

NOTE 1.—“*Joenne Bachelor.*”

NOTE 2.—“*Sire, il est mon filz et vostre homme.*” The last word in the sense which gives us the word *homage*. Thus in the miracle play of Theophilus (13th century), the Devil says to Theophilus:—

“ Or joing  
Tes mains, et si devien *mes hom.*  
*Theoph.* Vez ci que je vous faz *hommage.*”

So *infra* (Bk. I. ch. xlvii.) Aung Khan is made to say of Chinghiz: “*Il est mon homes et mon serf.*” (See also Bk. II. ch. iv. note.) St. Lewis said of the peace he had made with Henry III.: “*Il m'est mout grant honneur en la paix que je foiz au Roy d'Angleterre pour ce qu'il est mon home, ce que n'estoit pas devant.*” And Joinville says with regard to the king, “*Je ne voz faire point de serement, car je n'estoie pas son home*” (being a vassal of Champagne). A famous Saturday Reviewer quotes the term applied to a lady: “*Eddeva puella homo Stigandi Archiepiscopi.*” (*Théâtre Français au Moyen Age*, p. 145; *Joinville*, pp. 21, 37; *S. R.*, 6th September, 1873, p. 305.)

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## CHAPTER XV.

### HOW THE EMPEROR SENT MARK ON AN EMBASSY OF HIS.

Now it came to pass that Marco, the son of Messer Nicolo, sped wondrously in learning the customs of the Tartars, as well as their language, their manner of writing, and their practice of war; in fact he came in brief space to know several languages, and four sundry written characters. And he was discreet and prudent in every way, insomuch that the Emperor held him in great esteem.<sup>1</sup> And so when he discerned Mark to have so much sense, and to conduct himself so well and beseemingly, he sent him on an ambassage of his, to a country which was a good six months' journey distant.<sup>2</sup> The young gallant executed his commission well and with discretion. Now he had taken note on several occasions that when the Prince's ambassadors returned from different parts of the world, they were able to tell him about nothing except the business on which they