

During the adventures of this man at sea, for the very purpose of ascertaining the geography of the earth, by tracing the coasts of countries, there was a great liability of his being driven off in a western direction, not only by the current which sets always towards America, but also by the *trade winds*, which blow in the same direction for several months in the year.

Pytheas, therefore, with his fleet, it is most probable, either by design or storm, is the man who was driven on to the American coast, and caused this subterranean monument of masonry to be erected. The Ptolemaios, or Ptolemy, mentioned on the stone, may refer to *one* of the *four* generals of Alexander, called sometimes Ptolemy Lagus, or Soter. This is the man who had Egypt for his share of the conquests of Alexander; and it is likely the mention of his name on the stone, in connexion with that of Alexander, was caused either by his presence at the time the stone was prepared, or because he patronised the voyages and geographical researches of the philosopher and navigator Pytheas.

Alexander the great flourished about three hundred years before Christ; he was a Grecian, the origin of whose nation is said to have been Japetus, a descendant of Japheth, one of the sons of Noah, as before shown.

Let it be observed the kingdom of Macedon, of which Alexander was the last, as well as the greatest of its kings, commenced eight hundred and fourteen years before Christ, which was sixty-one years earlier than the commencement of the Romans.

Well, what is to be learned from all this story about the Greeks, respecting any knowledge in possession of the Romans about a continent *west* of Europe? Simply this, which is quite sufficient for our purpose: That an *account* of this voyage, whether it was an accidental one, or a voyage of discovery, *could not but be known* to the Romans, as well as to the Greeks, and entered on the records of the nation on their return. *But where, then, is the record?* We must go to the flames of the Goths and Vandals, who overran the Roman empire, in which the discoveries, both of countries and the histories of antiquity, were destroyed; casting over those countries which they subdued, the gloom of barbarous ignorance, congenial with the shades of the dreadful forests of the north, from whence they originated. On which account, countries, and the knowledge