

PREPARATIONS FOR THE START

November 8th had been decided upon as the date for our departure from Tson-dol. The whole camp was therefore busily occupied with packing and winding up camp. In the very thick of these activities some Torguts came on a visit. We questioned them about the southern caravan-route through The Black Gobi. We were advised to be on our guard against robbers at a place between Anhsi and Hami, where a band of at least a hundred men had their haunt.

November 7th was another farewell day, for on this date the student Ts'ui left the expedition and set off on the return journey to Pao-t'ou with eight camels, two Chinese and two Mongols.