

NOTE 1.—Pauthier's text seems to be the only one which says that Marco was sent by the Great Kaan. The G. Text says merely: "*Si qe jeo March Pol qe plusor foies hoï faire le conte de la rende de tous cestes couses,*"—"had several times heard the calculations made."

NOTE 2.—*Toman* is 10,000. And the first question that occurs in considering the statements of this chapter is as to the unit of these toman, as intended by Polo. I believe it to have been the *tael* (or Chinese ounce) of gold.

We do not know that the Chinese ever made monetary calculations in gold. But the usual unit of the revenue accounts appears from Pauthier's extracts to have been the *ting*, i.e. a money of account equal to ten taels of silver, and we know (*supra*, ch. 1. note 4) that this was in those days the exact equivalent of one tael of gold.

The equation in our text is $10,000 x = 70,000$ *saggi* of gold, giving x , or the unit sought, $= 7$ *saggi*. But in both Ramusio on the one hand, and in the Geog. Latin and Crusca Italian texts on the other hand, the equivalent of the toman is 80,000 *saggi*; though it is true that neither with one valuation nor the other are the calculations consistent in any of the texts, except Ramusio's.* This consistency does not give any greater weight to Ramusio's reading, because we know that version to have been *edited*, and corrected when the editor thought it necessary: but I adopt his valuation, because we shall find other grounds for preferring it. The unit of the *toman* then is $= 8$ *saggi*.

The Venice *saggio* was one-sixth of a Venice ounce. The Venice mark of 8 ounces I find stated to contain 3681 grains troy;† hence the *saggio* $= 76$ grains. But I imagine the term to be used by Polo here and in other Oriental computations, to express the Arabic *miskál*, the real weight of which, according to Mr. Maskelyne, is 74 grains troy. The *miskál* of gold was, as Polo says, something more than a ducat or sequin, indeed, weight for weight, it was to a ducat nearly as 1.4 : 1.

Eight *saggi* or *miskáls* would be 592 grains troy. The tael is 580, and the approximation is as near as we can reasonably expect from a calculation in such terms.

Taking the silver tael at 6s. 7d., the gold tael, or rather the *ting*, would be $= 3$ l. 5s. 10d.; the *toman* $= 32,916$ l. 13s. 4d.; and the whole salt revenue (80 toman) $= 2,633,333$ l.; the revenue from other sources (210 toman) $= 6,912,500$ l.; total revenue from Kinsay and its province (290 toman) $= 9,545,833$ l. A sufficiently startling statement, and quite enough to account for the sobriquet of Marco Milioni.

Pauthier, in reference to this chapter, brings forward a number of extracts regarding Mongol finance from the official history of that dynasty. The extracts are extremely interesting in themselves, but I cannot find in them that confirmation of Marco's accuracy which M. Pauthier sees.

First as to the salt revenue of Kiang-Ché, or the province of Kinsay. The facts given by Pauthier amount to these: that in 1277, the year in which the Mongol salt department was organised, the manufacture of salt amounted to 92,148 *jin*, or 22,115,520 *kilos.*; in 1286 it had reached 450,000 *jin*, or 108,000,000 *kilos.*; in 1289 it fell off by 100,000 *jin*.

The price was, in 1277, 18 *liang* or taels, in *chao* or paper-money of the years 1260-64 (see vol. i. p. 426); in 1282 it was raised to 22 taels; in 1284 a permanent and reduced price was fixed, the amount of which is not stated.

M. Pauthier assumes as a mean 400,000 *jin*, at 18 taels, which will give 7,200,000 *taels*; or, at 6s. 7d. to the tael, 2,370,000l. But this amount being in *chao* or paper-currency, which at its highest valuation was worth only 50 per cent. of the nominal

* Pauthier's MSS. A and B are hopelessly corrupt here. His MS. C agrees with the Geog. Text in making the toman $= 70,000$ *saggi*, but 210 toman $= 15,700,000$, instead of 14,700,000. The Crusca and Latin have 80,000 *saggi* in the first place, but 15,700,000 in the second. Ramusio alone has 80,000 in the first place, and 16,800,000 in the second.

† *Eng. Cyclop.*, "*Weights and Measures.*"