

# IN TIBET AND CHINESE TURKESTAN

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## CHAPTER I

Desire to explore—Tibet a good field—Difficulties to be encountered—Object of expedition—Preparations in Srinagar—Goodbye to Trench—Crossing the Zoji La—Matayan—Journey to Leh—Arranging the caravan—Departure from Leh—Visit to Himis Monastery—Crossing the Chang La—Hired transport—Fobrang—Final preparations—The Marsemik La Chang Chenmo—Crossing the frontier—Entering unknown land—Without guides—Commencement of triangulation—Horpa or Gurmen Cho—Magnificent snow mountains—Untrained assistants—Our first yak—Yeshil Kul—No water—“Fever Camp.”

I HAD long entertained the desire to travel in some unknown country, and in the spring of 1896, when circumstances were favourable, the wish was transformed into a settled purpose. The vast extent of the territory marked “unexplored” on the map of Tibet, then recently published, at once attracted me, and it was to this inhospitable and almost inaccessible land that I resolved to proceed. My efforts had already been devoted to the study of the appliances which are indispensable to the explorer. Remembering Sir Richard Burton’s warning that travel in unknown lands is mere waste of time unless the traveller has suitable instruments and skill to