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Laurence Austine Waddell (1854–1938) spent twenty-five years as a medical officer in the colonial Indian Medical Service. Fascinated by the landscapes and cultures of Darjeeling and Tibet, and inspired by reports from British spies surveying the remote Himalayan valleys, Waddell studied local languages, and spent his leisure time researching and writing on Tibetan topics. His books *The Buddhism of Tibet* (1895) and *Lhasa and its Mysteries* (1905) are also reissued in the Cambridge Library Collection. This 1899 publication, illustrated with photographs and drawings, claims to describe 'the grandest part of the grandest mountains in the world', for the first time since Hooker (whose 1854 *Himalayan Journals* are also reissued), and anticipates today's trekking industry. Waddell's colourful account of jungles, snakes, glaciers, yaks, dizzying mountain ridges, rickety bamboo bridges, tribal peoples and unfamiliar food aims to 'bring home to the reader a whiff of the bracing breezes of the Himalayas'.

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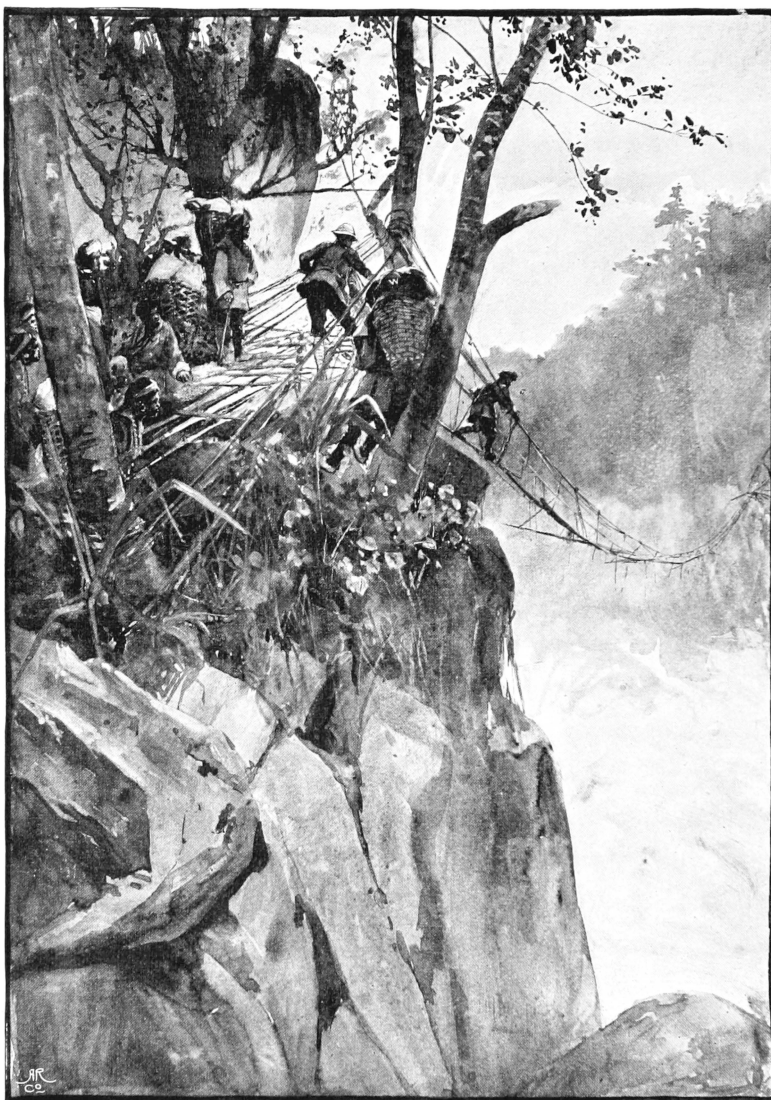
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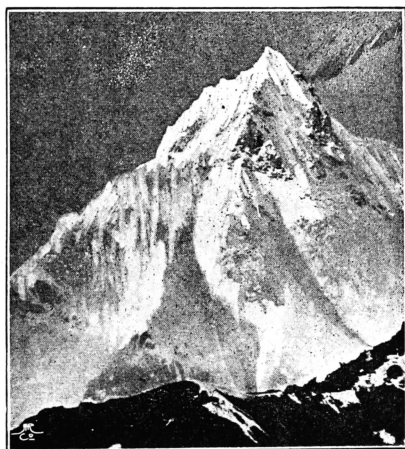


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# AMONG THE HIMALAYAS

By MAJOR L. A. WADDELL  
L.L.D., F.L.S., etc., Indian Army Medical Corps,  
Author of "The Buddhism of Tibet"



SINIOLCHU PEAK

*With numerous Illustrations by A. D. McCormick  
the Author and others, and from Photographs.*

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T O  
M Y W I F E,

THE BRIGHT COMPANION OF SOME OF THE JOURNEYS  
HEREIN DESCRIBED, THESE PAGES ARE  
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## P R E F A C E

THE grandest part of the grandest mountains on the globe has, strange to say, no book devoted to it, except one that was written about half a century ago. Since that time, however, these lofty regions, on the rugged borders of Tibet, have become much more accessible. Roads have penetrated the mountain fastnesses in nearly every direction in the state of Sikkim, a Switzerland of the East, situated in the heart of the Himalayas, within sight of the culminating pinnacle of the world, Mount Everest. The worst torrents have been bridged, and travellers' staging-houses have been erected along some of the chief routes, thus facilitating the exploration of these mighty mountains, and creating a desire for further and more general information in regard to them and their quaint Tartar tribes, than is to be found in Hooker's *Journals*.<sup>1</sup>

Having visited many of the less frequented parts, and possessing an intimate knowledge of the social and political state of most of the primitive tribes, I venture to hope that some account of my travels may contribute to the supply of this want. During the past fourteen years I have traversed portions of this region nearly every year, sketching, shooting, collecting, and especially exploring the customs of the people on the frontiers of Tibet, and of Nepal—the land of the warlike Goorkhas—where I lived in tents for four or five months of several successive years. In regard to the more interesting tribes, such as the Lepchas, who are fast dying

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out or losing their ancient customs, I have endeavoured to rescue some of the curious practices of these wild and primitive people; and I have simplified, as far as possible, most of the uncouth native names which, while they add to the mystery of these Tibetan borderlands, are so repellant to the general reader.<sup>2</sup>

To render the narrative more complete, I have added in respect to some glaciers and peaks, which were not reached by Hooker or myself, a summary of the descriptions of these by Sherwill, Graham, White, and Hoffman, and also some geological notes by W. T. Blanford, mostly from reports that are buried away in more or less inaccessible journals. Mount Everest I approached somewhat nearer than any European except Hooker; and I here record some new research respecting it and other peaks alleged to be still higher.

The commercial possibilities of Tibet are also referred to. This mysterious land has at the present time a very special interest for us, in view of the imminent disintegration of China. Its gold-mines, which are probably the richest in the world, should alone make it of commercial importance, though most of this riches lies in regions almost as inhospitable as Klondyke. Much of the country, however, is habitable and has many promising resources undeveloped. And with an English protectorate over Tibet, replacing the shadowy Chinese suzerainty over that country, and the rich valley of the Yangtse up to the border of Eastern Tibet secured within the English "sphere of interest", England would not only prevent a possible Russian wedge being interposed between her Indian, Burmese and Chinese possessions, but she would consolidate her position from the Indian Ocean to the Northern Pacific, and gain thereby the paramount position throughout Asia.



The illustrations are specially numerous, and it is hoped that they will bring vividly before the eyes of the reader truthful pictures of the scenery and people. As most of them are photographs, and these as well as the careful sketches by Colonel Tanner and myself and others, done on the spot, and the sympathetic drawings by that Himalayan artist, Mr. McCormick, based on my photographs, have all been reproduced by photo-mechanical processes, they are not open to the objections offered to the illustrations in Hooker's Journals, that they "do not convey by any means a correct impression; like most lithographs of foreign scenes printed in England the characteristic features are lost. . . , everything is Europeanised." <sup>3</sup> For several of the photographs I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Hoffmann, and especially for the splendid one on the title page—an icy horn that lifts its glittering pinnacle about 7,000 feet higher than Mont Blanc, and surpasses the Weisshorn in boldness and grace.

These attractive regions, still to a large extent unexplored, should arrest the attention of travellers and climbers thirsting for fresh fields of adventure. Their valleys vie with the Andes of Brazil and Peru as the paradise of the butterfly and orchid-hunter. And, above all, there is the varied ever-present human interest of the many Tartar tribes, with their wild picturesque characters, customs, and idyllic surroundings; and the awe at once forbidding and alluring of the strange inhospitable land beyond the mountains.

The facilities for travel, in the way of roads and rest-huts, are increasing every year since the recent war with Tibet, detailed in these passages, which has brought Sikhim more closely under British suzerainty. Thanks to the energy of the British agent, Mr. White, most of the objectionable cane-bridges that beset our path have now mostly

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## P R E F A C E

been replaced by substantial iron structures. The attractive valley of Choombi, if ever it shall become British territory, as it might have done, will surpass most parts of Cashmere. And already, is it not a great deal to find that the new roads bring the glaciers of Kanchen-junga, itself one of the most magnificent mountains in the world and almost the highest, within five or six days of Darjeeling, which is under one day's journey from Calcutta, which is less than three weeks from England.

This illustrated narrative of my journeyings I hope may reflect, in some measure, the keen enjoyment of travel in these regions, may awaken further interest in a fascinating though little known land, may assist in guiding the traveller to those features that are of greatest general interest, and bring home to the reader a whiff of the bracing breezes of the Himalayas.

L. A. WADDELL.

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