

the waters about the city highly credible.”] [See *Irrigation of the Ch'eng-tu Plain*, by Joshua Vale, China Inland Mission in *Jour. China Br. R. A. S. Soc.* XXXIII. 1899-1900, pp. 22-36.—H. C.]

[Above Kwan Hsien, near Ch'êng-tu, there is a fine suspension bridge, mentioned by Marcel Monnier (*Itinéraires*, p. 43), from whom I borrow the cut reproduced on this page. This bridge is also spoken of by Captain Gill (*l.c.* I. p. 335): “Six ropes, one above the other, are stretched very tightly, and connected by vertical battens of wood laced in and out. Another similar set of ropes is at the other side of the roadway, which is laid across these, and follows the curve of the ropes. There are three or four spans with stone piers.”—H. C.]



Bridge near Kwan-hsien (Ch'êng-tu).

NOTE 3.—(G. T.) “*Hi est le couiereque dou Grant Sire, ce est cilz qe recevent la rente dou Seignor.*” Pauthier has *couvert*. Both are, I doubt not, misreadings or misunderstandings of *comereque* or *comerc*. This word, founded on the Latin *commercium*, was widely spread over the East with the meaning of *customs-duty* or *custom-house*. In Low Greek it appeared as *κομμέρκιον* and *κουμέρκιον*, now *κομέρκι*; in Arabic and Turkish as *قمرق* and *كمرق* (*kumruk* and *gyumruk*), still in use; in Romance dialects as *comerchio*, *comerho*, *comergio*, etc.

NOTE 4.—The word in Pauthier's text which I have rendered *pieces* of gold is *pois*, probably equivalent to *saggi* or *miskáls*.* The G. T. has “is well worth 1000 *bezants* of gold,” no doubt meaning *daily*, though not saying so. Ramusio has “100 *bezants* daily.” The term *Bezant* may be taken as synonymous with *Dínár*, and the statement in the text would make the daily receipt of custom upwards of 500*l.*, that in Ramusio upwards of 50*l.* only.

NOTE 5.—I have recast this passage, which has got muddled, probably in the original dictation, for it runs in the G. text: “Et de ceste cité se part l'en et

* I find the same expression applied to the *miskál* or *dínár* in a MS. letter written by Giovanni dell' Affaitado, Venetian Agent at Lisbon in 1503, communicated to me by Signor Berchet. The King of Melinda was to pay to Portugal a tribute of 1500 *pesi d'oro*, “che un peso val un ducato e un quarto.”