

duced to Genoese weight, and that the *sommo* should weigh eight and a half ounces of Genoa, and should be of the alloy of eleven ounces and seventeen deniers to the pound.¹

You may reckon also that in Cathay you should get three or three and a half pieces of damasked silk² for a *sommo*; and from three and a half to five pieces of *nacchetti*³ of silk and gold, likewise for a *sommo* of silver.

¹ *I.e.*, 7 pennyweights of alloy to 11 oz. 17 dwts. of pure silver. Giov. da Uzzano in the next century speaks of the *sommi* from Caffa as being of both gold and silver, the alloy of the latter being 11 oz. 13 to 15 dwt. (p. 188).

² The word is *cammocca*. This the dictionaries generally are good enough to tell us means "a kind of cloth." Mr. Wright on Mandeville says it is "a rich cloth of silk mentioned not unfrequently in medieval writers," but this is still very unprecise. I had arrived at the conclusion that it must be *damasked silk*, and I now find this confirmed by Ducange (*Gloss. Græcitat.*, etc.): "*καμουχᾶς*, *Pannus sericus more damasceno confectus*." Moreover the word is almost certainly the Arabic *كَمْخُو* *kimkhwá*, "Vestis scutulata Damascena" (*Freytag*). I suppose that the *kinchwáb* of Hindustan, now applied to a gold brocade, is the same word or a derivative.

³ In a later chapter describing the trade at Constantinople, our author details "silk velvets, *cammucca*, *maramati*, gold cloth of every kind, *nacchetti* and *nacchi* of every kind, and likewise all cloths of gold and silk except *zendadi* (gauzes)." The *nacchi* and *nacchetti* appear to have been cloths of silk and gold. The former (*nakh*) is so explained by Ibn Batuta, who names it several times. It was made, he tells us, at Nisabur in Khorassan, and in describing the dress of the princess of Constantinople he says she had on "a mantle of the stuff called *nakh*, and also *nasíj*." These two, however, were apparently not identical, but corresponded probably to the *nacchi* and *nacchetti* of Pegolotti. For Polo in the Ramusian version has "panni d'oro *nasiti* (*nasici*?) fin, e *nach*, e panni di seta." And in the old version printed in Baldelli Boni's first volume this runs "*nasicci*, drappi dorati;" whilst Rubruquis mentions *nasic* as a present given him by Mangu Khan. I know not what *maramati* is, unless it should rather be *maramali* for *makhmal*, velvet. (*Ibn Batuta*, ii, 309, 388, 422; iii, 81; *Polo in Ramus.*, pt. i, c. 53; *Il Milione*, i, 57; *Rub.*, p. 317.)