

CHAPTER III.

Comparison of the weights and measures of Cathay and of Tana.

	lbs.	oz.
The maund ¹ of Sara = in Genoa weight	6	2
" Organci " "	3	9
" Oltrarre " "	3	9
" Armalec " "	2	8
" Camexu " "	2	0

Tana on the Black Sea.

At Tana, as shall next be shown, they use a variety of weights and measures, viz. :

The *cantar*, which is that of Genoa.

The *great pound*² = 20 lbs. Genoese.

The *ruotolo*,³ of which 20 = 1 great pound.

The *little pound*, which is the Genoese pound.

The *tochetto*, of which 12 = 1 great pound.

The *saggio*, of which 45 = 1 sommo.

The *picco*.⁴

Wax, ladanum,⁵ iron, tin, copper, pepper, ginger, all coarser

¹ *Mena*, representing the Arabic *man*, I suppose from Greek and Lat. *mina*, diffused over all the East with an infinite variety of values from below two pounds up to one hundred pounds. We have Anglicized it in India into *maund*. The *man* of Ghazan Khan, which may be meant here, was of 260 drachms.

² This should be equal to thirty, not twenty, Genoese pounds, as is shown by passages at pp. 31, 37, of Pegolotti. Is this *great pound* the origin of the Russian *pood*?

³ The *cantaro* and *ruotolo* both survive in Southern Italy and Sicily, the former derived from the *kantár* and the latter from the *rithl* of the Arabs, though the first of these words, and perhaps both, must have come to the Arabic from the Latin.

⁴ The *pik* is still the common cloth measure in the Levant. It seems generally to be about twenty-eight inches.

⁵ *Ladanum* or *labdanum* (the *ládin* of the Arabs), is a gum resin derived from the *Cistus creticus*, which grows in the Islands of the Levant. It is exported in solid pieces of cylindrical and other forms. A long description of the mode of collecting it, etc., will be found in *Tournefort, Voyage du Levant*, i, 84, *et seq.* According to Herodotus ladanum was derived "from a most inodorous place," viz., the beards of he-goats, which collected it from the bushes in browsing (*Rawlinson's Herod.*, bk. iii, 113).