

by nearly 10s. the value of the Pound sterling of the period, or *Lira di Sterlini*, as it was called in the appropriate Italian phrase).*

2. *Lira ai Grossi* 3s. 9d.
3. *Lira dei Piccoli* 2s. 4d.

The **Tornese** or **Tornesel** at Venice was, according to Romanin (III. 343) = 4 Venice deniers: and if these are the *deniers* of the *Lira ai Grossi*, the coin would be worth a little less than $\frac{3}{4}d.$, and nearly the equivalent of the denier Tournois, from which it took its name.†

The term **Bezant** is used by Polo always (I believe) as it is by Joinville, by Marino Sanudo, and by Pegolotti, for the Egyptian gold *dínár*, the intrinsic value of which varied somewhat, but can scarcely be taken at less than 10s. 6d. or 11s. (See *Cathay*, pp. 440-441; and see also *J. As. sér. VI. tom. xi. pp. 506-507.*) The exchange of Venice money for the Bezant or Dinar in the Levant varied a good deal (as is shown by examples in the passage in *Cathay* just cited), but is always in these examples a large fraction ($\frac{1}{6}$ up to $\frac{1}{3}$) more than the Zecchin. Hence, when Joinville gives the equation of St. Lewis's ransom as 1,000,000 *bezants* or 500,000 *livres*, I should have supposed these to be *livres Parisis* rather than *Tournois*, as M. de Wailly prefers.

There were a variety of coins of lower value in the Levant called Bezants,‡ but these do not occur in our Book.

The Venice **Saggio**, a weight for precious substances was $\frac{1}{8}$ of an ounce, corresponding to the weight of the Roman gold *solidus*, from which was originally derived the Arab **Miskál**. And Polo appears to use *saggio* habitually as the equivalent of *Miskál*. His **pois** or **peso**, applied to gold and silver, seems to have the same sense, and is indeed a literal translation of *Miskál*. (See vol. ii. p. 41.)

For measures Polo uses the *palm* rather than the foot. I do not find a value of the Venice palm, but over Italy that measure varies from $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches to something over 10. The Genoa Palm is stated at 9.725 inches.

Jal (*Archéologie Nav. I. 271*) cites the following Table of

Old Venice Measures of Length.

4 fingers	=	1 handbreadth.
4 handbreadths	=	1 foot.
5 feet	=	1 pace.
1000 paces	=	1 mile.
4 miles	=	1 league.

* *Uzzano* in *Della Decima*, IV. 124.

† According to Galliccioli (II. 53) *piccoli* (probably in the vague sense of small copper coin) were called in the Levant *τορνέσια*.

‡ Thus in the document containing the autograph of King Hayton, presented at p. 13 of Introductory Essay, the King gives with his daughter, "Damoiselle Femie," a dowry of 25,000 *besans sarrazines*, and in payment 4 of his own bezants *staurats* (presumably so called from bearing a cross) are to count as one Saracen Bezant. (*Cod. Diplomat. del S. Mil. Ord. Gerosolim. I. 134.*)