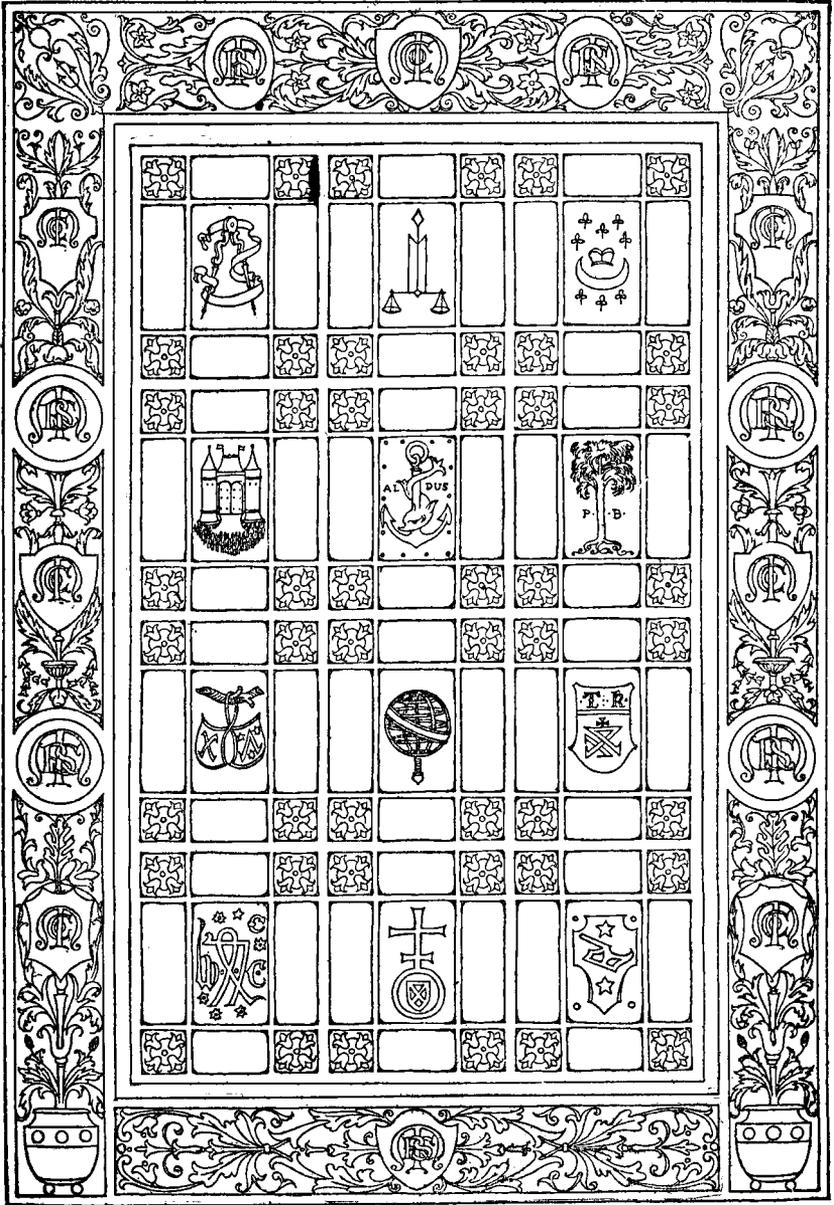


THE MODERN READERS' SERIES
ASHLEY H. THORNDIKE, *General Editor*

The Travels of Marco Polo



निवेदन

महाशय,

बरोबर आठ वर्षांच्या दीर्घ कालावधीनंतर 'पूना डिरेक्टरी हाऊस'चे हे तिसरे प्रकाशन आपल्या समोर ठेवतांना मला अतीव आनन्द होत आहे.

सन १९३८ साली पूना डिरेक्टरी हाऊसची स्थापना करून प्रथम १९३९ साली 'पूना डिरेक्टरी अथवा पुण्याचा माहितगार' या पुस्तकाचे प्रकाशन मी केले व नंतर लागलीच १९४१ साली दुसरे प्रकाशन झाल्यावर १९४२ मध्ये सर्वत्र प्रकाशनांवर आलेल्या सरकारी निर्बंधामुळे मागणी असूनही डिरेक्टरीचे प्रकाशन आतांपर्यंत स्थगित करावे लागले, आणि आता आठ वर्षांच्या दीर्घ कालावधीनंतर कां होईना पूना डिरेक्टरीचे हे तिसरे प्रकाशन बाहेर पडत आहे हे कांही कमी नाही.



कारण पूना डिरेक्टरी हाऊस चालवून त्या मार्फत दोन प्रकाशने करतांना मी त्यांत सर्वस्व वारिले म्हणूनच मी हा डिरेक्टरीचा व्यवसाय बसस्वी करू शकलो. असा हा चालू व्यवसाय सरकारी निर्बंधामुळे बंद करावा लागल्यामुळे माझी आर्थिक कुबंजणा झाली असेल यांत नवल ते काय ? अशा स्थितीत सन १९३०-१९३२ व १९३४ च्या स्वातंत्र्याच्या आंदोलनांत भाग घेतल्या प्रमाणेच १९४२ च्या आंदोलनांत पुनः मला बंधाशक्ति भाग घ्यावा लागल्यामुळे आर्थिक अडवणीत भर पडून माझा गोंधळ उडाला. प्राप्तपरिस्थितीची मुकाबला करतानाही लहान सहान कां होईना स्वतंत्र व्यवसायच करीत राहून वेळ मारून नेली पण परावलंबी झालो नाही यांतच मनास एक प्रकारचे समाधान.

परिस्थिती निवळतांच गेल्यावर्षी सदरहू डिरेक्टरीच्या प्रकाशनाचे

कार्य हातीं घेऊन आज त्याची पूर्तता करतांना आरंभी म्हटल्याप्रमाणें मला आनंद व्हावा हें स्वाभाविक होय

पूर्वी मी अमूक हातो नी अमूक कार्य केले आहे असें सांगण्यांत स्वारस्य ते काय ? चालू काळांत त्याचा कांहीं उपयोग नाही. गत काळांतील वैभव अगर कार्य बाला चालू व्यवहारांत कांहीं मूल्य नसते फार तर कोणी त्याबद्दल एकाद्याची कीर्त करवी. व्यवहारांत मात्र त्यास बाजून सारात्रे असेंच होत असते. असो.

मागील दोन डिरेक्टरींचे स्वागत अखिल महाराष्ट्रांतच नव्हे तर सर्व हिंदुस्थानांत व साऊथ अफ्रिका वगैरे ठिकाणी झालेले असून महाराष्ट्रांतील प्रमुख वृत्तपत्रांनी त्याबद्दल उत्कृष्ट अभिप्राय व्यक्त केलेले असल्यामुळे आज मला डिरेक्टरीच्या उपयुक्ततेबद्दल नव्याने कांहींच लिखाव्याचें नाही कारण डिरेक्टरीचें तिसरें प्रकाशन होत आहे. यांतच तिची उपयुक्तता सिद्ध झालेली आहे.

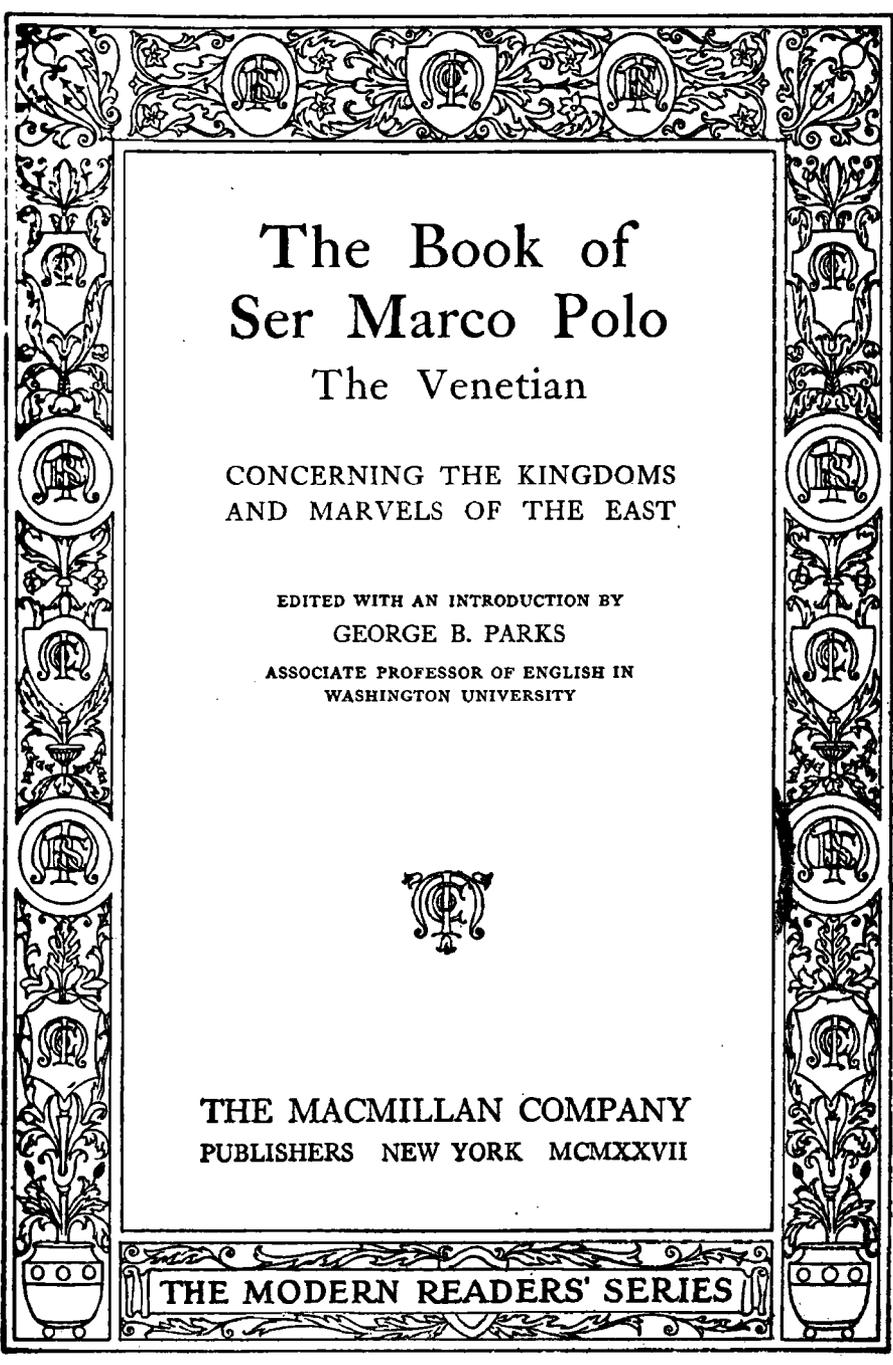
पुणे हें एक इतिहासप्रसिद्ध शहर म्हणून सर्व हिंदुस्थानांत प्रसिद्ध असून ते प्रहासपूर्ण संस्कृतीचे केंद्र आहे. गेल्या आठ वर्षांत पुण्यांतिल लोकसंख्या व्यापार, उद्योगधंदे, संस्था, वगैरेची झपाट्याने वाढ झालेली असून पुण्याचे पूर्वीचे स्वरूप आमूलाग्र बदललेले आहे स्वातंत्र्याचे वातावरण, पुण्यानजीक खडकवासला येथें होऊं घातलेले लष्करी शिक्षणकेंद्र, पुण्यांत स्थापन झालेली नॅशनल कमिन्स लॅबोरेटरी, पुणे विद्यापीठ व पुणे म्युनिसिपालिटीचे होणारे कॉर्पोरेशन वगैरे गोष्टी पुण्याच्या वाढत्या वैभवाचे द्योतक होत.

वरील सर्व गोष्टीची नोंद घेऊन १९४९ ची डिरेक्टरी माहितीच्या दृष्टीने परिपूर्ण करण्याचा प्रयत्न केला आहे.

पुण्यांतील व्यापारी, कारखानदार, विद्वान, संस्थाचालक वगैरे पूर्वी-प्रमाणेच माझावर लोभ ठेवून बाहीवेल्लेस सहकार्य दिलें थाबद्दल त्या सर्वांचा मी आभारी आहे.

डिरेक्टरीची छपाई सुबक व वेळेवर करून दिल्याबद्दल प्रफुल्ल प्रिंटिंग प्रेसचे मालक श्री. द. रा. कानेगांवकर एम. ए. यांचा मी आभारी आहे.

त्याचप्रमाणे कॅम्पमधील कलर फोटो स्टुडिओंने पुण्यांतील प्रेक्षणीय आणि-



The Book of
Ser Marco Polo
The Venetian

CONCERNING THE KINGDOMS
AND MARVELS OF THE EAST

EDITED WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
GEORGE B. PARKS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH IN
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



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NOTES

NOTE ON BIBLIOGRAPHY

The oldest known version of Polo's Book was published from manuscript in 1825 by the French Geographic Society. In 1865 the version which Polo revised for the French ambassador was printed, and in 1867 the oldest Italian version. The appearance of these originals of course invalidated earlier editions and translations. In 1871 was published Sir Henry Yule's edition in English from the earliest texts. This is at once the classic English translation and the best commentary on the Book in any language. A third edition of it was revised in 1903 by the late Henri Cordier, who added in 1920 a supplement called *Ser Marco Polo*. To the elaborate notes and maps of the Yule-Cordier edition the inquiring reader is referred.

The history of travel between West and East is best told in Yule's *Cathay and the Way Thither*, revised by Cordier in the same way and issued by the Hakluyt Society as volumes 33, 37, 38, and 41, Second Series, of its *Publications*. A more general history of travel and geography in the Middle Ages is contained in the excellent *Dawn of Modern Geography*, written by Professor C. R. Beazley. Professor Beazley has also edited the narratives of the two friars who went to Mongolia.

To illuminate Polo's Book the reader is referred to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, for its article on the Mongols and on Asia and on the individual countries of Asia. More elaborate studies of the geography of Asia are made by D. G. Hogarth in *The Near East* and by Archibald Little in *The Farther East*. A less pretentious study from the newer "human" point of view is made by Professor Ellsworth Huntington, himself an explorer in central Asia, in the school text called *Asia*. In these works and in Yule's *Polo* are given references to Polo's successors.

The English translations of Polo are:

1. Frampton 1579—from a Spanish translation of the Italian translation: corrupt and incorrect.
2. Purchas 1625—paraphrase of Ramusio's amplified Polo: abridged and incorrect.
3. Marsden 1818—full translation of Ramusio: a rather heavy and unreadable style, and since it was done before the original texts were edited, antiquated.
4. Murray 1844—well translated, with some collation of texts.
5. Yule 1871, in third edition Yule-Cordier 1903—the classic edition and the best English version.

PROLOGUE

Ch. I. Sea.—The Black Sea.

Ch. I. Soldaia.—The modern Sudak, in southeastern Crimea. It was the main Russian port in Polo's time.

Ch. II. Barka Khan.—A grandson of the conqueror Jengis Khan, and ruler of the Golden Horde (Kipchak Tartars), who were established in Russia and westwards from 1224 to 1502.

Ch. II. Sarai.—A newly built city up the Volga some 200 miles. It was destroyed by Timur in 1396.

Ch. II. Bolgara.—From the 9th century the capital of the Bulgars until their subjugation by the Tartars in 1236. Part of the Bulgars migrated to modern Bulgaria; their city is now the village of Uspenskoye or Bolgarskoye, some 800 miles up the Volga.

Ch. II. Hulagu.—Another grandson of Jengis Khan, and ruler of the Ilkhan or Persian kingdom under the supreme Khan, Kublai. The war between the Persian and Russian Tartars occurred in 1262.

Ch. II. Ponent.—Ponent, *i.e.* West (as Levant, East), that is, of the Tartars in Russia. Ukek seems to have been a Tartar town, built on the frontier toward Russia. It is now the village of Uwek, some 500 miles up the Volga.

Ch. II. **Tigris.**—The Volga, sometimes thought to reappear as the Tigris after flowing through the Caspian Sea.

Ch. II. **Desert.**—Transcaspia is still a sandy desert punctuated by oases which are the sites of cities. A railroad now runs from the Caspian to Bokhara and Samarkand.

Ch. III. **Borrak.**—The head of a third line of descent from Jengis Khan, and ruler in Turkestan or Great Turkey. The Western conquests of Jengis are thus seen as divided among the Tartars of the West in Russia; Tartars of the Levant in Persia; Jagatai kingdom in Turkestan.

Ch. III. **Envoys.**—This is probably the mission which left Persia for China in 1265.

Ch. IV. **Court.**—Peking.

Ch. VI. **language.**—They had had six years, from 1260 to their arrival in 1266, to learn the language or languages.

Ch. VIII. **Ayas.**—What Polo calls Layas, and Chaucer Leyes, is a once flourishing port in the elbow of Asia Minor, now a mere hamlet amid ruins. The return route of the Polos is not given. Probably they came back through Bokhara and Persia to Bagdad, and across by one of the many routes to the Mediterranean.

Ch. IX. **Negropont.**—The large island anciently known as Euboea, northeast of Athens. It was a Venetian station on the way to Constantinople.

Ch. XI. **Piacenza.**—Gregory X.

Ch. XII. **Babylon.**—Babylon of Egypt, the classical name for Cairo

Ch. XII. **slain.**—The Sultan advanced from Damascus north beyond Aleppo. Ayas was beyond Aleppo.

Ch. XII. **Temple.**—The Templars had large possessions in Cilician Armenia.

Ch. XIII. **Kaiminfu.**—The Persian form of Kaipingfu, the summer capital, 200 miles by air line north of Peking. It

was built in 1256 by the Mongols, and from 1264 was known as Shangtu, or Upper Court.

Ch. XIII. three years.—From 1271 to 1275.

Ch. XV. characters.—The orders of the Great Khan are said to have been published in six languages: Mongol, Uigur, Tangut (Turk and Tartar tongues), Chinese, Persian, and Arabic.

Ch. XV. distant.—The province was said by Ramusio, who enlarged Polo's book in the 16th century, to be Yun-nan, on the southwest frontier. The mission was probably performed between 1277 and 1280.

Ch. XVI. affairs.—Polo does not record all his affairs, but we learn later that aside from his journey to the southwest, before 1280, he traveled into Outer Mongolia, he was three years governor of a city in central China, and he made a voyage to India and back before his farewell journey.

Ch. XVII. Bulughan.—Polo calls her Bolgana.

Ch. XVII. Levant.—Persia.

Ch. XVII. life.—In 1286.

Ch. XVIII. Emperor.—They appear to have sailed from Chang-chau (Zaiton), opposite Formosa. This was at the beginning of 1292.

Ch. XVIII. Java.—Java Minor, or Sumatra.

Ch. XVIII. eighteen months.—Yule reckons that they arrived at Sumatra in April; sailed for India in September; spent the spring and summer of 1293 on the west coast of India; and arrived at Ormuz in the beginning of 1294, and at their destination inland in March 1294.

Ch. XVIII. Ghazan.—He was then on the northern frontier of Persia. Arghun died in 1291.

Ch. XVIII. Kaikhatu.—Brother of the late Arghun, and usurper of the throne. Ghazan ousted him in 1295. The lady died in 1296.

Ch. XVIII. **Manzi.**—Southern China, newly conquered by Kublai Khan.

Ch. XVIII. **Kaikhatu.**—At Tabriz, the capital, in north-western Persia. Thence they crossed Armenia by the trade route over the mountains.

BOOK I

Ch. I. **the Less.**—The Lesser Armenia is the classical Cilicia, in the elbow of Asia Minor.

Ch. I. **Ayas.**—Ayas would then have been the end of the caravan route from the East through Bagdad and Aleppo.

Ch. II. **Turcomania.**—The plateau now known as Anatolia. Because of the Egyptian invasion of Syria, the Polos have had to climb the mountains north-eastward instead of taking the caravan route east.

Ch. II. **Caesarea.**—These cities would have been off the route, to the west of the road to Erzinjan.

Ch. III. **Erzinjan.**—Beyond Erzinjan the Polos would have struck the route from the Black Sea to Persia, which passed through Erzerum and Tabriz. The rest of the places in Armenia and on the Caspian they would probably not have visited.

Ch. III. **oil.**—The oil-fields of Baku, on the Caspian.

Ch. IV. **horsemen.**—The pass of Derbend, on the Caspian. The Iron Gate is really a wall from the Caspian to the Black Sea.

Ch. IV. **Comanians.**—The Comanians are thought to have been a Turkish tribe from central Asia.

Ch. IV. **Ghelan.**—The Caspian.

Ch. IV. **Euphrates.**—The Euphrates does not of course rise in the Caspian. It rises in the mountains of Armenia, which form a watershed.

Ch. V. **Mosul.**—Polo now returns to the route, which bends back southeast to the Tigris valley, which they follow past Mosul and Bagdad to the Persian Gulf. As they reach the valley, they come into Tartar territory.

Ch. V. **Christians.**—Ancient sects, the first of which spread over Asia as far east as Peking.

Ch. V. **Jatolic.**—The Arabic form of Catholic.

Ch. V. **Mosolins.**—Muslims.

Ch. VI. **Bagdad.**—Polo calls it Baudas.

Ch. VI. **cramoisy.**—Nasich and nac were gold brocades, for which ancient Babylon was famous. Cramoisy was a velvet, originally crimson, which is the same word.

Ch. VI. **since that time.**—The capture of Bagdad took place in 1258, fourteen years previously.

Ch. VII. **year of Christ.**—The date in the original French texts is 1275, which is of course wrong, since the Califate had just been extinguished by Hulagu.

Ch. XI. **Tauris.**—The modern Tabriz, in northwest Persia, the capital of the Tartars of the Levant. Polo may have followed the route he is describing via Tabriz; but his editors think that he went via Bagdad to the Gulf. If so, he is retracing now his homeward route.

Ch. XI. **Cremesor.**—The Persian *Garmsir*, meaning the Hot Country at the mouth of the Gulf.

Ch. XIV. **three kings.**—Persian villages still bear these names.

Ch. XV. **end.**—See note, Chapter XXII below.

Ch. XV. **tournois.**—The French pound, equivalent in silver value to the modern pound sterling. Philip III of France fixed the maximum price of horses in this century at 60 livres tournois.

Ch. XV. **silver.**—The mark ($\frac{2}{3}$ of a pound sterling) was equal in silver value to about three pounds sterling now.

Ch. XVII. *ondanique*.—So-called Indian steel, famous since classical times for use in swords.

Ch. XVII. *descent*.—In crossing the coastal range, Polo was reaching a height of 10,000 feet.

Ch. XVIII. *Kamadin*.—Part of the ruined city of Jiruft, near Karimabad.

Ch. XVIII. *Reobarles*.—A curious compound, probably the region now known as Rudbar.

Ch. XVIII. *Paradise*.—A citrus fruit.

Ch. XVIII. *colour*.—Francolin is a kind of partridge.

Ch. XVIII. *oxen*.—The humped oxen are called in Europe the zebu.

Ch. XVIII. *Nogodar*.—Probably Nigudar, though Polo has confused at least two chieftains of the name.

Ch. XVIII. *desert*.—Sandstorms followed by "dry fogs" are still reported from Kirman.

Ch. XVIII. *Jagatai*.—Jagatai, a son of Jengis Khan, had inherited the rule of Great Turkey or Turkestan, dying 1240.

Ch. XVIII. *Kashmir*.—Ariora seems meant for Agror, a region on the Indus River. Pashai-Dir is a like compound, Pashai a language term, Dir a regional. The foray seems to have taken Nigudar from Samarkand, the capital of Jagatai, south across the mountains of Afghanistan by the regions mentioned, and by the Northwest (Khaibar) Pass into India. There are many raids of the sort recorded from the year 1260 on.

Ch. XVIII. *Dalivar*.—Either Dilawar in the Punjab (northwest India), now ruined, or the important near-by city of Lahore.

Ch. XVIII. *Conosalmi*.—Not easily identified, except as being in the Rudbar plain north of Ormuz.

Ch. XIX. *Formosa*.—Probably meant for Ormuza.

Ch. XIX. Ormuz.—This is not the Ormuz known to the Elizabethans and to Milton (“the wealth of Ormuz and of Ind”). The city and its market were later transferred in Polo’s lifetime to an island offshore, as a result of Tartar raids from the north. Both towns have now been replaced by Bandar Abbas, as they replaced Kish.

Ch. XIX. country.—If the Polos came down the Gulf, the account is now following their outward journey again, after the digression which has described the homeward route through Persia. If they came down through Persia, then one supposes that they turned about at Ormuz, appalled perhaps by the ships held together by cocoanut twine, and went back through Persia.

Ch. XIX. road.—The route up from Ormuz is slightly to the west of the down route.

Ch. XX. desert.—The Polos are now crossing northward the great salt desert of Persia, once the bottom of a salt sea.

Ch. XX. stream.—The stream was probably part of the ancient irrigation system.

Ch. XX. Kubenan.—About 100 miles north of Kirman.

Ch. XXI. Tutia.—Tutia, which gives the English word *tutty*, is from the Persian word for smoke. Prepared as Polo describes from zinc ore, it is used dry as an eye-powder, or mixed with tallow as an eye-salve. It is still prepared in Persia in the same way.

Ch. XXII. Arbre Sec.—Polo has here combined the two legends of the Tree of the Sun, which prophesied to Alexander, and the Dry Tree, grown from the staff of Adam or of Mahomet, as they were popularly combined in the Middle Ages. What he saw or heard about was a solitary tree, an Oriental plane-tree or a cypress, which had become legendary on its own account.

Ch. XXII. towns.—The Polos have now turned east, along the foot of the boundary mountains of northeast Persia, to the Pamirs.

Ch. XXIII. *Aram*.—*Aram* is probably intended for the Persian word for wicked, and so explaining the word *Mulehet*, or heretic. The original seat of the Mahometan sect of the Assassins was in the mountains south of the Caspian. The Crusaders brought the story back to Europe from a colony near Lebanon.

Ch. XXIII. *Assassins*.—The word is derived from hashish, the drug mentioned.

Ch. XXV. 1252.—The siege of the Assassins lasted from 1252 to 1256.

Ch. XXVI. *Shibrgan*.—Something has been left out of the narrative. The journey from the Castle of the Assassins, or from the Arbre Sol plain, cannot be done in anything like six days, for at Shibrgan the Polos are well into Afghanistan. Moreover, Polo has not mentioned the cities of Nishapur and Meshed which he must have passed.

Ch. XXVII. *daughter*.—Roxana.

Ch. XXVII. *Dogana*.—No clue is found to the name Dogana. It seems to mean the lowland at the west foot of the Pamirs.

Ch. XXVIII. *Badakshan*.—Badakshan is a tributary mountain province on the northeast borders of Afghanistan. The Polos are now beginning the ascent of the Pamirs.

Ch. XXX. *Pashai*.—Pashai probably means the region of Kabul, the present capital of Afghanistan, deriving from a language term.

Ch. XXXI. *idolatry*.—By idolatry Polo means Buddhism, which had spread from Kashmir into central and eastern Asia.

Ch. XXXII. *river*.—The river is a tributary of the upper Oxus.

Ch. XXXII. *highest place*.—The Pamir region is called in Persian the roof of the world: the Tartar name Pamir being the accepted one since Polo. It is the knot which ties the mountain systems of Asia: the Himalaya and Kwen-

Lun, which separate southern from central Asia; their westward prolongation across northern Persia and Armenia; and the Tian Shan and its prolongation northeastward, which separate central from northern Asia. It is really two hundred miles of plateaus, two miles at the lowest above sea level.

Ch. XXXII. *sheep*.—The sheep has been named *Ovis Poli*, after Polo. The horns do in fact measure sixty inches.

Ch. XXXII. *Bolor*.—*Bolor* must mean the east end of the Pamirs.

Ch. XXXIII. *Kashgar*.—The Polos have now descended to the plateau of East or Chinese Turkestan. It is not clear why they had crossed the difficult Pamirs eastward, instead of going by the usual route from Balkh north to Samarkand, and then east. *Kashgar* was a chief city, on the route from China to the West.

Ch. XXXIV. *northwest*.—Really to the west, though the trade route from *Kashgar* westward deviated to the northwest in crossing the Tian Shan mountains. The elder Polos had reached Samarkand on their first journey from Russia, but they had then gone around the mountains northeastward instead of crossing them to *Kashgar*.

Ch. XXXIV. *Kaidu*.—Really the second cousin of Kublai Khan, and lord of part of Great Turkey.

Ch. XXXIV. *Jagatai*.—Really uncle of Kublai Khan. He was not a Christian.

Ch. XXXV. *Yarkand*.—The Polos are now on the long road to Peking, following the oases along the foot of the mountain wall, the *Kwen-Lun*, which separates Mongolia from Tibet.

Ch. XXXVI. *the like*.—*Khotan* is still the chief cotton-manufacturing town in Turkestan.

Ch. XXXVII. *Pem*.—Apparently *Pi-mo*, now buried in the sands east of *Khotan*.

Ch. XXXVII. **Jasper.**—Jasper and chalcedony are the famous Chinese jade, taken from rivers or mines.

Ch. XXXIX. **Desert.**—The Polos are here at the beginning of the Gobi Desert, which stretches northeast for more than 1000 miles. But instead of venturing out into it, they keep to its southern mountain wall.

Ch. XL. **another city.**—Sha-chau is on the border of China proper. Here the westward route forks, one branch going to Kashgar, the other swinging northward around the Tian Shan mountains to Samarkand. The Polos have been following the first; Polo now digresses to describe the other, which his elders had taken on their first journey.

Ch. XLII. **Chingintalas.**—This province is not easily identified. It may be east of Sha-chau.

Ch. XLII. **is made.**—Asbestos.

Ch. XLIV. **Kan-chau.**—Polo has here reached the end of the Great Wall, built several centuries B.C. It is odd that he never mentions it.

Ch. XLIV. **idols.**—Representing Buddha, entering into Nirvana or Peace.

Ch. XLIV. **recluses.**—The lamas, or Buddhist priests.

Ch. XLIV. **five days.**—The Buddhist Sabbaths.

Ch. XLV. **Etzina.**—Etzina, or I-tsi-nay, is apparently a military settlement just built by Kublai Khan. Polo is starting off, perhaps on the mission he has just spoken of, across the main width of the desert northward, to the former Tartar capital, Karakorum.

Ch. XLVI. **Karakorum.**—Karakorum decayed after the Tartar capital was moved to China. It is now the site of Erdenitso, the oldest Buddhist monastery in Mongolia.

Ch. XLVI. **Ung Khan.**—Ung Khan was the undoubted head of a Turkish tribe, the Keraites of Mongolia, who were (Nestorian) Christians. But he is probably not the original Prester John, the mythical Christian priest and king of medieval legend, first located in Asia and later in Abyssinia.

Ch. XLVII. daughter.—The real story is that in 1202 Jengis sought marriage between his son and the daughter of Ung Khan.

Ch. XLVIII. Tenduc.—This is not the Tenduc mentioned farther on, by the Great Wall; but apparently east of Karakorum, near the modern capital Urga.

Ch. XLIX. Cane.—A like conjuring by Nestorian priests was observed at Karakorum by William of Ruysbroek, who arrived there on a mission from the King of France in 1254.

Ch. L. died.—Jengis actually died 24 years after Ung Khan, in 1227; it was his grandson Mangu Khan who died in the manner stated, in 1251.

Ch. LI. Kuyuk Khan.—The second ruler was in fact Ogdai (d. 1241), son of Jengis. After him ruled his son Kuyuk (d. 1248). His nephew Mangu (d. 1259) was fourth. Kublai, Ogdai's nephew and brother of Mangu, was fifth (1259-1294). Batu Khan, brother of Kublai and Mangu, was ruler only of the Russian Tartars.

Ch. LI. Altay.—Various places in Mongolia are credited with the tombs of the Mongol Khans. Polo places them near Karakorum.

Ch. LII. Pharaoh rats.—Properly the jerboa of Arabia, meaning here the mangouste or ichneumon.

Ch. LIII. vair.—Properly the name of the fur, probably meaning here the Siberian squirrel.

Ch. LIV. cuirbouly.—Boiled leather; that is, leather shaped when softened by boiling.

Ch. LVI. Bargu.—The region about Lake Baikal in Siberia.

Ch. LVI. Mekrit.—Originally subject to Ung Kahn.

Ch. LVI. ocean.—Really Lake Baikal.

Ch. LVII. Erguiul.—Not now identifiable. Polo has resumed the account of his eastward route to Peking.

Ch. LVII. **Cathay**.—The medieval name, from the Tartar, for northern China.

Ch. LVII. **Si-ning-fu**.—Earlier Si-ning-chau, the nearest Chinese city to Tibet on the southwest, and the ancient capital of China.

Ch. LVII. **cattle**.—The yak.

Ch. LVII. **downwards**.—The musk-deer has only the upper two projecting teeth.

Ch. LVIII. **Egrigaia**.—The Mongol name for Ning-hia, at the junction of the Wall and the Yellow River.

Ch. LVIII. **Calachan**.—Properly Halachar, at the foot of the mountains which here swing to the northeast to shut off the Gobi Desert from China.

Ch. LVIII. **eastward**.—Polo is following the northward loop of the Yellow River. He has arrived at last in fertile country, protected by the mountains from the Gobi sands.

Ch. LIX. **Tenduc**.—Probably the modern Tou Cheng, a small town at the top of the river loop, west of the city of Kuku-Khoto (Kwei-hwa-Cheng), the center of Chinese trade with Mongolia.

Ch. LIX. **capital city**.—The earlier account of Prester John seems to put his capital across the desert near Karakorum, rather than here on the edge of China proper.

Ch. LIX. **Magog**.—Gog and Magog were interpreted in the Middle Ages as the Tartars; the Alexander legends declared that Alexander had shut out the Tartars by a wall; hence the Great Wall of China, built to shut out the Tartars, was the wall of Gog and Magog. Polo is probably ironical, since he has already described (Chapter IV) the wall across the Caucasus, ascribed to Alexander.

Ch. LIX. **Ung and Mungul**.—Ung and Mungul correspond in a general way to the Turks (the Ung tribe being Turks hired to defend the Wall) and the Mongols or Tartars.

Ch. LIX. **Cathay**.—The Polos are traveling northeast through the populous hilly country north of the Wall.

Ch. LIX. **Suen-te-chau.**—Now Suen-hwa-fu. The Polos have crossed the Wall for good, and are now bound southeast for Peking.

Ch. LIX. **Ydifu.**—Probably a copyist's error for Yuchow, a silver-mining district in Polo's time.

Ch. LXI. **Shang-tu.**—The summer capital, across the mountains in Mongolia, and some 400 miles by road north of Peking. It is the Xanadu of Coleridge,

“ In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
A stately pleasure-dome decree.”

Now in ruins.

Ch. LXI. **canes.**—Bamboo.

Ch. LXI. **Uirat.**—From the Lake Baikal region in Siberia.

Ch. LXI. **Bakshi.**—From the Sanskrit, meaning first a begging priest, then a clerk or official, then and now a bribe for an official (backsheesh).

Ch. LXI. **Sensin.**—Properly Sien-shing, or Taoist priest.

Ch. LXI. **bran.**—Properly the Tibetan food of toasted barley.

Ch. LXI. **Patarins.**—The Cathars or Albigenses, Italian heretics of Polo's time.

BOOK II

Ch. I. **Great Khan.**—Jengis Khan, grandfather of Kublai, made an empire extending from the China to the Black Sea, and including northern China, Persia, and Caspian Russia. His successors down to Kublai added the rest of China and Persia, Bagdad, and Europe as far west as Hungary and Poland.

Ch. II. **sixth.**—Really fifth.

Ch. II. **1256.**—Really 1260.

Ch. II. **throne.**—The facts are that he was born in 1216, and died in 1294.

Ch. II. **once.**—There was one other occasion, in 1261, when he had to defend his throne against a brother, Arikbuka.

Ch. II. **uncle.**—Really a distant cousin, descended from a brother of Jengis. His lands seem to have been in Manchuria.

Ch. II. **Kaidu.**—Grandson of Ogdai, Kublai's uncle and predecessor. He ruled in eastern Turkestan and the Siberian country to the north. See Book IV, Chapter I.

Ch. III. **plain.**—Near the course of the Liao River, north-east of Peking in Manchuria.

Ch. IV. **instrument.**—The balalaika.

Ch. IV. **naccara.**—A large kettledrum, from four to eight feet across.

Ch. V. **Churchin.**—Manchuria.

Ch. V. **Kaoli.**—Northern Korea.

Ch. V. **Barscol.**—Not identified, but probably on the Manchurian border.

Ch. V. **Sinchintingin.**—Doubtful, but likewise on the border of Manchuria.

Ch. V. **against the Christians.**—Tolerance of all religions was the special policy of the Tartar empire.

Ch. VI. **Cambaluc.**—Peking.

Ch. VII. **saggi.**—The *saggio* was a Venetian weight of about one-sixth of an ounce. The tablets were a foot long.

Ch. VIII. **Kungurat.**—Near the Great Wall.

Ch. IX. **Son.**—Temur did indeed succeed his grandfather in 1294.

Ch. X. **Cambaluc.**—Peking. Cambaluc is Khan-balig or royal palace.

Ch. X. **great palace.**—Built in 1272. The Great Palace, a city in itself, was named Taidu.

Ch. X. palace.—Properly tower.

Ch. XI. Taidu.—The site of the present “Tartar City” of Peking. The suburbs which grew around Taidu were walled in, in 1544, to form the present “Chinese City.”

Ch. XI. paces.—Fifty feet.

Ch. XIII. tables.—Small tables are obviously meant, the traditional Chinese tables for two.

Ch. XIII. neighbor.—A central buffet, whence the flagons circulated, was a Tartar custom.

Ch. XIV. bezants.—A bezant was worth approximately ten shillings (\$2.50).

Ch. XV. lucky.—The Chinese, unlike the Mongols, use white for mourning.

Ch. XVI. Borgal.—Names for the soft Russia-leather, the second from the city of Bolgar on the Volga. The present city of Kazan, close to ancient Bolgar, still specializes in horse-leather of the kind.

Ch. XVIII. leopards.—The cheetah, a cross between the leopard and the lion.

Ch. XVIII. and white.—Obviously tigers.

Ch. XX. two days.—Quite too few to travel at least 100 miles.

Ch. XX. Katzar Modun.—Apparently a general name, meaning woodland.

Ch. XXIII. Saracen.—Mahometan: actually a Persian.

Ch. XXIV. to ten.—That is, the usual denominations from one cent up to twenty dollars.

Ch. XXIV. money.—The Chinese had used paper money since at least the 9th century.

Ch. XXX. black stones.—The coal deposits of China are noted by all geographers.

Ch. XXXIII. **Tacuin.**—The use of this Arabic word is typical of Polo's avoidance of Chinese terms. Indeed, students of his text believe that he knew neither Chinese nor Mongol.

Ch. XXXIV. **Most high God.**—The worship of the Most High God is probably the worship of Heaven, though it may mean ancestor worship. Natigai, whose worship Polo has already observed among the Tartars (Book I, Chapter LIII), is probably a local deity to whom Polo gave the Tartar name.

Ch. XXXV. **west.**—Really southwest.

Ch. XXXV. **Pulisangin.**—The Persian name, meaning Stone Bridge, for the Hun-ho or Muddy River, which flows into the sea just below Peking.

Ch. XXXVI. **Manzi.**—South China, as distinct from Cathay.

Ch. XXXVII. **Akbalig.**—The Tartar for White City, meaning a royal residence. Probably the city of Cheng-tung-fu, now decayed. From here Polo's road turned west, to cross a mountain range and mount to the plateau of Shan-si, the province next west to that of Peking.

Ch. XXXVII. **industry.**—The province of Shan-si is both fertile and industrial, especially because of its coal and iron.

Ch. XXXVII. **westward.**—Really south, up the river valley.

Ch. XXXVIII. **Ki-chau.**—Not now identifiable.

Ch. XXXVIII. **Golden King.**—The Manchus (Manchurians), who ruled North China before they were overthrown by Jengis Khan, called themselves the Kin or Golden Tartars. Ki-chau would be one of their imperial residences.

Ch. XXXVIII. **Prester John.**—See Book I, Chapter XLVI.

Ch. XXXVIII. **treason.**—The story is not found in the annals of the Golden Dynasty, though something like it is told of the Tartar tribes in Outer Mongolia.

Ch. XL. **Karamuren**.—The Tartar name, meaning Black River, for the Hoang-ho or Yellow River, here flowing south in its great loop.

Ch. XL. **asper**.—A Tartar silver piece, the equivalent of threepence in those times.

Ch. XL. **canes**.—Bamboo.

Ch. XL. **Ho-chung-fu**.—Now Pu-chau-fu, in the elbow of the Yellow River where it turns eastward to the sea.

Ch. XLI. **westward**.—Up the fertile valley of the Wei River, the “granary” of northern China.

Ch. XLI. **Si-nan-fu**.—The first imperial capital, and always an important city. Polo is now in Shen-si, the second province west from that of Peking.

Ch. XLI. **Mangala**.—Mangala died in 1280, a date which fixes this mission of Polo in the beginning of his stay in China (1275-1292).

Ch. XLII. **mountains**.—The Tsin-ling-shan range, running up to 12,000 feet, one of the east and west ranges which cross western China.

Ch. XLII. **Han-chung**.—Properly a district of the province of Shen-si (Si-nan-fu).

Ch. XLII. **over mountains**.—Polo has now turned south from the Wei River, and is crossing the mountains by the great military road, called the road of the scaffoldings or hanging road.

Ch. XLIII. **province**.—What Polo calls a province is the valley of the Han between two parallel mountain ranges, which he is crossing southward. Manzi is South China. The White City is Han-chung.

Ch. XLIII. **westward**.—Properly southwestward, across the Ta-pa-shan range, which is lower than its northern parallel, but cut by deep gorges.

Ch. XLIV. **Cheng-fu**.—Now the province of Sze-chwan, bordering Tibet.

Ch. XLIV. **capital city.**—It is still one of the largest and finest of Chinese cities.

Ch. XLIV. **Kiang-sui.**—One of the rivers which make up the Yang-tse, the great central river of China. The province name, Sze-chwan, means Four Rivers.

Ch. XLIV. **comercque.**—Latin *commercium*.

Ch. XLV. **five days' march.**—Westward. The province Polo speaks of is on the China side of the high mountains, and therefore not in modern Tibet.

Ch. XLV. **canes.**—Bamboo, 30 inches around and 75 feet long. Obviously an exceptional size.

Ch. XLV. **20 days.**—West across the high mountains.

Ch. XLVI. **cinnamon.**—Properly cassia.

Ch. XLVI. **Beyamini.**—The Gaur, a kind of bison.

Ch. XLVII. **west.**—By Chantu Polo means the fertile valley of the Ngan-ning. He is going southwest along the edge of the Tibetan mountain wall, whence the tributaries of the Yang-tse River derive, and has crossed a wild mountain tract on a twenty days' march.

Ch. XLVII. **Chantu.**—Now known as Ning-yuen.

Ch. XLVII. **country.**—The inhabitants of this mountain valley were largely Tibetans.

Ch. XLVII. **clove.**—The cassia-tree, of which both the bud and the bark are used medicinally.

Ch. XLVII. **Brius.**—The Kin-sha, River of the Golden Sands, the upper Yang-tse.

Ch. XLVIII. **Karajang.**—The Mongol name for Yun-nan, the southwesterly mountain province of China.

Ch. XLVIII. **son.**—Really a grandson.

Ch. XLVIII. **the west.**—Polo has followed the Ngan-ning River southward until it joins the Kin-sha in its loop. He has continued south, not west, to the capital.

Ch. XLVIII. **Yachi.**—The modern Yun-nan-fu.

Ch. XLVIII. **Rice.**—One does not expect rice in the mountains: but the river valleys are fertile, and Yun-nan-fu is in 25 degrees north latitude.

Ch. XLVIII. **shells.**—Cowries.

Ch. XLVIII. **groats.**—Say fourpence each.

Ch. XLIX. **the west.**—Polo is bound west across the mountains to Burma.

Ch. XLIX. **Karajang.**—The city of Ta-li, on its mountain lake.

Ch. XLIX. **Hukaji.**—Polo has just said that the ruler was Essen-timur, son of Hukaji, and grandson of Kublai. Essen-timur did succeed Hukaji in 1280.

Ch. XLIX. **ten paces.**—Fifty feet.

Ch. XLIX. **ten palms.**—100 inches.

Ch. XLIX. **serpents.**—The reader will recognize this serpent as the crocodile.

Ch. XLIX. **large.**—Probably should be “a large number of.”

Ch. L. **Zardandan.**—The Persian for Gold-teeth, the name of the aboriginal inhabitants (Kin-chi in Chinese).

Ch. L. **Wanchen.**—In Chinese, Yung-chang, in the mountains near the upper Salwyn River of Burma.

Ch. L. **takes to bed.**—Compare Samuel Butler's *Hudibras* for this widespread primitive custom:

. Chineses go to bed
And lie in, in their ladies' stead.

Ch. L. **pig-shells.**—Cowries, or shells: in Italian, *porcellana*, whence porcelain.

Ch. LI. **Bengal.**—The title of the kings of Burma, Mien being the Chinese term for Burma.

Ch. LIII. *hill*.—Down the river valley to the main southward river, the Salwyn.

Ch. LIV. *city*.—Polo seems to mean Old Pagán, near the Irawadi, under the Tropic of Cancer; but he actually describes the later Pagán, 200 miles down the river from the old. His fifteen days would take him that far; but as he does not mention any of the cities by the way down the jungle-fringed river, he may not have actually gone to either place.

Ch. LIV. *conquest*.—The Chinese invasion accomplished the fall of Pagán in 1284.

Ch. LVI. *province*.—Polo has jumped to the inland of Tong-king (for which he uses the Persian name), on the ocean coast: in the bend where China turns into Indo-China. He is certainly not following an itinerary.

Ch. LVII. *Anin*.—Polo is apparently back in China again, in the upland north of Tong-king.

Ch. LVIII. *Toloman*.—By Toloman Polo seems to mean the mountaineers of Yun-nan, east of the city of Yun-nan-fu.

Ch. LIX. *East*.—East of Yun-nan. Having made a rather indistinct circuit along the frontier of Indo-China, Polo seems now to be tracing another route back through Yun-nan, the southwestern province toward Peking.

Ch. LIX. *Fungul*.—Fungul is obscure, but it seems to be Sui-fu on the upper Yang-tse, or Kin-sha. Going out, he had crossed the river in the middle of its loop; coming back, he is crossing it after it has straightened out, several hundred miles downstream in the plain.

Ch. LIX. *lions*.—Tigers, of course.

Ch. LIX. *the river*.—Not the Yang-tse, but a tributary from the north, which Polo ascends to Cheng-tu.

Ch. LX. *city*.—In the coastal plain, 100 miles south of Peking.

Ch. LXI. *Tsi-nan-fu*.—Tsi-nan-fu is the main city of Shan-tung, the peninsular province of Confucius.

Ch. LXI. *Tai-ting-fu*.—Now Yen-chau. What Polo says of it really applies to Tsi-nan-fu.

Ch. LXI. *Sangon*.—A corruption of the Chinese word for (military) governor.

Ch. LXII. *larger river*.—The rivers were, or became, part of Kublai's Grand Canal, described in Chapter LXXII.

Ch. LXIII. *south*.—Southeast, along the canal.

Ch. LXIV. *south*.—Southeast, along the canal.

Ch. LXIV. *Si-chau*.—Now Su-t sien.

Ch. LXIV. *Karamuren*.—The Hoang-ho, or Yellow, River, which Polo had first seen on the edge of the Gobi Desert. From about 1200 A.D. to 1853, it flowed east, after its upper loop into Mongolia, into the Yellow Sea. In 1853 it cut back to its ancient route to the north of the Shantung peninsula, and now flows into the Gulf near Peking.

Ch. LXIV. *Kwa-chau*.—Kwa-chau has disappeared.

Ch. LXIV. *Manzi*.—*Man-tsi*, meaning barbarian, was the name applied by the northern Chinese to the southern. Its Persian form, *Machin*, has given rise to the European name China.

Ch. LXV. *Facfur*.—Really the Arabic for "emperor," a translation of the Chinese *Tien-tsi*, "Son of Heaven." The emperor's name was Tu-Tsong.

Ch. LXV. 1268.—Really 1273.

Ch. LXV. *Chingsiang*.—*Chingsiang* was the Mongol title for Minister of State. It was Bayan which in Chinese meant Hundred-eyes.

Ch. LXV. *Kinsay*.—The medieval name for Hang-chau. Bayan reached it in 1276.

Ch. LXV. *Queen*.—Actually the emperor had just died (1274). His second son, an infant, was emperor under the regency of his grandmother (Polo's Queen): he was taken

to Kublai's court. His elder brother had been sent away, and died later on a southern island.

Ch. LXVII. *water*.—The flooded lakes of the Kiang-su province.

Ch. LXVIII. *Tai-chau*.—East of the canal, on a river which runs to the sea, 100 miles distant.

Ch. LXVIII. *Tung-chau*.—On the shore of the wide estuary of the Yang-tse, and at the mouth of the river from Tai-chau. It is of course quite out of Polo's way.

Ch. LXVIII. *Yang-chau*.—One of the oldest and most famous cities of China. It is on the canal, just north of the crossing of the Yang-tse River.

Ch. LXVIII. *Sings*.—Provinces.

Ch. LXVIII. *govern*.—He was probably not the governor of the province, but of the city district. His rule seems to have taken place between 1282 and 1287, when he went to India.

Ch. LXIX. *Ngan-king*.—Not the famous Nan-king, which is not far from Polo's Yang-chau, and which was otherwise named in his time. Ngan-king is 200 miles up the river, to the southwest.

Ch. LXX. *Siang-yang-fu*.—In central China, commanding the approach to Manzi from the hilly inland, a better approach than through the flooded plains which Polo has just been describing.

Ch. LXX. *surrender*.—Unfortunately for Polo's story, the siege took place before the conquest of Manzi, ending in 1273, while the Polos did not reach Peking until 1275. An improved form of mangonel was in fact introduced by Westerners at the siege: but what the Polos had to do with it remains doubtful.

Ch. LXXI. *southeast*.—Really southwest. Polo has come back from his excursion into central China, and resumes his southward route to the sea.

Ch. LXXI. **Chen-chau.**—Now I-ching, whence salt is shipped.

Ch. LXXI. **Kiang.**—The Yang-tse-Kiang (Kiang meaning River), the Mississippi of China.

Ch. LXXI. **cantars.**—From 200 to 500 tons.

Ch. LXXII. **southeast.**—At the former junction of the Yang-tse and the canal and now much decayed. The canal was completed between 1289 and 1292.

Ch. LXXII. **island.**—The island came to be called the Kin Shan, or Golden Isle. The monastery, founded in the 3rd or 4th century, was destroyed during the rebellion of 1860.

Ch. LXXIII. **Chen-kiang-fu.**—A notable port, across the river from Kwa-chau.

Ch. LXXIII. **Mar Sarghis.**—The equivalent of Dominus Sergius.

Ch. LXXIV. **Alans.**—Possibly from the western Asian tribes who were driven into Europe by the Huns, and who settled north of the Caucasus.

Ch. LXXV. **Su-chau.**—A center of silk-weaving, and known for its wares as the Paris of China.

Ch. LXXV. **bridges.**—The bridges are over the numerous canals.

Ch. LXXV. **rhubarb.**—The rhubarb and ginger come from far inland.

Ch. LXXV. **Earth.**—Polo's etymologies are fantastic.

Ch. LXXV. **Hu-chau.**—Polo digresses from his route south to Kinsay. Hu-chau is off the route, to the west.

Ch. LXXVI. **Kinsay.**—Kinsay is really King-sze, "capital." Kinsay (or Quiensay) and Cambaluc (Peking) were the names which symbolized to Europe the wealth of the East. Kinsay, now Hang-chau, was the metropolis of central

China. Were Polo traveling to-day, he would turn off east to Shanghai, near the mouth of the Yang-tse, the commercial metropolis of China.

Ch. LXXVI. *Lake*.—The famous Si-hu, or West Lake. It is outside the city, but may then have been enclosed within the immense walls which Polo describes.

Ch. LXXVI. *Kan-pu*.—Now submerged by the encroaching Bay, which is barely navigable near the land.

Ch. LXXVI. *river*.—The T sien-tang, which is not muddy like the northern rivers. At Hang-chau, in fact, Polo has left behind the flooded country (the "Holland of China") for the hills of South China.

Ch. LXXVII. This chapter is made up from Ramusio's additions to Polo's account of Kinsay.

Ch. LXXVII. *pears*.—The pears are probably the huge Chinese quinces. Yellow peaches are probably apricots.

Ch. LXXVIII. *vast sum*.—A ducat being worth ten shillings English, this total would amount to nearly three million pounds, or something like a quarter of a billion dollars in present values.

Ch. LXXVIII. *revenue*.—A revenue of 10 million pounds from one province would certainly justify the Venetians in calling the traveler Marco Millions. The Chinese records are insufficient to check these figures by: but it may at least be said for Polo that he was probably figuring in paper money, worth about half its face value.

Ch. LXXIX. *Tanpiju*.—Polo is now on his way from Kinsay to the port of Fu-chau, 300 miles south, probably on his journey to Persia with the princess. Tanpiju probably represents Shao-hsing, southeast of Hang-chau. The Italian spelling, which varies in nearly every manuscript, shows the difficulty of identifying Chinese names which Polo got, more or less correctly, through the Mongol or even the Persian or Arabic.

Ch. LXXIX. **Wu-chau.**—Now Kin-hwa, up the river from Hang-chau. It may be that Polo was ascending the river in boats, in which case Tanpiju would be Fu-yang.

Ch. LXXIX. **Kiu-chau.**—Also on the upper river.

Ch. LXXIX. **Kiang-shan.**—Near the head of navigation of the river from Hang-chau. From here it was usual to take the portage over the hills, and float south and east, down another river, to Fu-chau on the coast. But there are other routes which would explain Polo's names.

Ch. LXXIX. **Chu-chau.**—This name is not clear. There are many conjectures as to how Polo got back to the plain again.

Ch. LXXX. **Savage people.**—Obviously some of the aboriginal people, still living in the mountains behind Fu-chau.

Ch. LXXX. **Ke-ling-fu.**—The local pronunciation of Kien-ning-fu, in the Min valley northwest of Fu-chau.

Ch. LXXX. **galingale.**—An aromatic root, like ginger. It is surprising that Polo does not mention tea, which is a staple of these central provinces.

Ch. LXXX. **fowls.**—Called in China the "velvet-hair fowls," probably the silk fowls of poultry fanciers. They are regularly white, and it is suggested that Polo meant the word "black" to apply to the flesh.

Ch. LXXX. **Unken.**—This un-Chinese word seems to mean the city called Min-ting, near the capital Fu-chau.

Ch. LXXX. **Babylonia.**—That is, Egypt.

Ch. LXXXI. **Chonka.**—The province is now Fo-kien. Whence Polo got this word one cannot say.

Ch. LXXXI. **river.**—The Min, the "Hudson River of China."

Ch. LXXXII. **southeast.**—Really southwest.

Ch. LXXXII. **Zayton.**—The Arabic form of the old name for Tsuen-chau, 100 miles from Fu-chau, on the Strait of Formosa. Or it may mean Chang-chau, on the splendid Bay of Amoy, 50 miles beyond.

Ch. LXXXII. **Tyunju.**—Not identified.

Ch. LXXXII. **one speech.**—Polo did not learn enough about Chinese even to know that there was one universal written language, in which the signs represented ideas, not sounds. Speakers of different dialects would then understand the writing, but the sounds they used to express the sign (for “man,” for example) would be mutually unintelligible.

Ch. LXXXII. **Yang-chau.**—The province of Nan-king, now called Kiang-su, in which Polo ruled a district. The three are the coast provinces.

BOOK III

Ch. I. **ships.**—Chinese ships, the largest of which were called junks. They were much larger than European ships in Polo’s time, and the system of compartments shows that they were better built. Polo says nothing of the shape of the junks, because they were not different then from European ships. The latter kept the high prow and stern down into the eighteenth century.

Ch. I. **mixture.**—Oakum.

Ch. II. **Chipangu.**—Chipangu or Cipangu was the accepted name for Japan throughout the European age of discoveries. It represents the Chinese Jih-pen-kwé, which becomes in Japanese Nippon or Nihon. Japan is the Malay form.

Ch. II. **gold.**—The gold mines have been pretty well worked out.

Ch. II. **plan.**—In 1281, after one failure in 1274.

Ch. II. **Vonsainchin.**—The Chinese forms are Ngo Tsahan and Fan (Wen-hu) Siang-kiun (=General).

Ch. III. 1279.—Polo's history is fantastic. The expedition was in 1281. It sailed the 500 miles from Kinsay to Japan, took possession of some small islands in the Korea Strait, and was defeated there in a naval battle. A storm dispersed the vanquished fleet, as the Spanish Armada was later dispersed; a portion of the army was shipwrecked on the large island of Kiu-shu, the nearest to China, and was there destroyed in battle. The expedition never reached the large central island of Japan.

Ch. V. Hai-nan.—Generally called the Gulf of Tong-king, an arm of the sea formed by the curve inward of the China coast to Indo-China. Polo thinks it much longer than it is.

Ch. V. Manzi.—Actually only the peninsula below Hong-kong, and the island of Hai-nan which prolongs it.

Ch. V. grows.—Actually these islands are rocky islets, distinguished only by the caverns which the sea hollows out in them, and which once sheltered numerous pirates.

Ch. V. Champa.—The medieval Western term for the coast of Annam, the east coast of the Indo-China peninsula.

Ch. V. Sotu.—Military governor of Canton.

Ch. V. 1288.—Probably in returning from the mission to India which qualified him to escort the princess to Persia.

Ch. V. lignaloes.—The speckled eaglewood, used for incense.

Ch. V. Bonus.—An attempt to represent the Persian word, *abnús*, for ebony.

Ch. VI. 3000 miles.—The traditional size, about double the truth.

Ch. VI. nutmegs.—Nutmegs and cloves are sold, not grown, in Java.

Ch. VI. possession.—Kublai did try it in 1293, after the Polos had gone, but his army was beaten off.

Ch. VII. **Kondor**.—Two variant names for the Pulo Condore, one large and several small islands off the river delta of Cochin-China, at the tip of the Indo-China peninsula.

Ch. VII. **Lohok**.—Originally a separate part of Lower Siam, in the Malay Peninsula. It paid tribute to China in the next century.

Ch. VII. **brazil**.—A dyewood, the search for which planted the name in South America.

Ch. VIII. **Pentam**.—Probably Bentam, a village on the island now called Singapore, at the tip of the Malay Peninsula.

Ch. VIII. **trees**.—The santal tree.

Ch. VIII. **Malayur**.—Apparently an island off the east coast of Sumatra, not now identifiable. Malayur would mean Malay-land.

Ch. IX. **Java the Less**.—Sumatra was called Java Minor because, though a larger island than Java, it was a later home of the Javi, that is, the Malays.

Ch. IX. **eight kingdoms**.—An underestimate. Eleven different nations and languages are reckoned on the island.

Ch. IX. **southward**.—Sumatra lies between 6 degrees north and 6 degrees south latitude.

Ch. IX. **Perlak**.—Polo uses the Arabic equivalent, Ferlec. He apparently places it in the northeastern part of the island, where the names of Cape Perlak and the city Perla still stand.

Ch. IX. **Pasei**.—The Portuguese Pacem, the modern Passir; near the northern point of the island, on the east coast.

Ch. IX. **fancied**.—The rhinoceros must have been a shock to the believer in the unicorn.

Ch. X. **Samatra**.—The original Samatra or Samutra (Sanskrit for "sea"). Polo is going step by step along the northeast coast, forming the kingdom known to the Dutch as Achin.

Ch. X. **weather.**—The southwest monsoon having set in, the party spends the summer in shelter on the coast, probably in the Gulf of Pasei (Passir).

Ch. X. **Maestro.**—The Great Bear.

Ch. X. **date-palms.**—They are called the gomuti-palm.

Ch. X. **Indian nuts.**—The reader will recognize the coconut.

Ch. X. **Dagroian.**—Hardly recognizable, but still on the tip: perhaps Pedir.

Ch. XI. **Lambri.**—Not identified, but probably on the tip of the island, or near the present city of Achin.

Ch. XI. **Fansur.**—Now Barus, a little south of Achin, and still the camphor port.

Ch. XI. **flour.**—The sago-tree.

Ch. XI. **Gomespola.**—A small island off the tip, so known to the European discoverers of the 16th century. Pulo is Malay for island.

Ch. XII. **Nicobar.**—Polo's spelling is Necuveran. There are a number of islands in the group.

Ch. XIV. **2400 miles.**—Actually 700 miles.

Ch. XIV. **Sendemain.**—Not recognizable.

Ch. XV. **mountain.**—Samantakuta, "Adam's Peak."

Ch. XV. **Sakya-Muni Burkhan.**—Polo's spelling is Sagamoni Borcan. Sakya-Muni is the name of the Buddha, to which Polo adds *Burkhan*, the Mongol word meaning Buddha or God. Polo's story is correct, except that the Buddha really lived in northern India.

Ch. XVI. **Maabar.**—The Arabic name for the southeast coast, the Coromandel.

Ch. XVI. **Patlam.**—Polo spells it Bettelar. It is on the west coast of Ceylon.

Ch. XVI. **October.**—Toward the end of the southwest monsoon, and sheltered from it on the east coast of Ceylon, as the spring fishing had been done under the reverse conditions.

Ch. XVII. **104.**—More likely 108, a magic number for both Brahmans and Buddhists (= 12 × 9).

Ch. XVII. **Pacauta.**—Probably *Bagava*, a form of the Hindu word for Lord.

Ch. XVII. **Kish, etc.**—That is, the ports of Arabia and the Persian Gulf.

Ch. XVII. **silver.**—£220 or \$1000.

Ch. XVII. **Govy.**—Pariahs.

Ch. XVII. **Patarins.**—The Cathars or Albigenses, that is heretics.

Ch. XVII. **rain.**—Polo has confused the two coasts. The southeast, of which he speaks, gets its rain from the northeast, or winter, monsoon, in contrast to the Malabar coast.

Ch. XVII. **married.**—Polo has not quite grasped, or interpreted, the function of the “dancing” girls.

Ch. XVIII. **accessible.**—Mailapur, a suburb of Madras.

Ch. XVIII. **Avarian.**—Properly Hawariy.

Ch. XVIII. **hair.**—The military use of the yak’s tail was found throughout Asia, especially among the Tartars.

Ch. XIX. **Motupalli.**—Now a fishing village, 170 miles north of Madras, after which Polo named the kingdom called Telingana.

Ch. XIX. **diamonds.**—The famous Golconda field.

Ch. XIX. **buckrams.**—Obviously the fine cotton stuffs, muslins and chintzes, for which the region was famous from the time of the Buddha.

Ch. XX. **Lar.**—Approximately the modern kingdom of Mysore.

Ch. XX. **Brahmans.**—Polo uses a corrupt Arabic form, *Abraiaman*.

Ch. XX. **Sola.**—From *Sola* or *Chola* was formed the name *Cholomandala*, which the Dutch made into *Coromandel*, the present European name for the southeast coast of India.

Ch. XX. **Choiach.**—Representing *tiyach* or *tyajya*, the rejected.

Ch. XX. **Half-tierce.**—7.30, 9, and 12.

Ch. XX. **Sulphur and quicksilver.**—The father and mother of the metals, according to the alchemists.

Ch. XXI. **Kayal.**—A once famous port, known to the Greeks as a pearl market, near the tip of the Indian peninsula. It no longer exists. Having gone inland to the realm of Mysore, Polo has now returned to discuss the seacoast: Kayal he should have mentioned immediately after Ceylon.

Ch. XXI. **Tembul.**—The Persian and Sanskrit term for betel-nut, *betel* being a South Indian word.

Ch. XXII. **Quilon.**—On the west coast near the tip. (The 500 miles to the southwest must be taken from Madras, not from the place last mentioned, Kayal.) Polo's Maabar seems to be an elastic country. Quilon was the pepper market until the 16th century.

Ch. XXII. **brazil Colombin.**—To distinguish the (dye) wood from the Sumatran and Siamese varieties. Eastern brazilwood is now known by the Malay name *sappan*.

Ch. XXII. **coagulates.**—From the fermentation, not from the heat of the sun. The fermented liquor yields indigo as a precipitate.

Ch. XXII. **lions.**—Tigers.

Ch. XXIII. **Comorin.**—The country about Cape Comorin, the point of the peninsula. Again Polo has gone back.

Ch. XXIII. *paul-cats*.—An inexplicable name used by Mediterranean travelers for some kind of monkey. Columbus saw them in South America.

Ch. XXIV. *Ely*.—Something like halfway to Goa, on the Malabar (west) coast, and 16 miles north of Cananor. The city of Ely no longer exists; but Mount d'Ely is still so named. This peak on the coast gave Vasco da Gama his first view of the India which he sailed around Africa to find.

Ch. XXV. *west*.—Malabar was the Arabic term for the coast Polo has just traversed, from Quilon to Ely. Calicut was the main port.

Ch. XXV. *nuts of India*.—That is, spices and cocoanuts.

Ch. XXVI. *Guzerat*.—From Goa to the Gulf of Cambay, the modern Bombay at its center.

Ch. XXVI. *tamarind*.—Persian for the Indian date.

Ch. XXVI. *six paces high*.—30 feet, which is nearly twice the actual size of this species of cotton.

Ch. XXVI. *silver*.—The mark was two-thirds of the pound sterling, say \$3.25.

Ch. XXVII. *Tana*.—The modern Konkan, in the south of the Bombay Presidency. The town of Thana still exists, but the later city of Bombay has taken its commercial place. Tana should be a sub-kingdom of Guzerat, which included it.

Ch. XXVII. *brown*.—Not frankincense, but either the bellium or black dammar still grown in Konkan.

Ch. XXVIII. *Cambay*.—Where the peninsula suddenly widens westward. The city of Cambay was once one of the greatest of Indian ports, now much diminished although it is a railway terminus.

Ch. XXVIII. *tutty*.—See Book I, Chapter XXI.

Ch. XXIX. *Somnath*.—On the peninsula west of the Gulf of Cambay, the city being still a port of some size, and the site of a once important Hindu shrine.

Ch. XXX. **Kijmekran.**—Polo has made an abrupt jump beyond the Indus River, landing in the region of Mekran, the craggy coast of Baluchistan and Persia. Kij was the name of the capital (whence the compound name), inland on the river Dasht, near the Persian border of Baluchistan.

Ch. XXXI. **Island.**—No islands exist in the locality given. The story is worldwide, being told to Columbus about Martinique.

Ch. XXXII. **Socotra.**—An island off the Abyssinian coast, and 1000 miles from Mekran. It now belongs to the British Empire, since it commands the approach to Aden and the Red Sea.

Ch. XXXII. **Bagdad.**—The head of the Nestorian Church. The inhabitants had already reverted, as Polo says, to a pre-Christian voodooism. They are now Mahometans.

Ch. XXXIII. **thousand miles.**—Actually 1800 miles.

Ch. XXXIII. **4000 miles.**—Actually 2200 miles.

Ch. XXXIII. **camels.**—There are no camels, nor indeed lions or elephants, on Madagascar. The camels suggest a confusion of Madagascar and Magadoxo, on the African coast 900 miles from Socotra.

Ch. XXXIII. **red sanders.**—Sandalwood.

Ch. XXXIII. **Griffin.**—Polo thinks he has explained away the griffin by making him out a Roc. This impressive bird of the Arabian Nights may have been imagined from an immense vulture, actually found in fossil state in Australia.

Ch. XXXIII. **tusks.**—Hippopotamus teeth do actually weigh as much. They come from Zanzibar, not from Madagascar. So of course with giraffes.

Ch. XXXIV. **2000 miles.**—This is of course pure hearsay. The grain of truth in it is the fact that Zanzibar, the land of the blacks, meant to the Arabs the whole African coast from the Equator to the Tropic of Capricorn.

Ch. XXXIV. **sheep.**—The smooth-haired Ethiopian sheep.

Ch. XXXIV. **abundant.**—Zanzibar is still a main ivory market of the world.

Ch. XXXIV. **in battle.**—The African elephant was not domesticated like the Indian, except in the north.

Ch. XXXIV. **12,700.**—The number was traditional. Modern exploration has trebled it.

Ch. XXXIV. **ten.**—Polo may have derived his thirteen kingdoms from the tradition of the twelve kings of India.

Ch. XXXIV. **Motupalli.**—From the China Sea to the Coromandel coast.

Ch. XXXV. **Abash.**—The Arabic form of Abyssinia.

Ch. XXXV. **Middle India.**—Medieval Europe knew three Indies, the third being sometimes reckoned eastern Africa. Virgil thought the Nile flowed from India; and the Greek geographers connected Asia with Africa by a land belt south of the Indian Ocean.

Ch. XXXV. **marks.**—Branding was somewhat practiced by the Abyssinians, and medieval Europe thought the practice religious.

Ch. XXXV. **advanced.**—Since the ruler of Abyssinia did not cross the Red Sea to attack the Sultan of Aden, it is likely that the latter was the Sultan of Adel, a coast region of Abyssinia. Such an expedition is recorded in 1278, not 1288.

Ch. XXXV. **cocks and hens.**—The guinea fowl.

Ch. XXXVI. **port.**—In Arabia, outside the southern entrance to the Red Sea.

Ch. XXXVI. **merchants.**—The journey would be made up the Red Sea to one of several Egyptian ports, overland to the Nile, and thence by canal to Alexandria.

Ch. XXXVI. **Sultan.**—Polo gives the name Aden not only to the city but to the fertile coast province of Yemen.

Ch. XXXVI. took it.—In 1291.

Ch. XXXVII. **Es-Sheher**.—The modern Sheher is a small port, replacing Polo's now ruined city.

Ch. XXXVII. **white incense**.—The real or white frankincense (called in China "milk-perfume") always came from this region.

Ch. XXXVII. **sheep**.—Apparently four-horned sheep.

Ch. XXXVII. **fish**.—The practice still holds, this coast being the border of Arabia Deserta.

Ch. XXXVIII. **500**.—Really 400, from Aden 700 miles. It was once the most important Arabian port east of Aden, in a fertile plain.

Ch. XXXIX. **northwest**.—Really 500 miles to the northeast, around the corner of Arabia. The city has disappeared.

Ch. XXXIX. **Gulf**.—The Gulf of Oman, between Persia and this corner (Oman) of Arabia.

Ch. XXXIX. **castle**.—Probably the castle at Maskat or Muskat, now the capital of Oman and one of the largest towns in Arabia, a little farther up the Gulf.

Ch. XL. **ventilators**.—The funnels or wind-catchers are still used in "the hottest place in the world."

Ch. XL. **Kish**.—The island of Kish is only 150 miles up the Persian Gulf. Possibly Polo means a city, now called Shiraf, on the mainland.

BOOK IV

In this book where Yule's text condenses the original version the text of this edition substitutes the omitted passages from the Marsden translation.

Ch. I. **Great Turkey**.—Chinese Turkestan.

Ch. I. **brother**.—Kaidu was the grandson of Ogdai Khan, uncle and predecessor of Kublai. Jagatai was another uncle

of Kublai: both uncles were sons of Jengis Khan. Polo confused the two lines because Kaidu ruled the eastern portion of Turkestan, and the house of Jagatai ruled Turkestan proper.

Ch. I. **Jihun**.—The classical Oxus, modern Amu Daria. Flowing northwest from the Pamirs into the Aral Sea, it divided Chinese from Russian Turkestan, as in Polo's time it divided Great Turkey from the Mongol kingdom in Persia.

Ch. II. **chibai**.—The names are uncertain, as is the date; 1275 seems more likely from Eastern records.

Ch. II. **Karakorum**.—The first capital of the Mongol empire, south of Lake Baikal. Polo described it in Book I, Chapter XLVI.

Ch. II. **John**.—See Book I, Chapter XLVI.

Ch. II. **araines**.—Perhaps harim (harem). All this narrative is stereotyped, and repeated by Polo (or Rustician) for every battle.

Ch. II. **without victory**.—The Mongol histories read Kaidu as successful in capturing his adversary princes. Marching on Karakorum, he was attacked and defeated by Bayan, the conqueror of Manzi.

Ch. IV. **daughter**.—Kaidu had one daughter, Kutulun, who was ambitious enough to claim his succession. The story is a familiar legend, being told of the Amazons and of Brunhild in the Germanic epic.

Ch. IV. **Levant**.—That is, of Persia. Arghun was grandson of Hulagu, brother of Kublai, to whose house was accorded the Persian conquests (the Ilkhan empire).

Ch. V. **the marches**.—The heir to the throne was assigned to border duty in the Ilkhan empire.

Ch. V. **Borrak**.—Borrak was no brother of Kaidu, but the ruler of Great Turkey. He was great-grandson of Jagatai. The invasion took place in 1269.

Ch. VI. **Abaka.**—It was not until 1282 that Abaka died.

Ch. VI. **Court.**—Tabriz, in western Persia.

Ch. XI. **valor.**—The battle was fought in 1284, near Tabriz.

Ch. XIII. **Buka.**—Probably the envoy who came to Kublai's court in 1291 to get the princess. Polo would have got the story of this war from him on their sea voyage.

Ch. XIV. **Sultan.**—His name was Alinak.

Ch. XV. **Babylon.**—Egypt.

Ch. XVIII. **brother.**—Actually Arghun's brother.

Ch. XVIII. **two years.**—He was really overthrown by a revolution four years after, in 1295.

Ch. XIX. **uncle.**—His first cousin, thought a Christian because he favored the Christians.

Ch. XX. **Kaunchi.**—There were two of the name at the time; descendants of the eldest son of Jengis Khan, Juji. (Juji's line inherited the Siberian and Russian domains, as Jagatai's inherited Great Turkey, and Tuli's divided China and Persia.) The two ruled in more or less adjacent regions northeast of the Caspian.

Ch. XX. **stupid things.**—See Book I, Chapter LIII.

Ch. XX. **wild creatures.**—Polo has already spoken of some of these (Book I, Chapter LII), though he is now ranging farther north into Siberia.

Ch. XX. **Vair.**—Vair was properly the fur rather than the animal. Here it relates to the Siberian squirrel, the skins prepared by joining the black back with the white underside in a checkered pattern. Ercolin is unidentified.

Ch. XXI. **mares.**—A legend of some antiquity.

Ch. XXI. **peltry.**—The reading of this chapter is said to have moved the English Prince Rupert to take up the organizing of the Hudson Bay Company.

Ch. XXI. **Russia.**—Polo writes Rosia.

Ch. XXI. **Ponent.**—The west.

Ch. XXII. **silver.**—Actually lead mines, producing some silver for currency, near the Crimea.

Ch. XXII. **Lac.**—Apparently Wallachia, now southern Roumania.

Ch. XXII. **Oroech.**—Oroech would mean either Norway (Noroech) or Wareg (Varangians), the Nordic settlers in Baltic Russia.

Ch. XXIV. **Sain.**—Actually Batu, grandson of Jengis, called Sain Khan or Good Prince. He led the Mongol invasion of Europe in 1240, and founded the Kipchak, or West Tartar, line.

Ch. XXIV. **Gazaria.**—That is, Comania, northeast of the Black Sea; Alania, the land of the Alans from Asia, in Caucasia south of the Comanians; Wallachia, on the west coast of the Black Sea; Hungary perhaps, Menjar resembling Magyar; Zic or Circassia, in the Caucasus; Gothia, or southern Crimea, inhabited by a tribe of Goths well into modern times; Gazaria, the land of the Khazars in the Crimea.

Ch. XXIV. **then Toktai.**—Three names are left out.

Ch. XXV. **discord.**—This was the war which blocked the return journey from Russia of the elder Polos, and sent them eastward into Asia.

Ch. XXV. **Sarai.**—The Caspian, named from the Tartar capital up the Volga. For the Iron Gates at Derbend, see Book I, Chapter IV.

Ch. XXVIII. **Battle.**—This is more of Polo's fantastic and stereotyped history. Actually the cousins chased each other back and forth across the borders, each winning battles, and each finally retiring.

Ch. XXIX. **Toktai.**—This is a highly imaginative and confused version of the quarrel between Toktai, Khan of Kipchak, and the old Noghai, a commander in the Tartar invasions of Europe and an independent ruler in south Russia. Their war seems to have been fought about 1300.

Ch. XXXI. Plain of Nerghi.—Apparently about the river Don.

Ch. XXXIV. Conclusion.—This conclusion is not found in any copy except in the *Crusca Italiana*, and, with a little modification, in another at Florence, belonging to the Pucci family. It is just possible that it was the embellishment of a transcriber or translator; but in any case it is very old, and serves as an epilogue.—Yule's Note.