

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD^s THE FLEET IS SCATTERED

·159·

Now it happened one day that the wind¹ from tramontaine blows so hard that a v
 great part of those of the army of the great Kaan could not bear it—that is to say their ships— FB
 and went on board the ships and departed. And the others seeing this said that if they do v
 not leave, that all their ships will be broken up completely. And then they all go up L
 into their ships and set sail and left that island and put out to sea so that not one of their FB VA
 men remained on land. And I tell you that when they were gone about four miles,
 then the force of the wind began to increase, and the multitude of the ships was so great that Z
 a large quantity of them was broken up one with another; but the ships which were not crushed
 by others but were scattered about the sea escaped shipwreck. But near there they find another
 island not too large and uninhabited; and those which were out at sea and able to weather L FB
 that island escape, but those which could not weather² it, but were near shore, were FB
 driven thither by the wind and wrecked on that island, to which many of those who were Z Z
 shipwrecked escaped with pieces of planks and swimming, and that in very great numbers; P Z
 but others who could not reach the island perished altogether. But when the violence of the wind
 and the fury of the stormy sea was stilled, the two barons came back to the aforesaid island
 with the ships which had escaped shipwreck on the open sea, which were in very great numbers,
 and took off in the ships all the men who were of position, namely captains of hundreds, thousands,
 and ten thousands, because they could not put the others on the ships, they were so many. And
 afterwards they departed thence and set their sails towards home. And they were quite thirty
 thousand men who escape on to this island; and when they saw themselves on that FB
 island in such danger, and they were so near to Çipingu, these all held themselves for dead VA
 as having no victuals or little, saved from the ships, nor arms, nor any good plan, and had FB VB R FB
 great vexation because though they were escaped from the storm they were in no less peril, for VB
 they see that they cannot escape and come to a safe port, because their ships were all Z VB
 wrecked and broken up, for they see that while they were left the other and greater part of the Z L
 ships which were escaped from the storms of the sea were going off without helping them, L FB
 with great speed and as fast as they could towards their country, without making any show FB

¹ le lune But FA,FB,TA,LT,Z,&c.: "wind". Just below, uent probably means blows—
 FB: comenca a venter Z: flare incepit but LT: uenit TA: uenne

² celz qe postrent monter celle isle escanpent mes celz qe ne postrent monter ronperent The French dic-
 tionaries do not justify the meaning which I have given to monter, but it seems to be familiar
 enough in Italian. Thus in CORAZZINI, Voc. Naut., "Montare un promontorio, un' isola, vale
 oltrepassarli con la nave. I.: to weather a cape; F.: doubler un cap." And this was the inter-
 pretation of FB which has: et ceulx qui se trouuerent hault et qui porent monter celle isle si eschapperent
 et ceulx qui ne la porent monter si (? mais) se trouuerent bas, si se ferirent en terre et brisierent leurs nauies
 cf. also Z, p. lix, which is less clear. V: vn altra ixola non men granda di quela onde gran parte
 de quelli smontoe per che i non poteno andar auanti &c.