

I have left it to the last to record my heartfelt gratitude to those kind friends who have bestowed their personal care on these volumes. Mr. J. S. Cotton, late editor of the *Academy*, did me the great favour of revising my manuscript with regard to the needs of the general reader; he also readily charged himself at the publishers' request with the preparation of an appropriate Index which, I trust, will also be found useful as a glossary of Eastern terms. Mr. P. S. Allen, Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, spared time from absorbing scholarly labours of his own, and, assisted by my friend Mr. J. de M. Johnson, of Magdalen College, cheerfully sacrificed it to a very thorough revision of the proofs. His letters, which followed me everywhere on my travels, had been a constant source of encouragement amidst difficulties and trials. That I was able to complete this narrative in Oxford and in surroundings both inspiriting and congenial was a special boon assured to me by the kind hospitality of the Warden and Fellows of Merton College. The peaceful retreat for work which they granted me under their historic roof will always be remembered by me with sincere gratitude.

But whether working by the banks of the Isis or in British Museum basements, amidst the condensed humanity of London, I never ceased to long for the deserts and mountains which had seen my happiest years of labour. How gladly should I forget all the toil which the results brought back from this journey have cost me, could I but feel sure of freedom for fresh explorations, in old fields and in those to which my eyes have, as yet vainly, been turned since my youth!

M. AUREL STEIN.

MERTON COLLEGE, OXFORD,
November 3rd, 1911.