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by Perceval Landon

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graphy the regions of the earth are the principal thing, and the laws figure only as far as they explain the character of the regions.

There is then elementary geography, both special and general, for the schools, and there is scientific geography, both general and special, for the universities.

Two features that make the book of especial value as a reference book are the excellent special bibliographies which are given at the beginning of the chapters and the exhaustive index. The appendix contains a chronological table of geographic events from the oldest times to the present, lists of the most important geographic measures and their reductions to the metric system, and a table of the measures of parallels and square degrees in different latitudes according to Bessel's earth spheroid.

M. K. G.

The Opening of Tibet, an Account of Lhasa and the Country and People of Central Tibet, etc. By Perceval Landon, Special Correspondent of the *Times*. xvi and 484 pp., 48 full-page double-tone plates and a frontispiece in colour. Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, 1905. (Price, \$3.80.)

The publishers of this American edition of a book, which sells for two guineas in England, announce in a circular that they have been impressed with the observation frequently made that the prices of net books are too high, and that, though they had the author's permission to omit many pages, they have retained the full book for the low price named.

It must be said that the work is presented in a style every way creditable to the De Vinne Press and to the publishers, who, it may be hoped, will not be led to regret their experiment.

In an introductory note Col. Younghusband commends Mr. Landon as a competent chronicler of what the Tibet Mission saw and did. Mr. Landon tells, with earnestness and fluency, the story, now somewhat monotonous, of the wicked foreigner and the virtuous Briton. There was in Lhasa a bad Russian named Dorjjeff, who used his influence to make the Dalai Lama more anti-English than he was by nature, and the military mission to Lhasa was the result.

The story of the march and the opposition offered by the unreasonable Tibetans may be accepted in the absence of any statement from the other side, and the reader will turn with a sense of relief to Mr. Landon's descriptions of the wonderful scenery. The colour of Tibet, he says, has no parallel in the world—neither in Egypt, nor South Africa, nor at Sydney, nor Calcutta, nor Athens; and its crowning glory is the sunset.

The panorama of Lhasa is unique:

There is nothing missing from this splendid spectacle—architecture, forest trees, wide green places, rivers, streams, and mountains all lie before one as one looks down from the height upon Lhasa stretching out at our feet . . . there was nothing to promise us this city of gigantic palace and golden roof, these wild stretches of woodland, these acres of close-cropped grazing land and marshy grass . . . a man can have no eye for anything . . . but this huge palace-temple of the Grand Lama . . . a marvel in stone, nine hundred feet in length and towering seventy feet higher than the golden cross of St. Paul's Cathedral. The Potala would dominate London—Lhasa it simply eclipses.

Mr. Landon speaks well of the people. Their courtesy was unailing, and they entertained the stranger with the best they had to offer.

They do good work in metals, especially in brass, and their jewellery is exquisitely finished and suggestive of Byzantine work; but their most wonderful productions are their books—more beautiful, as Mr. Landon thinks, than those of any

other country. The book cover is of close-grained wood, in three panels, each carved in minute details, cut in quarter-inch relief. The cover is heavily gilt, and lined with silk, protecting the first page of the manuscript. This page is of a rich-glazed Prussian blue, with the opening words of the book in raised gold characters in a central inset panel. The next page has a miniature on the left, and then every page to the end of the book is painted in letters of gold or alternately in lines of gold and silver.

Mr. Landon's chapters on Religion, Manners and Customs, Art, and Lamaism were, perhaps, imposed upon him by the nature of his subject. They are interesting in themselves, but the author fully acknowledges his indebtedness to other writers and makes no claim to originality. He has used his material legitimately and without making any very serious mistake.

The heat of composition is probably responsible for the confusion of pronouns in the following passage on page 221 :

On his (the Chinese Amban's) way he met Mr. Nicholls, an American, at Ta-chien-lu, the frontier city, where he seems to have spent some time in extracting money from the Chinese prefect and the Tibetan "gyalpo" alike. He seems to have asserted his intention of restoring Chinese authority, and he admitted no sympathy with the Tibetan desire for seclusion, arguing that if Sze-chuan was open to foreigners there could be no reason why the pretensions of the Tibetans should be permitted for a moment. He moved on to Batang for the same dubious purposes that had detained him at Ta-chien-lu.

The grammatical construction of the first sentence makes Mr. Nicholls the extractor of money, but the context shows that throughout the passage *he*, *his* and *him* are meant for the Amban. Mr. Nicholls is mentioned, as it seems, only to make him report, in a foot-note, that hair and nail-parings of the Dalai Lama were sold at enormous prices in Ta-chien-lu. There is nothing strange in this; the Chinese, like other men, have the craze for amulets and relics.

Ulrich Schmidl. Viaje al Rio de la Plata (1534-1554). Notas Bibliográficas y Biográficas por Bartolomé Mitre. Prólogo, Traducción y Anotaciones por Samuel A. Lafone Quevedo. Buenos Aires, Cabaut y Cía. Editores, Librería del Colegio—Alsina 500, 1903.

The "Junta de Historia y Numismática Americana," on the banks of the La Plata River, has put out the first volume of its "Biblioteca," a Spanish rendering of Huldreich or Ulrich Schmidl, of Straubing, published in German, as is well known, for the first time in 1567 at Frankfort-on-the-Main. The translation from the original German into Spanish is due to Don Samuel A. Lafone Quevedo, also the notes and the prologue, whereas the biographic and bibliographic annotations are from the pen of General Bartolomé Mitre. It is an octavo of 491 pages, printed by Cabaut & Co., at Buenos Aires in 1903, and adorned by a number of illustrations, the execution of which deserves much credit as reproductions of old pictures, of landscapes, actions, Indians, etc., from the Hulsius edition of 1599, including a reputed portrait of Schmidl, several facsimiles of his signature, and three maps—one from Hulsius, "Schifffahrten" (1599), the second from the Map of South America, by Delisle (1700), and the third by Father Jolis in 1789, giving the topography and ethnography of the "Gran Chaco."

It is with great pleasure that we compliment the publishers for the excellent work they have done, typographically and pictorially, making the book a pleasing addition to any library, as far as its output comes into play.

Now to the literary part, introduced to the reader by an 'Advertencia,' written