

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD<sup>s</sup> THE CITY OF CAMBALUC

.83.

other sons of his concubines who are good and valiant in arms *because he continually* R  
*has them practised in things belonging to war, and each is a great baron. And again I*  
*tell you that of the sons which he has of his four wives there are seven of them*  
*crowned kings of seven vast provinces and kingdoms, and all keep up their rule well* TA VA  
*in right and in justice, for they are wise and prudent men. And it is quite reasonable* VA LT  
*that they should be valiant lords, because they are like the father, for I tell you that their* VA LT  
*father the great Kaan is the wisest man and the most provided with all things and* FB  
*the best captain of an army and the greatest ruler of people and of empire, and a man*  
*of greater valour than ever was in all the races of the Tartars. Now I have told you*  
*of the doings of the great Kaan & of his likeness and of his wives and concubines and of* VA VA LT  
*his sons, and then I shall tell you how he holds court and his ways.*

**H**ERE HE TELLS OF THE PALACE OF THE GREAT KAAN. You may know quite  
 truly that the great Kaan stays in the capital town *which is in the province* VA  
 of Catai, *which is the great city called Cambaluc, toward the Greek wind,* FB R R  
 three months of the year, that is December and January and February. *And in this* V  
 town he has his great palace *near the new city on the side toward midday, in this form;* R  
 and I will describe its likeness to you. *The palace is square in every way. First there is* LT R  
*a square circuit of wall, and each face is eight miles long, round which is a deep moat; and in*  
*the middle of each side is a gate by which all the people enter who gather there from every side.*  
*Then there is the space of a mile all round, where the soldiers are stationed. After that space*  
*is found another circuit of wall, of six miles for a side, which has three gates on the midday*  
*face and other three on the tramontaine side, of which the one in the middle is larger and stays*  
*always locked and is never opened except when the great Kaan wishes to come in or go out; and*  
*the other two smaller, which are one on one side of it and the other on the other, always stand*  
*open, and by them all the people come in. And at each angle of this wall, and in the middle of*  
*each of the faces, is a beautiful and spacious palace, so that all round about the wall are eight*  
*palaces, in which are kept the munitions of the great Kaan, that is one kind of trappings in*  
*each; as bridles, saddles, stirrups, and other things which belong to the equipment of horses.*  
*And in another bows, strings, quivers, arrows, and other things belonging to archery. In*  
*another cuirasses, corslets, and similar things of boiled leather; and so with the rest. Within*  
*this circuit of wall there is first of all a great four-sided wall which is for each side*  
*one mile long, that is to say that it is four miles all round. It is very thick, and of* V  
*height they have quite ten paces, and they are all plastered on the outer face with red* VA  
*colour and white and [37b] embattled, made like a castle. And each corner of this wall* V  
*has again a great palace very beautiful and very rich, in which are kept in the same* R R  
*way the great Kaan's equipments, these are bows, arrows, and quivers and stirrups, P P*  
*saddles, and bridles for horses and lances, clubs, bowstrings, tents, and all other* P LT FB

.84.