



Aquarell by Hermann de Schlagintweit, September, 1856. Nr. 272

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## The Buddhist monastery Himis, near Leh, in Ladak.

Lat. North: 33° 59'.

Long. East of Green: 77° 16'.

Height: 12,324 Engl. feet.

The building consists of two long, but comparatively narrow parts, the junction of which is formed by the principal entrance to the monastery. The basement contains two floors of low apartments, to these succeed two very lofty stories of large halls, some of which are inhabited by the Lamas, but the majority are used as sacred apartments and repositories for their numerous and varied articles of worship. The projecting verandahs and balconies, which serve as wind-ows, are shaded with large hangings of black cloth, ornamented by white bands intersecting each other at right angles, and presenting a surprising though accidental likeness to the figure of the cross. In the inner compound, occupying the foreground, two large trees decorated with rings of Yak tails and long praying flags have been erected. Enclosing the compound appear a succession of covered corridors, contiguous to, though not all communicating with, each other; they contain a numerous array of praying cylinders, which are also to be seen along the walls of the building itself. The trees, which are fair specimens of poplar and willow, should be particularly noticed, as exhibiting forms only possible by a very careful cultivation. At the top of the staircase may be seen a group of the head Lamas, who gave me a very friendly reception, and from whom I succeeded in obtaining much valuable information, and many and various contributions to our ethnographical collection.