

**BEYOND THE HIMALAYAS:  
A STORY OF  
TRAVEL AND ADVENTURE  
IN THE WILDS OF THIBET**

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Beyond the Himalayas: A Story of Travel and Adventure in the Wilds of Thibet by John Geddie

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**JOHN GEDDIE**

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BEYOND  
THE HIMALAYAS.

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A STORY OF TRAVEL AND ADVENTURE IN  
THE WILDS OF THIBET.

BY

*JOHN GEDDIE,*

AUTHOR OF "THE LAKE REGIONS OF CENTRAL AFRICA."  
ETC. ETC.

*WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.*

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## Preface.

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**T**HE problem of opening up an overland route from the Ganges to the Yang-tze—a subject which has long piqued and baffled the curiosity of their seniors—ought to have some attraction for the imagination of young people, if, as formerly, they take delight in wandering among strange and wild scenes, and in encountering manifold obstacles and dangers. Many have sought of late years to climb over the division-wall between the two crowded Eastern worlds of India and China,—the trader, to find a new market for his wares; the explorer, in search of a whole nest of “Chinese puzzles” regarding the courses of giant rivers and mountain chains; and the missionary, in pursuit of his self-denying labours. Only at one point, however, and by a roundabout way, has the journey been accomplished. This is not wonderful, when we reflect that the traveller in these countries must run the gauntlet of savage mountain tribes, jealous

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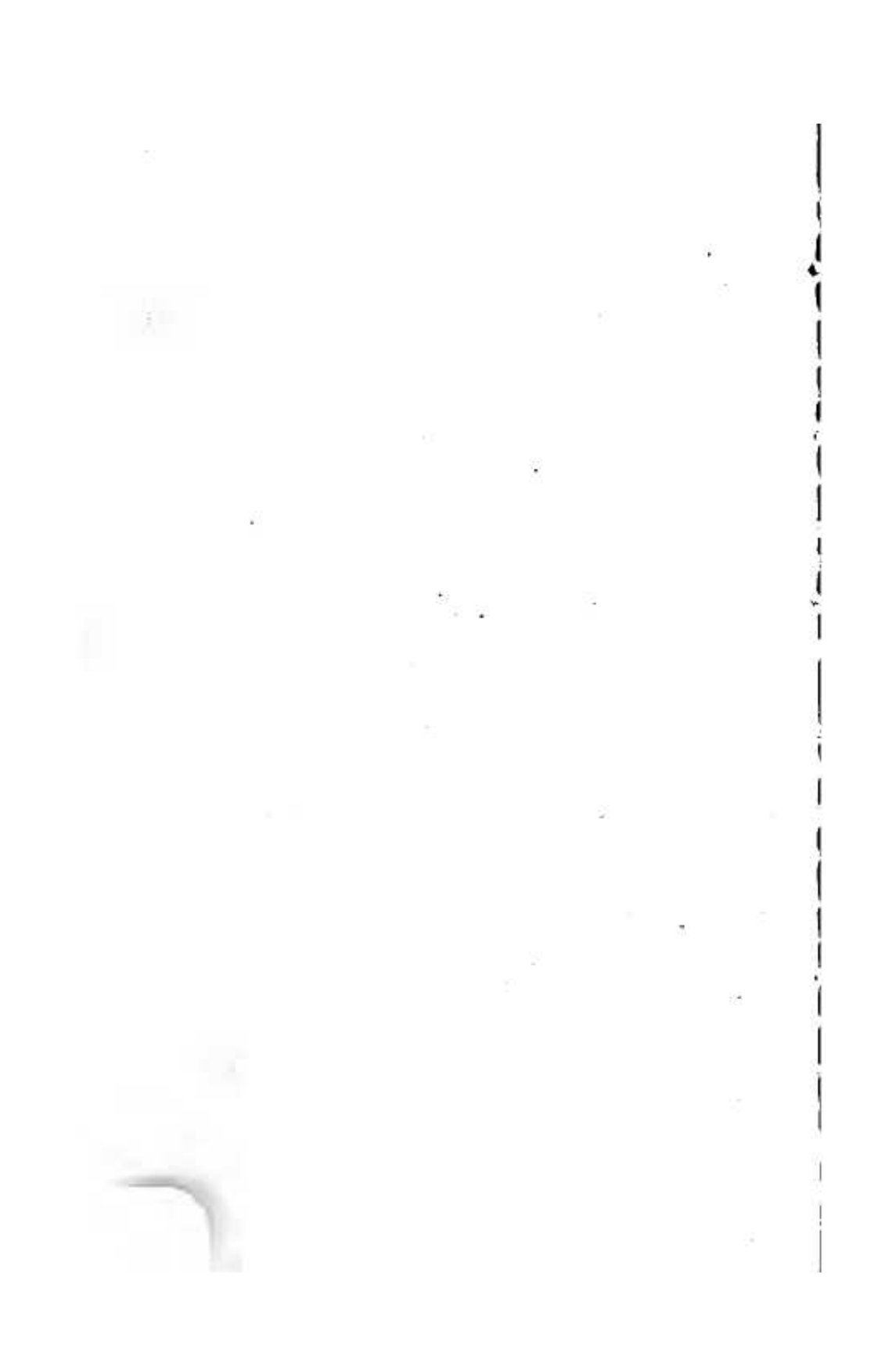
Chinese officials, and fanatical Thibetan lamas, in addition to surmounting the extraordinary natural difficulties of crossing the frayed-out ends of the Himalayas that interpose between the Assam frontier and China proper. The surface of this unexplored region is wrinkled up into deep folds, like the hide of a rhinoceros; and down these furrows five rivers of the first rank are known to flow, though their channels have never been traced throughout. Their sources are in the most remote nooks of the table-land of Thibet, and their waters find an outlet at points so far apart as Calcutta and Shanghai. But here for a space their main courses are drawn together within a narrow compass, resembling, to use the expression of Colonel Yule, the learned editor of "Marco Polo," "the fascis of thunderbolts in the clutch of Jove, or the parallel lines of railway at Clapham Junction." It is over this, the most difficult bit of "cross country" perhaps in the world, that Bob Brown seeks to lead the reader; and as there is no authentic record of the same line of country having been traversed, it is impossible to say how nearly his narrative will be found to agree with facts. At the same time the scenery and manners described resemble what might be expected from the relations of the distinguished French and English explorers—Huc, Carné, Cooper, Margary, Baber, Gill, and others—who have penetrated into South-Western China and Thibet.



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## BEYOND THE HIMALAYAS.

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### CHAPTER I.

#### "MYSTERIES."

"**F** WONDER what lies beyond?"

We were sitting, a group of four Europeans, in the veranda of a bungalow into which an Indian sunset was shining. The scene was intensely tropical and Eastern. Climbing plants twined up the trellis-work of the veranda, festooning the pillars with masses of broad green leaves, starred with brilliant purple and scarlet flowers. In the garden beyond were clumps of foliage and blossom of types which "at home" you are accustomed to see only in a conservatory. But here, instead of the dwarfed and drooping exotics that pine and grow pale in exile, the plants had a free, vigorous growth that showed that they were breathing native air. It