

CHAPTER XV.

MAGIC—MAGNETISM.

O, never rudely will I blame his faith
In the might of stars and angels: 'tis not merely
The human being's pride that peoples space
With life and mystical predominance.

SCHILLER.

Sleep on! sleep on! forget thy pain;
My hand is on thy brow—
My spirit on thy brain;
And from my healing fingers flow
The powers of life; and, like a sign,
Seal thee from thine hour of wo.

SHELLEY.

EGYPT has been in all ages the reputed stronghold of magic and of mystery. She was the immediate inheritrix of the knowledge, the arts, and the sciences, which flowed into other lands, with their possessors, from the concentrated wisdom of the world on the Babel Dispersion. As far as we can penetrate into the dim Past by the light of conjecture, the mightiest mass of humanity parted thence into two great streams; the one expanding into India, the other into Abyssinia, Æthiopia, and finally into the land of Egypt.

The powers with which the early race of man was originally endowed, seem never to have been wholly lost; at all events, they lingered for centuries under the tent of the Chaldean, and the caverns of Africa. The grandsons of Adam were skilled in sciences which the world has now only begun to regain a knowledge of;* and in the days when angels mingled their blood

* See Gen. iv. 22; vi. 4