

particular sign of sanctity." The like practice is ascribed to the rude Moslem of Gilghit; and such allegations must have been current in Europe, for they are the motive of *Southey's St. Romuald*:

" 'But,' quoth the Traveller, 'wherefore did he leave  
A flock that knew his saintly worth so well?'

" 'Why, Sir,' the Host replied,  
'We thought perhaps that he might one day leave us;  
And then, should strangers have  
The good man's grave,  
A loss like that would naturally grieve us;  
For he'll be made a saint of, to be sure.  
Therefore we thought it prudent to secure  
His relics while we might;  
And so we meant to strangle him one night.'"

(See *Sindh*, pp. 86, 388; *Ind. Antiq.* I. 13; *Southey's Ballads*, etc., ed. Routledge, p. 330.)

[Captain Gill (I. p. 323) says that he had made up his mind to visit a place called Li-fan Fu, near Ch'êng-tu. "I was told," he writes, "that this place was inhabited by the Man-Tzū, or Barbarians, as the Chinese call them; and Monseigneur Pinchon told me that, amongst other pleasing theories, they were possessed of the belief that if they poisoned a rich man, his wealth would accrue to the poisoner; that, therefore, the hospitable custom prevailed amongst them of administering poison to rich or noble guests; that this poison took no effect for some time, but that in the course of two or three months it produced a disease akin to dysentery, ending in certain death."—H. C.]

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## CHAPTER L.

### CONCERNING THE PROVINCE OF ZARDANDAN.

WHEN you have left Carajan and have travelled five days westward, you find a province called ZARDANDAN. The people are Idolaters and subject to the Great Kaan. The capital city is called VOCHAN.<sup>1</sup>

The people of this country all have their teeth gilt; or rather every man covers his teeth with a sort of golden case made to fit them, both the upper teeth and the under. The men do this, but not the women.<sup>2</sup> [The men also are wont to gird their arms and legs with bands or fillets pricked in black, and it is done thus; they take five needles joined together, and with these