

I have seen a milch cow sold in Bengal for three silver dinars (the cattle of that country are buffaloes). As for fat fowls, I have seen eight sold for a dirhem, whilst small pigeons were to be had at fifteen for a dirhem. . . . A piece of fine cotton cloth of excellent quality, thirty cubits in length, has been sold in my presence for two dinars (of silver). A beautiful girl of marriageable age I have also seen sold for a dinar of gold, worth two and a half gold dinars of Barbary. For about the same money I myself bought a young slave girl called Ashura, who was endowed with the most exquisite beauty. And one of my comrades bought a pretty little slave, called Lúlú (*Pearl*), for two golden dinars.

The first city of Bengal which we entered was called SADKÁWÁN, a big place on the shore of the Great Sea.¹ The river GANGES, to which the Hindus go on pilgrimage, and

eight dirhems of silver (see note A *preceding*), and that a rothl of Dehli was equal to twenty rothl of Barbary. The editors in a note on a previous passage say that a rothl and a half of Barbary was equal to a kilogramme, which (taken exactly) would make the Dehli rothl of that day equal to 28.78 *lbs. avoirdupois*. In another place (ii, 74) he applies the more appropriate term *mann* (or *maund*, as in Anglo-India) to the Dehli weight, and says it was equal to twenty-five rothl of Egypt. The former calculation is corroborated with an exactness which must be partly fortuitous by a deduction from a statement in the *Masálak-ul-Absár*. According to this work the current weights of Dehli were the *sir*, and the *mann* of forty *sirs*, precisely the terms and rates now current in Hindustan, but with different values. For the *sir* it is said was equal to seventy *mithkál*s. According to Amari the *mithkal* is 4.665 *grammes*, a datum which gives the *sir*= $.72$ *lb.*, and the *mann*=28.80 *lbs.* The modern "Indian maund" is a little over 82 *lbs.*, and all the local maunds in the Bengal Presidency at this day approximate to that. We have seen (note A, p. 441) that the dinar probably represents the rupee. The quantity of unhusked rice purchased for the rupee in Ibn Batuta's time would therefore be about 2,300 *lbs.*, equal to 28 modern maunds, about nine times as much for the money as I can remember ever to have heard of in our own time.

¹ Both Chatgánw (or Chittagong) and Satgánw (on the Hugli, some twenty-five to twenty-eight miles above Calcutta) were important havens when the Portuguese arrived in India, and the name here might from the pen of an Arab represent either of them. But Chittagong only of