

bride from Cambaluc, is said by the historian Rashiduddin to have known something of the Frank tongue, probably French.\* Nay, if we may trust the author of the Romance of Richard Cœur-de-Lion, French was in his day the language of still higher spheres!†

Nor was Polo's case an exceptional one even among writers on the East who were not Frenchmen. Maundevile himself tells us that he put his book first "out of Latyn into Frensche," and then out of French into English.‡ The History of the East which the Armenian Prince and Monk Hayton dictated to Nicolas Faulcon at Poitiers in 1307 was taken down in French. There are many other instances of the employment of French by foreign, and especially by Italian authors of that age. The Latin chronicle of the Benedictine Amato of Monte Cassino was translated into French early in the 13th century by another monk of the same abbey, at the particular desire of the Count of Militrée (or Malta), "*Pour ce qu'il set lire et entendre fransoize et s'en delitte.*" § Martino da Canale, a countryman and contemporary of Polo's, during the absence of the latter in the East wrote a Chronicle of Venice in the same language, as a reason for which he alleges its general popularity.|| The like does the most notable example of all, Brunetto Latini, Dante's master, who wrote in French his encyclopædic and once highly popular work *Li Tresor*.¶ Other examples might be given, but in fact

\* *Hammer's Ilchan*, II. 148.

† After the capture of Acre, Richard orders 60,000 Saracen prisoners to be executed:—

"They wer brought out off the toun,  
Save twenty, he heeld to raunsoun.  
They wer led into the place ful even:  
Ther they herden Aungeles off Hevene:

*They sayde*: 'SEYNYORS, TUEZ, TUEZ!  
'Spares hem nought! Behedith these!  
Kyng Rychard herde the Aungelys voys,  
And thankyd God, and the Holy Croys."

—Weber, II. 144.

Note that, from the rhyme, the Angelic French was apparently pronounced "*Too-ee-se! Too-ee-se!*"

‡ [Refer to the edition of Mr. George F. Warner, 1889, for the Roxburghe Club, and to my own paper in the *T'oung Pao*, Vol. II., No. 4, regarding the compilation published under the name of Maundevile. Also *App. L.* 13—H. C.]

§ *L'Ystoire de li Normand*, etc., edited by M. Champollion-Figeac, Paris, 1835, p. v.

|| "*Porce que lengue Frenceise cort parmi le monde, et est la plus delitable à lire et à oir que nule autre, me sui-je entremis de translater l'ancien estoire des Veneciens de Latin en Franceis.*" (Archiv. Stor. Ital. viii. 268.)

¶ "*Et se aucuns demandoit por quoi cist livres est escriz en Romans, selonc le langage des Francois, puisque nos somes Ytaliens, je diroie que ce est por. ij. raisons: l'une, car nos somes en France; et l'autre porce que la parleure est plus delitable et plus commune à toutes gens.*" (Li Livres dou Tresor, p. 3.)