

for these two springs, which we hit upon by pure accident, we should have experienced considerable difficulty in crossing over this desert region, for there is no vegetation except in their vicinity, the desert being everywhere else perfectly barren. It would be very risky to attempt to traverse it at any other season except the winter, when ice can be carried from each successive spring in sacks; in summer one would be forced to make shift with the salt water. Our horses and camels drank the water of the spring at Camp CVI and enjoyed it, but at Camp CVII they refused to touch it.

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