

**THE UNKNOWN
LIFE
OF JESUS CHRIST**

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The Unknown Life of Jesus Christ by Nicolas Notovitch & Alexina Loranger

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NICOLAS NOTOVITCH & ALEXINA LORANGER

**THE UNKNOWN
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THE UNKNOWN LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST.

THE UNKNOWN LIFE
OF
JESUS CHRIST

By the Discoverer of the Manuscript

NICOLAS NOTOVITCH

Translated from the French by
ALEXINA LORANGER

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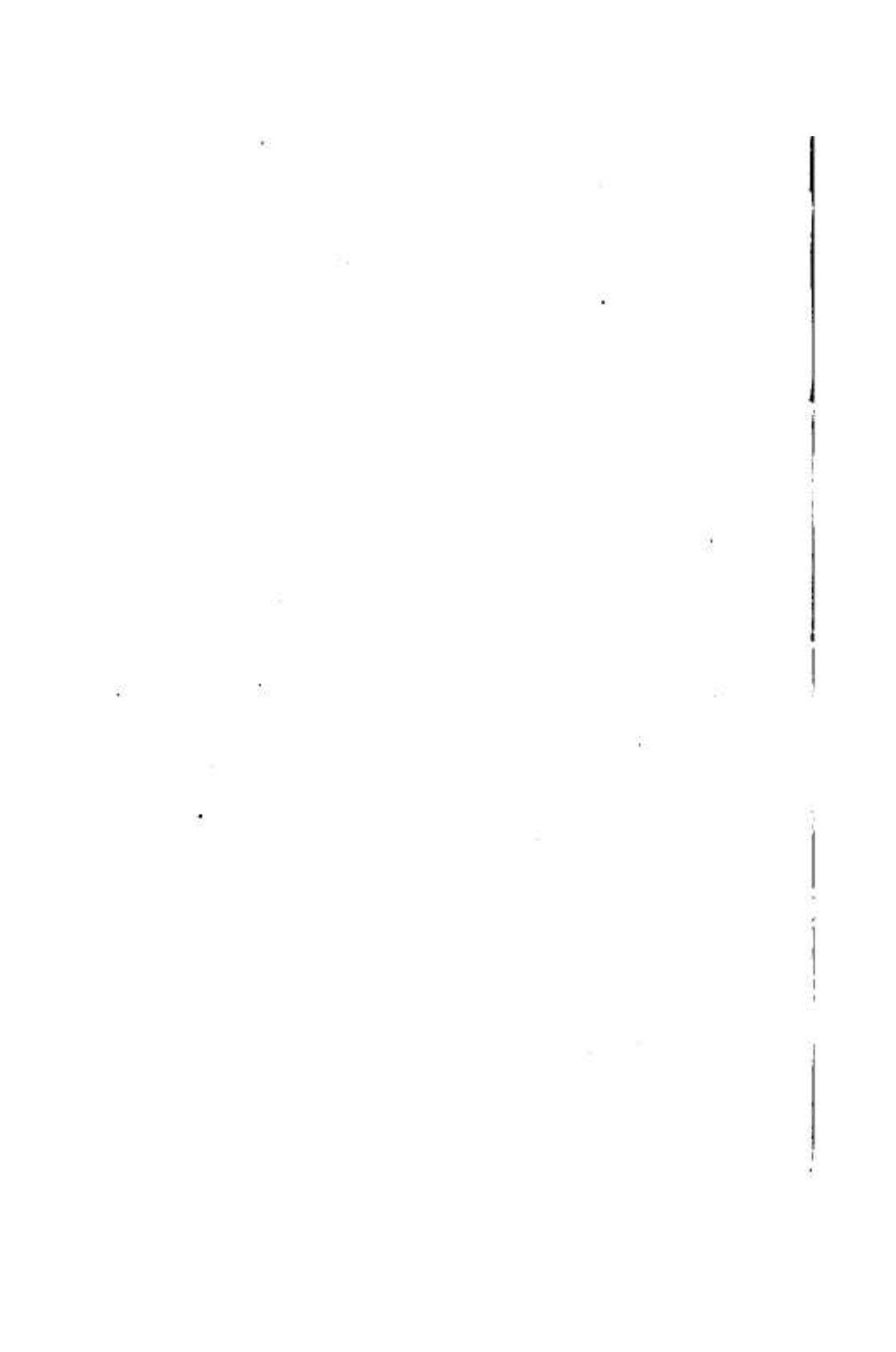
The Unknown Life of Jesus Christ

HENRY MORSE STEPHENS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

PREFACE,	7
A JOURNEY TO THIBET,	13
THE LADAK,	62
A FEAST IN A GONPA,	76
THE LIFE OF SAINT ISSA,	98
EPITOME,	147
EXPLANATORY NOTES,	184

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PREFACE.

AFTER the close of the Turko-Russian War (1877-1878) I undertook a series of extended journeys through the Orient. Having visited all points of interest in the Balkan Peninsula, I crossed the Caucasian Mountains into Central Asia and Persia, and finally, in 1887, made an excursion into India, the most admired country of the dreams of my childhood.

The first object of this journey was to study the customs and habits of the inhabitants of India amid their own surroundings, as well as the grand, mysterious archæology and the colossal, majestic nature of the country. Wandering without any settled course from one locality to another, I at last came to mountainous Afghanistan, whence I reached India through the picturesque passes of Bolan and Guerna. I then followed the Indus to Rawal-Pindi, traveled through the Punjab—the country of five rivers—visited the golden temple of Amritsair, the tomb of Randjid Singh, king of the Punjab, near Lahore, and proceeded toward Kashmir, the “vale of eternal happiness.” There I began my peregrinations as fancy or curiosity

TO THE
ABBOT OF
LASSA

guided or dictated, until I reached the Ladak, where I intended to make a somewhat lengthy stay before returning to Russia through Eastern Turkestan and Karakorum.

In the course of one of my visits to a Buddhist convent, I learned from the chief Lama that there existed very ancient memoirs, treating of the life of Christ and of the nations of the Occident, in the archives of Lassa, and that a few of the larger monasteries possessed copies and translations of these precious chronicles.

There being little probability of my early return to this country, I resolved to delay my departure for Europe, and verify these assertions by seeing some of these copies, even though I were obliged to invade every convent as far as Lassa—a journey far less perilous and difficult to accomplish than we are usually led to believe. Besides this, I was now so well accustomed to the dangers encountered by the traveler in those regions that they no longer possessed any terrors for me.

During my sojourn in Leh, the capital of Ladak, I visited Himis, a large convent in the outskirts of the city, where I was informed by the Lama that the monastic libraries contained a few copies of the manuscript in question.