

CAPITOLO XIX.

DISCOVERIES BY SEA ¹⁾

Already in ancient histories do we read that exploratory voyages were undertaken for purposes of war or of trade in order to get a better knowledge of the countries more or less near to those best known in such remote ages. According to Herodotus, the Egyptian king Necho (B. C. 610-595) engaged a Phoenician fleet to sail all round Africa, but no particulars of this voyage have come down to us, except that the crew reached places where the sun was seen at the north, which proves that the fleet had crossed the equatorial line. Hanno, admiral of Carthage, established (B. C. 505) new colonies along the western coasts of Africa and sailed as far as the 7th degree of northern latitude.

Phoenicians and Carthaginians passed the dreaded pillars of Hercules or Strait of Gibraltar, steered along the northern coasts to England and the Baltic Sea and pushed

¹⁾ Ho accolto di buon grado questo pregevole lavoro originale del prof. Loretz pel desiderio di offrire una piacevole e istruttiva lettura a quei nostri Marini che sono abbastanza inoltrati nello studio e nella pratica dell'idioma inglese.