**DM, 21**

Here is told of *Greater Armenia*

**[1]** *Greater Armenia* is a large country. It begins at a city called *Arzingan*, in which the best bukram in the world is made; and there are many other handicrafts which cannot be told. There are also the best and finest spring-water baths to be found in the world. **[2]** The people are *Armenians*, and they are subject to the *Tartar*. **[3]** There are many cities and towns. The most noble is *Arzingan*, which is the seat of an archbishop; the others are *Erzurum* and *Arzizi*. **[4]** It is a very great province. And I tell you that in the summer the armies of the *Tartars of the Levant* stay there, because in this province there is very good pasture for the cattle; but in winter they do not stay there for the very great cold of the snow, abundant beyond any measure; on account of which the cattle would not be able to live. **[5]** In a village called *Bayburt* there is an important silver mine, and this village is found on the way from *Trebizond* to *Tabriz*. **[6]** And I also tell you that in this *Greater Armenia* there is *Noah*’s ark, on a big mountain. **[7]** In the south, towards the east, it borders on a kingdom called *Mosul*, inhabited by *Christians*, namely by *Jacobites* and *Nestorians*, of whom I shall tell you more afterwards; in the south, too, there are the lands of *Muş* and *Mardin*, of which we shall speak afterwards, and many others, which it would be too long to recount. **[8]** In the north it borders on *Georgia*, of which I shall tell you afterwards. **[9]** And on this border towards *Georgia* there is a fountain from which flows oil in such great abundance that a hundred boats can be loaded with it at the same time; it is not good to eat, but it is good to burn and to rub on people and animals against mange; and people come from afar to this oil, and the whole surrounding district does not burn other oil but this. And it is good for many diseases. **[10]** Now let us leave *Greater Armenia* and we will tell you of the province of *Georgia*.