

## BOOK SECOND.

### PART II.—JOURNEY TO THE WEST AND SOUTH-WEST OF CATHAY.

XXXVII., p. 13. "There grow here [Taianfu] many excellent vines, supplying great plenty of wine; and in all Cathay this is the only place where wine is produced. It is carried hence all over the country."

Dr. B. Laufer makes the following remarks to me: "Polo is quite right in ascribing vines and wine to T'ai Yüan-fu in Shan Si, and is in this respect upheld by contemporary Chinese sources. The *Yin shan cheng yao* written in 1330 by Ho Se-hui, contains this account<sup>1</sup>: 'There are numerous brands of wine: that coming from Qara-Khodja<sup>2</sup> (Ha-la-hwo) is very strong, that coming from Tibet ranks next. Also the wines from P'ing Yang and T'ai Yüan (in Shan Si) take the second rank. According to some statements, grapes, when stored for a long time, will develop into wine through a natural process. This wine is fragrant, sweet, and exceedingly strong: this is the genuine grape-wine.' *Ts'ao mu tse*, written in 1378 par Ye Tse-k'i,<sup>3</sup> contains the following information: 'Under the Yüan Dynasty grape-wine was manufactured in Ki-ning and other circuits of Shan Si Province. In the eighth month they went to the T'ai hang Mountain,<sup>4</sup> in order to test the genuine and adulterated brands: the genuine

<sup>1</sup> *Pen ts'ao kang mu*, Ch. 25, p. 14b.

<sup>2</sup> Regarding this name and its history, see PELLIOT, *Fourn. Asiatique*, 1912, I., p. 582. Qara Khodja was celebrated for its abundance of grapes. (BRETSCHNEIDER, *Mediæval Res.*, I., p. 65.) J. DUDGEON (*The Beverages of the Chinese*, p. 27) misreading it Ha-so-hwo, took it for the designation of a sort of wine. STUART (*Chinese Materia Medica*, p. 459) mistakes it for a transliteration of "hollands," or may be "alcohol." The latter word has never penetrated into China in any form.

<sup>3</sup> This work is also the first that contains the word *a-la-ki*, from Arabic 'araq. (See *T'oung Pao*, 1916, p. 483.)

<sup>4</sup> A range of mountains separating Shan Si from Chi li and Ho Nan.