Historical Researches Into the Politics, Intercourse, and Trade of the Carthaginians, Ethiopians, and Egyptians, Volume 1

Heeren Arnold Hermann
Title: Historical Researches Into the Politics, Intercourse, and Trade of the Carthaginians, Ethiopians, and Egyptians, Volume 1

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HISTORICAL RESEARCHES
INTO THE
POLITICS, INTERCOURSE, AND TRADE
OF THE
CARTHAGINIANS, ETHIOPIANS,
AND EGYPTIANS.

BY A. H. L. HEEREN.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN.

VOL. I.

The second edition, corrected throughout, and to
which is now first added an index, a life of
the author, new appendixes, and other
additions.

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TO THE READER.

In presenting this second edition to the public I cannot refrain from expressing my grateful thanks for the kind reception which it gave the former. To make this more deserving of favour, I have prefixed to it a Translation of the Life of the Author, written by himself, together with a Postscript, bringing it down to the present time, which he has been so good as to add, at my desire, expressly for this edition. The work is further improved by a new Appendix, and by an Index. I regret that I have been unable, from the paging not being the same, to print off separate copies of the latter for the possessors of the former edition. To make the work still more perfect, the Translator of Wachsmuth's Antiquities has been kind enough to compare it with the German; and I must confess I have been surprised to find the errors I had left in it so few.

D. A. T.

Oxford, 1838.

Since writing the above the publisher has been favoured with another communication from Professor Heeren, and with it a new Appendix, not before published, containing a comparison of that learned gentleman's views respecting the high antiquity of Egypt with those of Champollion and Rosellini.
TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

Of the excellence of the work now presented to the English reader little needs be said in this preface. The name of its author has long been most honourably connected with the literature of Germany and of Europe. His works have been pillaged to furnish matter for almost every respectable literary periodical of the age. This portion of them, in particular, has been described by a writer in one of the leading critical journals of this country, as, "a work of the very highest rank among those with which modern Germany has enriched the literature of Europe." The same writer adds: "This author unites the laborious erudition of his countrymen, with that animating spirit of real genius, which disposes into harmonious order, and quickens into life that which, in meaner hands, lies in dull and heavy masses of unintelligible or at least unattractive learning." In these sentiments the translator of the following pages fully concurs. So long, indeed, as the sage institutions of ancient nations shall find admirers; so long as the investigation of their policy, commerce, colonies, and legislation shall be considered as the proper training for eminence in our own courts of law and legislative assemblies; so long, indeed, as that sacred book, the Bible, shall be

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regarded as the foundation of our civility, our morals, and our hope; so long must the work now presented to the English reader be known and appreciated.

In the review which the author takes of the Carthaginian state, we see a remarkable instance of the power, the opulence, the grandeur, and the political importance to which a nation may rise by commerce and navigation alone; and England, which in so many striking particulars resembles Carthage, may read an instructive lesson in her decline and fall, occasioned as it was by the corruption of her government, the factious spirit of her aristocracy, the failure of her navy, and the degeneracy of her citizens.

In the profound disquisition on the Ethiopians we see the whole framework of the powerful government of the Pharaohs, in connection with the theocracy and its agents the priest caste, traced up to its primary elements. Here again we see, in its monuments and temples, the archetypes of the stately edifices and the religion of Egypt. Here, too, are traced along the two banks of the Nile, from Memphis to Meroë, city after city—the temples of gigantic magnitude,—the grottoes or sepulchres hewn out of the solid rock, with colossal statues as their guardians:—all these are so exhibited before us—in such order and connection—as to prove that civilization descended with the Nile from the south; and that the same religion, the same arts, the same institutions, manners, and civility, prevailed from almost the sources of that river till its junction with the Mediterranean. The learned author portrays commerce as the parent of such civilization, religion as its nurse, and the distant regions of the south as its cradle. He compares Herodotus with the Sacred Writings, and describes "Ethiopia, the most distant region of the earth, whose inhabitants are the tallest, most beautiful, and long-lived