

established colonies on the western coast of Africa, in the ninth century before Christ. Three hundred years later (B. C. 570), according to Herodotus, Pharaoh Necho fitted out an expedition, manned by Phœnician sailors, and sent it around the entire coast of Africa. That the Canary Islands were discovered and colonized by the Phœnicians, there is no doubt. Strabo, speaking of the islands of the Blessed, or Fortunate Isles, as they were afterward called, adds, "That those who pointed out those things were the Phœnicians, who before the time of Homer had possession of the best part of Africa and Spain." It is a well-known fact, that these hardy adventurers of the seas were in the habit of preserving with the strictest secrecy the names and location of the distant lands with which they engaged in commerce. Where they sailed and traded, other than in the ports of the Indies and of the British Isles, must remain unknown. Whether furnished by this nation of sailors or not, the ancients seemed to have had some remarkable information concerning an island or continent hidden in the Sea of Darkness, as the Atlantic was called. The first mention of this is made by Theopompous, a celebrated Greek orator and historian, who flourished in the time of Alexander the Great. His description of this distant island, of great dimensions, and inhabited by a strange people, is preserved in Ælian's "Variæ Historiæ," written during the reign of Alexander Severus.—*The Galaxy*.

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— The first newspaper, says the *Figaro*, which appeared in England, was published at the time of the threatened Spanish invasion in 1588. It was issued by the Government for the reason, as stated, "that this publication is the surest means of making the truth known to the people, and of contending against the sin of lying and exaggerations of calumny." The oldest number of this journal extant is No. 50, of July 26, 1588, now in the British Museum."