

posed of four *Chingsang* or great officers, and of four *Fanchán*, taken from the nations of the Tajiks, Cathayans, Ighúrs, and Arkáun.<sup>2</sup> These latter act as inspectors on behalf of the council.

The whole gradation of dignitaries and officers of state is as follows :—

1. The Chingsáng or Wazírs.
2. The great officers of the army, who make their reports to the Chingsáng, however exalted their rank may be.
3. The *Fanchán* or associated members of the Council of State, taken from the different nations specified.
4. *Yer Jing* or first class *Jing*.
5. *Ur Jing* or second class *Jing*.
6. *Sam Jing* or third class *Jing*.<sup>3</sup>
7. Semi (?)
8. *Sisan Baljún*. These are book-keepers and of inferior consideration.

9. . . . .

In the time of Kublai Kaan the Chingsáng chosen from among the princes were Haitun Noyán, Uchaar, Oljai Tarkhan, and Dáshiman. Haitun Noyan is now no more, but the others remain in office as the Chingsáng of Timur Kaán.

the Chinese original *Ping-chang*. But this is arbitrary, and we find in D'Ohsson the real form of the word as used by Rashid, viz. *Fanchán*, which differs only by dots from Klaproth's *Kabjan*. It is also written *Panchán* by Wassaf, and by Ssanang Setzen the Mongol historian, not *Minján* but *Bingjing*. (See D'Ohsson, ii, 530, 636-7.)

According to Pauthier's statement the normal composition of the Council of State was of two Chingsiang or chief ministers; four Pingchang, ministers of the second degree; four minister assessors, called *Yeu-ching* and *Tso-ching*; and two reporting councillors, called *Thsang-ching*, the whole number making up the twelve barons of Marco Polo.

<sup>1</sup> This is a word by which the Mongols designated the Nestorian Christians with whom they had relations. Its origin is very obscure, but from what Marco Polo says of the term (*Argon*) as elucidated in a learned and interesting note by Pauthier, it would seem to have meant properly a *half-breed*.

<sup>2</sup> These three ranks correspond to the *Yeu-ching*, *Tso-ching*, and *Thsang-ching* of the Chinese records (*Pauthier*).