

**THE TRUTH  
ABOUT TIBET ...**

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The Truth about Tibet ... by A. Maccallum Scott & Sir Robert Reid

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**A. MACCALLUM SCOTT & SIR ROBERT REID**

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TRUTH  
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BY  
A. MACCALLUM SCOTT.

WITH AN INTRODUCTORY NOTE BY  
SIR ROBERT REID, K.C. M.P.

LONDON:  
SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, HAMILTON, KENT, & CO., LTD.  
1905.

### INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

*This little volume deals with a subject to which the mass of British electors have probably given less attention than it deserves. We have a multitude of anxieties at home. Life is hardly long enough to master the complicated problems of domestic reform. No wonder that so many turn away from a study of the tedious Blue Books which show how our representatives ten or twelve thousand miles away have mis-managed our interests and those of the dependency they are appointed to govern.*

*Yet it is imperative that public opinion in this country should be directed to subjects of this kind. Nearly all the wars in which we have been engaged during the last ninety years have arisen from the supposed necessities, not of the United Kingdom itself, but of the British dominions or dependencies beyond the seas. They often begin in comparatively trifling disputes. Hasty or ambitious Proconsuls are*

*allowed to adopt a peremptory tone without a sufficient appreciation at home either of the real cause of quarrel or of the danger involved in precipitate action. Before the true situation is grasped in England, a step has been taken from which it is difficult to recede, or a pretension advanced which a false pride declines to withdraw. Thus the country finds itself committed to enterprises which sometimes lead to enormous expenditure and loss of life, or to unnecessary complications with Foreign Powers. Our national debt and our vast military and naval expenditure bear eloquent testimony to the mischievous zeal of British representatives thousands of miles from our shores, to the weakness or unwisdom of Ministers who ought to check them, and the culpable apathy of public opinion. The Crimean war, the war in Afghanistan in 1878, and the South African war, ought to have taught us all a lesson.*

*Mr. Scott has done a public service by presenting in a succinct form the salient features of the Tibet affair. The work is done skilfully and conscientiously. It brings out the flimsy pretexs for quarrel, the veiled ambition of the Indian Government to secure a political foothold at*

*Lhasa, the deplorable slaughter, the inability of a weak Minister in London to control his subordinates in India, and the futility of the entire proceedings for any practical purpose. It is not necessary that readers should agree in every point with Mr. Scott. They can hardly fail to agree in his main conclusions if they approach the subject without prepossession.*

*The aggressive folly which led to the fruitless invasion of Tibet may, if unrestrained in the future, lead to enterprises that will involve the whole Empire in war.*

R T. REID.



## PREFACE.

*The following account of the Mission of Col. Younghusband to Lhasa, and of the preceding negotiations, is based upon the official documents contained in the three Blue Books, "Papers relating to Tibet":—*

[Cd. 1,920] 1904, price 3s. 1d., covers from the conclusion of the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1890 to the dispatch of the "Mission" to Gyantse.

[Cd. 2,054] 1904, price 3½d., deals with the affair at Guru, and the arrival of the "Mission" at Gyantse.

[Cd. 2,370] 1905, price 2s. 5d., deals with the advance to Lhasa, the conclusion of the Lhasa "Convention," and the subsequent conflict between the Home Government and the Indian Government.

*To these papers the reader is referred for further information.*

A. M. S.

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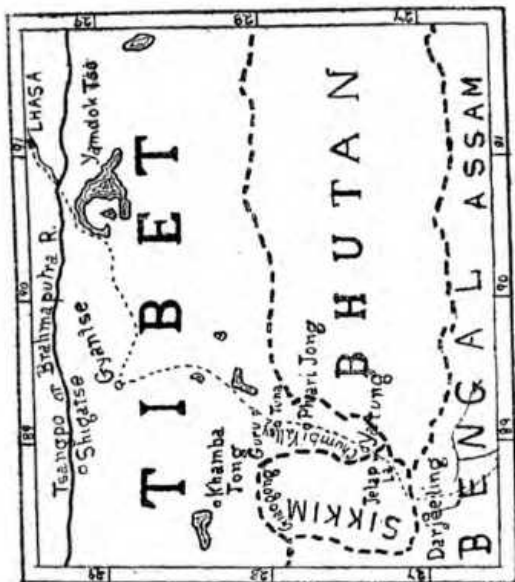
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SKETCH MAP  
Route of Col. Younghusband's Mission.