

Snowy Mountains, in the midst of which is the country called Su-fa-la-na-kiu-ta-lo (Suvarṇagôtra).<sup>101</sup> From this country comes a superior sort of gold, and hence the name. It is extended from east to west, and contracted from north to south. It is the same as the country of the "eastern women."<sup>102</sup> For ages a woman has been the ruler, and so it is called the *kingdom of the women*. The husband of the reigning woman is called king, but he knows nothing about the affairs of the state. The men manage the wars and sow the land, and that is all. The land produces winter wheat and much cattle, sheep, and horses. The climate is extremely cold (*icy*). The people are hasty and impetuous.

On the eastern side this country is bordered by the Fan kingdom (Tibet), on the west by San-po-ho (Sampaha or Malasa (?)), on the north by Khotan.

Going south-east from Ma-ti-pu-lo 400 li or so, we come to the country of Kiu-pi-shwong-na.

#### KIU-PI-SHWONG-NA (GÔVISANA).

This kingdom<sup>103</sup> is about 2000 li in circuit, and the capital about 14 or 15 li. It is naturally strong, being fenced in with crags and precipices. The population is numerous. We find on every side flowers, and groves, and lakes (*ponds*) succeeding each other in regular order. The climate and the products resemble those of Mo-ti-pu-lo. The manners of the people are pure and honest. They

<sup>101</sup> In Chinese *Kin-shi*, "golden people." Below it is said that San-po-ho was limited on the west by Su-fa-la-na-kiu-to-lo (Suvarṇagôtra, called also the kingdom of women), which itself touched on the east the country of T'u-fan (Tibet), and on the north the kingdom of Yu-tien (Khotan). Suvarṇagôtra is here placed on the frontier of Brahmapura.

<sup>102</sup> There is a country of the "western women" named by Hiuen Tsiang in

Book xi. See also Yule's *Marco Polo*, vol. ii. p. 397.

<sup>103</sup> Julien restores this to Gôvisana. Cunningham is satisfied that the old fort near the village of Ujain represents the ancient city of Gôvisana. This village is just one mile to the east of Kâsipur. Hwui-lih does not mention this country, but reckons 400 li from Matipura to Ahikshêtra in a south-easterly direction. This distance and bearing are nearly correct.