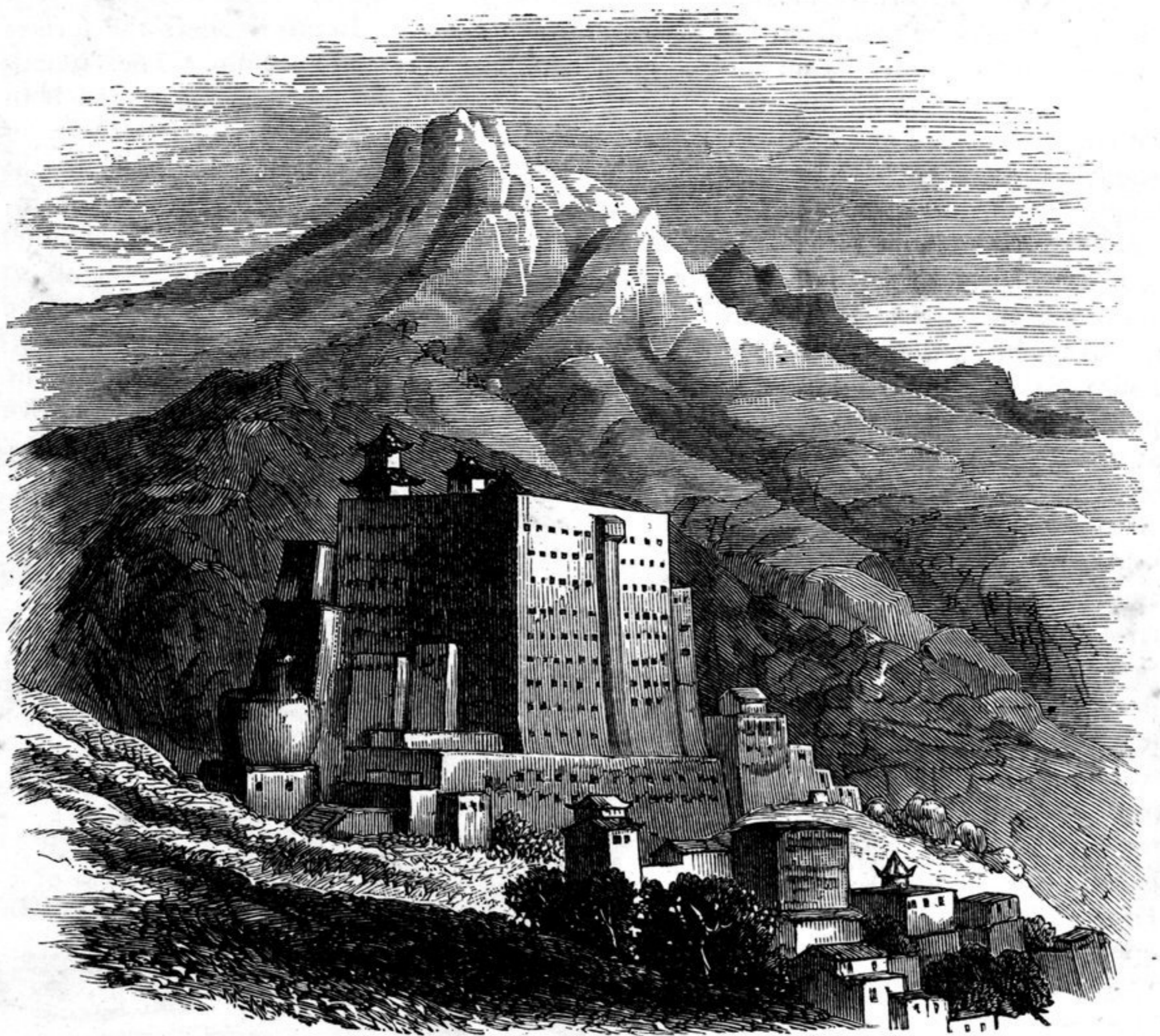


Rubruck (p. 144) says: "A Nestorian, who had come from Cathay told me that in that country there is an idol so big that it can be seen from two days off." Mr. Rockhill (*Rubruck*, p. 144, *note*) writes: "The largest stone image I have seen is in a cave temple at Yung-kán, about 10 miles north-west of Ta-t'ung Fu in Shan-si. Père Gerbillon says the Emperor K'ang-hsi measured it himself and found it to be 57 *chih* high (61 feet). (*Duhalde, Description*, IV. 352.) I have seen another colossal statue in a cave near Pinchou in north-west Shan-si; and there is another about 45 miles south of Ning-hsia Fu, near the left bank of the Yellow River. (*Rockhill, Land of the Lamas*, 26, and *Diary*, 47.) The great recumbent figure of the 'Sleeping Buddha' in the Wo Fo ssü, near Peking, is of clay."

King Haython (Brosset's ed. p. 181) mentions the statue in clay, of an extraordinary height, of a God (Buddha) aged 3040 years, who is to live 370,000 years more, when he will be superseded by another god called *Madri* (Maitreya).—H. C.]



Great Lama Monastery.

NOTE 3.—Marco is now speaking of the Lamas, or clergy of Tibetan Buddhism. The customs mentioned have varied in details, both locally and with the changes that the system has passed through in the course of time.

The institutes of ancient Buddhism set apart the days of new and full moon to be observed by the *Sramanas* or monks, by fasting, confession, and listening to the reading of the law. It became usual for the laity to take part in the observance, and the number of days was increased to three and then to four, whilst Hiuen Tsang himself speaks of "the six fasts of every month," and a Chinese authority quoted by Julien gives the days as the 8th, 14th, 15th, 23rd, 29th, and 30th. Fahian says that in Ceylon preaching took place on the 8th, 14th, and 15th days of the month. Four