

the rainy season without sticking in the mud. The two sides of the road are planted with willows and other shady trees, and no one is allowed, whether soldier or otherwise, to break branches of those trees or to let cattle feed on the leaves. Shops, taverns, and villages line the road on both sides, so that dwelling succeeds dwelling without intermission throughout the whole space of forty days' journey.

The ramparts of the city of Daïdu are formed of earth. The custom of the country in making such ramparts is first to set up planks, and then to fill in moist earth between them, ramming it hard with great wooden rammers; they then remove the planks, and the earth remains forming a solid wall. The Kaan, in his latter years, ordered stone to be brought in order to face the walls, but death intervened, and the execution of his project remains, if God permit, for Timur Kaan.

The Kaan's intention was to build a palace like that of Daïdu at KAIMINFU, which is at a distance of fifty parasangs, and to reside there.¹ There are three roads to that place from the winter-residence. The first, reserved for hunting matches, is allowed to be used only by ambassadors.² The second road passes by the city of CHÚ-CHÚ,³ following the banks of the Sanghin river, where you see great plenty of grapes and other kinds of fruit.⁴ Near the city just named

¹ Kaimingfu, the Kai-pingfu of the Chinese and the Clemenfu (probably miswritten for Chemenfu) of M. Polo, is at the place thirty-six leagues beyond the Great Wall, where Kublai, as here related, established his summer residence, changing the name of the town to Shangtu (*supra*, p. 134).

² Lord Macartney, on his way from Zhehol, found a road reserved only for the emperor. Another, parallel to it, was for the attendants of the emperor, and on this the ambassador was allowed to travel. All other travellers were excluded, and had to find a track where they could. (*Staunton*, ii, 279.)

³ Tsocheu is a town a short distance to the south-west of Peking, on the other side of the river named, the Geogui or Giugiu of Polo.

⁴ The Sanghin river is that otherwise called Lu-keu and Yungting, a