

of colour! Everybody who sees them is delighted. And the Great Kaan had caused this beautiful prospect to be formed for the comfort and solace and delectation of his heart.

You must know that beside the Palace (that we have been describing), *i.e.* the Great Palace, the Emperor has caused another to be built just like his own in every respect, and this he hath done for his son when he shall reign and be Emperor after him.¹⁴ Hence it is made just in the same fashion and of the same size, so that everything can be carried on in the same manner after his own death. [It stands on the other side of the lake from the Great Kaan's Palace, and there is a bridge crossing the water from one to the other.]¹⁵ The Prince in question holds now a Seal of Empire, but not with such complete authority as the Great Kaan, who remains supreme as long as he lives.

Now I am going to tell you of the chief city of Cathay, in which these Palaces stand; and why it was built, and how.

NOTE 1.—[According to the *Ch'ue keng lu*, translated by Bretschneider, 25, "the wall surrounding the palace . . . is constructed of bricks, and is 35 *ch'i* in height. The construction was begun in A.D. 1271, on the 17th of the 8th month, between three and five o'clock in the afternoon, and finished next year on the 15th of the 3rd month."—H. C.]

NOTE 2.—*Tarcasci* (G. T.) This word is worthy of note as the proper form of what has become in modern French *carquois*. The former is a transcript of the Persian *Tärkäsh*; the latter appears to be merely a corruption of it, arising perhaps clerically from the constant confusion of *c* and *t* in MSS. (See *Defrémery*, quoted by Pauthier, *in loco*.) [Old French *tarquais* (13th century), Hatzfeldt and Darmesteter's *Dict.* gives: "Coivres orent ceinz et tarchais." (WACE, *Rou*, III., 7698; 12th century).]

NOTE 3.—["It seems to me [Dr. Bretschneider] that Polo took the towers, mentioned by the Chinese author, in the angles of the galleries and of the Kung-ch'eng for palaces; for further on he states, that 'over each gate [of Cambaluc] there is a great and handsome palace.' I have little doubt that over the gates of Cambaluc, stood lofty buildings similar to those over the gates of modern Peking. These tower-like buildings are called *lou* by the Chinese. It may be very likely, that at the time of Marco Polo, the war harness of the Khan was stored in these towers of the palace wall. The author of the *Ch'ue keng lu*, who wrote more than fifty years later, assigns to it another place." (*Bretschneider, Peking*, 32.)—H. C.]