

THE GARRISONS AND ASTROLOGERS OF MANGI ~~≠~~ MARCO POLO
near the cities which are not in marshy places, but in those situated in firm and dry places where they can take exercise on horseback. And these men who guard these cities are not
 FA all on horseback, but there is a great part on foot *according as the protection of each*
 R *place demands. Into these cities of marshy places he sends there Cataians and some of those*
 R *of Mangi who are men that bear arms; for all are men of the armies of the great Kaan.*
 R *For of all his subjects he has every year those who seem to be fitted for arms chosen out and enrolled*
in his army, and they are all called armies.¹ And the men who are taken from the province of
Mangi are not set to the guard of their own cities, but are sent to others which may be twenty
days march of road distant, where they stay from four to five years and then return home, and
some of the others are sent in their place. And the Cataians & those of the province of Mangi observe
this rule. And in short I tell you with all truth that the business of the province of
 FB FB *great Kaan has of it every year that I believe that there is not a man who heard it told*
and did not see it who could believe it; and hardly could the great nobleness of
 FB *this province be written, so immeasurably great are the wealth and riches which are there*
and the revenue which the lord draws from it. And therefore [67d] I shall be silent
about it then, that I shall not tell you much about it henceforth. But yet I will
 P *tell you something more again about it, and then we shall leave it. Now you may*
 TA *know that all the people in this city of Quinsai and in the whole province of Mangi have*
 TA *such a custom as I shall tell you. It is true that as soon as the infant is born in*
 R R *this province the father or the mother have the day and the minute and the hour that*
 R *he was born written down immediately, and they make the astrologers say in what sign*
 P *and in what planet he is born, and they write it all, so that each knows his nativity;*
 R *for in all their travels and business they are guided by the judgement of astrologers, and so*
 R *they wish to know the day and hour of their birth. And when anyone is grown up, if he*
 R TA *wishes to go into another place to make his journey, to do trade, or wedding, or other*
 R *things, he goes off to the astrologer with the aforesaid note and tells him his nativity.*
 R *And when he has seen this and considered it all he sometimes says things, and if they are found*
 FA *to be true the people put the greatest faith in him; and he tells him his fortune and if it*
 FB *is good to go on that journey or not. And many times they turn them from their*
 FB *journeys in this way, until they order them to go, for you may know that their astrologers*
 FB R *are great masters and wise in their art and in diabolical enchantments, so that they*
 FB R *really tell the men many true things to which they give much faith. And of such*
astrologers as these, or magicians, there is a vast number on every square. No betrothal would

¹ *esserciti* possibly for *esercitati* "trained men"? MARSDEN has "that may be considered as so many armies."