appears to have participated in the general disaffection and ingratitude of colonies. But a beautiful and exemplary instance of the paternal affection of Phœnicia with regard to this colony, even after she herself became tributary to the Persian empire, is recorded by Herodotus, which is highly deserving of notice.

Herod. B. 3. "As soon as Cambyses," says the venerable father of history, C. 19. "had resolved on the measures he meant to pursue, with respect to the Ethiopians, he sent to the city of Elephantine for some of the Ichthyophagi who were skilled in their language. In the mean time he directed his naval forces to proceed against the Carthaginians; but the Phœnicians refused to assist in this purpose, pleading the solemnity of their engagements with that people, and the impiety of committing acts of violence against their own descendants. Such was the conduct of the Phœnicians" exclaims Herodotus with triumphant approbation, "and the other armaments were not powerful enough to proceed. Thus, therefore, the Carthaginians escaped being made tributary to Persia, for Cambyses did not choose to use compulsion with the Phœnicians, who had voluntarily become his dependants, and who constituted the most essential part of his naval power."