

parisons so oddly selected as to suggest the possibility of irony. After all that he had seen, he comes, like Friar Jordanus, to the conclusion that there is no place like his own WEST.¹ "'Tis the best of all countries. You have fruit in plenty ; good meat and water are easily come at, and in fact its blessings are so many that the poet has hit the mark when he sings,

"Of all the Four Quarters of Heaven the best
(I'll prove it past question) is surely the West !
'Tis the West is the goal of the Sun's daily race !
'Tis the West that first shows you the Moon's silver face !

"The dirhems of the West are but little ones 'tis true, but then you get more for them !"—just as in the good old days of another dear Land of the West, where, if the pound was but twenty pence, the pint at least was two quarts !

After a time he went to visit his native city of Tangier, thence to Ceuta, and then crossed over into Spain (*al Andalus*), going to see Gibraltar, which had just then been besieged "by the Latin tyrant, Adfunus" (Alphonso XI.)² From the Rock he proceeded

sovereigns in the world, 1. His own master, the Commander of the Faithful, viz., the King of Fez ; 2. The Sultan of Egypt and Syria ; 3. The Sultan of the two Iraks ; 4. The Sultan Mahomed Uzbek of Kipchak ; 5. The Sultan of Turkestan and Mawarannahr (Chagatai) ; 6. The Sultan of India ; 7. The Sultan of China (ii, 382). Von Hammer quotes from Ibn Batuta also (though I cannot find the passage) the following as the characteristic titles of the seven great kings of the earth. The list differs from the preceding. 1. The *Takfúr* of Constantinople ; 2. The *Sultán* of Egypt ; 3. The *King* (Malik ?) of the Iraks ; 4. The *Khákán* of Turkestan ; 5. The *Maharaja* of India ; 6. The *Faghfúr* of China ; 7. The *Khan* of Kipchak (*Gesch. der Gold. Horde*, p. 300).

The King of Fez in question, Ibn Batuta's lord, was Faris Abu Imán, of the house of Beni Merin of Fez, who usurped the throne during his father's lifetime in 1348, and died miserably, smothered in bed by some of his courtiers, November 1358. In a rescript, of his granting certain commercial privileges to the Pisans, 9th April, 1358, he is styled King of Fez, Mequinez, Sallee, Morocco, Sus, Segelmessa, Teza, Telemsen, Algiers, Bugia, Costantina, Bona, Biskra, Zab, Media, Gafsa, Baladt-ul-Jaríd, Tripoli, Tangier, Ceuta, Gibraltar and Ronda, *i.e.*, of the whole of Barbary from Tripoli to the Atlantic coast facing the Canary Islands. But his claim to the eastern part of this territory must have been titular only, as his father had just lost them when Abu Iman seized the government. (*Amari, Diplomi Arabi del R. Arch. Fiorentino*, pp. 309, 476).

¹ *Fr. Jord.*, p. 55.

² *Thághiah-ul-Rúm*. Amari remarks (*op. cit.*, pp. ix-x) : "The early