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BARGU FALCONS & THE KINGDOM OF ERGIUUL = MARCO POLO

L VB V which the falcons feed themselves. And they are large as good partridges, and they
 V P V have the feet made like parrots, and the tail like swallows[or]hawks; and they are
 VB FB very swift, & so the falcons which feed on them have of necessity to be swift & good. And it
 is for the great cold which is found there that no animal can dwell there. And when the great
 LT Kaan wants some peregrine falcon nestlings he sends as far as to these mountains there
 VB for them; he does not allow falcons to be taken from this mountain except for his court &
 L to send as presents to the lords. And in the islands which are in that sea around that place
 VB L FB V are bred [30c] the gerfalcons also in abundance. Moreover I tell you in truth that all this
 VA P place of which I have told you above is so far towards tramontaine that the north pole,
 the star which is commonly called the tramontaine star is somewhat left behind towards
 midday.¹ And again I tell you that the gerfalcons which are bred on the islands of
 which I have told you above are in so great abundance that the great Kaan has as
 V many of them as he wishes at his pleasure. And do not understand that those who
 VA bring them from Christian lands to the Tartars carry them to the great Kaan, for
 he has great abundance of them; but they carry them to the Levant to Argon and to those
 V P other lords of the Levant who are near to the Armenians and Comain. Now we have told
 you clearly all the facts of the tramontaine provinces as far as to the Ocean sea
 FB where there is no more land, and henceforward in future we shall tell you of the other
 FB provinces, & we shall come back[and]shall tell you of the other lands all the way to the
 L L P place where the great Kaan dwells. And here it is necessary that we shall come back to
 L P a province which we have written in our book above which is called Campçio, so
 that we may describe other provinces bordering upon it.

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Z H ERE HE TELLS OF THE GREAT KINGDOM OF ERGIUUL. And when one
 FB VA P leaves this said province of Campçio of which I have told you, one goes
 V L Z VA riding through a region of quite five days marches in which in great numbers
 TA of places are found very many fantastic spirits which one hears talking by day and
 VB most times by night in the air. And at end of those five days marches towards
 L L sunrising one finds a kingdom which is called Ergiuul. And it belongs to the dominion
 Z Z L V VA of the great Kaan and is also part of the aforesaid very great province of Tangut,
 Z V VB which kingdom indeed has several other fine kingdoms. But the people of the region
 are of three races; there are some Turks and many Nestorian Christians,² and idolaters,

¹ FA: *demeure auques a deliure demi iour* PAUTHIER explains this to mean, "is somewhat visible to the south." FB: *est auques pres a demy jour*, "is rather near the zenith." TA,LT, VA,P,L,R repeat the cheerful hyperbole of F. V: *li monti in verso mezo di*.

² R here and in more than one place follows V in distinguishing the Turks from the Nestorians. cf. pp. 183, 263, 264, 277, 314.