

merchandize to go to Organci, for in that city there is a ready sale for goods. From Organci to OLTRARRE¹ is thirty-five to forty days in camel-waggons. But if when you leave Saracanco you go direct to Oltrarre, it is a journey of fifty days only, and if you have no merchandize it will be better to go this way than to go by Organci.

From Oltrarre to ARMALEC² is forty-five days' journey with pack-asses, and every day you find Moccals. And from Armalec to CAMEXU³ is seventy days with asses, and from Camexu until you come to a river called is forty-five days on horseback; and then you can go down the river to CASSAI,⁴ and there you can dispose of the *sommi*⁵ of silver

¹ Oltarre is Otrár, previously called Faráb, a city of Turkestan, of which it was once considered the capital. It stands, or stood (for there seems no recent knowledge of it) on a tributary of the Sihun or Jaxartes, about two leagues from that river, about lat. 44° 30', some distance west of the town called Turkestan in the maps. Its capture by Chinghiz in 1219 was the commencement of his Western conquests; and it was at Otrar that the great Timur died, 17th February, 1405. Haiton calls the city *Octorar*, the greatest city of Turkestan. It stood on the frontier, between the Khanates of Kapchak and Zagatai.

² See p. 236.

³ Camexu (i.e. *Camechu*) is considered by Foster to be Hami or Kamil, with the Chinese *chu* added. But there can be no doubt that it is the Chinese frontier city *Kanchu* in Kansu. That city is called by Rashid-eddin and by the author of *Mesalak al-Absar Kamchu*, so that the Western Asiatics called it just as Pegolotti does. Moreover the latter author allows only forty days from Almálik (Armalec) to Kamchu, showing that the time named by Pegolotti is most ample allowance. The same author allows forty days from Kamchu to Khanbalik (*Notices et Extraits*, xiii, 226).

⁴ Forster chooses to consider Cassai to be a place called Kissen, on the Hoang Ho. It is not worth while to look if there is such a place, for Cassai is obviously Quinsai, Cansai, Kingszé, the commercial city of China at that time, *hod.* Hangcheufu. It is called Cassai in the *Portulano Mediceo* and *Cassay* in the "*Livre du Grant Caan*" (*supra*, p. 244).

The river reached in forty-five days from Kancheu is most probably the Great Canal. Forster, according to Baldelli Boni (I presume in some later edition of his work than that used by me) supplies the blank with *Karamuren* from a MS. that belonged to Sprengel. But this is of no authority, for the blank exists in the original MS. in the Riccardian library.

⁵ *Sommi* of silver is written in the MS. *sonmi*, and is so printed by