

chastity, and keep from all sins forbidden in their law, so that they are regarded by their own folk as very holy persons. They live to a very great age.⁵

There are also a number of idolatrous abbeys and monasteries. [The people of the province do not kill animals nor spill blood ; so if they want to eat meat they get the Saracens who dwell among them to play the butcher.⁶] The coral which is carried from our parts of



Ancient Buddhist Temple at Pandrethan in Káshmir.

the world has a better sale there than in any other country.⁷

Now we will quit this country, and not go any further in the same direction ; for if we did so we should enter India ; and that I do not wish to do at present. For, on our return journey, I mean to tell you about India : all in regular order. Let us go back therefore to Badashan, for we cannot otherwise proceed on our journey.