

PART I.

THE MEDITERRANEAN—THE PART IT PLAYED IN ANCIENT COMMERCE
—IN ANCIENT HISTORY—GREECE AND ITALY—EARLY INHABITANTS—OF SAME RACE—CONFIGURATION OF THE TWO PENINSULAS—EFFECT ON CHARACTER OF INHABITANTS—NATIONS OF GREECE SUBDUED BY EXTERNAL POWER—OF ITALY, BY INTERNAL—POINT OF CIVILIZATION REACHED BY BOTH BEFORE SEPARATION—POINTS OF DIFFERENCE IN CIVILIZATION AFTER SEPARATION—DIFFERENCES IN FAMILY—IN STATE—IN RELIGION IN ART—IN LITERATURE—IN LANGUAGE—IN PERSONAL QUALITIES.

Between Europe and Africa, in the Old World, there stretches an almost tideless sea. In the infancy of geographical science, when it was the largest body of water known, it was called the Great Sea—*Magnum Mare*. But the sea has ever been the parent of seamen. And when the Phœnician sailors—children of this sea—had gratified their love of adventure and of commercial pursuits so far as to penetrate its western limits, they discovered beyond the Pillars of Hercules—its western portals—a greater sea outside. The name was then changed to the Inland—the land-locked, the mid-earth sea—the Mediterranean.

What an important part has this sea played in the history of the human race! Of what mighty nations has it witnessed the rise, the decay, and the fall! Its southern waters washed the shores of Egypt—"the Gift of the Nile;" which, although it has been sneeringly called "a land of temples, of deified apes, and consecrated onions," was, nevertheless, the pioneer nation of the world. There the temple-like palaces of Karnac and Luxor, the pyramids,