

by Rašīdu-'d-Dīn in his notice of the tribe. In the *Secret History of the Mongols*, a whole paragraph (§ 64), put in the mouth of Chinghiz-khan's future father-in-law and addressed to Chinghiz-khan's father, extolls in rhythmic form the qualities of the Onggirat girls : « ...In our Onggirat people, since the days of old and beyond contention, our daughters' sons are well-built and our daughters have beauty. Our daughters with fine cheeks, for those of you who become *qaan*, we make them ascend a Qasaq chariot, to which we harness a black camel... » Later, in the tradition of the Čayatai empire, the high rank of the Qonγrat superseded their reputation for beauty, and the name of their clan is often coupled with that of Chinghiz-khan's own, the Qīyat clan (cf. RADLOV, *Dict.*, II, 523; *TP*, 1930, 266). A Turkish verse, misunderstood in RADLOV, II, 856, says : « What I wish is beauty; what the shah wishes is merit and race. For me, the Tzigane and Hindu girls; for the shah, the Qonγrat and Qīyat. »

376. VANCHU

vanchu R

It has long been supposed that this was a transcription of 王著 Wang Chu, the name of the leader of the plot against Aḥmad (see « Acmat¹ »); *B*¹, 449, still transcribes « Vanciu », and gives Wang Chu as its original. He ought not to have disregarded MOULE's paper in *JNCB*, 1927, 26-28. MOULE justly remarks that, in the « Vanchu » of R (the only source), *ch-* before *u* must sound *k* (see the same in « Cenchu »), and the « name » must be simply a transcription of the title 萬戶 *wan-hu*, « myriarch ». Polo says positively that « Vanchu » was « master of ten thousand ». Although Polo mixes up the part played by the different conspirators, he does so to a less extent than Rašīdu-'d-Dīn.

377. VENESE

uenece, uenisse F

uenese F, Ft

uenesia VL

uenetie LT

uenexia VB

ueniesia VL

ueniexia V, VA

uinegia TA³

venecie L, P, Z

venedie, venedige G

venes O

venetia VL; R

venise FB, O

venisse FA

vinegia TA¹

Venice. « Venese » seems to be the most probable form of Rustichello's original French redaction, with *-s-* pronounced *-s-* and not *-z-*.